



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



Trade Office of Swiss Industries, Taipei, May 1 – 31 2017

Science / Technology2

Local winners of NASA hackathon announced in Taipei (Taiwan Today, 02.05.2017)2

Science Ministry to set up robot production base (Focus Taiwan, 03.05.2017)2

Ill to work with Microsoft in fostering local data science talents (Taiwan Today, 05.05.2017)2

Taiwan wins 74 medals at Paris invention fair (Focus Today, 07.05.2017)2

Taiwan can become Asia's biotech hub: vice president (Focus Taiwan, 13.05.2017)2

ITRI develops world's first easy-to-use pesticide detector (China Post, 24.05.2017).....3

Education.....3

Taiwan students shine at Intel science fair (Taiwan Today, 22.05.2017)3



Science / Technology

Local winners of NASA hackathon announced in Taipei (Taiwan Today, 02.05.2017)

Winners of the local edition of the NASA Space Apps Challenge, which this year is themed "Earth," were announced April 30 in Taipei City, with two Taiwan teams nominated to vie against competitors from around the world in the finals of the largest international hackathon. Organized by the American Institute in Taiwan in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology, Taipei City Government and National Taiwan University, this event marked the first time Taipei joined the global competition alongside 186 other locations. The main stage of this year's edition was in Sydney, Australia. During the local event's two-day run at NTU, team Space Bar, comprising students from NTU and National Chiao Tung University in northern Taiwan's Hsinchu City, outperformed 56 other rivals to claim the top honor and NT\$80,000 (US\$2,642) in prize money for Landslide Victory, a landslide prediction, reporting and monitoring app.

Science Ministry to set up robot production base (Focus Taiwan, 03.05.2017)

The Ministry of Science and Technology announced Wednesday that it will establish a robot production base in a bid to upgrade Taiwan's manufacturing sector. In a news conference, Science and Technology Minister Chen Liang-gee said that his ministry is seeking a budget of NT\$2 billion (US\$66.67 million) over the next four years for the establishment of the robot production base, which will be called "the Maker Space." The Democratic Progressive Party government is planning to spend NT\$880 billion over the next eight years to push for infrastructure work in Taiwan to create 40,000 to 50,000 new jobs. Chen said that the Cabinet is likely to assign NT\$2 billion from this massive budget for the robot production program.

Ill to work with Microsoft in fostering local data science talents (Taiwan Today, 05.05.2017)

The Institute for Information Industry, a state-backed research organization based in Taipei City, announced May 3 that it is working with Microsoft Corp. to launch the U.S. tech giant's Professional Program for Data Science in Taiwan. Comprising 250 hours of online courses, the free program provides entry-level training in data science skills such as analysis, machine learning and programming. Participants are required to apply their knowledge in solving practical industry-related problems prior to earning a completion certificate. Ill is working to develop a Chinese-language version of the program. The institute has already opened online enrollment and plans to promote the course by organizing campaigns and lectures at universities across the nation. Taiwan is a worldwide leader in open data, as demonstrated by its first place ranking in the 2016 Global Open Data Index conducted by U.K.-headquartered nonprofit organization Open Knowledge International. The country faces a shortage of qualified data scientists who could apply the large data sets produced by government agencies in developing solutions to business and social challenges, according to the institute.

Taiwan wins 74 medals at Paris invention fair (Focus Today, 07.05.2017)

Taiwan took 74 medals, including 11 gold, 23 silver and 40 bronze, at one of the world's most prestigious invention fairs that closed Saturday in Paris. This year, 45 participants from Taiwan presented 77 items to the Concours Lépine International Paris, an event that has been held since 1901. Among the country's gold medalists were two who were participating for the first time and who also received special mentions from the French organizers. Chang Chun-hsiang, a 14-year-old student from Kuai Ji Junior High School in Taoyuan, was awarded gold for his anti-doze alarm detection. The device, which is worn around the user's neck, sends out a warning signal or vibration to keep students or drivers alert when it senses a downward tilt in head movement.

Taiwan can become Asia's biotech hub: vice president (Focus Taiwan, 13.05.2017)

Vice President Chen Chien-jen said on Saturday that Taiwan can become a biotechnology hub for the Asia-Pacific region if proper efforts are made. Biotechnology is one of the "five plus two" innovative industries being focused on by the government, which is seeking to develop a "biotechnology corridor" along Taiwan's western coast, Chen said in a forum on enhancing the competitiveness of Taiwan's biotechnology, health and wellness industries held in Taichung, central Taiwan. Following the near completion of the National Biotechnology Research Park in Taipei's Nangang District, a biomedical science park is being built in Hsinchu County's Zhubei City, Chen said. He proposed that a biotechnology industry cluster also be developed in Taichung as well by combining the resources of Chinese Medical University, Chung Shan Medical University, Taichung Veterans General Hospital, National Chung Hsing University and the many precision machinery manufacturers in the city.

**ITRI develops world's first easy-to-use pesticide detector (China Post, 24.05.2017)**

The Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) has developed a device that it said can detect the level of pesticides on fruits and vegetables as they are being washed, and it hopes the device can hit the market next year. Chu Chun-hsun, director of the ITRI's Smart Microsystems Technology Center, described the new device as the world's first easy-to-use pesticide detector in a project supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs. The center is now discussing a transfer of the technology to companies and hopes it can be available commercially sometime next year. The center estimated the device will cost between US\$100 and US\$150. Chu said the inspiration for the device came from optical detection methods commonly used in biomedical research, and researchers decided to see what happened if the process was applied to food. Relying on the unique wavelength absorption pattern of different chemicals, the device performs spectral analysis to get the water soluble chemicals to "reveal themselves," Chu explained.

[Top of the Document](#)

Education**Taiwan students shine at Intel science fair (Taiwan Today, 22.05.2017)**

Taiwan high school students won three third-place awards, one fourth-place award and one special award for their outstanding performances at the prestigious Intel International Science and Engineering Fair May 19 in Los Angeles. Staged annually by Washington-based Society for Science and the Public since 1950 and sponsored by Intel Corp., the 2017 edition of the world's largest pre-college science competition attracted around 1,300 entries from nearly 1,800 students in 78 countries and territories worldwide. According to the Taipei City-based National Taiwan Science Education Center, which is the major sponsor of the country's representation at the ISEF, the local team comprised 13 members, who submitted nine projects this year. They were selected from winners of the Taiwan International Science Fair held in early February. One of the local winners was Yeh Chia-yu of Chung Shan Industrial & Commercial School in southern Taiwan's Kaohsiung City. He took home a third-place award, along with a cash prize of US\$1,000, in the Embedded Systems category for his Eco Paper Circuit Printer and Its Applications.

[Top of the Document](#)