



# Press Review Taiwan Science, Technology and Education



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## Science / Technology

### **Taiwan intent on becoming global blockchain technology hub (Focus Taiwan, 2.7.2018)**

Taiwan's government has set its sights on turning the country into a global hub of blockchain technology as part of its efforts to develop a digital economy, Chen Mei-ling, head of the National Development Council (NDC), said July 2. Speaking at the 2018 Asia Blockchain Summit in Taipei, Chen said blockchain technology has been highlighted in the Industry 4.0 world, and Taiwan wants to align itself with international standards by emerging as a hub of the new technology.

### **Cabinet accelerates offshore wind farm development in Taiwan (Taiwan Today, 6.7.2018)**

The government is sparing no effort in advancing offshore wind farm development through such measures as streamlining approval processes, strengthening oversight of support infrastructure construction, and providing assistance with planning and building procedures, according to Premier Lai Ching-te July 5. Transition to renewables is central to achieving a nuclear-free homeland by 2025, Lai said. Wind will play a key role in the nation's energy mix, with the Ministry of Economic Affairs selecting nine local and foreign companies to build 14 wind farms with a total capacity of 5.5 gigawatts off Taiwan's western coast within the next seven years, he added.

### **Taiwanese entrepreneurs patent sugarcane straws (Taiwan News, 9.7.2018)**

A group of Taiwanese entrepreneurs have patented the design for straws made from sugarcane, as the first stage of a Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) ban on single-use plastic straws is set to go into force on July 1, 2019. A group of young entrepreneurs at the Central Taiwan Innovation Campus have applied for the patent for the design and production of straws for drinks made from sugarcane. The straws are made from reusable sugarcane fiber, which is not only a natural source for the material but is also biodegradable.

### **Fintech firm creates new digital currency tied to New Taiwan Dollar (Taiwan News, 9.7.2018)**

Taiwanese company Green World Fintech Services announced that it will be introducing a new digital currency into the country's financial markets, and one that will be pegged to the value of the New Taiwan Dollar (NTD). The new digital currency, referred to as a stablecoin, is reportedly being created using the Ethereum network, and will be called the Taiwan Digital Token (TWDT). According to reports, the value of the currency will be calculated according the NTD market, and traded according to the standardized digital rule set known as ERC20.

### **2018 Asian Innovation Forum held in Taipei (Focus Taiwan, 10.7.2018)**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Innovation Forum (AIF) was held in Taipei on July 10, bringing together 30 think tank experts from more than 10 countries to address key innovation issues in the region. Taiwan's Minister of Science and Technology Chen Liang-gee said during the opening ceremony that the government is continuing to promote the development of strategies for advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence and quantum computers, and is working to strengthen cooperation between industry and academic sectors in an effort to deepen Taiwan's connection with other Asian countries and raise Taiwan's international visibility.

### **Taiwan, India sign MOU to promote cooperation in AI, robotics (Focus Taiwan, 10.7.2018)**

The Hsinchu Science Park and the Central Taiwan Science Park (CTSP) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on July 10 with the government of Karnataka State in India to promote bilateral exchanges in the field of artificial intelligence and robotics. The MOU was signed by Hsinchu Science Park Director-General Wayne Wang, CTSP Director-General Chen Ming-huang, and Shri K. Nagaraja, CEO of the Center for eGovernance of the Karnataka government.

### **HTC to launch blockchain phone in Q3 (Focus Taiwan, 14.7.2018)**

Taiwan-based smartphone maker HTC Corp. is scheduled to launch the world's first blockchain-power phone -- the HTC Exodus -- in the third quarter of 2018. Amid escalating competition in the global smartphone market, HTC says it is determined to take advantage of the emerging blockchain technology to allow the Exodus to function in a blockchain ecosystem.

### **Taiwan's largest solar power station officially launched (Taiwan News, 17.7.2018)**

Taiwan's largest solar power station was officially launched on July 17 in Changhua County, with the 347 hectare site expected to have a total power capacity of 320 megawatts. The floating solar plant will be built on reclaimed land in Xianxi Township, Changhua County as part of a purpose-built renewable energy area. The solar facility is part of the Executive Yuan's two year solar energy plan which hopes to lead to national solar capacity of 1.52 gigawatts.

**Google launches map services for motorbike riders in Taiwan (Focus Taiwan, 18.7.2018)**

U.S.-based search engine giant Google launched on July 18 a new Google Maps service for motorbike riders in Taiwan that will help them plan their routes and calculate their travel time. The two-wheel navigation mode was launched by Google for the first time in December 2017, and Taiwan became the fourth country worldwide to have the service, after India, Indonesia and Malaysia, Google said. The new services are a good fit for a country with a big motorbike population like Taiwan, which has more than 14 million motorbike riders, Google said.

**President chain opens second unmanned convenience store (The China Post, 19.7.2018)**

President Chain Store Corporation (PCSC), the largest convenience store chain in Taiwan, opened its second unstaffed store in Taipei on July 16, eyeing the tremendous profit potential of such stores. The second X-STORE, located in the bustling Xinyi District, operates round the clock in a bid to cash in on the large crowds of white-collar workers and students there, said Hsu Yi-Hsiung, chief of the company's project management department. The new store allows customers to enter with a facial-recognition card or an icash 2.0 card and they can pay the bill with the icash 2.0 card in the checkout area after verifying their identity with the facial-recognition card at a human-free counter, Hsu said.

**Sophia, world's 1<sup>st</sup> android citizen, opens Taipei Digital Innovation Forum (Taiwan News, 19.7.2018)**

The 2018 Digital Innovation Forum (DIF Taipei) kicked off July 19 at the Taipei International Convention Center, with the world's first android citizen, Sophia, opening the two-day event that will see big names in the tech world, including Jimmy Wales, Chris Anderson, and Geoffrey Prentice giving talks on digital transformation and innovation critical to humanity's future. Perched on a pedestal and being carried onto the center stage, Sophia, who was granted citizenship by Saudi Arabia in 2016, began by greeting the audience in Chinese and showing off her ability to make various expressions, which instantly prompted dozens of phone cameras raised from the audience seats, aiming to capture every little movement of the Hanson Robotics' most advanced robot.

**Tsai launches Bio Taiwan, pledges to promote homegrown biomedicine industry (Taiwan Today, 20.7.2018)**

President Tsai Ing-wen launched Bio Taiwan—one of the biggest biotechnology exhibitions in Asia—July 19 in Taipei City, pledging to foster greater public-private sector collaboration in building the country into a global biomedicine leader. Entrepreneurship, innovation, regulatory reform and support for talent cultivation and technology development are key to unlocking the potential of the industry, Tsai said. These areas will continue to be strengthened via tailored government policymaking and strategic promotion, she added.

**2018 Smart Asia Taiwan Expo to get underway in Taichung (Taiwan News, 25.7.2018)**

The latest intelligent city technologies from health care to transport will be on show at the 2018 Smart Asia Taiwan Expo and Forum, set to open July 26 in central Taiwan's Taichung City. Organized by the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) in collaboration with the European Chamber of Commerce Taiwan's Low Carbon Initiative, the three-day event will be held at the Taichung International Exhibition Center, TAITRA said. A total of 41 domestic and foreign companies and local governments are expected to take part, with exhibitors showcasing smart city products from five sectors: architecture, energy, health care, manufacturing and transport.

**EPA to provide grants for projects promoting recycling innovations (Focus Taiwan, 26.7.2018)**

The Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) unveiled on July 26 a recycling innovation grants program for 2019 focused on innovative projects that advance research into innovative recycling solutions and improve processing techniques for recyclable materials, with selected projects to receive a maximum grant of NT\$5 million (US\$163,645). To promote innovative approaches to recycling waste and boost the value of recycled materials, the EPA has allocated a budget of NT\$50 million to assist innovative recycling projects in 2019, the administration said in a statement. Universities, research institutes and wastes processors are welcome to submit proposals, it added.

**Taiwan to showcase geological sites with smart technology (Focus Taiwan, 27.7.2018)**

Taiwan will introduce smart technologies in April 2019 that will give visitors to 25 destinations known for their geological features real-time travel support and in-depth information, the Tourism Bureau said July 27. "This is an attempt to combine Taiwan's tourism and high-tech sectors to offer tourists a more in-depth and independent travel experience," said Yeh Wen-chien, director of the bureau's Information Management Office. The campaign will target geological hotspots, including the coastal Yehliu Geopark, Heping Island Park and the Tatun Volcano Group in Yangmingshan National Park, Yeh said.

**HTC to participate in ChinaJoy to demonstrate VR inventions (Focus Taiwan, 30.7.2018)**

Taiwan-based smartphone brand HTC Corp., which has intensified efforts in virtual reality technology development, announced on July 30 that it will attend the upcoming ChinaJoy 2018 in Shanghai to show its virtual reality inventions. HTC said it will team up with its global VR development partners, such as Formula One (F1) Team McLaren, video game publisher Ubisoft Entertainment SA, and entertainment business giant Warner Bros., to take part in ChinaJoy in a bid to build a VR gaming carnival in the Shanghai exhibition. The upcoming 16<sup>th</sup> annual ChinaJoy, or China Digital Entertainment Expo and Conference, scheduled to open Aug. 3 and run through Aug. 6, is the largest gaming and digital entertainment exhibition held in Asia.

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**Education****600 overseas volunteers to teach English in remote areas (Focus Taiwan, 3.7.2018)**

A total of 600 native English-speaking youths of ethnic Chinese descent will soon be sent to schools in Taiwan's rural areas to serve as English-teaching volunteers for two weeks to reduce the learning gap between urban and rural areas. At a ceremony to open the 2018 program on July 3, Vice President Chen Chien-jen praised the volunteers from America, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, South Africa and Belize who will be sent to 81 elementary and middle schools across Taiwan.

**Taiwan, France promote more cooperation at higher education forum (Focus Taiwan, 9.7.2018)**

The Taiwan-France Higher Education Forum took place in the French city of Reims Monday, during which the delegates addressed higher education development and policies in their respective countries and discussed ways to strengthen partnerships and international cooperation. The forum drew approximately 200 people, including representatives of 104 Taiwanese and French schools.

**Seven colleges to open indigenous language centers (Focus Taiwan, 11.7.2018)**

The Council of Indigenous People (CIP) and seven universities are set to launch teacher training courses to certify at least 210 teachers of languages of Taiwan's indigenous tribes, the council said recently. The decline in the native language skills of indigenous people, especially among younger generations, has made it imperative for the CIP to nurture teachers of the languages and make learning them more accessible, CIP chief Icyang Parod said in a statement on July 10.

**MOE science forum for Asia-Pacific high scholars wraps up in Taipei (Taiwan Today, 17.7.2018)**

A forum for young science talents from across the Asia-Pacific wrapped up July 16 in Taipei City, with 88 junior high schoolers and educators from home and abroad taking part in the six-day event aimed at fostering cultural exchanges and strengthening students' problem-solving skills. The seminar was organized by the K-12 Education Administration under the Ministry of Education (MOE) in collaboration with Taipei-based National Taiwan Normal University. Attendees hailed from 11 countries and territories including Japan, India, Malaysia, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.

**Taiwan, Poland sign scientific, higher education cooperation deal (Focus Taiwan, 31.7.2018)**

Taiwan and Poland recently signed an agreement to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of science and higher education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) announced on July 31. The agreement was signed in both countries by their top envoys on July 27, on behalf of Poland's Ministry of Science and Higher Education, and Taiwan's Ministry of Education and Ministry of Science and Technology, according to a MOFA statement.

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