



# TAIWAN: A YOUNG DEMOCRACY UNDER GEO-POLITICAL PRESSURES

KEYNOTE LECTURE

## A LOOK INSIDE: TAIWANESE IN A TIME OF CROSS-STRAIT CRISIS

LUNG YING-TAI

*Writer*

With tensions escalating in the Taiwan Strait, the Taiwanese people realize they are caught in the middle of global geopolitical rivalry. The Western media tend to focus on either Western or Chinese perspectives. How do Taiwanese feel about the situation? What debates are emerging among local elites? How do ordinary people like farmers and fishermen perceive and respond to the evolving circumstances?

# PROGRAM

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- 5:00 **Welcome remarks**  
**Heinz Faßmann** | President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences
- 5:10 **Introduction**  
**Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik** | Corresponding member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences
- 5:15 **Keynote lecture**  
**Lung Ying-tai** | Writer  
*A Look Inside: Taiwanese in a Time of Cross-Strait Crisis*
- 5:45 **Discussion**  
**Lung Ying-tai and Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik**
- 6:05 **Q&A session**

Afterwards, all participants are invited to join Lung Ying-tai for a drink.



**Lung Ying-tai** is a writer, literary critic, and public intellectual. Lung not only has a large number of devoted readers in her native Taiwan, but her works also have great influence in the Chinese-language world in Singapore, Malaysia, China, and North America. Lung entered public service as Taipei City Government's first minister of culture in 1999 and served as Taiwan's inaugural Minister of Culture from 2012–2014.

She is the author of more than two dozen books, including essays, fiction, reportage, and literary criticism. Her 1985 book, *The Wild Fire*, created a major cultural stir with its honest and introspective look at the social and political problems facing contemporary Taiwan society. *Big River, Big Sea: Untold Stories*

*of 1949*, published in 2009, became a must-read in greater China despite having been banned in the People's Republic.

Lung Ying-tai was Hung Leung Hao Ling Distinguished Fellow in Humanities at the University of Hong Kong from 2015–2020.

The event can be followed via live stream.

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This event will be held in English.

Photos: Shutterstock, Sun Bai-yi

We would like to inform you that photos and film recordings (image and sound) will be made during the lecture.