



Press Review Taiwan
Science, Technology and Education



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## Science / Technology

### **FormoSat-5 may allow earthquake prediction in the future: scientist (Focus Taiwan, 24.1.2018)**

Taiwan's FormoSat-5 satellite detected changes in the ionospheric days before a major earthquake in the Middle East last November, which bodes well for the prediction of quakes in the future, a Taiwanese scientist said 24<sup>th</sup> of January.

### **Taiwan remains among top five markets for Google Play (Focus Taiwan, 24.1.2018)**

Taiwan remained among the top five markets in the world in 2017 for Google Play, the app store for the Android operating system, the director of Google Play Asia-Pacific said 24<sup>th</sup> of January. James Sanders said the other countries that were included in the top five were Japan, South Korea, the United States and the United Kingdom.

### **ITRI named a top global innovator by Clarivate Analytics (Taiwan Today, 26.1.2018)**

Taiwan's Industrial Technology Research Institute was recently named one of the world's top 100 innovative organizations by U.S. information service firm Clarivate Analytics, reflecting international recognition of the organization's cutting-edge R&D capacity. The 2017 Top 100 Global Innovators Report said that state-sponsored ITRI "leads in digital computing, telephone and data transmission systems and memories, film and hybrid circuits," adding that it is devoted to forward-looking and multidisciplinary R&D spanning quality health, smart living and sustainable engineering.

### **Taiwan researchers find key substance for brain cell regeneration (Focus Taiwan, 26.1.2018)**

Taiwan's National Health Research Institutes (NHRI) has cultivated a nano-scale substance from stem cells that can repair damaged brain nerves and could pave the way for the development of a cure for neurological and degenerative diseases.

### **Hon Hai, Alibaba investing in Chinese electric car maker: report (Focus Taiwan, 29.1.2018)**

Taiwan-based manufacturing giant Hon Hai Precision Industrial Co. and China's leading e-commerce operator Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. are injecting funds into a Chinese electric car maker, the Wall Street Journal has reported. In a report dated 28<sup>th</sup> of January, the Wall Street Journal said Hon Hai, also known as Foxconn internationally, and Alibaba are participating in a 2.2 billion Chinese yuan (US\$348 million) funding round initiated by Xiaopeng Motor.

### **Google plans to make Taipei its largest R&D center in Asia Pacific (Focus Taiwan, 30.1.2018)**

Taipei will become the biggest research and development center of Google Inc., which completed a deal on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January to acquire a large part of Taiwan's HTC Corp.'s smartphone assets, a Google executive said on the same day. "With the official close of this deal, we're expanding our footprint in the Asia Pacific region," Rick Osterloh, senior vice president of Google's hardware operations, said in his blog.

### **Hon Hai to invest NT\$10 billion in AI over next 5 years (Focus Taiwan, 2.2.2018)**

Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., the world's largest contract electronics maker, is planning to invest NT\$10 billion (US\$342 million) in artificial intelligence (AI) over the next five years, Chairman Terry Gou said on 2<sup>nd</sup> of February. He said the investment is likely to top the NT\$10 billion mark, emphasizing that spending money on AI investment is never a worry for Hon Hai.

### **AI robotics hub exhibition center opens in Taichung (Focus Taiwan, 9.2.2018)**

The exhibition center of a new robotics hub opened on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February at the Central Taiwan Science Park (CTSP) in Taichung, part of an effort to achieve six major goals using the hub as a platform for the robotics industry. "This hub will serve as a platform for the future development of the robotics industry," Science and Technology Minister Chen Liang-gee said at the official opening ceremony of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Robotics Hub at the CTSP, which was established last year.

### **3 Taiwanese cities named top 7 intelligent communities of 2018 (Focus Taiwan, 9.2.2018)**

Three Taiwanese cities -- Chiayi, Tainan and Taoyuan -- have been named among the top seven Intelligent Communities for 2018, the New York-based think tank Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) said on 8<sup>th</sup> of February. Candidates in the annual awards are evaluated based on six major indicators: broadband environment, knowledge workforce, innovation ability, digital equality, intelligent environmental sustainability and advocacy for positive change in an intelligent community.

**Forum highlights Taiwan's expertise in minimally invasive surgery (Taiwan Today, 9.2.2018)**

An international forum examining cutting-edge procedures and technologies in minimally invasive surgery was staged 5<sup>th</sup> of February in Taipei City, showcasing Taiwan's world-leading expertise in the field. Co-organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Future of Surgery Symposium drew some 200 academics, industry experts and medical professionals from home and abroad to discuss locally developed smart innovations in areas spanning artificial intelligence, endoscopic visualization and surgical navigation.

**TSMC remains top local patent applicant in 2017 (Focus Taiwan, 10.2.2018)**

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC), the world's largest contract chipmaker, retained its position as the No. 1 patent applicant in Taiwan in 2017, according to the Intellectual Property Office under the Ministry of Economic Affairs. In terms of foreign companies, the office said, Alibaba Group Services Ltd., a subsidiary of the Chinese e-commerce giant ranked as the top foreign patent applicant in Taiwan last year, data compiled by the office showed.

**EPA sets timetable to ban plastic use (Taipei Times, 14.2.2018)**

The Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February introduced a series of plans to reduce the use of plastic products that cause marine pollution, with the use of plastic straws expected to be limited next year and disposable tableware banned by 2030. "The coalition has launched 67 action plans that focus on four areas: source reduction; prevention and removal of marine waste; research and investigation; and expanding public participation" said Chen Li-hsin, Tse-xin Organic Agricultural Foundation member.

**AI talent in high demand in Taiwan: job bank (Focus Taiwan, 22.2.2018)**

Individuals with skills in developing artificial intelligence (AI) are in high demand in Taiwan, with a local job bank reporting up to 6,000 openings for such jobs in the local market. The 104 job bank revealed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February the findings of its comprehensive analysis of the AI market in Taiwan, which shows a conservative estimate of 6,000 AI-related jobs listed on its job search platform.

**MediaTek joins Amazon, Facebook and Microsoft in AI development (Focus Taiwan, 23.2.2018)**

MediaTek Inc., Taiwan's largest integrated circuit designer, said on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February it has joined an alliance formed by Amazon, Facebook and Microsoft focused on artificial intelligence development. MediaTek, which is one of Taiwan's leading tech giants, which has set its sights on the growing AI market, has taken part in the Open Neural Network Exchange (ONNX) to drive AI innovations and support the development of its AI platform.

**FormoSat-5 set to officially enter service in September (Focus Taiwan, 23.2.2018)**

FormoSat-5, Taiwan's first locally built satellite with remote sensing capabilities, will officially enter into service in September as image resolution issues have improved, Science and Technology Minister Chen Liang-gee said on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. "By that time, the third phase of the country's air space development program will also officially start because the FormoSat-5 satellite is now capable of providing clearer images," Chen told President Tsai Ing-wen at the Presidential Office.

**TSMC to build R&D center in Hsinchu (Focus Taiwan, 26.2.2018)**

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC), the world's largest contract chipmaker, said on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February that it is planning to build a research and development center in Hsinchu. The R&D center will be built in the Hsinchu Science Park spreading over almost 30 hectares, with an opening date sometime in 2021, the company said.

**Asustek unveils 1st AI smartphones at MWC (Focus Taiwan, 28.2.2018)**

Taiwan-based Asustek Computer Inc. has unveiled its first smartphone models with artificial intelligence functions on at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2018 being held in Barcelona. Asustek Chief Executive Officer Jerry Shen introduced its latest flagship smartphones -- the ZenFone 5 series -- at a news conference on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February at the MWC, one of the world's largest mobile technology shows.

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## Education

### **Scholars doubtful about proposal to list English as second language (Focus Taiwan, 30.1.2018)**

A government proposal to make English an official language in Taiwan has been greeted mostly with skepticism by experts in the field, as some of them are concerned that such a move would only put more strain on students and may not even help achieve the intended goal of boosting Taiwan's global competitiveness.

### **Uncertainty looms over inauguration of NTU president-elect (Focus Taiwan, 30.1.2018)**

There remains uncertainty over whether National Taiwan University (NTU) president-elect Kuan Chung-ming will assume his post on 1<sup>st</sup> of February as scheduled, with the Ministry of Education insisting on 30<sup>th</sup> of January that the university's selection committee must clear up allegations Kuan plagiarized a student's master's thesis before he can be appointed.

### **MOE must trust NTU's selection of its president: official (Focus Taiwan, 31.1.2018)**

The Ministry of Education must have faith in how the selection committee at National Taiwan University (NTU) handled the allegations against Kuan Chung-ming, the newly selected president of the university, a ministry official said on 31<sup>st</sup> of January.

### **Premier Lai congratulates Taiwan prodigy on NYU admission (Taiwan Today, 2.2.2018)**

The government is committed to fostering a supportive education environment for outstanding talents such as Chiang Ching-liang—the youngest person ever to enroll in New York University—so as to ensure the nation's future development and prosperity, Premier Lai Ching-te said on 31<sup>st</sup> of January. Chiang, who was raised in a low-income family, gained admission to NYU and University of California, Santa Cruz last year at the age of 13.

### **Three Taiwan scholars elected to World Academy of Sciences (Taiwan Today, 6.2.2018)**

Academia Sinica scholars Chang Mei-hwei, Chung Sun-lin and Lee Wen-hwa will be made fellows by Italy-based World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), according to Taiwan's top academic institution on 5<sup>th</sup> of February. TWAS fellows are among the world's most accomplished scientists from developing countries or those whose work has had a significant impact in these nations, according to the international institution.

### **Protestors call for university autonomy (Taipei Times, 22.2.2018)**

About 200 people on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February rallied outside the Taipei Guest House in Taipei demanding that the government respect National Taiwan University's (NTU) autonomy, as controversy over the appointment of NTU president-elect Kuan Chung-ming shows no signs of dying down. Kuan was elected on 5<sup>th</sup> of January to succeed Yang Pan-chyr, who chose not to serve another term when his first term expired in June last year. However, Kuan has since been accused of plagiarism and conflict of interest, which cast doubt on the legitimacy of the election process.

### **Taiwan offers Chinese language courses at Philippines' university (Focus Taiwan, 23.2.2018)**

A Taiwan-sponsored education center started a series of Chinese language and culture courses at the Trinity University of Asia in the Philippines on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, with the objective of promoting exchanges between both countries. Taiwan's representative to the Philippines Gary Lin said during the official commencement ceremony that the goal of this educational exchange, which is part of the President Tsai Ing-wen administration's New Southbound Policy, is to foster familiarity and friendship between Taiwan and the Philippines.

### **NTUST alumni association established in Ethiopia (Focus Taiwan, 26.2.2018)**

An association aimed at enhancing the relationship between National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (NTUST) and its Ethiopian alumni was established at Bahir Dar University (BDU) on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. The aim behind Taiwan Tech Alumni Association of Ethiopia is to promote the image of the school to Ethiopian students, according to NTUST.

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