



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



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**Science / Technology .....2**

*Computex Taipei draws record number of buyers, tech professionals (Taiwan Today, 07.06.2017).....2*

*Taiwan ranked 16th globally in Internet speed report (Focus Taiwan, 07.06.2017).....2*

*EVA Air introduces upgraded passenger service robot (China Times, 08.06.2017).....2*

*Company seeks to make smart toilet with urine sensor (Focus Taiwan, 12.06.2017).....2*

*HTC U11 enjoys strong sales (Focus Taiwan, 15.06.2017).....2*

*Taiwan scientists find potential treatment for Alzheimer's disease (Focus Taiwan, 17.06.2017).....2*

*Free Wi-Fi is coming to every high-speed train by Universiade (China Times, 19.06.2017).....3*

*Innolux to mass-produce world's 1st flexible fingerprint sensors (Focus Taiwan, 20.06.2017).....3*

**Education.....3**

*University graduates bemoan low wages, despite record high (Focus Taiwan, 01.06.2017).....3*

*NTU ranks 76th In QS world university rankings (Focus Taiwan, 08.06.2017).....3*

*NTU rises in Times Higher Education Rankings (China Post, 15.06.17).....3*



## Science / Technology

### **Computex Taipei draws record number of buyers, tech professionals (Taiwan Today, 07.06.2017)**

Computex Taipei, one of the world's leading information and communication technology expos, wrapped up June 3 in northern Taiwan, attracting a record number of buyers and high-tech professionals from around the world. Co-organized by Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) under the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the five-day event welcomed 41,378 international visitors from 167 countries, up 1 percent from last year. Of the leading visitor source countries, Thailand topped the growth list with a gain of 30.63 percent, followed by Indonesia at 22.52 percent, India at 20.86 percent and Vietnam at 20.44 percent. According to TAITRA, a reason for the success of this year's exhibition is its lineup of must-experience activities such as product launches, more than 100 forums and keynote speeches by industry leaders and 955 one-on-one procurement sessions linking 181 major international buyers with 297 exhibitors. TAITRA President and CEO Walter M. S. Yeh said June 3 that the expo has experienced a positive transformation over the past two years and is in lockstep with the latest global technology developments and trends.

### **Taiwan ranked 16th globally in Internet speed report (Focus Taiwan, 07.06.2017)**

The average Internet connection speed in Taiwan in the first quarter of the year was measured at 16.9 megabits per second (Mbps), the 16th fastest in the world and fifth fastest in the Asia-Pacific region, according to a quarterly report on global internet speeds. Taiwan's average connection speed of 16.9 Mbps was a 7.9 percent increase from 15.6 Mbps in the fourth quarter of 2016 and a 14 percent leap from Q1 of 2016, according to the State of the Internet report put out by content delivery network Akamai on May 31. South Korea remained at the top of the rankings with an average connection speed of 28.6 Mbps, followed by Norway (23.5 Mbps), Sweden (22.5 Mbps), Hong Kong (21.9 Mbps) and Switzerland (21.7 Mbps).

### **EVA Air introduces upgraded passenger service robot (China Times, 08.06.2017)**

EVA Airways Corp. on June 6 unveiled its upgraded interactive robot known as "Pepper" at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, which is used to scan travelers' boarding passes and allow them to get information about their flight and the weather at their destination in various languages. The updated robots will be in service at the international check-in counters at Taipei Songshan Airport and in the Taoyuan airport's VIP lounges in the near future, according to the airline. EVA Air Vice President Yeh Shih-Chung said that with the combined efforts of EVA Air and Perobot Co. Ltd. -- the local sales distributor of Pepper -- the updated machine has become more functional. It will offer services in English and Japanese in addition to Chinese, Yeh said. I will be able to tell passengers where food, entertainment and duty-free product and shopping areas can be found, Yeh added.

### **Company seeks to make smart toilet with urine sensor (Focus Taiwan, 12.06.2017)**

National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU) signed an agreement with a sanitary equipment company on Monday to develop a smart toilet equipped with a urine sensor that can report health information to the user. The sensor, developed by Lin Che-hsin, a professor of biomedical engineering at the university, can measure pH, temperature, and ion concentration of urine in only one second, allowing people to save time spent going to hospitals. The sensor sends the test results to the Cloud and with a mobile app, the user, and the user's family and doctors, can read the information via their smartphones or other mobile devices. Besides the urine sensor, the testing technique on a chip can also be applied to the measurement of sweat, saliva, and tap water quality, Lin said. It can be installed on smart water meters to inform users of their water quality and ensure its safety.

### **HTC U11 enjoys strong sales (Focus Taiwan, 15.06.2017)**

HTC Corp.'s new flagship smartphone, the U11, has delivered strong sales since its launch in late May, a company executive said 15.06.2017. The U11 received good reviews when it was unveiled May 16, and less than a month after going on sale, it has sold better than its predecessors, the M10 and the M9, said Chang Chia-lin, president of HTC's smartphone and connected device division. The shortfall in global demand for the new model will be filled probably only in early July, Chang said during a shareholder meeting.

### **Taiwan scientists find potential treatment for Alzheimer's disease (Focus Taiwan, 17.06.2017)**

A research team at Taiwan's National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) has proven the efficacy of a zinc finger-like protein in restoring memory deficits, which suggests it has the potential to treat Alzheimer's disease. The team was led by Chang Nan-shan, director of the Institute of Molecular Medicine, Sze Chun-I, director of the Department of



Cell Biology and Anatomy, and Kuo Yu-min, a professor in the department. According to the team, Alzheimer's disease is mainly the result of cell death and tissue loss in the brain that is believed to be caused by plaques and tangles building up in the nerve cells. In their research, the scientists found that Zfra, a naturally occurring 31-amino-acid zinc finger-like protein, can effectively reduce plaque aggregation and tangle formation.

#### **Free Wi-Fi is coming to every high-speed train by Universiade (China Times, 19.06.2017)**

While installation work and testing still needs to be done before Wi-Fi will be available on the remaining 20 percent, Taiwan High-Speed Rail Corp. said the service would be up and running on all 34 of its trains before the 2017 Taipei Universiade kicks off on Aug. 19. The company is also working to address weak signal strength in some compartments where the service is already being offered. The high-speed rail is the latest mass rapid transit system to offer free Wi-Fi, following in the footsteps of the Taipei, Kaohsiung and Taoyuan metros

#### **Innolux to mass-produce world's 1st flexible fingerprint sensors (Focus Taiwan, 20.06.2017)**

Innolux Corp., one of the leading flat panel makers in Taiwan, said Tuesday that mass production of the world's first flexible fingerprint sensors is scheduled to kick off in the third quarter of this year. Flexible fingerprint sensors are the result of cooperation between Innolux and Norway's NEXT Biometrics Group ASA. The two partners aim to build the device into the more-than 100 million smart cards, credit cards and prepaid cards issued each year globally, at a time when mobile payments are becoming more and more popular, Innolux said in a statement. The new device is expected to become an important means of safeguarding information security, Innolux said. The company said that the company and NEXT Biometrics have cooperated to work on development of rigid fingerprint sensors since 2011, and starting from 2016, rigid fingerprint sensors started to be shipped to personal computer and tablet computer brands around the world.

[Top of the Document](#)

## Education

#### **University graduates bemoan low wages, despite record high (Focus Taiwan, 01.06.2017)**

Recent government data indicates that on average university graduates earned a monthly salary of NT\$28,116 (US\$932) in 2016, an increase of NT\$461, or 1.67 percent on the previous year. Few young people in Taiwan, however, were cheered by the news, bemoaning the prospect of years working for low wages. Survey results published by the Ministry of Labor (MOL) on May 31 showed that the NT\$28,116 earned by university graduates for their first job was the highest since 1991, when the ministry started its annual survey on wages in different occupations. The previous high was recorded in 2000, when the average starting wage for a university graduate was NT\$28,016 per month. In other words, average salary has increased by NT\$100 a month over the past 16 years.

#### **NTU ranks 76th In QS world university rankings (Focus Taiwan, 08.06.2017)**

A total of 16 universities from Taiwan have been included in the 2018 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings released Thursday by the U.K.-based higher education information provider. The National Taiwan University (NTU) was ranked 76th in this year's rankings, down eight notches from the previous year but remaining the country's highest-rated university in the annual survey. In response, Lee Fang-jen, head of NTU's Office of Research and Development, said higher education requires long-term investment, and expressed hope that the Ministry of Education can continue to funnel funds into the school. The ranking of National Tsing Hua University dropped 10 notches from 151st to 161st the previous year.

#### **NTU rises in Times Higher Education Rankings (China Post, 15.06.17)**

Taiwan's top institution National Taiwan University (NTU) has improved its standing in this year's Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings, climbing 30 places among the world's 100 most prestigious universities. Times Higher Education on Thursday published the World Reputation Rankings, a definitive list of the world's most prestigious universities compiled from leading global academic insights. NTU improved its standing this year, climbing 30 places from the 81-90 band in 2016 to the 51-60 cohort in the latest table. Times Higher Education rankings editor Phil Baty said it was great news that NTU has improved its standing, reversing a decline in its performance that began in 2015.

[Top of the Document](#)