



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



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

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## Science / Technology

### **Gogoro launches first solar-powered battery station (Focus Taiwan, 28.07.2017)**

On Friday, July 28, Taiwanese electric smartscooter maker Gogoro Inc. launched its first battery-swapping station in Taiwan that is powered by solar energy. The new GoStation is equipped with eight solar panels, which produce an average of 6.21 kilowatt hours (kWh) of power every day, according to the company. There are currently 25,000 Gogoro riders, and close to 5 million battery swaps have occurred, reducing carbon emissions by 7.2 million kilograms for the earth, the company said.

### **Self-driving bus set for testing in Taipei (Taiwan Today, 28.07.2017)**

A self-driving bus will be put to trial from August 1 to 5 in Taipei as part of local government efforts to spur the metropolis's smart city development and further enhance the quality of life for residents. Manufactured by France-headquartered Ligier Group, the battery-powered EZ10 driverless vehicle can carry a maximum of 12 passengers, reach speeds of up to 40 kph and operate for 14 hours on a single charge.

### **Tsai calls for Taiwan-Europe tie-ups on green energy, smart tech (Taiwan Today, 27.07.2017)**

President Tsai Ing-wen called on July 26 for Taiwan and European industries to foster collaboration in green energy and smart machinery, creating a win-win scenario by jointly tapping international markets in potential-laden sectors. By working in partnership with local companies, European firms can play an important role in bolstering the implementation of green energy solutions in Taiwan, the president said. This will help the nation achieve its goal of producing 20 percent of all energy from renewable sources and becoming nuclear-free by 2025, she added.

### **Taiwan heavily dependent on U.S. for technology (Focus Taiwan, 25.07.2017)**

Taiwan depends heavily on technology provided by the United States, with Washington accounting for almost 80 percent of Taipei's total imported technology costs, the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) said on Tuesday, July 25. In the latest report on Taiwan's technology imported costs and exported revenue released by the MOEA on that same day, Taiwan's imported technology costs came to NT\$160.1 billion (US\$5.28 billion) in 2015, with the U.S. accounting for NT\$124.3 billion or about 78 percent of the total. According to the ministry, imported technology costs include expenses like royalty payments, licensing fees, technology aids and consulting fees.

### **Taiwan talent to take center stage at World Congress on Information Technology (Taiwan Today, 25.07.2017)**

The 2017 World Congress on Information Technology, set to take place Sept. 10 to 13 in Taipei City, will provide a platform for the country's young entrepreneurs to flex their innovative muscles and network with global industry heavyweights, according to the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Speaking at a news conference in Taipei, MOEA Minister Lee Chih-kung said the event will offer emerging Taiwan talents the opportunity to foster connections with leading figures from across the globe, furthering the government's efforts to establish the nation as a hub of tech innovation in Asia. It will also promote Taiwan's credentials as a leading supplier of cutting-edge applications systems and services, he added.

### **Forum on innovative cities and green energy set for Thursday (Focus Taiwan, 24.07.2017)**

A forum on green energy development will be held in Taoyuan on July 27 to explore how cities can strengthen their competitiveness and develop sustainably at the same time. The 2017 CommonWealth City Summit, themed "City Innovation Drives the Future: New Blueprints Aim to Increase Civic Participation on Green Energy," is being organized by CommonWealth Magazine and Changhua County, considered to be a representative green-energy city in Taiwan.

### **Taiwan aims to advance its aerospace industry: premier (Focus Taiwan, 15.07.2017)**

Taiwan intends to improve its competitiveness in the aerospace industry through partnerships between the public and private sectors and international cooperation, Premier Lin Chuan said during a visit to the National Space Organization. Lin visited the organization in Hsinchu to learn about preparations for the upcoming launch of Formosat-5, the first satellite developed by Taiwan.

**Taiwan shines at Tokyo invention expo (Focus Taiwan, 08.07.2017)**

Taiwan placed first overall in the World Genius Convention and Education Expo 2017 held in Tokyo after claiming 29 golds, 17 silvers and six special awards. More than 150 works from 12 countries took part in the exposition, which was held from July 6 to July 8. Taiwan submitted 58 entries.

**Volkswagen partners with HTC Vive for auto production, logistics (Focus Taiwan, 08.07.2017)**

Volkswagen, a leading German automaker, has teamed up with Taiwan-based smartphone brand HTC Corp's virtual reality arm - HTC Vive - to develop applications in the field of production and logistics. Volkswagen said it believes VR technology will make it easier for staff to share ideas. The automaker said that the technology allows employees at its headquarters in Wolfsburg, Germany, to hold virtual meetings with a logistics office located in the Czech Republic, as if they were in the same room. Collaboration with Volkswagen is a good way for HTC to showcase the potential of its VR technology, HTC Chair Cher Wang said.

**Regional youth climate change seminar gets underway in Taipei (Taiwan Today, 04.07.2017)**

The South and Southeast Asian Youth Seminar on Climate Change opened July 4 in Taipei City, underscoring the Republic of China (Taiwan) government's commitment to seeking meaningful participation in the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, according to event organizer the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A key plank in President Tsai Ing-wen's national development strategy, the initiative seeks to foster stronger links between Taiwan and Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states, six South Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand.

**Visa plans to introduce QR code payments in Taiwan by end-2018 (Focus Taiwan, 03.07.2017)**

Global payments service provider Visa Inc. is planning to introduce a new mobile payment system through quick response codes, or QR codes, in Taiwan by the end of 2018 at the earliest, the company announced on July 3. The company is hoping to capitalize on the growing promotion of mobile payment platforms in Taiwan after Apple Pay was launched in Taiwan in late March and Samsung Pay and Android Pay entered the market in early May and early June, respectively. The new payment method is expected to make transactions easier to process and faster for consumers, Visa said.

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## Education

**Taiwan students excel at International Biology Olympiad (Taiwan Today, 31.07.2017)**

All four Taiwan competitors bagged gold medals at the 28 International Biology Olympiad July 23 to July 30 in the UK, guiding the country to fourth place in the rankings at the world's largest annual biology contest for high school students, according to the Ministry of Education. Taiwan has excelled at the IBO since first attending in 1999, placing in the top 10 at each contest and taking home a total of 54 golds, 19 silvers and three bronzes. In order to qualify for Taiwan's national team, students need to complete four rounds of examinations, with this year's members selected after outperforming more than 3,400 of their peers, according to the MOE.

**Taiwan places top 10 in international math, physics Olympiads (Taiwan Today, 24.07.2017)**

Taiwan competitors placed in the top 10 in the international math and physics Olympiads, bringing home a total of 11 medals, the Ministry of Education announced on July 23. The national team bagged one gold, four silvers and one bronze at the 58<sup>th</sup> International Mathematical Olympiad, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from July 12 to July 23.

**Tutoring program giving new immigrant students a chance (Focus Taiwan, 10.07.2017)**

A program launched by Chinese Christian Relief Association (CCRA) to tutor underprivileged children has helped many students advance their education, according to the CCRA. Since the program was launched in 2004, it has provided assistance to more than 30,000 children. The CCRA has established 1,919 service centers in 256 villages and townships in partnership with 868 churches and forged them into a community care network that can effectively deliver assistance to people in need at the community level.

**Taiwanese, Philippine universities team up to promote exchanges (Focus Taiwan, 08.07.2017)**

Several Taiwanese universities established partnerships with counterparts in the Philippines during a recent trip to the Southeast Asian country aimed at promoting bilateral educational and academic exchanges. The representative office in Manila said that such partnerships between Taiwanese and Philippine universities will not only help promote bilateral exchanges in faculty and students, but also help improve the English language ability of Taiwanese university teachers and students. The new cooperative partnerships come amid the efforts of Taiwan's government to promote its New Southbound Policy, aimed at advancing ties with Southeast and South Asian countries.

**Taiwanese, Vietnamese universities forge cooperation links (Focus Taiwan, 10.07.2017)**

The university system headed by National Taiwan University (NTU) has signed a cooperation memorandum with Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City, setting a milestone in higher education cooperation between Taiwan and Southeast Asia. The two sides have not just agreed on many cooperative programs and the promotion of exchanges of students and teachers, but have also promised to conduct joint academic research and set up scholarships, NTU System President Chang Ching-ray said.

**Seven Taiwan universities rank in Asia-Pacific top 100 (Taiwan Today, 06.07.2017)**

A total of seven Taiwan tertiary education institutions are ranked among the 100 best universities in the Asia-Pacific, according to U.K.-based Times Higher Education magazine. The publication reviewed schools from 38 countries and territories in East and Southeast Asia as well as Oceania to compile the list. Universities were evaluated according to five categories of performance indicators—teaching, research, citations, international outlook and industry income—to provide the most comprehensive and balanced comparisons trusted by academics, governments, industries, students and university leaders, the publication said.

**2017 Taiwan Higher Education Fairs wrap up in Myanmar (Taiwan Today, 05.07.2017)**

The 2017 Taiwan Higher Education Fairs wrapped up July 2 in Myanmar, highlighting the government's interest in bolstering academic exchanges with the emerging Southeast Asian nation, according to the Ministry of Education. A total of 1,600 participants attended the fairs in Mandalay and Yangon to exchange opinions on education and explore opportunities to collaborate and cultivate talents.

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