

How Taiwan Prepares for Earthquakes

Taiwan recently experienced its strongest earthquake in 25 years. Thanks to the country's readiness and strict building regulations, this big earthquake, with a magnitude over 7, caused damage but resulted in far fewer deaths and damage compared to the devastating 1999 earthquake that killed 2,400 people and destroyed many buildings. This shows that Taiwan's building regulations and being ready helped a lot.

Building regulations play a huge role in making earthquake damage in Taiwan as little as possible. Buildings are built to handle strong shocks, featuring steel bars that enable structures to shake safely during earthquakes, thus preventing the buildings from falling. This building approach has been greatly influenced by lessons learned from previous major earthquakes both in Taiwan and worldwide. For instance, TAIPEI 101 includes a huge steel ball over 700 tons that was specifically designed to stop too much shaking.

Following the 1999 earthquake, Taiwan began requiring even older buildings to be updated to meet modern safety standards. By 2022, over a thousand



buildings had fitted with features to help them stay safe during earthquakes. Taiwan also has advanced early warning systems that inform the public that there might be a big shake coming. People often practice what to do during earthquakes, both in schools and at work, which further makes sure the public is prepared.

These effective measures have put Taiwan ahead in getting ready for and dealing with earthquakes, significantly reducing the risks that come with living in one of the areas of the world with the most earthquakes.

Reading Comprehension

() 1. According to the passage, which of the following statements is true? (supporting details)

- (A) Taiwan does not practice earthquake drills at all but only at schools.
- (B) The recent strongest earthquake in 25 years shows how quickly people reacted.
- (C) TAIPEI 101, built with a big steel ball, minimizes damage to the surrounding areas.
- (D) The government requires buildings to be made entirely of steel based on the new regulations.

() 2. Which of the following is most likely the purpose of the passage? (purpose)

- (A) To give a look at recent earthquakes in Taiwan.
- (B) To highlight the special design of TAIPEI 101.
- (C) To emphasize the importance of early warning systems in preparing for earthquakes.
- (D) To explain how Taiwan's building regulations and readiness measures have helped reducing earthquake damage.

() 3. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage? (inference)

- (A) The advanced early warning systems in Taiwan are ineffective.
- (B) Taiwan's building regulations took effect after the 1999 earthquake.
- (C) Taiwan's careful measures have largely reduced the risks related to earthquakes.
- (D) The 2022 update of older buildings has made them completely earthquake-proof.

() 4. According to the passage, which of the following statements is the most suitable to be placed in the blank on the timeline below?



- (A) Taiwan experiences its strongest earthquake in 25 years.
- (B) A devastating earthquake killed 2,400 people and destroyed many buildings.
- (C) Over 1,000 buildings had been built or updated to stay safe during earthquakes.
- (D) The building of TAIPEI 101 started; people were trying to put a big steel ball there.

Vocabulary and Phrases

1. readiness <i>n.</i> 準備就緒	4. devastating <i>adj.</i> 毀滅性的	7. warning <i>n.</i> 警告，預警
2. regulation <i>n.</i> 法規	5. destroy <i>v.</i> 摧毀	8. reduce <i>v.</i> 減少，降低
3. magnitude <i>n.</i> 規模	6. update <i>v.</i> 更新	9. risk <i>n.</i> 風險

Venice Starts Charging Entry Fee

Venice has started charging an entry fee for day visitors. This new rule 1 on April 25 and is part of a trial that will run during the busy season, from April 25 to July 14, 2024. The city believes this will help manage the huge crowds. Every year, around 30 million tourists visit Venice, which is a lot more than its 50,000 locals. Many of these visitors stay for just a day, leaving behind trash and causing 2 without spending much money locally.

The fee isn't meant to stop people from visiting, but to encourage them to come on less crowded days. Although the charge is small—only about five euros—officials hope it will make people think about when they visit. In the future, the cost might 3, getting higher on popular days, but it will be capped at about ten euros. This is still low enough that it's unlikely to scare visitors away.

People who stay overnight do not have to pay

the fee, but they must register. It is hoped that this will help the city keep track of properties people illegally stay in. Hosts will have to register legally and pay taxes on 4 they earn.

UNESCO considered putting Venice on its World Heritage in Danger list. 5, they changed their mind after Venice announced its plans to start charging the day visitor fee. This step is seen as a way to better manage tourism and protect the city's future.



Cloze

(<u> </u>) 1. (A) begin	(B) began	(C) begun	(D) begins
(<u> </u>) 2. (A) costs	(B) benefits	(C) problems	(D) advantages
(<u> </u>) 3. (A) set	(B) cancel	(C) vary	(D) reduce
(<u> </u>) 4. (A) how	(B) which	(C) that	(D) what
(<u> </u>) 5. (A) Besides	(B) Moreover	(C) However	(D) Therefore

Vocabulary and Phrases

1. entry <i>n.</i> 進入	4. cap <i>v.</i> 對(收費或花費)定限額	7. property <i>n.</i> 房產
2. tourist; tourism <i>n.</i> 遊客；旅遊業	5. overnight <i>adv.</i> 過夜地；整夜地	8. UNESCO <i>n.</i> 聯合國教科文組織
3. local <i>n.</i> 當地人	6. register <i>v.</i> 註冊登記；申報	9. announce <i>v.</i> 宣布

譯

臺灣如何應對地震

臺灣最近經歷了 25 年來最強烈的地震。由於國家的準備和嚴格的建築法規，這場規模超過 7 的大地震造成了破壞，但與 1999 年那場導致 2,400 人死亡並摧毀許多建築物的毀滅性地震相比，其所造成的死亡和損失要少得多。這說明臺灣的建築法規和準備有很大幫助。

建築法規在盡量減少臺灣地震損害方面發揮了巨大作用。建築物被設計成能夠承受強烈震動，擁有鋼筋結構，使建築物在地震期間能安全地搖晃，從而防止建築物倒塌。這種建築方法深受臺灣和世界各地以往大地震的經驗教訓的影響。例如，台北 101 大樓有一個 700 多噸的巨大鋼球，專門設計用來防止過度搖晃。

1999 年地震後，臺灣開始要求甚至是老舊建築物也必須更新，以滿足現代安全標準。到 2022 年，已有超過上千棟建築物配備了在地震期間確保安全的功能。臺灣還擁有先進的預警系統，可以通知民眾可能即將發生大地震。人們經常在學校和工作場所練習地震期間該怎麼做，進一步確保公眾做好準備。

這些有效的措施使臺灣在為地震做好準備和應對的方面處於領先地位，大大降低了生活在世界上地震最多的地區之一的風險。

譯

威尼斯開始收取入場費

威尼斯已開始對一日遊客收取入場費。這項新規定於 2024 年 4 月 25 日開始實施，在旺季 4 月 25 日至 7 月 14 日期間試行。該城市認為這將有助於管控龐大的人潮。每年造訪威尼斯的遊客約有 3,000 萬人，遠多於 5 萬當地人。這些遊客中的許多人只停留一天，留下垃圾並造成問題，而沒有在當地花費太多錢。

收費並非是要阻止人們前往，而是為了鼓勵他們在人流較少的日子來訪。儘管收費額不大，僅約五歐元，但官員們希望這能讓人們考慮何時到訪。未來，費用可能會有所變化，在熱門日子調高，但上限約為十歐元。這個金額仍然很低，不太可能嚇跑遊客。

留宿過夜的人不需要支付這筆入場費，但必須登記。該城市希望這將有助於追蹤人們非法住宿的房屋。屋主將必須依法登記並繳納稅款。

聯合國教科文組織曾考慮將威尼斯列入瀕危世界遺產名錄。不過他們在威尼斯宣布計畫開始收取一日遊客費用後改變了主意。此舉被視為更好地管理旅遊業並保護城市未來的一種方式。

閱讀測驗解答：1. B 2. D 3. C 4. C

綜合測驗解答：1. B 2. C 3. C 4. D 5. C



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Acknowledgments

“How Taiwan Prepares for Earthquakes” by Steph Pai

“Venice Starts Charging Entry Fee” by Steph Pai

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