



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



Trade Office of Swiss Industries, Taipei, June 1-30, 2019

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Science / Technology

HTC VR apps to support Windows MR headsets (Focus Taiwan, 1.6.2019)

Taiwan-based smartphone brand HTC Corp., which unveiled its first virtual reality headset -- the Vive -- in 2015, is set to make its VR software compatible with Windows mixed reality headsets, as part of the Taiwanese firm's efforts to boost its VR development efforts. Starting on June 5, all Windows MR headset devices will gain access to apps provided by Viveport, which provides users with content for the VR headsets, while Windows MR headsets will also gain unlimited access to subscription services under the Viveport Infinity program, HTC said.

Taiwan researchers working on method to predict, slow ALS progression (Focus Taiwan 4.6.2019)

Scientists in Taiwan are getting closer to finding a way to determine how the degenerative disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) will progress after a patient has been diagnosed, a researcher said June 4. Chen Jun-an, an associate research fellow at Academia Sinica, said that very little is known about why people develop ALS, except for the fact that 10 percent of ALS patients have a family history of the disease.

Taiwan's TSMC says demand from China's Huawei falling (Taiwan News 5.6.2019)

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC), the largest contract chipmaker in the world, said June 5 that demand from embattled Chinese electronics giant Huawei Technologies had been slipping. The Taiwanese company came under fire earlier in the week for continuing to work with Huawei despite worldwide moves to curtail its influence due to its close connections with the Chinese government amid fears about industrial espionage.

Taiwan now No.1 biggest semiconductor equipment spender in world (Taiwan News, 5.6.2019)

Taiwan was the biggest spender on semiconductor equipment in the first quarter of this year, bucking a worldwide downtrend in the industry, announced SEMI on May 4. Semiconductor manufacturing equipment billings for the first quarter from Taiwan leaped from US\$2.81 billion from the fourth quarter last year to US\$3.81 billion in the first quarter this year, representing an increase of 36 percent, reported SEMI. This also represented a massive 68 percent increase from the US\$2.27 billion in billings from Taiwan in the first quarter last year.

HTC reports 26.7% monthly rise in sales for May (The China Post, 7.6.2019)

Taiwan-based smartphone brand HTC Corp. said on June 6 that it recorded a monthly sales increase of over 26 percent for May after it started shipments of 5G-related products. In a statement, HTC said its consolidated sales for May rose 26.7 percent from the previous month to NT\$750 million (US\$23.89 million) but were 69.2 percent lower than a year earlier, amid escalating competition in the global smartphone market.

Startup finding success with new contactless blood pressure sensor (Focus Taiwan, 10.6.2019)

A Taiwanese university startup, which has developed image-sensing technology to measure a person's blood pressure and heartbeat simply by looking at his/her face, is starting to find commercial success. FaceHeart, a startup established by a research team headed by National Chiao Tung University (NCTU) professor Wu Bing-fei, said June 10 it has received an order for the technology from Taiwan-based Shanghai Commercial & Savings Bank (SCSB).

TSMC sales in May hit 2019 high, but still down from 2018 (Taiwan News, 10.6.2019)

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC), the world's largest contract chipmaker, reported that sales rose in May from a month earlier to top the NT\$80 billion (US\$2.55 billion) mark but were still down year-on-year. In a statement, TSMC said its consolidated sales for May rose 7.7 percent from a month earlier to NT\$80.44 billion, the highest for any month this year.

ITRI, Applied Materials sign open innovation agreement (Taiwan Today, 12.6.2019)

A memorandum of understanding on open innovation was concluded by Hsinchu-based Industrial Technology Research Institute and U.S.-headquartered Applied Materials Inc. June 11 in the northern Taiwan county. Under the pact inked by ITRI President Edwin Liu and Applied Materials President and CEO Gary Dickerson, the two sides will establish a platform to share information and foster commercialization in such fields as advanced packaging and display devices.

Government to fund 5G development in Taiwan (Focus Taiwan, 13.6.2019)

The Taiwan government will allocate NT\$20.4 billion (US\$648.2 million) over a four-year period for the development of 5G mobile networks to give Taiwan a strategic place in the new age, the Cabinet's Board of Science and Technology said June 20. The "Taiwan 5G Action Plan" is designed to create a talent pool of 4,000 5G professionals to help make Taiwan a key player in the global supply chain, officials of the board said at a weekly Cabinet meeting.



MediaTek's 5G chipset to enter commercial production in Q3 2020 (Focus Taiwan, 14.06.2019)

MediaTek Inc., the largest integrated circuit designer in Taiwan, said it will launch commercial production of its state-of-the-art 5G chipset in the third quarter of 2020. At its annual general meeting, MediaTek Chairman Tsai Ming-kai said the chipset, a multi-mode, 5G system-on-chip (SoC) made using the sophisticated 7 nanometer process and designed to power the first wave of high-end 5G smartphones, is the first of its kind in the world.

HTC plans to launch 5G smartphones next year (Focus Taiwan, 15.6.2019)

Taiwan-based smartphone brand HTC Corp. is planning to launch 5G smartphones next year as part of its efforts to develop 5G technology. While Taiwan is prepared to start its 5G services next year, Darren Chen, head of HTC Taiwan, said earlier this week that the company will introduce its own 5G smartphones, but did not disclose any details about the time schedule.

Taoyuan City wins Intelligent Community of the Year (Taiwan Today, 17.6.2019)

Taoyuan, northern Taiwan, was named June 13 the Intelligent Community of the Year by New York-headquartered think tank IC Forum, spotlighting the metropolis's advanced application of information and communication technology and smart city solutions. According to ICF, participants were assessed based on six factors: advocacy, broadband, digital equality, innovation, knowledge workforce and sustainability. Taoyuan won recognition for achievements in such areas as encouraging youth entrepreneurship, implementing a comprehensive public transportation network and providing widespread wireless internet coverage.

NTHU research team introduces smart garbage can in Hsinchu (Focus Taiwan, 18.6.2019)

National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) introduced June 18 a smart garbage can that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to identify and sort recyclable trash automatically. Through built-in imaging sensors, the machine is able to distinguish and separate four types of garbage -- metal cans, plastic bottles, glass and paper containers, said Yang Yu-Hsuan, a doctoral student in NTHU's AI research team.

Orsted secures NT\$25 billion green revolving loan in Taiwan (Focus Taiwan, 21.6.2019)

Orsted, a Danish energy developer, has secured a NT\$25 billion (US\$806 million) syndicated green revolving loan facility for its offshore wind farm projects off the coast of Changhua County, central Taiwan. Orsted, one of the companies to receive a permit from the Taiwan government earlier this year to develop offshore wind power, signed an agreement with 15 banks in Taiwan June 20 to secure the five year syndicated loan.

Tsai hails FormoSat-7 launch as Taiwan space technology milestone (Focus Taiwan, 25.6.2019)

Formosat-7 was launched into orbit by Space X's Falcon Heavy rocket at 2:30 p.m. on June 25 Taipei time from the John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida, with representatives of Taiwan's National Space Organization (NSPO) and President Tsai watching the launch live at NSPO in Hsinchu, Taiwan.

NTUH introduces AI skin disease diagnostic support system (Focus Taiwan, 26.6.2019)

National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH) on June 26 unveiled a skin disease diagnostic support system that will help doctors identify skin diseases by using artificial intelligence and smartphone apps to increase the precision of clinical diagnosis and reduce intrusive medical checks.

Yamaha releases new electric scooter made by Taiwan's Gogoro (Taiwan News, 28.06.2019)

Yamaha Motor Taiwan Co., Ltd. (YMT) is set to launch a new electric scooter for the Taiwan market which has been designed and built in collaboration with Taiwanese e-scooter maker Gogoro Inc. In a press release issued on June 27 Yamaha announced that it will be soon releasing its new EC-O5, which is the fruit of a collaboration with the Japanese company and Gogoro. The EC-05 is set to hit Yamaha dealerships in Taiwan on August 1.



Education

Taiwan's college tuition ranks No 14 in the world: Taiwan Higher Education Union (Taiwan News, 4.6.2019)

The Taiwan Higher Education Union said on June 3 that Taiwan's university tuition fees rank 14th in the world according to the latest research done by its youth action committee. Committee chairman, Su Tzu-hsuan told reporters at a press conference that after adjusting for purchasing power parity (PPP), Taiwan's average university tuition ranks number 14 among the world's richest 100 countries according to GDP.

Indonesia continues sending college graduates to study in Taiwan: MOE (Focus Taiwan, 9.6.2019)

Taiwan and Indonesia have maintained a trial program to encourage Indonesian junior college graduates to study in two-year institutes of technology in Taiwan, after Jakarta stopped issuing permits for high school graduates to study here, Taiwan's Ministry of Education (MOE) said June 9. Under the trial program, which began in the 2018 academic year that started in September, the Indonesian government provides incentives for students pursuing advanced studies in Taiwan.

Taiwan's NCTU launches master's degree program in Vietnam (Focus Taiwan, 17.6.2019)

Taiwan's National Chiao Tung University (NCTU) launched an overseas master's degree program in semiconductor technology on June 17, with enrollment set to begin at Vietnam National University's Hanoi University of Science (VNU-HUS) in August. The overseas program offered by NCTU's International College of Semiconductor Technology (ICST) is the first of its kind offered by a Taiwanese university outside of Taiwan, according to the Hsinchu-based institution.

NTU rises to 69th in QS world university rankings (Focus Taiwan, 20.6.2019)

National Taiwan University (NTU) has been ranked as the 69th-best university in the world, up three notches from last year, in the latest world university rankings released by British education network Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). A total of 16 Taiwanese universities are included in the QS World University Rankings 2020, with NTU the only Taiwanese college listed among the top 100 in the global survey.

Taiwan to amend Medical Law which may affect med students studying abroad (Taiwan News, 25.6.2019)

The Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) plans to amend the Physicians Act by implementing a screening test and lowering the quota for dental clinical practicums for foreign diploma holders, which may affect students' decisions to study medicine or dentistry abroad, UDN reported. Medical and dental students who graduated from institutions in the EU, Japan, the U.S., Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, or Hong Kong are exempted from a screening test held by the Ministry of Education (MOE), which under the current law is required for holders of diplomas issued in other countries. The proposed new version of the law would require them to pass the screening test before taking their physician exams and participating in clinical practicums.