



**Press Review Taiwan
Science, Technology and Education**



Trade Office of Swiss Industries, Taipei, 1—30 June 2015

In June, progress was done in the medical field in Taiwan; a solution to help people suffering from autism, by boosting their zinc transmission to the brain. A next generation anticancer drug was discovered and could help patients with hard-to-penetrate tumors.

In universities, a new cursus opened for pop music and the admissions for PhD will be decreased by 30% to focus more on quality rather than on quantity.

A team of students won an award for developing a system to help the visually impaired people. And at the Pittsburgh Invention Show, Taiwan was the biggest winner for the fourth consecutive year.

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Science

Researcher sheds light on fire ant supergene (Central News Agency, 02.06.2015)

A researcher has found that the social patterns of fire ants are determined by a supergene, research into which could help mitigate the danger posed by the insects.

Clioquinol may help people with autism: study (Taipei Times, 04.06.2015)

An Academia Sinica study linking low zinc concentrations often detected in autistic people to genetic defects in two proteins suggests that autism-like behavior could be greatly ameliorated by boosting the transmission of zinc to the brain with the help of an antibiotic.

Nation's researchers make cancer drug breakthrough (Taipei Times, 06.06.2015)

The researchers found a medium to deliver drugs to hard-to-penetrate tumors, shrinking tumors in mice by 98%, greatly extending their lives. A next-generation anticancer drug developed by Academia Sinica researchers could greatly boost the life expectancy of people suffering from colorectal cancer and increase the chances of curing the disease.

Muscle mass key to life expectancy, study shows (Taipei Times, 17.06.2015)

Skeletal muscle mass (SMM) — the density of a person's muscles used to power the movement of their skeleton — is a key factor in determining their life expectancy, according to a study published on Monday by the National Health Research Institutes (NHRI).

Taiwanese researchers find obesity-reducing properties in fungus (Focus Taiwan, 25.06.2015)

Taiwan researchers have found that *Ganoderma lucidum*, known locally as lingzhi mushrooms, can prevent obesity, as well as discovering a weight-loss gut bacterium. The results, achieved by a team led by Lai Hsin-chih, a professor at Chang Gung University's Department of Medical Biotechnology and Laboratory Science, have been published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Nature Communications*.

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Education

ROC's top tertiary institutions exhibit R&D results (Taiwan Today, 09.06.2015)

A special exhibition showcasing the major R&D achievements of 16 leading colleges and universities in Taiwan kicked off June 8 in Taipei City. Organized by the Ministry of Education, the event highlights results under the MOE'S Aim for the Top University Project. Last year, participating institutions shared NT\$3.58 billion (US\$114.47 million) in private-sector funding for 1,759 patents and generated NT\$706 million in revenues related to such intellectual property rights.

Pop music takes root in Taiwan tertiary institutions (Taiwan Today, 11.06.2015)

The establishment of dedicated pop music departments in Taiwan's tertiary institutions is helping give the local recording industry a shot in the arm and further promoting the nation as a cultural hub in Asia-Pacific. Made possible through a recently launched NT\$40 million (US\$1.3 million) Ministry of Culture initiative aimed at strengthening the grassroots of pop music education, the trend saw Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology take national honors as the first to offer advanced diplomas in the fledgling field of study.

ROC Cabinet expands overseas student recruitment (Taiwan Today, 12.06.2015)

Boosting Taiwan's talent pool through expanded recruitment of international students is a top policy goal of the government going forward, according to Premier Mao Chi-kuo June 11. "We are facing a major demographic change and brain drain through the steady export of high-end professionals and import of entry-level workers".

Measures target quality of doctorates, lower quantity (Taipei Times, 15.06.2015)

The Ministry of Education has announced a new project aimed at slashing doctoral admissions by as much as 30 percent and establishing three new doctoral programs in the next academic year to curb the oversupply of such degrees and boost career opportunities for graduates.

Mosaic Taiwan 2015 gets underway in Taipei (Taiwan Today, 15.06.2015)

The second edition of international youth leadership program Mosaic Taiwan kicked off June 15 in Taipei City, bringing together 30 young students and professionals from top tertiary institutions in Canada and the U.S. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs initiative serves as an outstanding exchange platform for participants to learn more



about Taiwan's culture, diplomacy, economy and society from local counterparts. Activities include seminars, workshops and visits with representatives of the academic, private and public sectors.

Universities urged to help students improve English proficiency (Taiwan News, 26.06.2015)

Taiwan's Consumers' Foundation has called on local universities to take responsibility for improving English-language skills among their students, in view of the fact that a certain standard of English proficiency is a prerequisite to obtaining a degree. The foundation urged the country's universities to help improve their student's English proficiency by offering more training so that the students would not need to spend a fortune taking English classes at cram schools.

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Technology

ROC Cabinet unveils industrial upgrade scheme (Taiwan Today, 01.06.2015)

An NT\$45 billion (US\$1.46 billion), nine-year development scheme aimed at facilitating Taiwan's next-generation industrial sector upgrade is under consideration by the ROC Cabinet. Tapping Taiwan's resources in big data, Internet of Things and robotics, the policy will usher in a new era of smart automatic production across the major sectors of agriculture, consumer electronics, food, logistics, machine tools, metal processing and retail.

2015 COMPUTEX Taipei to feature cloud, IoT and mobile applications (Taiwan News, 01.06.2015)

The Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) held an international press conference on the first of June previewing the COMPUTEX Taipei 2015, one of the world's premier trade shows for the global information and communication technology (ICT) sector, while presenting accolades to the winners of this year's COMPUTEX d&i Awards.

NTUST visual aid wins iF Student Design Award (Taiwan Today, 08.06.2015)

An assisted orientation system for the visually impaired created by a team of students from Taipei City-based National Taiwan University of Science and Technology is winner of a 2015 iF Student Design Award. Using radio-frequency identification technology, the system transmits location-related data via Bluetooth-enabled earphones as the user touches orientation modules on the ground with a cane.

Taiwan wins 33 gold medals at Pittsburgh invention show (Central News Agency, 19.06.2015)

Taiwan bagged 33 gold medals, 32 silvers and seven special awards at the 30th Invention and New Product Exposition (INPEX) held June 16-18 in Pittsburgh in the United States. Nearly 700 inventions from 18 countries were shown in this year's event, 85 of which came from Taiwan. Both in terms of number of medals and win rate, Taiwan was the biggest winner for the fourth consecutive year.

Taiwan launches high-tech startup incubator in US (Taiwan Today, 22.06.2015)

A state-backed incubator for Taiwan high-tech startups opened June 19 in California, underscoring the commitment of the ROC government to cementing the nation's presence in Silicon Valley and global supply chain.

NCKU unveils fuel cell electric vehicle (Central News Agency, 30.06.2015)

National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) unveiled Taiwan's first home-grown fuel cell electric vehicle powered by hydrogen fuel cells and lithium batteries. NCKU said it has applied for patent protection and is prepared to transfer the technology to a car manufacturer and sell the product on the market.

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