



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



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## Science / Technology

### **Taiwan-Canada research team sheds light on dinosaur evolution (Taiwan Today, 03.02.2017)**

A Taiwan-Canada research team has discovered evidence of protein preservation in a 195 million-year-old dinosaur fossil, a significant finding that may provide more information on the biology and evolution of the long-extinct animals, according to Hsinchu City-based National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center Feb. 2. The study was conducted by researchers from the NSRRC, National Central University, National Chiao Tung University, National Chung Hsing University and University of Toronto Mississauga. It was published online Jan. 31 in the journal Nature Communications. Using the NSRRC's synchrotron, a type of particle accelerator, the team found proteins known as collagen type I preserved inside the vascular canals of the rib of a Lufengosaurus, a long-necked, plant-eating dinosaur from the Early Jurassic epoch. The animal's remains were unearthed in Yunnan Province, mainland China.

### **Taiwan, India sign MOU on telematics cooperation (Focus Taiwan, 04.02.2017)**

Taiwan and India signed a memorandum of understanding in New Delhi on Friday to increase exchanges and cooperation in the field of telematics and discuss standards related to the sector. Paul Chou, secretary general of the Taiwan Telematics Industry Association, signed the MOU with Vinnie Mehta, director general of the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) at the New Delhi Automotive Summit sponsored by the ACMA. Noting that Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has a vision of developing smart cities in India, Chou said smart traffic is a crucial part of a smart city. "This will provide a good opportunity for Taiwan," he said, adding that Taiwan has years of experience in the telematics industry.

### **Taiwan bags 4 gold invention awards in Thailand (Focus Taiwan, 06.02.2017)**

Taiwanese inventors won four gold, four silver, and one bronze medal at one of Asia's biggest invention competitions, the 2017 Thailand Inventors' Day (TID). The four gold medal-winning inventions ranged from a drinking fountain that produces negative ion hydrogen and a photoelectric quantum wafer to a software control system, and a wire saw. Among the four gold medal recipients, three were also accorded special honors for their inventions, according to World Invention Intellectual Property Associations (WIIPA) Secretary-General Hsieh Man-Li, who led Taiwan's team at the five-day event in Thailand. The Taiwan team, composed of participants from local universities and private companies, contributed a total of nine entries to the competition this year.

### **Taiwan team makes breakthrough in carbon conversion technology (Taiwan Today, 10.02.2017)**

A Taiwan research team recently demonstrated an innovative approach for converting carbon dioxide into methanol that has potential applications in a wide range of fields spanning energy and transportation, according to Taipei-based National Taiwan University of Science and Technology Feb. 9. Developed by three researchers at the university's Department of Materials Science and Engineering, the technique was outlined in a study released Jan. 24 in Scientific Reports, an online open access journal from the publishers of Nature. Professor Kuo Dong-hau, who led the research team, said the approach can help advance efforts to tackle climate change by reducing carbon emissions and promoting the development of the low-carbon economy. According to Kuo, most existing conversion methods operate at temperatures of greater than 150 degrees Celsius and require external electrical energy and high illumination intensity. In cases where lower temperatures were achieved, they either involved additional reagents or could only take place at high pressures. Using an inorganic catalyst, Kuo's team successfully developed a low-cost, energy-efficient system that turns carbon dioxide into methanol at normal temperatures and pressures. Through another process, also conducted at room temperature, the methanol was successfully converted into hydrogen.

### **HTC starts to provide 'cosmetic pink U Ultra' (Focus Taiwan, 13.02.2017)**

Taiwan's leading smartphone brand, started Monday to provide a "cosmetic pink HTC U Ultra" -- the company's latest flagship model -- in a bid to tap into demand for upcoming Valentine's Day. Market analysts said that the timing of the launch is expected to spark buying at a time when husbands or boyfriends tend to buy pink-colored gifts to please their wives or girlfriends on Valentine's Day. In mid-January, HTC unveiled two new models -- the bigger HTC U Ultra and the smaller HTC U Play -- in Taipei as part of the company's efforts to stimulate consumers' interest and boost sales. The U series has replaced the HTC One series as the firm's flagship model.



The U series has replaced the HTC One series as the firm's flagship model. Sales of the 5.7-inch U Ultra began in Taiwan Jan. 25, and in Hong Kong Feb. 7. Global sales will kick off in Europe at the end of this month. In Taiwan, 20,000 units of the U Ultra model were sold out in a pre-order sales campaign held last month, with a starting price of NT\$23,900 (US\$771). HTC had previously provided three colors -- ice white, sapphire blue, and brilliant black - without the presence of pink.

#### **HTC to unveil mobile VR device by year end: report (Focus Taiwan, 16.02.2017)**

Taiwan-based smartphone brand HTC Corp. is planning to launch a mobile virtual reality device as a follow up to its HTC Vive VR headset that was released last year, a technology website reported Thursday. According to Cnet, HTC's new VR device will be compatible with its latest flagship smartphone the HTC U Ultra and will give consumers the convenience of experiencing VR content wherever they go. The company has a "good plan in terms of combining mobility with VR," Cnet said, quoting Chang Chia-lin, president of HTC's smartphone and connected device division. "Vive is very top end, and in the coming months you'll see our plans in terms of mobility and VR, and it's not a phone slapped onto a headset," Chang was quoted as saying. The new device will be unveiled by the end of 2017, according to the report.

#### **Taiwan launches 1st landfill-based solar power plant (Taiwan Today, 17.02.2017)**

Taiwan's first landfill-based solar power plant was inaugurated Feb. 17 in southern Taipei City's Wenshan District, a milestone public-private sector development set to help slash greenhouse gasses and spur the development of renewable energy nationwide. Situated on a three-hectare site occupied by Fude Landfill until 1994 and turned into an environmental park after 2003, Taipei Energy Hill boasts 8,000 photovoltaic panels and is one of the largest solar power facilities in the country. Construction, which began in September, last year, was funded by Taipei-based electronics firm Tatung Co. The facility is expected to generate 2 million kilowatt-hours of electrical energy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 1,000 tonnes a year. All production will be sold to state-run utility Taiwan Power Co., with Taipei City Government receiving 10 percent of total sales estimated at around NT\$1 million (US\$32,453) per annum.

#### **Taiwanese technology can help India fight pollution: official (Focus Taiwan, 20.02.2017)**

Taiwanese technology can help improve India's air quality by recycling its agricultural waste into bioethanol or pellets that can be used as fuels, a Taiwanese official and scientist has argued in a quarterly magazine in India. The article, titled "A Taiwanese prescription to fight pollution by utilizing agricultural waste" published Sunday in "Diplomatic Square," said that nearly 81,000 premature deaths of adults over 30 years old in Delhi and Mumbai in 2015 were caused by polluted air. Air pollution also cost about 0.71 percent of India's GDP, wrote Dr. Henry H. Chen, a counselor in the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in India and a professor of food science at National Pingtung University of Science and Technology.

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## **Education**

#### **2 Taiwan schools on Times list of most international universities (China Post, 02.02.2017)**

Two Taiwanese universities have been listed among the world's most international universities, in the annual Times Higher Education rankings that were released Wednesday. Among the 150 universities around the world on the list, Taiwan's National Tsing Hua University was ranked 144th and National Taiwan University 148th. The rankings on the list of the World's Most International Universities 2017 take into consideration international staff, students and co-authors, and the schools' international reputations. National Tsing Hua University gained an overall score of 34.4, while National Taiwan University scored 32.3. Topping the list were the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich with an overall score of 97.1 and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (96.7).

#### **Subsidy offered for young people to study in Southeast Asia (Focus Taiwan, 08.02.2017)**

The Ministry of Education (MOE) called on young people Wednesday to apply for subsidies to study in Southeast Asian countries, saying that applications for the scheme have started and will last until April 30. The subsidy scheme was launched in support of the government's promotion of its New Southbound Policy to strengthen exchanges with countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia, as well as Australia and New Zealand, the ministry said. It is aimed at encouraging Taiwanese young people to study in international organizations and non-government organizations in those countries, according to the ministry. The deadline for applications for the latest



phase of the subsidy scheme is April 30 and citizens aged 18-30 are eligible to apply for the scheme, which offers a living subsidy of up to NT\$150,000 (US\$4,825) for each two-month course between July and November, according to the ministry.

#### **NTU seminar boosts Taiwan-India exchanges (Taiwan Today, 10.02.2017)**

The 2017 Sustainable Urban Mobility Program: Leaders in Urban Transport Planning and Management seminar was held at National Taiwan University in Taipei City from Feb. 9-10, helping foster links between Taiwan and India officials and industry professionals in line with the government's New Southbound Policy. A key plank in President Tsai Ing-wen's national development strategy, the New Southbound Policy seeks to deepen Taiwan's agricultural, business, cultural, education, trade and tourism links with the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states, six South Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand. The annual seminar is part of the Sustainable Urban Transport Project jointly initiated by the World Bank, India's Ministry of Urban Development and the Center of Excellence in Urban Transport at Center for Environmental Planning and Technology University in Ahmedabad. The SUTP aims to promote environmentally sustainable urban transport in the South Asian nation and improve the usage of environmentally friendly transport methods through demonstration projects in selected cities.

#### **NTHU planning to set up more Taiwan Education Centers in India (Focus Taiwan, 11.02.2017)**

Taiwan's National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) is planning to establish four more Taiwan Education Centers in India this year, a university official said on Saturday. Wang Wei-chung, NTHU's vice president for global affairs, who is currently in India, told CNA that he has visited several local universities over the past few days to discuss possible cooperation on Chinese language education. They included Jawaharlal Nehru University, O.P. Jindal Global University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-Kanpur) and SRM University, Wang said. During the visit, an agreement has been reached with IIT-Kanpur to establish a Taiwan Education Center, the eighth of its kind to be set up by NTHU in India, with the backing of the Ministry of Education, Wang said.

#### **Taipei ranked world's 21st best city for students (Taiwan Today, 16.02.2017)**

Taipei moved up two places to 21st globally, while ranking sixth in Asia, in this year's Best Student Cities index conducted by U.K.-based higher education information provider Quacquarelli Symonds. "Taiwan's universities have been steadily climbing to greater global prominence in recent years, establishing the country's capital as one of Asia's leading higher education hubs," the QS website said. "Taipei is home to no less than eight universities ranked among the world's best in the QS World University Rankings 2016-2017, led by the nation's flagship public institute National Taiwan University at joint 68th in the world." The 2017 edition of the QS Best Student Cities includes a new category—Student View, based on a survey of students and recent graduates around the world—in addition to the established five categories, namely affordability, desirability, employer activity, student mix and university rankings. Taipei was ranked 10th in the index's Student View category, indicating that many students are enjoying their experience of the city and are often keen to stay after graduation. When asked to name the best things about studying in Taipei, one respondent summarized by saying "Inclusion. Diversity. Friendliness." With relatively low tuition fees and living costs, Taipei has one of the highest scores in the Affordability category, making it well worth considering for those on a tight budget, according to QS.

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