



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



Trade Office of Swiss Industries, Taipei, January 1-31, 2017

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Science

Research finds pesticide impairs echolocation ability in bats (Focus Taiwan, 11.01.2017)

In the wake of ongoing debate by experts, neonicotinoid pesticide, imidacloprid, has been proven a threat to the survival of bats in Taiwan after last year being confirmed as harmful to bees by the Environmental Protection Agency of the United States. A research team headed by Wu Chung-hsin, professor in life sciences at National Taiwan Normal University, found that bats feeding on imidacloprid-tainted insects were unable to fly along learned paths, as a result of which they often "got lost" while out hunting.

National Taiwan University Hospital makes head, neck cancer surgery breakthrough (Taiwan Today, 19.01.2017)

The world's first minimally invasive procedure for removing head and neck tumors was unveiled Jan. 17 by National Taiwan University Hospital in Taipei City. Developed by NTUH's Otolaryngology-Head and Neck team, the advanced surgical method effectively removes recalcitrant head and neck tumors and results in an aesthetically pleasing appearance. To date, NTUH has successfully performed more than 200 operations on patients with cancer in such organs as the lymph nodes, salivary glands and thyroid. Dr. Yang Tsung-lin, attending physician at NTUH's Department of Otolaryngology, said the procedure is a significant breakthrough as nearly 90 percent of cases require open surgery. "The new approach reduces the impact of operations on the head and neck and increases surgical precision."

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Education

Taiwan sees proliferation of small schools as birth rate falls (Focus Taiwan, 01.01.2017)

The lower birth rate in Taiwan has led to enrollment shortfalls at elementary schools and an increase in the number of small-sized schools over the past 15 years, according to a report released by the Ministry of Education on Sunday. Taiwan's birth rate has fallen since 2001, when the crude birth rate was 11.65 per 1,000 people, to 9.1 in 2015, the statistics revealed.

Black bear education center opened (Taipei Times, 04.01.2017)

The Taiwan Black Bear Conservation Association on Monday opened the nation's first Formosan black bear education center in Hualien County's Yuli Township. The nearby Dafen area in Hualien County's Jhuosi Township is nicknamed "bear country" for having the highest population density of the animals in the nation and holds a special significance for National Pingtung University of Science and Technology professor Hwang Mei-hsiu known locally as "Mama Black Bear" — as it is where she trapped and banded more than 15 bears during her thesis research.

Taiwan to tighten medical license eligibility (Focus Taiwan, 08.01.2017)

Taiwan will make it harder in the future for Taiwanese with degrees from medical schools in other countries to get a license in Taiwan to practice medicine, the Ministry of Health and Welfare said Monday. Shih Chung-liang, head of the ministry's Department of Medical Affairs, said it will soon adopt a new accreditation system that will apply to students who enroll in medical schools in other countries after January 2017. The new rules will not be retroactively applied, Shih said. Under the new rules, Taiwanese who study medicine overseas must graduate from schools on the reference list of the Ministry of Education and they must study medicine for a certain period of time.

Taiwan universities promoting exchanges with Philippine schools (Focus Taiwan, 11.01.2017)

A Taiwanese university alliance said Wednesday that it is seeking to build cooperation with prestigious universities in the Philippines and pave the way for wider bilateral exchanges. To this end, the NTU System, which comprises National Taiwan University (NTU), National Taiwan Normal University and National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, met in Manila with representatives of several top-ranking Philippine universities and with diplomatic officials from both sides.

**Teacher retirement age to be raised to 60: Education Ministry (Focus Taiwan, 22.01.2017)**

A pension reform proposal to raise the age of retirement for K12 teachers to 60 and that for non-teaching staff to 65 incorporate different perspectives on retirement age, the Ministry of Education said in a statement on Sunday. The ministry was responding to opinions that K12 teachers' age of retirement should be either as late as 65 or as early as 55. The reform proposal for Taiwan's pension system was drafted by the Pension Reform Committee under the Presidential Office.

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Technology**'Asian Silicon Valley' will boost Taiwan-U.S. cooperation: Tsai (Focus Time, 04.01.2017)**

President Tsai Ing-wen said Wednesday that her government's plan to create an "Asian Silicon Valley" in Taiwan does not mean copying Silicon Valley in the United States but rather is aimed at fostering greater cooperation between industries in the two countries. The plan is to promote the Internet of Things (IoT) and innovative industries, boost Taiwan's economic development by integrating the relevant local and international sectors, and push for industrial transformation in Taiwan, Tsai said.

Asus unveils ZenFone with Daydream, Google Tango (China Post, 06.01.2017)

The Taiwanese company touts the handset as the world's first to support both Google Tango — a new technology that enables augmented reality (AR) gaming and utilities and Google Daydream — the U.S. tech giant's virtual reality system. Asus ZenFone AR is the world's second smartphone to incorporate the Tango computing platform, following Lenovo's Phab 2 Pro that was announced last June. Both harbor three different technologies: motion tracking, depth perception and area learning.

ITRI demonstrates 2 cutting-edge technologies at CES 2017 (Focus Time, 09.01.2017)

The Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), Taiwan's leading high-tech applied research institution, demonstrates 2 cutting-edge technologies at CES 2017, a global consumer electronics and consumer technology trade show being held Jan. 5-8 in Las Vegas, the United States, according to a statement issued by the ITRI. In the four-day international fair, the institute demonstrates a robot equipped with ITRI's Intelligent Vision System that is able to play chess with attendees and fill coffee at various fill levels while the coffee cup is at random locations, it said, adding that the institute also presents an ICT solution for drones that can remotely control LTE-connected drones for fleet management.

MOEA expects record-breaking IC output for 4th consecutive year (Taiwan Today, 09.01.2017)

The production value of Taiwan's integrated circuit sector is projected to surpass NT\$1.2 trillion (US\$37.4 billion) in 2016 to reach a record high for the fourth straight year, the Ministry of Economic Affairs revealed Jan. 5. The gains come on the back of increasing global demand for electronics, especially mobile devices, as well as emerging applications in automation, automotive parts and the Internet of Things. According to the latest MOEA statistics, dedicated semiconductor wafer foundries are the key growth driver for Taiwan's IC sector, contributing more than 80 percent of its overall output. Approximately 80 percent of locally made semiconductors are sold overseas, mainly to mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and South Korea, in that order.

HTC unveils U Ultra, U Play models (Focus Taiwan, 12.01.2017)

Taiwan-based smartphone brand HTC Corp. unveiled two new models -- the bigger HTC U Ultra and the smaller HTC U Play -- in Taipei on Thursday as part of the company's ongoing efforts to expand its U series of phones. The U series has replaced the HTC One series as the latest flagship model for the Taiwanese smartphone vendor. The most attractive feature for the two new phones is that they sport an artificial intelligence (AI) function, while both have an aluminum look for a refined finish. In addition, the metal frame of the new U series comes with a back covered in curved glass. At the product-launch ceremony, Chang Chia-lin, president of HTC's global sales, said the company has high hopes for the U series and believes it could generate more sales than the HTC M9 and HTC 10.

Taiwan's IT spending expected to grow over 2%: Gartner (Focus Taiwan, 16.01.2017)

Spending on information technology in Taiwan for 2017 is expected to grow more than 2 percent from a year earlier largely on the back of investments in communications services, according to global market information



advisory firm Gartner Inc. In a research report called Gartner Worldwide Spending Forecast, the firm forecast that Taiwan's IT spending for this year will grow 2.1 percent from last year to NT\$660.5 billion (US\$20.84 billion).

HTC launches 'VR for Impact' program (Focus Taiwan, 21.01.2017)

Taiwan-based smartphone manufacturer HTC Corp., which is keen to diversify its product line by exploring the virtual reality business, has launched a "VR for Impact" program to fund the development of VR content and technologies. In a statement, HTC said it will invest US\$10 million in the VR program, which is expected to create a positive impact and change, in a bid to support the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. According to HTC, The U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call for action to end poverty, protect the Earth, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

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