



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



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## Science

### **Mosquito fighters awarded prestigious MOFA medals (Taiwan Today 03.11.2016)**

On 1<sup>st</sup> November Dr. Lien Jih-ching and a group headed by Dr. Tsai Kun-hsien were awarded medals issued by Minister David Lee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Minis in recognition of their malaria-fighting efforts in Taiwan and Sao Tome and Principe. Lien, an expert in mosquito-borne diseases, and Tsai, an associate professor in the College of Public Health at National Taiwan University in Taipei, received the Grand Medal of Diplomacy and Friend of Foreign Service Medal, respectively.

### **Taiwan, U.S. researchers find possible cure for lupus (Focus Taiwan 10.11.2016)**

A Taiwan-U.S. research team has identified an RNA molecule that plays a key role in repressing regulatory T cells, a discovery that may lead to a possible cure for autoimmune diseases such as lupus and ankylosing spondylitis. Yang Huang-yu, a nephrologist at Linkou Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, explained that T cells can prevent the human immune system from becoming hyperactive and mistaking healthy body cells for invading pathogens. Previous studies found that in the event of an infection, the inflammatory cytokine interleukin-6 (IL-6) will make T cells lose their regulatory functions, resulting in the immune system attacking healthy cells.

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## Education

### **NCKU joins international higher education network (China Post 05.11.2016)**

National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) in Tainan announced that it had joined the Worldwide Universities Network — a leading global higher education network of research intensive universities — as part of its commitment to research and education innovation. NCKU is the first university in Taiwan to join the global network, according to a university press release. A signing ceremony on November 1<sup>st</sup> marked the establishment of a partnership between the school and the Worldwide Universities Network.

### **Young Taiwanese students win 7 medals in math, science Olympiad (Focus Taiwan 16.11.2016)**

Students from Taiwan won a total of seven medals at the International Mathematics and Science Olympiad for Primary Schools (IMSO) 2016 held November 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> in Tangerang City, Indonesia. They bagged one gold medal, two silvers and four bronzes in the 13th IMSO.

### **China intends to participate in Universiade Taipei 2017 (Focus Taiwan 20.11.2017)**

China has expressed willingness to take part in the Summer Universiade Taipei 2017. A total of 105 countries had expressed the intention to participate in the sports event according to the Organizing Committee.

### **Taiwan academics honored by international scientific society (Taiwan Today 18.11.2016)**

The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) announced the inclusion of Taiwan scholars Chiang Ann-shyn and Chu Yun-han on its list of 40 newly elected fellows during the Italy-based institution's 27<sup>th</sup> General Meeting November 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> in Kigali, Rwanda. Both honorees are distinguished members of Academia Sinica, Taiwan's top academic institution. Chiang was honored by TWAS for his contributions in the areas of biological systems and organisms, while Chu was recognized for his work in social and economic sciences.

### **Taiwanese, German universities sign cooperation MOU (Focus Taiwan 30.11.2016)**

The Taiwan Comprehensive University System (TCUS), signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cooperation in Berlin on November 29<sup>th</sup> with the TU9 Universities, a German alliance. The MOU between a Taiwanese alliance of universities and a German one will promote interaction and cooperation in research and teaching between the two groups of universities, according to a news release from the TCUS.

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## Technology

### **Taiwan research institutes win six U.S. 2016 R&D 100 awards (Focus Taiwan 05.11.2016)**

Two of the leading technology research institutions in Taiwan received six 2016 R&D 100 awards in a ceremony held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> in Maryland, the United States, with the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) receiving five and the Institute for Information Industry (III) one. ITRI's technologies were selected as winners for innovation in the IT/Electrical, Mechanical Devices/Materials and Software/Services categories, while the III's "Smart Glasses Guidance System," was recognized in the Software/Services category.

**2017 Smart City Expo to focus on the internet of things (China Post 05.11.2016)**

The 2017 Smart City Summit and Expo, which will be held in Taipei from February 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, will focus on the development and application of the internet of things (IoT). The Taipei Computer Association (TCA) published in a statement that smart cities are a crucial field for the application of IoT, which is, in turn, a vital foundation for the realization of intelligent communities.

**Microsoft's AI chatbot might debut in Taiwan (Focus Taiwan 07.11.2016)**

If there is a chance for an artificially intelligent (AI)-driven chatbot developed by Microsoft Corp., called Xiaoice in China, to hit the market in Taiwan, it will target business customers. Xiaoice is an advanced natural language chatbot designed to chat with people.

**Internet of Things pact powers Taiwan's high-tech development (Taiwan Today 09.11.2016)**

A memorandum of understanding on enhancing Taiwan's Internet of Things, or IoT, ecosystem was inked November 7<sup>th</sup> in Taipei City by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and high-tech heavyweight Qualcomm Inc. as part of government efforts to build the country into an Asian Silicon Valley. Under the pact, the U.S.-based chipmaker will set up a Qualcomm partner lab in Taipei. Set to commence operations later this November, the facility will support development of fourth-generation plus and fifth-generation Internet of Everything products and solutions based on Qualcomm technologies.

**Asia's biggest video game party gets underway at Taipei Expo Park in November (China Post 11.11.2016)**

Asia's largest gaming event WirForce Lan Party 2016 kicked off November 10<sup>th</sup> at Taipei Expo Park. Event organizer 4Gamers expects to attract 70000 visitors from November 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. The event's "Bring Your Own Computer" (BYOC) area, where gamers can bring their gaming equipment, will be ongoing for 80 hours. Over 90 percent of seats in the BYOC area, which holds 600 people, were sold out within the first week of sales. Online streaming of competitions is expected to be viewed by 1 million people throughout the four-day event.

**Acer gaming monitor wins top prize at CES (Focus Taiwan 11.11.2016)**

Acer Inc., one of the leading personal computer brands in Taiwan, has won with its gaming computer a "Best of Innovation" award in the computer peripherals category at the CES 2017 Innovation Awards. The Predator Z301CT is equipped with eye-tracking technology which adds to the gamer's arsenal of control tools. This innovation impressed the jury at the CES Innovation awards.

**Biomedical plan fast-tracks Taiwan for top spot in Asia (Taiwan Today 11.11.2016)**

A biomedical promotion plan budgeted at NT\$10.94 billion (US\$346.32 million) for next year was approved November 10<sup>th</sup> by the Executive Yuan as part of government efforts to further advance President Tsai Ing-wen's five-plus-two innovative industries initiative and transform Taiwan into a center of biotechnology and medical R&D in Asia. Overseen by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the plan involves enhancing areas like human resources, finances and intellectual property. A key undertaking is drafting legislation on foreign investment, overseas talent recruitment, tax breaks and easing restrictions on the development and production of experimental medical devices and pharmaceuticals.

**DBS launches mortgage smartphone app (China Post 15.22.2016)**

The Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) launched a one-stop-shop mortgage app Monday, becoming the first bank in Taiwan to offer the service. The bank said the new app would help home buyers step-by-step through the process of finding real estate information, comparing prices, calculating mortgage payments, and contacting DBS representatives to obtain loans. The app was part of a wider modernization effort, after the bank upgraded its online and mobile banking platforms and introduced a service allowing online credit card applications.

**HTC teams up with Shenzhen authorities in VR development (Focus Taiwan 17.11.2016)**

Taiwan-based smartphone vendor HTC Corp. said on November 17<sup>th</sup> that it has teamed up with the Shenzhen Municipal Government to raise 10 billion Chinese yuan (US\$1.46 billion) for virtual reality development. HTC signed an agreement with the Shenzhen government to establish a strategic partnership in VR development through the Shenzhen VR industrial development fund. The fund is designed to develop critical VR technology and allows the participation of enterprises, schools, research institutes and investors.

**Gamania's answer to Line (China Post 23.11.2016)**

Gamania Group announces a new instant messaging app "BeanGo!" on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The app will feature private messaging, friend groups and other tools that will enable communication among users. Given that currently the Korean app Line is the most commonly used instant messaging app in Taiwan, BeanGo! It will compete with Line for users once it launches.

**Over 150 software developers to attend Taipei Game Show in January 2017 (Focus Taiwan 24.11.2016)**

More than 150 game software developers from around the world are expected to attend the upcoming Taipei Game Show, displaying their latest innovations and achievements in the business. The annual game exhibition, now in its 15th year, is scheduled to kick off January 19<sup>th</sup> and run through January 24<sup>th</sup> at the Taipei World Trade Center. It will feature a business to consumer (B2C) display area for players and a business to business (B2B) zone for developers, the organizers said.

**Taiwan to allocate NT\$11 billion next year for digital development (Focus Taiwan 24.11.2016)**

The Cabinet passed a proposal November 24<sup>th</sup> on developing a digital and innovative economy, and will allocate NT\$11 billion (US\$344.6 million) for digital economy, in an effort to rank Taiwan among the world's top 10 in e-competitiveness and raise the ratio of the digital economy to GDP to 30 percent. The plan is aimed at boosting the country's digital development over the period from 2017 to 2025.

**TAICS signs cooperation agreement with ETSI (Focus Taiwan 30.11.2016)**

The Taiwan Association of Information and Communication Standards (TAICS) has signed a cooperation agreement on November 30<sup>th</sup> with an organization that develops standards for the European Union's ICT industry. Under the agreement, Taiwan will gain immediate access to the information on the latest developments in ETSI industrial standards and the European Union's telecommunications industry. Furthermore the two parties will be able to interexchange each other's technological standards and will jointly participate in the technical exchanges and activities related to setting standards.

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