



Press Review Taiwan Science, Technology and Education



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Science / Technology

Taiwanese students invent innovations for medical treatment and daily use (Taiwan News, 3.12.2018)

Taiwanese students with intriguing and practical inventions for daily use as well as medical diagnosis see a bright future ahead. A female high school student named Chien Shi-ting in Nantou County came up with a bicycle installed with a washing drum that works simultaneously as transportation and a washing machine. When riding the bike, the pedaling powers makes the drum rotates and starts the washing process, according to CNA. Meanwhile, a prototype of an iPad-run drawing app used for the diagnosis of mental illness was designed by a medical student from National Yangming University (NYMU) named Lin Yu-hsiu, CNA reports.

International startup conference kicks off in Taipei (Taiwan Today, 4.12.2018)

Techstars Startup Week Taiwan kicked off on December 3 in Taipei City, bringing together more than 300 business leaders, entrepreneurs and venture capitalists from nearly 20 countries and territories. Jointly organized by Taiwan Tech Arena under the Ministry of Science and Technology and U.S.-based seed accelerator Techstars, the five-day event is aimed at bolstering the nation's innovation ecosystem and strengthening links between emerging enterprises from home and abroad.

VP Chen lauds Taiwan's aerospace industry development (Taiwan Today, 7.12.2018)

Taiwan's aerospace sector is going from strength to strength on the back of comprehensive government support measures and the nation's strategic location in the rapidly developing Asia-Pacific market, according to Vice President Chen Chien-jen on December 6. Given the technical complexity of related manufacturing and R&D, aerospace is a key indicator of national competitiveness, Chen said. The government is leaving no stone unturned in fostering the long-term growth of the sector, as evidenced by its inclusion under the national defense component of the five-plus-two industrial innovation initiative, he added.

New 24-hour trash disposal and recycling machine being trialed in Taipei (Taiwan News, 10.12.2018)

A new 24-hour trash collection service is currently being trialed in a central Taipei district. Thanks largely to the country's notorious garbage collection system, Taiwan has become a global leader in recycling, with the second highest effective recycling rate in the world. Taking out the trash has become the bane of many citizens, however, with those working long hours well into the evening missing the truck's daily rounds and being left with no way to dispose of household garbage. Haoyang Environmental Co. Ltd. has come up with a solution to the problem. The company collaborated with Taipei City Department of Information Technology and the Department of Environmental Protection, Chunghwa Telecom, and Yong Gu Bianli Parking to produce iTrash—Taipei's first smart trash collection service station.

HTC VR device shipments forecast to hit 800,000 units in 2019 (Focus Taiwan, 15.12.2018)

Taiwanese smartphone brand HTC Corp., which has been gearing up to penetrate the global virtual reality market, is forecast to ship 800,000 VR units in 2019, according to the Taipei-based Topology Research Institute. Among the top three VR device suppliers in the world, shipments of HTC's VR devices are expected to rise more than 33 percent from an estimated 600,000 units for 2018 to 800,000 units in 2019, Topology said in a research report. To take on escalating competition in the global smartphone market, HTC unveiled its first VR headset - the HTC Vive - in 2015 and the gadget went on global sale in April 2016.

Acer to use government test area for driverless car development (Focus Taiwan, 17.12.2018)

Taiwan-based PC brand Acer will begin using a government facility in an industrial park in Tainan in the first quarter of 2019 to further test its research and development capabilities for driverless cars. The company signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on December 17 with the National Applied Research Laboratories (NARLabs) to make use of the 1.75-hectare test site NARLabs runs in the Shalun Green Energy Science City. Acer, which unveiled a self-driving concept car in September in collaboration with Yulon Group, said the test area can help it integrate its expertise in artificial intelligence and the cloud with Yulon's self-developed open vehicle platform.

AI chat program for farmers wins Taiwan agricultural hackathon (Taiwan Today, 18.12.2018)

An artificial intelligence program to advise farmers on pest control picked up the top prize at AgThon 2018, an annual contest to find the most innovative solutions for agricultural issues, the Cabinet-level Council of Agriculture announced on December 17. At the awards ceremony in the central city of Taichung, COA Acting Minister Chen Chi-chung said the ideas and product prototypes submitted by more than 50 groups to this year's event demonstrated new perspectives in solving enduring issues for Taiwan's farmers. First place went to the AI chatbot - a computer program devised to converse like a human - that helps identify pests and offers advice on control measures.



Taichung launches public trial of Taiwan-developed self-driving buses (Taiwan Today, 25.12.2018)

A month-long public trial of Taiwan-developed self-driving buses kicked off on December 22 in the central city of Taichung, spotlighting the nation's prowess in emerging technological fields spanning cloud computing and Internet of Things. The buses will offer free rides through January 21 along a 1.4 kilometer section of Zhongke Road. To participate in the trial, members of the public can register at a bus stop along the route or sign up online using a Taichung World Flora Exposition Flora Expo card, a pass to the ongoing horticultural event given out to city residents.

Taiwan aims to launch digital ID in 2020: premier (Focus Taiwan, 27.12.2018)

Taiwan's government is aiming to launch electronic national identify cards (new eID) in 2020 to facilitate access to e-government services, simplify administrative processes and improve efficiency and transparency, Premier Lai Ching-te said on December 27. Lai instructed the Cabinet members to ensure completion of digital infrastructure and foundational services necessary to enable a smart government after he was briefed on the project at the weekly Cabinet meeting by National Development Council chief Chen Mei-ling. In the planned new eID system, such a card is to be used by residents as definitive proof of identity in an electronic environment, rather than as a device to store personal data, which means it will not lead to security and privacy issues, according to Chen.

AI training center launched by MOL, III in Kaohsiung (Taiwan Today, 27.12.2018)

An artificial intelligence training center was launched by the Ministry of Labor and state-backed Institute for Information Industry on December 24 in southern Taiwan's Kaohsiung City, underscoring the government's commitment to cultivating talent in emerging tech sectors. According to III, the facility plans to enroll 120 unemployed citizens in institute-developed AI courses next year, with the MOL covering 80 percent of tuition costs. The curriculums also comprise introductions to various other high-growth areas spanning big data, machine learning and mobile app design. The center was established under the government's AI Taiwan Action Plan. Launched in January, the four-year, NT\$9 billion (US\$292 million) initiative aims to deepen the nation's talent pool in related fields, boost industrial upgrading by promoting the adoption of smart technologies, and reform regulations to encourage cutting-edge R&D.

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Education

Cabinet lays out plan to make Taiwan bilingual by 2030 (Focus Taiwan, 4.12.2018)

Premier Lai Ching-te said on December 4 that the Cabinet has mapped out a blueprint for making Taiwan bilingual by 2030 in a bid to enhance the country's international competitiveness. Lai said after hearing a report from the National Development Council (NDC) on the blueprint promoting the development of a bilingual nation that it is a major government policy and that all related government agencies will move forward with it, according to a statement issued by the Cabinet.

Taiwan shines with 6 golds at International Junior Science Olympiad (Taiwan Today, 12.12.2018)

Taiwan was the best performer at the International Junior Science Olympiad on December 2-11 in Gaborone, Botswana, with all six members of the national team winning gold. According to the Ministry of Education, this is the fourth consecutive year Taiwan has topped the medal count in the contest that rates students' abilities in natural sciences. A total of 265 competitors from 44 countries and territories took part in this year's edition.

Foreign students allowed to take teacher certification exams (Focus Taiwan, 14.12.2018)

Foreign students will be allowed to take Taiwan's teacher certification exam for the first time in 2019, with all applicants now required to pass the exam before undertaking an internship, according to the Ministry of Education (MOE) on December 14. The MOE released information on the 2019 certification exams for teachers at kindergartens, elementary schools, junior and senior high schools. This included the announcement that for the first time international and overseas Chinese students will be allowed to sit the exam if they first pass a pre-service teacher education program.

Taiwan, Vietnam educational institutions sign pact on talent cultivation cooperation (Taiwan Today, 25.12.2018)

A memorandum of understanding on talent cultivation cooperation was concluded by high schools and universities from Taiwan and Vietnam on December 24 in the southern city of Kaohsiung, highlighting growing educational links between the two sides in line with the New Southbound Policy. The pact was inked by 10 universities and 20 senior highs in Taiwan and 17 high schools in Vietnam. Under the accord, the institutions will work to expand collaboration in areas spanning online learning, student exchange programs and teaching methods, according to the Ministry of Education. Participating schools have also agreed to jointly develop courses aimed at deepening cross-cultural understanding, the MOE said. It is expected that these efforts will help enhance academic, industrial and people-to-people ties between Taiwan and Vietnam, the ministry added.

National languages development act passed by Legislature (Taiwan Today, 26.12.2018)

The national languages development act was passed by the Legislature on December 25 in Taipei City, paving the way for enhanced efforts to preserve and promote Taiwan's linguistic diversity. Formulated by the Ministry of Culture, the bill grants equal protections to all national languages and guarantees the right of citizens to use them in accessing public services. According to the law, national languages refers to the mother tongues of local ethnic groups, such as Hakka; Holo, also called Taiwanese; and indigenous languages, as well as Taiwan Sign Language. Under the legislation, the government will work to perpetuate endangered tongues through measures like making lessons more readily available in kindergartens. The languages are also expected to be introduced as elective subjects in elementary and high schools by 2022.

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