

No rule against Taiwan on name cards, MOFA says

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The business cards of some Taiwanese diplomats posted overseas are pictured in Taipei yesterday.

Photo: Lu Yi-hsuan, Taipei Times

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) yesterday denied media reports that it required embassies not to use “Taiwan” on staff name cards, saying the redesign of the cards has not been finalized.

The ministry on Friday last week notified embassies and consulate offices of new name card format standards, the Chinese-language *Liberty Times* (the *Taipei Times*’ sister paper) reported yesterday.

The notification, citing standards adopted in August 2011 during former president Ma Ying-jeou’s (馬英九) administration, listed the emblems for the card, without including the name of Taiwan.

The move raised questions about whether the ministry was trying to force those who had added “Taiwan” to their cards to remove it, the paper reported.

The ministry has not required overseas officials to “correct” or not to use “Taiwan” on their cards, ministry spokeswoman Joanne Ou (歐陽) said yesterday.

The card standards have not been finalized and further interagency negotiations are required, she said.

The ministry had sent samples of the new designs “for reference,” as lawmakers have required that it unify the card formats, Ou said.

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Existing practices, the varying situations in different countries, and highlighting Taiwan's global recognition were factors being considered in the redesign, she said.

The nation's formal documents for other countries — those with formal ties and some without — used "Republic of China (Taiwan)" as the nation's name, she said.

For countries without formal ties or where the name Republic of China is not recognized, the nation's representation is more flexible and depends on the attitude of those countries, she added.

The Executive Yuan also denied imposing any restrictions on the ministry's use of "Taiwan" on diplomats' name cards, adding that it would set up a task force to review the design of ministry's cards and the cover of the nation's passport, as well as a suggestion to rename China Airlines.

President Tsai Ing-wen (蔡英文) yesterday said that the "Taiwan" designation has been "quite commonplace" in the government's diplomatic documents and has helped boost the nation's visibility.

Representative to Germany Shieh Jhy-wei (謝志偉) on April 21 wrote on Facebook that Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Legislator Charles Chen (陳明文) had questioned the ministry about his name card, which reads "*Reprasantant von Taiwan.*"

Chen wrote on Facebook yesterday that what he meant to emphasize was that unifying name card formats is something the ministry should have done, and he had not demanded that the ministry remove references to Taiwan.

Democratic Progressive Party Legislator Wang Ting-yu (王亭瑜) wrote on Facebook that there is "too much China, too little Taiwan" in the ministry's representation system.

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The ministry should allow foreigners to differentiate between Taiwan and China and clearly embody the nation with a population of nearly 23.6 million people.

Additional reporting by Sean Lin

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