



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



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

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## Science/Technology

### **Taiwan, UK sign MOU on biological material patent applications (Focus Taiwan, 2.12.2017)**

Taiwan and the United Kingdom signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) during their 20th round of trade talks in London December 1 to facilitate the process of filing patent applications involving biological material. The IPOs are looking to increase the biotechnology, medicine, and food patents each country has in the other.

### **Taiwan-built facial detection camera debuts at IT Month show (Focus Taiwan, 6.12.2017)**

A new facial recognition system for surveillance cameras developed by Taiwan-based AndroVideo Inc. that could make security systems more responsive made its debut at the 2017 Information Technology Month exhibition that opened on December 6.

### **Technology ministry working with Microsoft on AI development (Focus Taiwan, 6.12.2017)**

The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) signed a memorandum of understanding with U.S. high-tech giant Microsoft Corp. on December 6 on artificial intelligence (AI) development. The MOST's National Applied Research Laboratories (NARLabs) inked the accord for the strategic partnership on behalf of the ministry, aimed at cooperation with Microsoft in three arenas of AI: big data technology, AI platform development and efforts to cultivate a talent pool, NARLabs said.

### **Taiwan biggest winner at Hong Kong invention competition (Focus Taiwan, 8.12.2017)**

A Taiwanese delegation was the biggest winner at the 2017 Hong Kong International Invention and Design Competition (IIDC), the fourth consecutive year in which a delegation from Taiwan has come out on top, the Taipei-based Chinese Innovation and Invention Society (CIIS) said on December 8. The delegation took 40 gold medals, 21 silvers, two bronzes, six special awards and two youth special awards at the competition, hosted by the society in Hong Kong.

### **TSMC November sales hit 2nd-highest monthly high (Focus Taiwan, 9.12.2017)**

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC), the world's largest contract chipmaker, said its sales for November hit the second-highest monthly high, with market analysts attributing the strong showing to solid demand for the company's chips made on the advanced 10 nanometer process. The launch of Apple Inc.'s latest iPhones in the global market in September helped to boost TSMC's shipments of chips built on the 10nm technology in November, as the company is believed to be the sole supplier of the A11 processor for iPhone production, analysts said.

### **Taiwan establishes artificial intelligence industry-academia alliance (Focus Taiwan, 9.12.2017)**

Taiwan's National Applied Research Laboratories (NARLabs) established an artificial intelligence alliance in Kaohsiung on December 9 to create a platform for businesses, government officials and academics to work together to develop the AI industry. Speaking at the launch ceremony, Vice President Chen Chien-jen said that he hoped the industry-academia alliance would help take Taiwan's AI industry onto the global stage.

### **Taiwan-made driverless cars ready to hit the road: developer (Focus Taiwan, 9.12.2017)**

Taiwan's Automotive Research Testing Center (ARTC) is preparing to put driverless cars on the road, saying that it now has all the necessary technology to do so. Since the ARTC first invested in advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS) back in 2007, it has been working toward the goal of developing driverless vehicles, it said.

### **Government to introduce nationwide information security network (Focus Taiwan, 12.12.2017)**

The Executive Yuan's Department of Cyber Security (DCS) said on December 12 that the government will set up Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) by the end of this year as a platform to ensure the nation's information security. According to Lee Der-tsai of the National Security Council, the strategy behind ISAC is to combine talents and resources from the academia and the industry to enhance the country's information security capabilities.

**Acer VR joint venture working with SEGA, aimed at Japan market (Focus Taiwan, 23.12.2017)**

StarVR Corp., a virtual reality joint venture by Taiwan-based PC brand Acer Inc., is working with Japan's leading interactive entertainment giant SEGA Entertainment, taking aim at the Japanese VR market. The two partners are planning to bring StarVR arcade experiences to existing SEGA Game Center locations across Japan.

**Hon Hai unveils supercomputer system (Focus Taiwan, 26.12.2017)**

Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., the world's largest contract electronics maker, on December 26 unveiled a supercomputer system with a high performance computing function. The supercomputer is located in the Kaohsiung Software Park, boasts a computing function equivalent to 5.4 million iPhone Xs and is three times faster than existing supercomputers in Taiwan, Hon Hai said.

**Taiwan to open national pavilion at CES 2018 (Focus Taiwan, 26.12.2017)**

Taiwan will send a delegation to the upcoming Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2018 in Las Vegas and open a national pavilion at the exhibition to demonstrate the country's tech capability to visitors from across the world, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) said on December 26. This will be the first time Taiwan has had a national pavilion at CES, which will be held from January 9-12.

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## Education

**Taiwanese scholars call for more philosophy education (Focus Taiwan, 2.12.2017)**

Scholars in Taiwan have called for more emphasis on philosophy education, saying that the country has long fallen short in encouraging critical and independent thinking and would benefit from such training. Speaking to CNA on the sidelines of a World Philosophy Day event recently, Shei Ser-min, a philosophy professor at National Chung Cheng University, said he hopes elective courses in philosophy can be offered at the senior high school level in Taiwan, because this would help sharpen students' thinking skills.

**Taiwan gets eighth place in international reading assessment (Focus Taiwan, 5.12.2017)**

Taiwan has reached eighth place out of 50 countries that took part in an international comparative assessment of student achievement in reading, the Ministry of Education (MOE) said on December 5. The study, which is conducted every five years, assesses the reading and comprehension at the fourth grade level of the participating countries and areas.

**NTU sets up online open course portal targeting Southeast Asian countries (Taiwan Today, 5.12.2017)**

An online open course portal targeting Southeast Asia was launched recently by Taipei City-based National Taiwan University with the aim of bolstering academic exchanges and people-to-people ties with the region. According to NTU, the portal was set up in line with the government's New Southbound Policy. Designed for overseas Chinese in countries covered by the initiative, it will also spotlight Taiwan's high-quality tertiary education environment, the university added.

**59 Taiwan, Indonesian universities sign cooperation pacts (Taiwan Today, 12.12.2017)**

A total 587 memorandums of understanding were concluded by 59 Taiwan and Indonesia universities on December 11 in Taipei City, underscoring the rapidly expanding education ties between the two sides. The agreements were inked by 35 local institutions and 24 universities under the Muhammadiyah Higher Education and Research Council, the tertiary education arm of Indonesia's second largest Islamic organization. According to the Ministry of Education, the pacts will help strengthen collaboration in such areas as curriculum development, research and talent cultivation.

**Taiwan shines at International Junior Science Olympiad (Taiwan Today, 13.12.2017)**

Taiwan was the best performer at the International Junior Science Olympiad Dec. 3-12 in Arnhem-Nijmegen, the Netherlands, with all six members of the national team winning golds. According to the Ministry of Education, a record 300-plus youths from 50 countries and territories took part in the Olympiad this year. This is the third year in a row that the Taiwan team has placed first overall in the competition.



**Traveling college coming to Taipei for one semester (Focus Taiwan, 14.12.2017)**

The first students cohorts at Minerva Schools, a revolutionary college startup that conducts courses via online seminars and has no set classrooms, are looking to visit Taipei in the final semester of their four-year programs, which have taken them to six countries so far. Speaking at an education awards ceremony, Stanley C. Yen, chairman of the Alliance Cultural Foundation, said the plan was a major development that could serve as an inspiration for Taiwan's education system.

**10,000 Taiwanese traveled to Philippines to study English in 2017 (Focus Taiwan, 15.12.2017)**

The number of Taiwanese nationals traveling to the Philippines to study English has experienced a surge in the last five years, growing to a current 10,000 people per year, according to the Global Career Development Association (GCDA). The surge is particularly due to the close proximity of the Southeast Asian country and the relatively cheap tuition compared to other English learning programs in North America, Australia or New Zealand, Wang explained.

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