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Introduction

- **Indicators of Science & Technology, Taiwan (2008)**
The National Science Council published as the “*Indicators of Science and Technology, ROC*” the annual survey, now available on its website <http://www.nsc.gov.tw/tech/> (214 pages, in Chinese/English). It contains four major parts: 1) analysis of Taiwan’s R&D input and output trends and comparisons with other countries; 2) comparative statistics concerning international R&D and related activities; 3) statistics concerning S&T activities in Taiwan, incl different sectors’ S&T funding and manpower inputs, the government’s S&T and R&D budgets, S&T outputs, and data concerning Taiwan’s science parks - it also includes R&D funding classified by socioeconomic goal; 4; appendix containing an explanation of the survey, the survey questionnaire, and a comparison of the OECD’s and Taiwan’s industry classification.
- President Ma Ying-jeou noted that among the **top 100 IT companies** listed in Business Week magazine in June 2008, there were 18 Taiwan companies and 33 U.S. firms, compared to 15 and 46, respectively, in 2005. "In the space of three years, three more Taiwan companies were added to the list, while 13 U.S. companies were dropped, which is proof that Taiwan is getting stronger and stronger in this area," Ma said.
- The **Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI)** in Hsinchu, one of Taiwan’s most important keys to its industrial power, was founded in 1973 by the government as a non-profit R&D institution. Today, ITRI is a 6’000-person organization with an annual budget of about US\$ 550 mio., split roughly between government-sponsored R&D and contract services. The campus houses 6 core laboratories, 5 focus centers, and 5 linkage centres conducting applied research and development. The scope of ITRI’s research covers industries such as: information and communications technologies; advanced manufacturing and systems; biomedical technology, nanotechnology, materials and chemicals; and energy and environment. Among its goals, ITRI tries to expedite the development of new industrial technology, to aid in the process of upgrading industrial technology techniques, and to establish future industrial technology. (www.itri.org.tw)

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1. Exhibition showcases innovative new technological trends

(Liberty Times, 08. 01. 2009)

At an exhibition sponsored by the Smart Living Interactive Innovation Center (SLIIC) of National Chiaotung University, an entry from the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) featuring an electric vehicle equipped with sleep alarms and a breathalyzer attracted considerable attention. The electrically powered concept vehicle developed by ITRI has inner workings on which the team at NCTU cooperated. It comes with an alcohol detector and an infrared sleep alarm to wake a drowsing driver -- items that may be standard equipment in the future on all vehicles.

Full article:

<http://www.taiwanheadlines.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=146044&CtNode=9>

2. Local research reveals that chromium lactoferrin milk powder can aid in regulating blood sugar

(Liberty Times, 08. 01. 2009)

A local biotechnology company has developed a chromium lactoferrin milk powder. Studies using humans have revealed that use of this unique milk powder can help to regulate the body's level of blood sugar. Most recently, further studies have confirmed the findings. The studies indicate that trace amounts of the metal element chromium are able to increase the potency of insulin. Chromium enhances the action of insulin and functions to reduce insulin resistance, which is of enormous importance to people suffering from diabetes. Chromium has been found to be effective to regulating blood sugar. Scholars from Taiwan have undertaken experiments using animals to unveil the cause and effect principle. What has been discovered is new and groundbreaking on the international scene.

Full article:

<http://www.taiwanheadlines.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=146045&CtNode=9>

3. Research Center for Humanities and Social Science Completes Taiwan Place Names Database for Ministry of Interior

(News of Academia Sinica, 12. 01. 2009)

After eight years of collaboration with local history and literature specialists from the 23 counties and cities across Taiwan, the Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences and Computing Center has completed the "Taiwan Geographic Names Information System" project sponsored by the Ministry of Interior, Department of Land Administration. The database unveiled on January 15th, 2009, at a seminar featuring these presentations and an achievement exhibition. It is hoped that in the future the database can be used as a basis for land planning, development and management. The "Taiwan Geographic Names Information System Establishment" project was executed by the Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences and Computing Center on behalf of The Ministry of Interior. The project not only aimed to achieve the completion of the information system, but also to strengthen the each local region's literature, historical, academic and research values.

Full article:

<http://db1n.sinica.edu.tw/textdb/gatenews/showpost.php?rid=2061>

4. Mio Products Double-winner of iF and TGD Design Awards

(Taiwan Economic News, 14. 01. 2009)

Two products from Mio, the GPS device brand under MiTAC International Corp., won confirmations from both the iF Product Design Award, the so-called "Design Oscars," and Taiwan Good Design Award, for the Mio Leap K1 double-sided handset and the Mio Moove380 portable navigation device (PND) model with built-in subscriber identity module (SIM) card.

Full article:

http://cens.com/cens/html/en/news/news_inner_26037.html



5. NTU Presents the Most Economizing Wireless Communication System in the World

(National Science Council, 14. 01.2009)

A research team from National Taiwan University, NTU, recently presents the most economizing wireless communication SoC (System on a Chip) on energy, cost and time in the world. The system, like 2.4 GHz and Wi-Fi wireless internet, targets the 60 GHz spectrum, and this commercial spectrum requires no license while however performs a hundred times transmission efficiency than Wi-Fi, 350 times than 3.5 G cellphone. Its market potential is highly expected.

Full article:

<http://web1.nsc.gov.tw/techwp.aspx?id=0980111003&ctunit=208&ctnode=287&mp=7>

6. NTU announces breakthrough in disease imaging

(Taipei Times, 15. 01. 2009)

Two professors at National Taiwan University unveiled a nonintrusive way to evaluate the effect of treatment on patients suffering from leukemia. Tiffany Shih, chairwoman of the department of radiology at the university's College of Medicine told that their research team had created an innovative model to analyze the effect of leukemia treatment through the use of Dynamic Contrast-Enhanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging (DCE-MRI).

Full article:

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2009/01/15/2003433778>

7. Acer's Gemstone Blue Notebook PC Wins iF Product Design Award

(Taiwan Economic News, 17. 01. 2009)

Acer Inc. recently won an iF Product Design Award, the so-called Design Oscar, with its second-generation Aspire Gemstone Blue series notebook PC, following its wining of the G-Mark design award of Japan in late 2008. With 2,808 entries from 39 countries, the iF panel of international experts gave out some 802 awards for excellent design.

Full article:

http://cens.com/cens/html/en/news/news_inner_26096.html

8. ITRI Showcases Latest Breakthroughs in Flexible Display Technology

(Taiwan Economic News, 20. 01. 2009)

A movie played on a flexible screen as thin as a candy wrapper is no longer just a dream. The Display Technology Center (DTC) of Taiwan's Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) recently introduced a series of flexible display products, including active matrix (AM) OLED displays, roll-to-roll cholesterol liquid crystal displays (LCDs), and electro-wetting displays.

DTC pointed out that the transistors in its 4.1-inch flexible display are produced with existing array (front)-process manufacturing equipment, meaning that these new displays can be mass produced using existing thin film transistor-liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD) production processes and equipment. This advantage should provide a new niche for TFT-LCD companies in today's tough business climate.

Full article:

http://cens.com/cens/html/en/news/news_inner_26145.html