

Report: Taiwan is 3rd best country to invest in the world

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Singapore: Taiwan stands second in the ranking of best investment environment in Asia and third in the world racing behind Singapore and Switzerland, according to a report titled 'Evaluation of environmental risks of investment by US-based business environment risk assessment (BERI)'. The analysis firm accredited the high score to Taiwan's plans to increase biotech investment by 25 percent over the next three years.

Taiwan's Profit Opportunity Recommendation (POR) ranks third in the world with a score of 73 and the report notes that Taiwan is continuing to reinforce its external economic relationships, especially through free trade agreements (FTAs), and that relations across the Taiwan Strait will remain amicable for the next five years.

Taiwan's political risk ranks 8th lowest in the world (compared with 7th-lowest in the previous report) and 2nd lowest in Asia, higher only than Singapore, Switzerland, Austria, Norway, Holland, Finland, and Germany. BERI believes that Taiwan's political risk rating will continue to improve, reaching 7th-lowest in the world in 2014 and 6th-lowest in 2018.

In terms of BERI's Risk and Repatriation Factor Taiwan is second best in the world after Holland. BERI points out that this outstanding performance is due to Taiwan's strong trade and current account surpluses. In the first half of this year the island's trade surplus amounted to \$14.61 billion and the current account surplus for the year is forecast to reach \$53.50 billion, topping 2012's \$48.88 billion.

In BERI's analysis, Taiwan's excellent operating environment helps attract foreign direct investment (FDI); foreign investment in the island reached \$1.822 billion in the first five months of 2013 (with the Ministry of Economic Affairs approving 1,220 FDI

projects), for a growth of 26.90 percent when compared with the same period of 2012. BERI predicts that in 2014 and 2018, Taiwan's Risk and Repatriation Factor will maintain its position as 2nd-best in the world.