



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



Trade Office of Swiss Industries, Taipei, February 1-29, 2016

This month, Taiwan’s science, technology and education press review includes the following news articles: Evidence of how ancient humans crossed Taiwan Strait still scarce; Solar eclipse to be highlight of 2016 sky: museum; New strain of chestnut-flavored pumpkin developed; Breast cancer drug trial 'successful'; Taiwan colleges in crisis as student population shrinks; Universities weigh in to help renovate rural primary schools; University uses dogs as study aides for children; LINE tops other social media among Taiwanese smartphone owners; Taiwan team wins Leap Motion app contest; New Taipei, Hsinchu named among Top7 Intelligent Communities of 2016; Safer driving with fatigue-sensing warning device; Students design origami boat to help kill mosquitos; HTC Vive priced at US\$799, lower than analysts' estimates and Taiwan wins 5 iF gold awards.

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## Science

### **Evidence of how ancient humans crossed Taiwan Strait still scarce (Taiwan News, 12.02.2016)**

A vast cache of prehistoric artifacts and human remains have been unearthed at an archaeological site in the Tainan Science Park, but none offer concrete evidence explaining an age-old mystery: how ancient settlers from China actually reached Taiwan.

### **Solar eclipse to be highlight of 2016 sky: museum (Focus Taiwan, 13.02.2016)**

The most exciting celestial event in 2016 will be a total solar eclipse in March, although people in Taiwan will only see part of it due to the country's geographical location, the Taipei Astronomical Museum said. Local skywatchers are expected to be treated to about two hours of the spectacle, from 8:19 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. on Mar. 9, but they will only see the moon block about 20 percent of the sun's surface, the museum said.

### **New strain of chestnut-flavored pumpkin developed (Focus Taiwan, 17.02.2016)**

A new type of pumpkin with the flavor of chestnuts that has potential for export has been developed, the Kaohsiung District Agricultural Research and Extension Station announced Feb. 16. The station said that the new strain, which has a flattened round shape, is easy to cultivate, and is suitable for growing in the spring and autumn in Taiwan.

### **Breast cancer drug trial 'successful' (The China Post, 22.02.2016)**

A Taiwanese firm on Feb. 21 released what it called the "very successful" results of a blind trial on a newly developed drug for treating breast cancer. Though the results failed to reach a "clinically significant primary endpoint," they provide meaningful data to help experiment design in the next phase, according to biotech company OBI Pharma.

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## Education

### **Taiwan colleges in crisis as student population shrinks (Taiwan News, 11.02.2016)**

On a late night in February 2014, officials from Pingtung County's Kao Fong College of Digital Contents quietly announced their school would close permanently via a message on the school's website. It became the first-ever college to close due to Taiwan's shrinking student population. Six months later, another Pingtung school, the Yung Ta Institute of Technology and Commerce, also announced its closure, making it the second victim of a fast-shrinking young population in Taiwan, which is notorious for its low birth rate.

### **Universities weigh in to help renovate rural primary schools (Focus Taiwan, 12.02.2016)**

Due to declining birth rates and a mass exodus of population in rural areas of Taiwan, some small elementary schools in these areas are facing mergers or closures, prompting the Ministry of Education to encourage teachers and students from universities to help salvage these small schools by launching innovative business start-ups to retain local residents.

### **University uses dogs as study aides for children (Taipei Times, 20.02.2016)**

National Pingtung University, in association with the university's affiliated Experimental Elementary School, has started a program introducing dogs as study aides for young children to improve their concentration. Students from the university's department of special education brought two dogs to the elementary school's library, where the dogs stayed with the children as they read.

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## Technology

### **LINE tops other social media among Taiwanese smartphone owners (Focus Taiwan, 02.02.2016)**

LINE has become the favorite app for Taiwanese smartphone owners among all the types of social media in use in the country, according to the results of a survey released on Feb. 2. Citing the survey on consumers' use of mobile devices in Taiwan, the Market Intelligence Center under the government-sponsored Institute for Information Industry (MIC) said that LINE has become the most-used app by local smartphone owners, ahead of Facebook, YouTube, WeChat and Instagram.

### **Taiwan team wins Leap Motion app contest (Taiwan Today, 05.02.2016)**



Taipei City-based Metanaut Limited is winner of the Leap Motion 3-D Jam competition for excellence in virtual reality music apps. Comprising Dilun Ho, Peter Kao, Andrew Lee and Jean Marais, the team beat out 187 submissions from 89 countries and territories to claim a cash prize of US\$10,000. The annual contest is organized by U.S.-based Leap Motion Inc., a leading developer in motion control.

**New Taipei, Hsinchu named among Top7 Intelligent Communities of 2016 (Focus Taiwan, 11.02.2016)**

New Taipei City and Hsinchu County were listed Jan. 10 among the Top 7 Intelligent Communities of 2016 by the New York-based Intelligent Community Forum (ICF). The two Taiwanese cities made the list along with Montreal, Surrey and Winnipeg in Canada, Muelheim on der Ruhr in Germany and Whanganui in New Zealand.

**Safer driving with fatigue-sensing warning device (Focus Taiwan, 13.02.2016)**

Motorists will soon be made aware when they doze off during extended periods of driving, thanks to "nanosecond pulse near-field sensing (NPNS)" technology developed by the Industrial Technology Research Institute, Taiwan's top industrial technology research institute.

**Students design origami boat to help kill mosquitos (The China Post, 17.02.2016)**

A group of students at National Taipei University of Technology (NTUT) recently won an award for their design of a foldable paper boat infused with a herbal insect repellent. The project, titled Hope Offer, was aimed at helping to eradicate disease-carrying mosquitoes in underdeveloped countries, said Zheng Meng-cong, an associate professor at the university's Department of Industrial Design who was the students' advisor.

**HTC Vive priced at US\$799, lower than analysts' estimates (Focus Taiwan, 22.02.2016)**

Taiwanese smartphone vendor HTC Corp. has priced its first virtual reality headset -- the HTC Vive -- at US\$799 (NT\$26,600), the company announced Feb. 22. The recommended retail price was announced by HTC and U.S. video game supplier Valve, which jointly developed the HTC Vive, ahead of the four-day Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, which opened also Feb. 22.

**Taiwan wins 5 iF gold awards (Focus Taiwan, 27.02.2016)**

Five designs by companies or organizations from Taiwan were presented with iF gold awards in Munich, Germany on Feb. 26, the best performance ever by Taiwan in the prestigious competition. Among the winners were "Flux Delta," a 3D printer designed by Flux Technology Inc; "Justime Lucky 7," a wall-mounted basin faucet designed by Shengtai Brassware Co.; and "Floating Garden," an evolutionary triple-layer 3D hyperbolic surface textile designed by the Taiwan Textile Research Institute.

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