



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



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Science / Technology

Mobile Internet use in Taiwan tops 70 percent for 1st time (Focus Taiwan, 10.2.2019)

Due to telecom operators cutting back smartphone service fees, the mobile Internet use rate in Taiwan surpassed 70 percent for the first time ever in 2018, according to the Taiwan Network Information Center (TWNIC). In the first half of the year, Chunghwa Telecom Co., one of the leading telecom service providers in Taiwan launched a NT\$499 (US\$16.20) 4G monthly subscription package for unlimited Internet access.

Taiwan set to offer cell therapies to treat cancers, joint disease (Taiwan Today, 12.2.2019)

Six cell therapies recently approved by the government to treat medical issues including cancer, degenerative joint disease and skin wounds are expected to be available at permitted medical centers by the end of February, the Cabinet said February 10. Under an amendment to the Regulation Governing the Application of Specific Medical Examination Techniques and Medical Devices passed last September, the procedures that can treat degenerative joint disease, hematological malignancies, spine injuries, solid tumors, strokes and burns were authorized for use. More than 100,000 patients a year are expected to benefit from the therapies once they are rolled out, according to the Cabinet.

Taiwan's new satellite ready for transport to U.S. (Focus Taiwan 18.2.2019)

The second satellite constellation jointly developed by Taiwan and the United States, FormoSat-7/COSMIC-2, is ready to be transported to the United States for its launch, the head of Taiwan's National Space Organization (NSPO) said on February 18. Once the U.S. issues the green light, whenever that is, the NSPO will start the process of transporting the six-satellite weather satellite constellation, NSPO Director-General Lin Chun-Liang said.

Taiwanese software engineer transforms movie industry (Focus Taiwan 18.2.2019)

Taiwanese software engineer Ma Wan-Chun and a team based in the University of Southern California (USC) have been transforming movie visual effects for a decade with face-digitizing technology, and was acknowledged by the Academy Awards this year. Ma, who now works as an engineer for Google, won the Scientific and Technical Achievement Award along with his colleagues, at the 91st Academy Awards presented February 9 for their work in computer graphics developed at USC's Institute for Creative Technologies.

New satellite will enhance Taiwan's disaster preparedness: Tsai (Focus Taiwan, 21.2.2019)

President Tsai Ing-wen said February 21 that she expects the new satellite constellation FormoSat-7/COSMIC-2 to serve as an efficient instrument for meteorological monitoring and disaster preparedness. FormoSat-7, the second satellite constellation jointly developed by Taiwan and the United States, is scheduled to be launched from Kennedy Space Center this year.

HTC unveils Vive Focus Plus (The China Post, 22.2.2019)

Taiwan-based smartphone brand HTC Corp., which has entered the global virtual reality (VR) market to diversify its product mix, unveiled February 22 the Vive Focus Plus, an upgraded version of the standalone Vive Focus. According to HTC, the new Vive Focus Plus, which will target business customers, will be demonstrated in the upcoming 2019 Mobile World Congress (MWC) scheduled to open in Barcelona February 25.

3D images of Taiwan to be pulled from Google Maps (Focus Taiwan, 23.2.2019)

Three-dimensional satellite images of Taiwan will be pulled from Google Maps, the American technology company said February 23. Following the problems brought about by the recent update to Google Maps, the company issued a statement saying it has already removed the three-dimensional imaging service of four cities in Taiwan.

Taiwan firms to demonstrate 5G capability at MWC (Focus Taiwan, 25.2.2019)

A group of Taiwanese high-tech companies will demonstrate their capability in 5G development at the 2019 Mobile World Congress (MWC) scheduled to open in Barcelona later February 25, according to the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA). This is the third time the MOEA and government-sponsored Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) has organized Taiwanese firms to set up a Taiwan pavilion at MWC, which is an important indicator of global mobile communication technology development.



New exhibition celebrates 40 years of U.S.-Taiwan space cooperation (Focus Taiwan, 26.2.2019)

An exhibition highlighting 40 years of cooperation between the United States and Taiwan on space exploration and astronomy and the achievements resulting from the partnership opened in Taipei on February 26. "This exhibit showcases the results of our strong partnership and highlights different aspects of U.S.-Taiwan space and astronomy cooperation in particular," said American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) Director Brent Christensen at a ceremony to launch the "U.S.-Taiwan Space and Astronomy Exhibition".

HTC unveils 5G smart hub at MWC (Focus Taiwan, 26.2.2019)

Taiwan-based smartphone brand HTC Corp. unveiled a first-of-its-kind 5G mobile smart hub February 25, the first day of the 2019 Mobile World Congress (MWC) held in Barcelona. The product is essentially a 5G mobile hotspot for up to 20 users that will also serve as a mobile hub that can stream TV shows and movies from different apps, and it comes equipped with a battery so that it can be used anywhere.

HTC's first blockchain phone to go on sale in Taiwan on March 1 (Focus Taiwan, 27.2.2019)

The first blockchain-focused smartphone from Taiwan-based HTC Corp. – the HTC Exodus 1 – is scheduled to go on sale in Taiwan on March 1, following global pre-order sales launched late last year. Shipments of the Exodus 1 to other countries will also start in March, HTC said. Consumers in Taiwan and other countries will be able to use physical currencies to purchase the blockchain phone in the smartphone brand's physical stores, HTC added.



Education

Taiwan Education Center, Philippines school promote study in Taiwan (Focus Taiwan, 18.2.2019)

The Taiwan Education Center Philippines, and St. Paul University Quezon City held an event on February 18 to encourage students and faculty from the university to study in Taiwan and to even apply for scholarships to pursue doctoral degrees. Lee Cheng-Han, the education secretary at Taiwan's representative office in Manila, briefed students and faculty at the event on Taiwan's higher education system and the quality of instruction.

Students urge high schools to stop making exam results public (Focus Taiwan, 23.2.2019)

Kaohsiung high school students have launched a petition to stop high schools from making public college entrance exam results and talking up students who do the best, in a bid to keep students out of the media eye. Launched February 21, the petition has picked up 5,000 signatures in just two days. Ou Meng-je one of the initiators of the petition, said in an interview that the appeal's goal is to stop the media from focusing on top students or invading their privacy to get a story.

Taiwan's sports universities provide athletes with top-class degrees, training (Taiwan News, 24.2.2019)

Taiwan won 17 gold, 19 silver and 31 bronze medals at the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia, marking its best result at the event for two decades and placing it seventh among the 45 participating countries and territories. From this haul, 15 medals went to students at National Taiwan Sport University in the northern city of Taoyuan, the country's foremost tertiary institution for cultivating elite competitors and promoting related research. NTSU Vice President Hwang Dong-jhy said the results in Indonesia spotlight the school's success in nurturing student-athletes and delivering glory for the nation. "Sport is one of the most effective ways of raising the country's profile on the global stage," he added.