



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



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

- Taiwanese helps develop method of converting biomass into chemicals (Focus Taiwan, 2.1.2018) .....2*
- Taiwan to set up over 3,300 e-scooter battery charging stations in 5 years (Taiwan Today, 4.1.2018) .....2*
- MediaTek launches AI platform; Sony eyes more cooperation (Focus Taiwan, 9.1.2018) .....2*
- Taiwan chosen for Microsoft AI development center (Focus Taiwan, 10.1.2018) .....2*
- Alibaba AI Labs, MediaTek sign accord on IoT cooperation (Focus Taiwan, 10.1.2018) .....2*
- New Taipei City, Amazon sign deal to establish web innovation center (Taiwan Today, 12.1.2018) .....2*
- Chunghwa Post commissions fleet of 1,627 e-scooters (Taiwan Today, 16.1.2018) .....2*
- Government reaffirms Taiwan's commitment to information security (Taiwan Today, 16.1.2018) .....2*
- MOST delivers biomedicine development report card (Taiwan Today, 18.1.2018) .....3*
- Cabinet approves plan to spur AI industry development (Taiwan Today, 19.1.2018) .....3*
- Asustek 5th-largest PC supplier in 2017, Acer in 6th spot: Gartner (Focus Taiwan, 20.1.2018) .....3*

**Education .....3**

- NTU planning set up international campus (Focus Taiwan, 7.1.2018) .....3*
- Expanded Taiwan-Austria working holiday program takes effect (Taiwan Today, 15.1.2018) .....3*
- Taiwan scholars playing major role in sustainable agriculture (Focus Taiwan, 20.1.2018) .....3*



## Science / Technology

### **Taiwanese helps develop method of converting biomass into chemicals (Focus Taiwan, 2.1.2018)**

An international team of researchers from Taiwan, Australia, India and Bangladesh has successfully developed a method of converting agricultural biomass into commercially valuable chemicals for food and pharmaceutical companies, according to a report in the Financial Express. The new method is "significantly cheaper and more environmentally friendly and efficient" than existing conversion methods.

### **Taiwan to set up over 3,300 e-scooter battery charging stations in 5 years (Taiwan Today, 4.1.2018)**

Taiwan plans to set up more than 3,300 battery charging and swapping stations for electric scooters over the next five years as part of wider efforts to curb air pollution and promote sustainable solutions, according to the Industrial Development Bureau under the Ministry of Economic Affairs on 3<sup>rd</sup> of January.

### **MediaTek launches AI platform; Sony eyes more cooperation (Focus Taiwan, 9.1.2018)**

MediaTek Inc., Taiwan's largest integrated circuit designer, introduced an artificial intelligence platform in Las Vegas on 8<sup>th</sup> of January, a day before the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2018 kicks off. Through a combination of hardware and software technologies, the new AI platform -- NeuroPilot AI -- is expected to bring a wide range of applications together to power 1.5 billion consumer products, including smartphones, smart homes, cars and many others, MediaTek said.

### **Taiwan chosen for Microsoft AI development center (Focus Taiwan, 10.1.2018)**

Microsoft Corp. has chosen to set up an artificial intelligence (AI) development center in Taiwan, a decision based on the country's valuable talent, market and government leadership in the industry, Microsoft Taiwan's president Sun Chi-kang said on 9<sup>th</sup> of January. Sun announced the news that the U.S. high-tech giant is setting up an AI development center in its Taipei office, a project that will see an investment of NT\$1 billion (US\$33.8 million) over the next two years.

### **Alibaba AI Labs, MediaTek sign accord on IoT cooperation (Focus Taiwan, 10.1.2018)**

Alibaba AI Labs, the artificial intelligence development division of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group, has signed an agreement with Taiwan-based integrated circuit designer MediaTek Inc. for long-term cooperation on the Internet of Things (IoT). According to Alibaba, through the strategic partnership, the two parties will work together on various initiatives, including smart home protocols, customized IoT chips and AI smart hardware, with the aim of developing a connected world in the IoT era.

### **New Taipei City, Amazon sign deal to establish web innovation center (Taiwan Today, 12.1.2018)**

New Taipei City Government and Amazon Web Services, a cloud computing subsidiary of Amazon.com Inc., signed on 11<sup>th</sup> of January a memorandum of understanding to jointly establish an internet innovation center in the northern Taiwan metropolis. Slated to open in March, the facility will work to foster the adoption of cloud computing services and other emerging technologies among startups and small and medium enterprises; cultivate cloud computing talent; foster venture capital investment in Taiwan firms; and integrate the nation's industrial advantages.

### **Chunghwa Post commissions fleet of 1,627 e-scooters (Taiwan Today, 16.1.2018)**

State-owned Chunghwa Post Co. Ltd. officially commissioned 1,627 electric scooters for use as delivery vehicles 15<sup>th</sup> of January as part of larger government efforts to curb air pollution and promote environmentally friendly solutions.

### **Government reaffirms Taiwan's commitment to information security (Taiwan Today, 16.1.2018)**

President Tsai Ing-wen said on 15<sup>th</sup> January that information security is a core component of Taiwan's national development strategy and the government is committed to providing a firm foundation for the expansion of high-tech emerging industries by fostering robust infrastructure and expertise in this field. Information security is national security and vital to boosting the country's economic upgrading, especially in sectors targeted for strategic promotion under the government's five-plus-two innovative industries initiative, including IoT and smart manufacturing, Tsai said.

**MOST delivers biomedicine development report card (Taiwan Today, 18.1.2018)**

Government efforts in transforming Taiwan into a regional biomedical research and development hub are paying handsome dividends, as reflected in increased industry investment and output since the Biomedical Industry Innovation Program was launched in November 2016 by the Cabinet, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology.

**Cabinet approves plan to spur AI industry development (Taiwan Today, 19.1.2018)**

An action plan aimed at promoting artificial intelligence development was approved by the Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> of January, underscoring the government's commitment to spurring innovation and transforming the nation into a global AI technology hub. With a total budget of NT\$36 billion (US\$1.22 billion), the four-year action plan will be jointly implemented by the Ministries of Economic Affairs, Education, Labor and Science and Technology.

**Asustek 5th-largest PC supplier in 2017, Acer in 6th spot: Gartner (Focus Taiwan, 20.1.2018)**

Taiwan-based Asustek Computer Inc. took the title as the fifth-largest PC vendor in the world in 2017, while Acer Inc., another Taiwanese firm, ranked the sixth-largest for that year, according to market information advisory firm Gartner.

[Top of the Document](#)

## Education

**NTU planning set up international campus (Focus Taiwan, 7.1.2018)**

National Taiwan University (NTU) will seek greater internationalization, including the establishment of an international campus, NTU president-elect Kuan Chung-ming said Sunday. Through cooperation with various NTU partners, competitive fields of study can be introduced, Kuan said. For example, in the field of marketing, NTU can focus on artificial intelligence, precision marketing and other key areas, he said.

**Expanded Taiwan-Austria working holiday program takes effect (Taiwan Today, 15.1.2018)**

The expanded Taiwan-Austria reciprocal working holiday agreement went into effect 12<sup>th</sup> of January, offering young adults the opportunity to experience different cultures and lifestyles while enhancing people-to-people connections, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Under the latest version of the program, each country will issue 75 working holiday visas valid for one year, up from 50 visas valid for only six months, to eligible citizens aged 18-30. Since its launch in 2015, the program has sponsored around 120 Taiwan and Austria youths, according to the MOFA.

**Taiwan scholars playing major role in sustainable agriculture (Focus Taiwan, 20.1.2018)**

Scholars from Taiwan are playing a big role in the promotion of agriculture innovation and sustainability as they and like-minded scholars from all over the world banded together to establish the "International Association for Agriculture Sustainability," announced 20<sup>th</sup> of January at the Singapore Management University.

[Top of the Document](#)