



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



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## Science / Technology

### **Taiwan expert develops smartphone app to identify medications (Focus Taiwan 7.5.2019)**

Because of concern over patients taking the wrong medications due to similarities in the appearance of some of them, National Yang-Ming University associate professor in family medicine Chen Yu-chun has developed a smartphone app to help users identify drugs and medications. The app, named AIGIA Pharmacist, can identify 400 commonly used drugs and medications in Taiwan with the assistance of a drug-photographing device called MedBox, Chen said at a press conference in Taipei May 7.

### **LINE to invest additional US\$100 million in Taiwan (Focus Taiwan 8.5.2019)**

LINE Corp., the mobile messaging and communication services supplier, said May 8 that it will invest an additional US\$100 million in Taiwan after an earlier investment in the local Internet-only banking business. In a news conference, Jungho Shin, LINE's co-chief executive officer, said that as LINE moves toward its next stage of growth, Taiwan is one of the markets the company has targeted, hence the large extra investment.

### **Google's Pixel 3a series of phones go on sale in Taiwan (Focus Taiwan, 8.5.2019)**

Google Inc.'s newest smartphones -- the Pixel 3a series -- went on sale in Taiwan May 8 after the U.S.-based tech giant unveiled the new phones in Google I/O developer conference in San Francisco overnight. The lower-cost Pixel 3a series was developed by Google's production team based in Taiwan after the company completed a deal in January 2018 to acquire Taiwan-based HTC Corp.'s smartphone ODM assets for US\$1.1 billion.

### **Intel to open Project Athena lab in Taipei next month (Focus Taiwan, 8.5.2019)**

American technology giant Intel said May 8 that its open laboratory in Taipei will begin operations in June, as part of its efforts to help develop a new class of advanced laptops. Athena Open Labs, as the project is called, is being established in three cities across the globe, including Taipei, to support performance and low-power optimization of vendor components for laptops built to specific designs.

### **Taiwan, Czech Republic discuss technology exchanges (Focus Taiwan, 8.5.2019)**

Taiwan and the Czech Republic on May 7 held their sixth conference to discuss technology exchanges in areas such as artificial intelligence and self-driving vehicles, Taiwan's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) said. The conference was hosted by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TACR) in Prague and attended by Czech representatives and a Taiwan delegation led by Huang Hsin-ya, director general of MOST's Department of International Cooperation and Science Education.

### **TSMC largest R&D spender among Taiwan listed manufacturers in 2018 (Focus Taiwan, 13.5.2019)**

Contract chipmaker Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) retained the title of largest spender on research and development among listed Taiwanese manufacturers in 2018, Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) data showed. TSMC, the world's largest contract chipmaker, spent NT\$84.9 billion (US\$2.75 billion) on R&D in 2018, up 6.3 percent from a year earlier, MOEA data showed.

### **HTC's new Blockchain phone to hit store shelves in Q3 (Focus Taiwan, 13.5.2019)**

Taiwan-based smartphone brand HTC Corp. said May 12 it will release its next generation Blockchain phone, the Exodus 1s, on the market in the third quarter of this year, with full node capability to support Bitcoin transactions. "Exodus is about empowering the user. We gave users the ability to own their own keys, and now we've gone one step further to allow users to run their own full node," HTC Chief Decentralized Officer Phil Chen said in a statement at the unveiling of the phone.

### **Nanotech vaccine sheds light in fight against lethal virus (Focus Taiwan, 14.5.2019)**

A research team comprising scientists from Taiwan and the United States may have found an effective vaccine for the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), a highly lethal emerging disease with a mortality rate of over 34 percent. Scientists at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), National Taiwan University (NTU) and Academia Sinica have developed a novel nanoparticle vaccine that mimics the morphology of MERS-CoV and has been found to protect against the infectious pathogen, Academia Sinica told the press in Taipei May 14.



**Asustek unveils ZenFone 6 with flip camera (Focus Taiwan, 17.5.2019)**

Taiwan-based PC brand Asustek Computer Inc. unveiled its latest flagship model -- the ZenFone 6 -- and its unusual flip camera in Spain overnight, the Taiwanese company said May 17. In a statement, Asustek said the latest ZenFone with a 6.4-inch edge to edge screen comes with a camera that flips up from the back of the phone, eliminating the need for "cutouts" used by other models to make room for camera lenses and other sensors.

**Phase 2 of Taiwan's offshore wind farm project breaks ground (The China Post, 19.5.2019)**

Construction on the second phase of Taiwan's offshore wind power plant Formosa I, the country's first offshore wind project, officially broke ground in Miaoli County on May 18. The second phase of the offshore wind farm project is expected to comprise the installation of 20 Siemens Gamesa 6 megawatt turbines located some 6 kilometers off the coast of the county.

**Startup firm seeks clinical trials in U.S for brain surgery material (Focus Taiwan, 21.5.2019)**

Local startup company Taiwan Biomaterial Co. (TWBM) said May 21 it is planning to apply to the Food and Drug Administration in the United States to conduct clinical trials for its globally patented brain surgery material "Foamagen." The product, which can assist doctors performing brain surgery, has been certified by the Ministry of Health and Welfare and is being adopted in hospitals across Taiwan, TWBM CEO Liao Chun-jen said.

**Taiwan's ITRI to help Malaysian company 'turn waste into gold' (Focus Taiwan, 22.5.2019)**

A Malaysian bio-tech company on May 22 signed an agreement with Taiwan's Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) on a pilot project to produce biofuels from mill waste. The partnership with All Cosmos Bio-Tech Holding Co. Ltd. (ACBT) of Malaysia will also involve the transfer of ITRI sugar production and purification technologies.

**Taiwan's top telecoms to stop selling Huawei smartphones (Focus Taiwan, 22.5.2019)**

Two of Taiwan's major wireless carriers, Chunghwa Telecom and Taiwan Mobile, confirmed on May 22 they will not sell Huawei devices after stock sells out, reported Central News Agency. The news comes as Google is set to quit supporting Huawei's Android operating system. Chunghwa Telecom and Taiwan Mobile confirmed they will stop selling Huawei smartphones, while other wireless service providers will wait and see.

**Taiwan's TSMC still expects growth despite Huawei trouble (Taiwan News, 23.5.2019)**

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC), the largest contract chipmaker in the world, still expected its business to grow in the second half of the year despite the troubles hitting its customer, Chinese electronics giant Huawei. The United States government has led a campaign against the Chinese company based on its close links with the communist country's military establishment.

**Apple to open 2nd official store in Taiwan (Focus Taiwan, 24.5.2019)**

U.S.-based consumer electronics giant Apple Inc. will soon open its second official store in Taiwan, and it will be located in the busy Xinyi District of Taipei, the company said May 24. Apple said it will soon release the schedule and other details related to the new store's opening, but it released a photo showing the store as it stands at present on the corner of Songshou Road and Songren Road.

**HTC to ship 5G smart hub in U.S. market at end of May (Focus Taiwan, 24.5.2019)**

Taiwan-based smartphone brand HTC Corp. said May 24 that it will start to ship the first-of-its-kind 5G mobile smart hub in the U.S. market at the end of May as it bets on 5G to help it revive its sagging fortunes. HTC said Sprint, one of the major telecom carriers in the U.S. market, started pre-sale orders for the Taiwanese brand's 5G hub on May 17 in Atlanta, Dallas, Houston and Kansas City, where the 5G hub is compatible with Sprint's technology.

**Computex to open May 28 with focus on AI, IoT (Focus Taiwan, 25.5.2019)**

Computex Taipei 2019 is scheduled to open May 28, featuring advanced information and communications technology (ICT), in particular artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things. At this year's show, 1,685 exhibitors will display their products at 5,508 booths, an increase of 5.1 percent and 9.8 percent, respectively, from last year, according to the organizers.

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## Education

### **32 Taiwan schools listed in Times Asia University Rankings (Focus Taiwan, 2.5.2019)**

Thirty-two schools in Taiwan have been named among the best universities in Asia in the 2019 rankings issued May 1 by the London-based Times Higher Education (THE). National Taiwan University, which rose one notch from last year to 25th, was the top-ranked school in Taiwan, while seven others were listed among the top 100 in the region, according to the Asia University Rankings 2019.

### **Taiwan aiming to give indigenous people more say in education planning (Focus Taiwan, 9.5.2019)**

Aboriginal tribes in Taiwan will be able to play a greater role in the planning and implementation of indigenous education in their communities if the Legislature passes an amendment bill that was approved by the Cabinet May 9. Under the draft amendment to the Education Act for Indigenous Peoples, the government would consult with aboriginal peoples, indigenous tribes, and people in traditional communities on the indigenous studies curriculum and other matters pertaining to educational institutions up to the level of senior high school in the country's designated indigenous regions.

### **Education Ministry wants separation of internships, part-time work (Focus Taiwan, 13.5.2019)**

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has asked schools to separate internships from part-time work, due to concern that students are being pushed into manual labor, according to a ministry official. The move came in the wake of allegations that students from Southeast Asia enrolled in industry-academia collaboration programs offered by some universities in Taiwan were found to be working illegally at processing plants and factories.

### **Taiwan to invest NT\$222 million in science education (Focus Taiwan, 27.5.2019)**

Taiwan's government is taking steps to enhance the nation's science education, including a plan to invest more than NT\$200 million (US\$6.3 million) per year in the science education at elementary and high schools, officials said May 27. The Ministry of Education is planning to pour NT\$222.6 million into the education system each year until 2022, Deputy Education Minister Liu Meng-chi told the Education and Culture Committee at the Legislative Yuan, citing the ministry's medium-term Science Education Development Project.

### **Taiwan Ministry of Science and Technology launches TOP Grants for students overseas (Taiwan News, 28.5.2019)**

The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) launched its TOP Grants program May 28 to fund students and help them publish academic papers overseas, boosting Taiwan's international research position. The number of Taiwanese students in the humanities overseas was gradually shrinking, with fewer and fewer teachers and researchers, which could lead to a weakening of Taiwan's academic standing, the Central News Agency quoted the MOST.

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