



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



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In July, Taiwanese researchers managed to model the structure of filamentous plant viruses. This finding is expected to significantly bolster animal vaccine manufacturing technologies.

In Taipei, kindergarten subsidies are to be expanded. From now on, children as young as four years of age receive city subsidies if they attend a private kindergarten.

The National Applied Research Laboratories have developed a customizable device that protects valuable items against earthquakes offering a protection capacity superior to any existing equipment. Furthermore, a team at National Central University (NCU) has built the lightest and smallest advanced ionospheric probe (AIP) in the world. The so-called "Cosmic Cube" is set to be installed on the FORMOSAT-5 satellite and is expected to save millions of New Taiwan dollars.

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Science

NTUH researchers reveal side effect of medication (Taipei Times, 10.07.2015)

On July 9, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH) announced the discovery of a potentially deadly side effect of antithyroid medications called agranulocytosis, which can lead to sepsis and even death. Agranulocytosis is a condition characterized by a severe reduction in the number of granulocytes, a type of white blood cells that help the body fight bacterial infection.

Team models plant virus structure (Taipei Times, 18.07.2015)

On July 17, Taiwanese researchers said that they had detailed the structure of filamentous plant viruses by analyzing the structure of a plant virus commonly found in bamboo. Academia Sinica research fellow Lin Na-sheng said that the finding would significantly bolster animal vaccine manufacturing technologies.

Soy milk might benefit weight loss, muscle gain (Taipei Times, 24.07.2015)

Soy milk has long been a popular alternative to dairy milk for people with lactose intolerance, but a study published on July 23 found it is also effective in assisting with weight loss and muscle mass gains.

Saw-like teeth gave the Tyrannosaurus an edge (Taipei Times, 30.07.2015)

A study by the National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center and Canadian paleontologist Robert Reisz found that the Tyrannosaurus likely had "saw-like teeth", which the institute said could be the reason the prehistoric predators dominated for 165 million years. Project leader Lee Yao-chang said his team made the discovery by analyzing fossils of juvenile Tyrannosaurus, provided by the Royal Ontario Museum in Canada.

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Education

University students teach disadvantaged kids (Taipei Times, 12.07.2015)

On July 11, hundreds of college students from Taiwan and China began a volunteer program that is to take them to rural areas in the two nations to teach disadvantaged children over the summer. About 300 students from National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) and 20 Chinese universities, including Peking University and Beijing's Tsinghua University, are scheduled to teach in 30 rural schools, NTNU said. The students aim to emulate the spirit of Confucius, who is reputed to have traveled widely and promoted education for all, according to NTNU.

University transition proposal panned (Taipei Times, 16.07.2015)

The Ministry of Education's proposed university transition measures would allow private schools to profit at the expense of the government and students, Taiwan Higher Education Union representatives said on July 15, urging the proposed law to be withdrawn and revised. Rapidly falling student numbers following years of low birth rates have put pressure on universities, with the ministry planning extensive mergers and closings.

Taipei preschool subsidies set for expansion: officials (Taipei Times, 17.07.2015)

Kindergarten subsidies are to be expanded as part of broader moves to shake up the structure of Taipei's social welfare benefits, the Department of Education said on July 16. The age limit for children receiving city subsidies to attend private kindergartens is to be lowered to four, Department of Education Chief Secretary Chen Shun-ho said.

Education Ministry platform plays matchmaker for remote area schools (The China Post, 21.07.2015)

On July 20, the Ministry of Education (MOE) founded a platform that provides substitute teacher information of elementary and junior high schools to the public in order to solve teacher appointment problems in remote areas and outlying islands.

NIA to train Southeast-Asian language teachers (Taiwan News, 22.07.2015)

In order to help the new immigrants and their second generation to make good use of their linguistic advantages, the National Immigration Agency launched a new immigrant native language teacher's training course. People fluent in Vietnamese, Bahasa Indonesia, Thai, Cambodian, Burmese, Filipino and Malay are welcome to sign up for the training.

Taiwan and France reach language teaching accord (The China Post, 23.07.2015)



Taiwan's education minister returned Tuesday, July 21 from a six-day visit to France where he and his French counterpart agreed that Taiwan and France will cooperate intensively in the areas of teaching Chinese as a second language and sinology, according to the Ministry of Education (MOE).

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Technology

Taiwan shines at Macau invention expo (Taiwan Today, 06.07.2015)

Inventors from Taiwan won 17 golds, 17 silvers, eight bronzes and three special awards at the macau International Innovation and Invention Expo July 3-5, maintaining the nation's four-year run of top-spot finishes at the event. Beating out nearly 400 submissions from eight other Asian countries and territories, as well as Poland, the homegrown talents reaffirmed Taiwan's growing reputation as a hotbed of creativity, according to Taipei City-based World Innovation Intellectual Property Associations.

Cosmic Cube could save millions of NT dollars (The China Post, 07.07.2015)

On July 6, a team at National Central University (NCU) published its research of the advanced ionospheric probe (AIP) — "Cosmic Cube," which is set to be installed on FORMOSAT-5 with the aim of saving millions of New Taiwan dollars for launching satellites. In celebration of the achievement, the Ministry of Education (MOE) showcased the "Cosmic Cube" as an achievement that the team of NTC had strived for over 20 years.

Lab unveils quake device (Taipei Times, 15.07.2015)

On July 14, the National Applied Research Laboratories lifted the curtain on a sloped, rolling-type isolation device, saying the customizable technology can protect valuable items against earthquakes. Able to cap acceleration inflicted by a magnitude 7 earthquake at below 80 galileos, or 8cm per second squared, and to restore items to their original positions after tremors, the device offers protection capacity superior to any existing equipment, project leader Wang Hsiang-jung said.

Taiwan team wins energy challenge competition (Taiwan Today, 22.07.2015)

A team from National Taiwan University of Science and Technology is a grand prize winner at International Future Energy Challenge held July 13-15 at University of Michigan. In the biennial competition for tertiary students, the 10-member NTUST team claimed top honors in the category of high-efficiency wireless charging system for electric vehicles and other applications, outperforming rivals from eight institutions in Brazil, Germany, Japan, South Korea, the U.S. and mainland China.

Taiwan's electronic toll collection system nominated for award (Focus Taiwan, 24.07.2015)

A team from National Taiwan University of Science and Technology is a grand prize winner at International Future Energy Challenge Taiwan's electric toll collection (ETC) system developed by Taipei-based Far Eastern Electronic Toll Collection Co. (FETC) has been nominated for a 2015 R&D 100 Award, the company announced Friday, July 24. The ETC will compete with more than 300 other nominees for the awards, which are dubbed the "Oscars of Innovation," FETC said, adding that representatives of the company will attend the awards presentation ceremony slated for Nov. 11 to 13 in Las Vegas, United States.

BioTaiwan expo kicks off in Taipei (Taiwan Today, 24.07.2015)

The annual BioTaiwan expo got underway July 23 in Tapei City, highlighting current technological developments in biotechnology while promoting exchanges between local and overseas industry heavyweights. Opened by President Ma Ying-jeou, the four-day event features 600 companies from home and abroad showcasing their wares and the latest R&D at 1,200 booths. It also includes business-matching sessions, conferences, product launch, seminars and workshops.

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