The media has focused on the recent escalation of China-Taiwan tensions. The tension is heightened by China's increased military activity in Taiwan's airspace, which China describes as a precautionary measure to protect peace and stability. Taiwan, on the other hand, opposes China's action, which it regards as a violation of sovereignty. This paper investigates the tensions in China-Taiwan relations, as well as the response of the United States (US). According to the study's findings, the China-Taiwan conflict could be viewed as an internal Chinese issue. However, the presence of Taiwan as a significant entity in the region has prompted the United States, which also has interests in Taiwan and the region, to pay attention to the problems that arise in Taiwan, including in China-Taiwan relations. The US presence in the region is, of course, framed by its rivalry with China. The most important thing for countries in the region is that the tense situation in China-Taiwan relations does not escalate into open conflict, because the consequences could jeopardize regional security.

Introduction
The China-Taiwan conflict resurfaces in early October 2021, when a number of Chinese fighter planes enter Taiwan's airspace (Kompas.com., October 5, 2021). Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen stated that he would do anything for self-defence in response to Chinese military aggression on its territory. Tension that characterizes China's relations with Taiwan, of course, no matter China's official position that Taiwan is a province that separates himself from his territory, so it is necessary to try to be a part of Chinese territory again.

What is also intriguing about the evolution of the situation in the Taiwan's strait is China's increased military activity in the region following the formation of the AUKUS trilateral pact on September 15, 2021, involving Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. There has been speculation that China's aggressiveness in the Taiwan Strait is intended to highlight
China's opposition to the presence of AUKUS, as well as China's assertion that Taiwan is a part of its territory that cannot be contested. It will be interesting to discuss later in this paper how the real relationship between China and Taiwan, against the backdrop of increasing tensions between them, and how the US, as China's main rival in the region, responds.

Taiwan, Potential and His relationship with China
First and foremost, this paper should state that China and Taiwan have close economic relations. Both are located in the Asia Pacific region and are part of the driving force for the development of the region's economic sector activities, particularly industry and trade. As is well known, several factors influence the prospects for medium and long-term economic growth in Asia Pacific, including demographics, productivity growth, and the rise of the digital economy. This is consistent with the global economy's increasing digitalization.

As a result, the impact of the Straits of Taiwan tension, of course, has been anticipated by both Taiwan and China. This conflict is about more than just territorial or socio-cultural issues; there are many other aspects that need to be explored and studied more thoroughly. The factors of developed-country economic strength, economic digitization, and influence in policymaking in several Asia Pacific countries, including Taiwan and China, are also included.

For example, China and Taiwan have a relatively good relationship despite their confrontation and military tensions. In 2020, for example, China received approximately 44% of Taiwan's total exports. This figure increased by approximately 12% from the previous year. A startling figure given that China accounts for nearly half of Taiwan's total exports. Taiwan dominates the Semiconductor Foundry Market and, together with its contract manufacturers, accounted for more than 60% of Taiwanese foundry companies' total revenue last year, according to research data from Taiwan-based TrendForce. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., or TSMC, is the world's largest foundry company, with clients including Apple, Qualcomm, and Nvidia (CNBC, March 15, 2021).

Complex relationships occur not only between Taiwan and China, but also the US. The Taiwan Relations Act 1979, enacted just months after US-China normalization four decades ago, stated unequivocally that the US should not be involved in the Taiwan military conflict. In a first-of-its-kind move, the United States may offer Taiwan weapons or technology to help it defend itself if it is ever attacked. According to Bloomberg, the United States has sold more than
IDR 300 trillion in weapons to Taiwan since 2010 (Media Indonesia, October 23, 2021).

Until recently, Taiwan was recognized de facto (temporarily) by 23 countries, the majority of which were small African and South American countries, as well as the Vatican Government in Rome. This recognition cannot be separated from Taiwan's existence as an Asian economic power, which is important and serves as a gateway for investors to invest in this region in addition to Hong Kong and Singapore. Another fact is that Taiwan continues to conduct trade and economic cooperation with several countries in the European Union and Asia Pacific without requiring official diplomatic recognition from them, despite China's policy of refusing to enter into diplomatic relations with any country that recognizes Taiwan and forces them to withdraw their support.

**Tensions of China-Taiwan**

Tensions in China-Taiwan China and Taiwan are currently experiencing the highest levels of hostility in 40 years. This protracted conflict began with the collapse of the Government of the Republic of China in mainland China (1912–1949), which began with a civil war between the nationalist Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party and ended with a major military truce, with the Chinese Communist Party seizing control of the Chinese Communist Party, while the Republic of China (Taiwan) ruled over a number of now-Taiwanese islands.

The most recent conflict has heightened tensions in the midst of President Tsai Ingwen's ongoing efforts to gain international support for Taiwan's independence. Otherwise, Taiwan is part of a country that is rebelling and trying to break away from China. It is unsurprising that China later issued verbal warnings or carried out military provocations in Taiwan's airspace. Xi Jinping, China's president even stated that China would not hesitate to start a war to defend Taiwan.

With its military power, China is expected to easily annex Taiwan. However, when planning military aggression against Taiwan, China must also consider other factors. This is the presence of the United States, which will not remain silent if China launches a military attack on Taiwan. The existence of Taiwan Relations Act 1979 authorized the United States to assist Taiwan in the event of an open conflict. In response to China's intimidation, Taiwan also requested Australia's assistance in increasing security and intelligence cooperation, given that China's provocations and confrontations are becoming more intense and widespread.

If China engages in military aggression against Taiwan and involves the US, it has the potential to endanger China's growing economy and have an impact on the global economy. Given that China and the United
States are global economic powers, various economic policies that determine and influence the international economy's continuity are critical.

The United States' Response to the China-Taiwan Conflict
As previously stated, the conflict between China and Taiwan has drawn the attention of the United States. In an interview with the media last August, the US President Joe Biden stated that the US would help and defend the interests of its allies, not only NATO members in Europe, but also its Asian Pacific allies, namely South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan. A White House spokesman specifically for Taiwan stated that the US's support for Taiwan has not changed (Media Indonesia, October 23, 2021). Looking back to 2020, when the US was still led by President Donald Trump, the US approved an arms sales project to Taiwan worth USD5.1 billion, or approximately IDR 76.5 trillion, and this policy will be maintained by Joe Biden.

As part of its support for Taiwan, the Joe Biden administration secretly sent some of its military troops to Taiwan to train alongside Taiwanese forces, including US Marines and Special Operations Forces. Around 26 US personnel and support troops train alongside Taiwanese ground troops, while the Navy trains on small training vessels. This actually demonstrates that the US-Taiwan relationship has been going well. Once again, US support for Taiwan is inextricably linked to the US's implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act policy, which includes defence relations. Furthermore, even the US president is prepared to visit Taiwan at any time if the island is attacked by China.

The United States' unwavering support for Taiwan elicited a negative response from China. The Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations, Zhang Jun, stated that the Taiwan reunification mission with China will be carried out peacefully. Zhang Jun also stated that China is not a troublemaker country, ostensibly in response to the West's recent sending of military forces to the Middle East (sindonews.com., October 5, 2021). Zhang Jun's statement was backed up by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin, who stressed that China's sovereignty over Taiwan must not be jeopardized. Taiwan's affairs are Chinese affairs and have nothing to do with foreign parties, and there should be no intervention from any party, including the US and its allies (Republika, October 23, 2021).

Based on the description above, it is clear that each party is interested in resolving the problems that arise in the region, and this can be understood in terms of each country's national interests. The United States, as a rival to China and a country with an interest in the Asia-Pacific region, sees Taiwan's case not only as an internal matter for China, but also in the context
of US interests in the region, including economic interests. As a result, in order to protect US interests, the US must inevitably become involved in the Taiwan issue with China. On the other hand, China is still attempting to avoid turning the Taiwan issue into an external issue, and has emphasized that the Taiwan issue is a domestic matter in China.

Closing
The China-Taiwan conflict can be viewed as an internal Chinese issue. However, Taiwan's presence as a relatively significant entity in the region has prompted the US, which also has interests in Taiwan and the region, to pay attention to the problems that arise in Taiwan, including in China-Taiwan relations. The US interest is to ensure that the China-Taiwan conflict does not jeopardize US interests in the Asia-Pacific region. Otherwise, the Taiwan issue is an internal matter for China that cannot be compromised, and it is up to China to deal with it. The most important thing for countries in the region is that the tense situation in China-Taiwan relations does not escalate into open conflict, because the consequences could jeopardize regional security.

References
“AS Akan Bela Taiwan Melawan Tiongkok”, Media Indonesia, 23 October 2021, page. 23.
“ASEAN Perlu Waspadai Konflik Taiwan-China”, Kompas, 18 October 2021, page. 4.
“Isu Taiwan Memencit di Antara AS dan Cina”, Republika, 23 October 2021, page. 7.
"Taiwan Won’t Start a War with China, Defence Minister Says”, the Jakarta Post, 15 Oktober 2021, page.8.

Sita Hidriyah, S.Pd., M.Sc., earned a Bachelor of Education in English Education from Atmajaya University in Jakarta in 2005 and a Master of International Relations from Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Indonesia in 2008. She is currently employed as a Young Researcher in International Relations at the Expertise Research Center of the house of representative of the Republic of Indonesia. Among the scientific papers that have appeared in journals and books are: "Upaya Pemerintah dan Kerjasama Luar Negeri Dalam Pengentasan Kemiskinan Menuju Pembangunan Berkelanjutan" (2013), "Pengungsi Suriah dan Respons Internasional dan Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)" (2016), and "Tantangan Kerjasama Indonesia dan Jepang Dalam Diplomasi Ekonomi" (2016).