



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



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Science / Technology

Taiwanese experts visit India to promote AI cooperation (Focus Taiwan, 5.11.2018)

Taiwan and India will move to deepen their cooperation in the research of technologies related to artificial intelligence (AI), including the Internet of Things (IoT), Taiwan's representative office in India said on November 5. The initiative will proceed under cooperation programs promoted by technology ministries of the two countries, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center said in a statement. A Taiwanese delegation of scholars attended a conference on AI held on November 1-2 at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) under a bilateral cooperation plan framework between the ministries of science and technology of Taiwan and India.

16 Taiwan innovations shortlisted for R&D 100 Awards (Taiwan Today, 7.11.2018)

A total of 16 Taiwan innovations are shortlisted for the R&D 100 Awards, continuing the nation's strong showing in the competition widely recognized as the Oscars of invention. According to organizer U.S.-based R&D Magazine, eight of the entries were submitted by Industrial Technology Research Institute headquartered in northern Taiwan's Hsinchu County. These include automated gas leak recognition technology and an unmanned aerial vehicle police patrol system that coordinates smart charging and UAV shift changes.

HTC's Vive Focus VR business version hits market (Focus Taiwan, 9.11.2018)

Taiwan-based smartphone vendor HTC Corp., which has sought to penetrate the global virtual reality market with its Vive headset, said on November 9 it has launched the business version of its wireless Vive Focus model for sale in several markets. In a statement, HTC said the business version of Vive Focus has gone on sale in markets in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia and Australia, and it has also rolled out a Vive Sync app, which allows companies to have meetings in a VR environment.

Taiwan software developers and Japanese firms sign MOUs (Focus Taiwan, 9.11.2018)

Four Taiwanese software developers signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) with Japanese counterparts on November 8, establishing partnerships for future development, with an eye on the Southeast Asian market. The joint ventures are supported by the Industrial Development Bureau (IDB) under Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs, which has encouraged the local business sector to seek foreign partnerships and work together to develop markets in countries targeted by the Taiwan government's "New Southbound Policy."

Science ministry and Uber in self-driving exchanges (Focus Taiwan, 12.11.2018)

The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) said on November 12 that it will team up with ride-hailing company Uber in artificial intelligence (AI) and self-driving technology exchanges. In a joint statement with Uber, the MOST said the ministry will send a delegation organized by its AI research center and self-driving task force to the first Uber Open Summit 2018, scheduled to open on November 15 in San Francisco. The MOST said the presence by the delegation in the upcoming Uber summit is expected to facilitate exchanges of tech talent between Taiwan and the San Francisco-headquartered company.

Taiwan supercomputer ranked 20th fastest in the world (Taiwan Today, 14.11.2018)

Taiwan supercomputer Taiwania 2 was ranked the world's 20th fastest in the biannual TOP500 list, marking a milestone in the nation's technological development, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology on November 13. The ranking, the best performance by a domestic supercomputer since the list's inception in 1993, underscores the nation's high-tech and R&D expertise, the ministry said. Taiwania 2 was developed by the MOST's National Center for High-performance Computing, based in Taiwan's northwestern city of Hsinchu, in cooperation with local industry heavyweights AsusTek Computer Inc., Quanta Computer Inc. and Taiwan Mobile Co. Ltd. It is installed in the Central Taiwan Science Park in Taichung City.

Taiwanese startup ramping up production of sugarcane straws (Taiwan News, 14.11.2018)

As a ban on single-use plastic straws is set to go into effect in July 2019, a Taiwanese startup is ramping up production of its biodegradable straws made from sugarcane and is already shipping its products worldwide. The name of the new venture is "100 plastic free" and the founders have turned down requests from Chinese corporations to buy out the technology and instead are insisting on keeping research and development in Taiwan. The company's objective is to fight pollution by making straws from plant fibers which can be digested by microorganisms in the ocean, thus greatly expediting their decomposition compared to plastic straws.



18 start-ups selected for HTC's Vive X accelerator program (Focus Taiwan, 16.11.2018)

A total of 18 start-ups from around the world have been selected for the Vive X accelerator program of Taiwan-based smartphone brand HTC Corp., which has intensified its efforts in virtual reality development by launching its first VR headset, the Vive. The 18 start-ups, the fourth batch of new companies, will join HTC's Vive X accelerator program in its offices located in San Francisco, London, Taipei, Shenzhen, Beijing and Tel Aviv as part of the company's efforts to build a global supply chain for its VR operations.

Tsai inaugurates National Communications and Cyber Security Center in Taipei (Taiwan Today, 16.11.2018)

President Tsai Ing-wen inaugurated the National Communications and Cyber Security Center on November 15 in Taipei City, describing the facility as a milestone in government efforts to safeguard the country's information infrastructure. The nation is facing complex and diverse cybersecurity threats, Tsai said. Through detecting, analyzing and responding to such challenges, the center will provide a robust line of defense for Taiwan's critical communications networks, she added. According to the president, information security is at the heart of national security and development, since fortified data systems are essential for protecting vital infrastructure, boosting the digital economy, fostering cutting-edge sectors and promoting online governance.

Taiwan team lays groundwork for new IC manufacturing breakthrough (Focus Taiwan, 21.11.2018)

A research team from Taiwan has extended and potentially laid the groundwork for going beyond Moore's law with a monolayer diode, which could lead to a major breakthrough in the semiconductor industry, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) at a press conference on November 21. Supported by MOST, National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) and National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center (NSRRC), a research team headed by NCKU Professor Wu Chung-lin and NSRRC Assistant Scientist Chen Chia-hao, developed a two-dimensional (2D) monolayer diode and published its research results in Nature Communications on August 7.

LINE to hold developer conference in Taiwan next month (Focus Taiwan, 27.11.2018)

Japanese mobile messaging giant LINE is set to hold 2018 LINE Taiwan TechPulse - its annual software developer gathering - in Taiwan on December 21, featuring an Internet of Things (IoT) interactive zone that will offer Taiwan developers IoT apps and technologies, an executive at Line Taiwan said on November 29. This year's LINE Taiwan TechPulse under the theme "interaction" will show software developers how to use the LINE platform to create more people-to-people interactions and conduct information and service exchanges through the IoT interactive zone, said Marco Chen, LINE Taiwan research and development director.

Working with Sprint, HTC to launch 5G mobile device next year (Focus Taiwan, 28.11.2018)

Taiwan-based smartphone brand HTC Corp. said on November 28 it is teaming up with American telecom services provider Sprint Corp. to launch the world's first 5G mobile smart hub in the first half of 2019. HTC said in a statement that the advanced 5G hotspot, which is expected to deliver multimedia and connected data capabilities in a compact and portable design, is aimed at penetrating the 5G market in the U.S. market. Cher Wang, chairwoman and CEO of HTC, said the company has embraced strategic development measures for the 5G era as it did for 3G and 4G technologies, and is working hard to build a 5G ecosystem as smartphones become an even more integral part of life.

Taiwan center, telecom firms sign pact to create mobile ID system (Taiwan Today, 29.11.2018)

An agreement on joint development of a mobile ID network, a system allowing clients to use their SIM card as a form of secure electronic identification, was concluded by Taiwan ID Center and five local telecom companies on November 28 in Taipei City. Under the pact, TWID and the firms will cooperate on creating a mobile device-linked verification process offering safe and easy access to online banking, commercial and public services. The participating companies are Asia-Pacific Telecom, Chunghwa Telecom, Far EasTone Telecommunications, Taiwan Mobile and Taiwan Star Telecom.

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Education

Taiwan drops in global English proficiency rankings (Focus Taiwan, 7.11.2018)

Taiwan ranked 48th among 88 countries and regions around the world in the 2018 English Proficiency Index compiled by the private education company Education First (EF), a drop of eight notches from 40th in the previous rankings. Taiwan's English proficiency was evaluated as "basic," with a score of 51.88 points, ranking 10th in Asia, where 21 countries and regions were included in the index. Each year since 2011, EF has published the index that ranks countries by the average level of English language skills amongst those aged 18 and older who take EF English tests, which are available free on the Internet.

CNA launches second edition of overseas internship program (Focus Taiwan, 20.11.2018)

Taiwan's Central News Agency launched Tuesday the second edition of its "I'm an Overseas Correspondent" program which offers college students in Taiwan a chance to intern in overseas locations where CNA has reporters. CNA's overseas internship program provides students with great learning opportunities and a broader perspective on the work of an overseas correspondents, CNA President Chang Jui-chang said on November 20. The first program was launched in May, starting with workshops across the country to select candidates for overseas internships. From the 2,700 students who attended the workshops, a shortlist of seven was chosen in June and three finalists were later selected to go to Kuala Lumpur, Indonesia and Washington in August 2019.

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