



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

Trade Office of Swiss Industries, Taipei, October 1-31, 2015

This month, Taiwan’s science, technology and education press review includes the following news articles: Researchers calculate mass of black hole; Researchers herald local breakthrough in fish cultivation; NTU makes bio functional intraocular plastic lenses; Education minister urges universities to find new funding; English listening as part of university entrance contested; English proposed as second language; EPA develops new technology to make roads from old tires; NARL launches cloud-based bridge safety system; and Formosat-5 slated for February 2016 launch.

Science2

- Researchers calculate mass of black hole (Taipei Times, 04.10.2015).....2
- Researchers herald local breakthrough in fish cultivation (Taipei Times, 09.10.2015).....2
- NTU makes bio functional intraocular plastic lenses (Taipei Times, 20.10.2015).....2

Education.....2

- Education minister urges universities to find new funding (The China Post, 02.10.2015).....2
- Doctoral student subsidy rise eyed after ratings dip (Taipei Times, 08.10.2015)2
- Colleges seek new business plans as enrollments drop (Taipei Times, 09.10.2015).....2
- English listening as part of university entrance contested (Taipei Times, 16.10.2015)2
- NTUST boots up annual robot contest (Taipei Times, 17.10.2015)2
- English proposed as second language (Taipei Times, 20.10.2015)3

Technology3

- Taiwan e-map wins Asia geospatial award (Taiwan Today, 01.10.2015).....3
- Taiwan shines at Sevastopol invention show (Taiwan Today, 05.10.2015)3
- EPA develops new technology to make roads from old tires (Taipei Times, 05.10.2015)3
- Taiwan’s first locally developed metal 3D printing system revealed (Focus Taiwan, 06.10.2015).....3
- NARL launches cloud-based bridge safety system (Taiwan Today, 07.10.2015)3
- Formosat-5 slated for February 2016 launch (Taiwan Today, 16.10.2015).....3
- HTC builds encrypted phones for National Security Bureau (Focus Taiwan, 25.10.2015)3



Science

Researchers calculate mass of black hole (Taipei Times, 04.10.2015)

Academia Sinica researchers said they have calculated that a supermassive black hole in a galaxy 4 billion light-years away might contain more than 300 million times the Sun's mass by analyzing images taken by radio telescopes, adding that the findings are key to understanding the formation and evolution of black holes and their host galaxies.

Researchers herald local breakthrough in fish cultivation (Taipei Times, 09.10.2015)

On Oct. 8, researchers from National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) said that they have produced a fish feed additive that could double the survival rate of grouper fry. Grouper cultivation is a major aquaculture business in Taiwan, but one of the big problems encountered by farmers is a virus that ravages populations of young fish.

NTU makes bio functional intraocular plastic lenses (Taipei Times, 20.10.2015)

National Taiwan University researchers have developed a bio functional intraocular lens for cataract patients, which could be customized to patients' physiology and health needs, while proactively preventing postoperative and lens-associated complications. A team led by university chemical engineering professor Chen Hsien-yeh used poly-p-xylylenes, a polymer commonly used for coronary stents due to its high biocompatibility, to create the next-generation intraocular lens.

[Top of the Document](#)

Education

Education minister urges universities to find new funding (The China Post, 02.10.2015)

Education Minister Wu Se-hwa said on Oct. 1 that it is impossible for Taiwan to increase its budget for higher education in the short term and that universities have to think about how to solicit more funding themselves. Wu noted that while other countries have been stepping up their investment in higher education, Taiwan has remained stable in this regard, meaning that there has been no increase in investment.

Doctoral student subsidy rise eyed after ratings dip (Taipei Times, 08.10.2015)

A decline in the number of doctoral students and the impact on international rankings have apparently led to a surge in subsidies universities are offering those willing to take on doctoral studies.

Colleges seek new business plans as enrollments drop (Taipei Times, 09.10.2015)

Several colleges are adjusting their business models to admit older students as part of an effort to stay financially viable in the face of declining enrollments. At a forum held on Oct. 7 by the Ministry of Education to discuss transitions in higher education, one idea put forward was to convert some educational facilities into healthcare centers and dormitories for older students.

English listening as part of university entrance contested (Taipei Times, 16.10.2015)

More universities are using students' scores on English listening comprehension tests as a threshold for recruiting students, which has sparked controversy about the chances of students being admitted to their preferred institutes, but Minister of Education Wu Se-hwa said on Oct. 15 that he had no intentions of interfering with the schools' recruitment plans.

NTUST boots up annual robot contest (Taipei Times, 17.10.2015)

The nation's largest and oldest robot competition began yesterday at the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (NTUST). Organizers of the 19th TDK Cup Robot Contest, which runs through on Oct. 18, are looking for a robot that can move, recognize and separate colors, throw and catch a ball, and write, the Ministry of Education said.

English proposed as second language (Taipei Times, 20.10.2015)

Academics and officials on Oct. 18 discussed a proposal to make English the nation's second official language at a conference in Tainan, the city that is leading the push. "English is part of national power," Shih Chien University professor Chen Chao-ming said at the conference, which was organized by the Tainan-based Flomo Education Foundation.

[Top of the Document](#)

Technology

Taiwan e-map wins Asia geospatial award (Taiwan Today, 01.10.2015)

An innovative electronic map of Taiwan combining aerial imagery, geological formations and a street atlas is winner of the 2015 Asia Geospatial Excellence Award.

Taiwan shines at Sevastopol invention show (Taiwan Today, 05.10.2015)

Taiwan bagged 34 golds, 22 silvers and seven bronzes at International Salon of Inventions and New Technologies Oct. 1-3 in Sevastopol, trailing only Ukraine at the annual event. Local submissions beat out more than 410 others from 21 countries and territories to spotlight the creativity and innovation of the nation's inventors, according to Taipei City-based Chinese Innovation and Invention Society.

EPA develops new technology to make roads from old tires (Taipei Times, 05.10.2015)

The Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) said it has developed technology to manufacture an environmental pavement material using scrapped tires, which could provide better skid resistance and better traction than conventional asphalt, with the material to be widely adopted in Taipei.

Taiwan's first locally developed metal 3D printing system revealed (Focus Taiwan, 06.10.2015)

A local research institute revealed Taiwan's first locally developed metal 3D printing system on Oct. 6, saying that it hopes to spread the technology into the aerospace and defense industries. With the support of the ministries of economic affairs and national defense, the National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology (CSIST) said that it began to develop the system in 2014.

NARL launches cloud-based bridge safety system (Taiwan Today, 07.10.2015)

The world's first cloud-based early warning system for flooding and bridge collapses was unveiled Oct. 6 by National Applied Research Laboratories in New Taipei City. Using precipitation forecasts and real-time data collected by underwater sensors, the mechanism is capable of issuing alerts six hours ahead of potential disasters. It is expected to safeguard the nation's 20,000 bridges from torrential rain caused by monsoons and typhoons.

Formosat-5 slated for February 2016 launch (Taiwan Today, 16.10.2015)

Taiwan's Formosat-5, an ultra-high-resolution Earth observation satellite operated by the Hsinchu City-headquartered National Space Organization, is scheduled for launch in February 2016, according to the NSPO. With over 70 percent of the satellite having been developed domestically, Formosat-5 contains a locally made optical remote sensing payload, a Cassegrain telescope-type remote sensing instrument and the world's first complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor linear image sensor.

HTC builds encrypted phones for National Security Bureau (Focus Taiwan, 25.10.2015)

HTC Corp. has teamed up with the National Security Bureau to produce encrypted phones that ensure the communications of high-ranking officials are protected from spy agencies.

[Top of the Document](#)