



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



Trade Office of Swiss Industries, Taipei, July 1-31, 2019

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Science / Technology

Taiwan tackles brain drain to China head on (Taiwan News, 4.7.2019)

Taiwan is clamping down on losing high-tech talents and intellectual property to China, following in the footsteps of the United States. Taiwan officials have become increasingly concerned that scientists at the nation's institutes of higher learning are defecting to China, according to a recent article in Nature. They are principally being lured by a Beijing initiative called the Thousand Talents Plan.

Google to move into Tpark for AI development (Focus Taiwan, 6.7.2019)

Far Eastern, a flagship entity of the conglomerate Far Eastern Group, said Google has signed a lease to rent one of the two major buildings in the second phase of Tpark in early 2020 as space for the U.S. institution for research and development of artificial intelligence (AI). FarEasTone Telecommunications Co., a telecom service arm of the conglomerate, will occupy other building of Tpart's second phase to provide Internet data center services, the developer said. The phase of the tech park covers 5,000 pings (one ping equals 3.3 square meters).

Cosmetics containing cancerogenic [sic] asbestos made by Taiwanese firm (Taiwan News, 9.7.2019)

Five foreign-branded beauty products recently found to contain cancer-causing asbestos were made by a contract manufacturer in Taiwan, the local Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said on July 7. After an investigation launched by the FDA, which was informed by its U.S. counterpart and Health Canada that the five beauty products contain asbestos, the local agency identified the contract maker as coming from Tainan.

Taiwan biggest winner at IDC Smart City Asia Pacific Awards (Taiwan News, 10.6.2019)

Taiwan emerged as the biggest winner at the 2019 IDC Smart City Asia Pacific Awards (SCAPA) with four awards, according to the Taipei City government, which won two of the prizes. One of the awards to Taipei was for a transportation project to introduce artificial intelligence into traffic management, which was named Top Smart City Project for Transportation --Transport Infrastructure, the city's Department of Information Technology (DOIT) said in a statement on July 10.

Taiwan to surpass S. Korea as largest semiconductor making market in world (Taiwan Today, 11.7.2019)

Taiwan is set to surpass South Korea as the largest and fastest-growing semiconductor manufacturing equipment market in the world with a growth rate of 21.1 percent this year, according to SEMI. In its latest report, SEMI predicts that only Taiwan and North America will see growth in the semiconductor manufacturing market this year, while the markets in South Korea, China, Japan, and Europe will decline. Taiwan is set to become the largest and fastest growing semiconductor equipment maker in the world by increasing by 21.1 percent to reach US\$12.31 billion.

NTUH declares success in unusual heart failure case (Focus Taiwan, 12.7.2019)

It took six months of monitoring a heart transplant patient, but National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH) was finally willing to declare success on July 12 in keeping alive a patient without a functioning heart longer than ever before in Taiwan. The 38-year-old patient was stung by a bee during a visit to Japan in early October 2018. Upon her return to Taiwan, she suffered a high fever and then a cardiac arrest on October 20, 2018, due to inflammation of the heart muscle resulting from the bee sting.

Science ministry to lead start-up delegation to CES (Focus Taiwan, 16.7.2019)

The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) is to organize a delegation of 80 startups to attend the 2020 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, eyeing about NT\$6.2 billion (US\$200 million)-worth of business opportunities. It will be the third time MOST has sent a Taiwanese delegation of start-ups to the CES, one of the world's largest tech exhibitions, which is scheduled for Jan. 7-10, 2020. Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Hsu Yu-chin said the 2020 delegation will be the biggest in the three years compared with the 44 delegation members organized by the ministry this year and 32 last year.

Taiwan first in Asia to have real-time bikeshare info on Google Maps (Focus Taiwan, 17.7.2019)

Google Maps has rolled out a new feature -- real-time bikeshare information -- covering 24 cities in 16 countries around the world, including New Taipei and Kaohsiung, making Taiwan the only country in Asia to enjoy the service. Google Maps software engineer Andrew Hyatt introduced the new function in an article published on Google's official blog on July 16. He wrote that bikesharing is booming, as it transforms how people get from A to B in cities around the planet.



Taiwan's Windrider supercomputer to be donated to NCKU (Focus Taiwan, 17.7.2019)

Taiwan's supercomputer system, nicknamed the Windrider, will find a home at National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) in Tainan in August, the developers said on July 17. In its proposal to obtain the Windrider, the university said the system will be used to conduct topology research and router testing and certification, said Sam Chu, deputy director of the National Center for High-performance Computing (NCHC), which developed the system. The university also said that with the acquisition of the system, which is formally called the Advanced Large-scale Parallel Supercluster (ALPS), it will be able to cultivate talent in related fields and foster greater cooperation between industry and academia, Chu said.

FormoSat-7 transmits first data back to Earth (Focus Taiwan, 17.7.2019)

Taiwan's FormoSat-7 has sent back its first batch of data from space, which will be released to the public in seven months' time, the National Space Organization (NSPO) said on July 17. "Yesterday, FormoSat-7 for the first time transmitted information about the Earth's atmosphere and ionosphere, which was retrieved by the research team today," the NSPO said. The NSPO said it will continue to conduct tests to improve the radio occultation techniques, radio frequency beacon and ion velocity meter to maximize the efficiency of the satellite.

VP Chen awards international winners of Presidential Hackathon (Focus Taiwan, 23.7.2019)

The international winners of the second annual Presidential Hackathon were presented with their awards by Vice President Chen Chien-jen during a ceremony at the Presidential Office July 21 in Taipei City. CoST from Honduras and Mentadak from Malaysia, finished atop a 23-strong field drawn from 13 countries and territories advancing solutions spanning such areas as government procurement, road construction and recycling. The former proposed an initiative to enhance environmental evaluation transparency and optimize resource allocation for infrastructure projects, while the latter designed an online procurement system to strengthen clean governance in the public sector.

BIO Asia-Taiwan expo kicks off in Taipei (Taiwan Today, 25.7.2019)

The BIO Asia-Taiwan Conference and Exhibition kicked off July 24 in Taipei City, highlighting the country's expertise and innovation in the biotechnology sector at one of the largest trade fairs of its kind in the region. Co-organized by Taipei-based Taiwan Bio Industry Organization, the five-day event is themed Biotech as the Next Growth Engine for Asia. It features 1,700 booths with 600 local and foreign exhibitors showcasing the latest products and technology in areas spanning biomedicine, genomics and health care equipment.

Joint R&D center opening highlights growing Taiwan-India academic ties (Taiwan Today, 29.7.2019)

The Indo-Taiwan Joint Research Center on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning was inaugurated July 27 in Rupnagar, India, underscoring government efforts to deepen academic ties with the New Southbound Policy target country. Supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the facility is a joint initiative among National Chung Cheng University in southern Taiwan's Chiayi County, Indian Institute of Technology Ropar, and Chitkara University. It will serve as a hub for academic-industrial cooperation, faculty-student exchanges and R&D.

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Education

Taiwan tackles brain drain to China head on (Taiwan News, 4.7.2019)

Taiwan is clamping down on losing high-tech talents and intellectual property to China, following in the footsteps of the United States. Taiwan officials have become increasingly concerned that scientists at the nation's institutes of higher learning are defecting to China, according to a recent article in Nature. They are principally being lured by a Beijing initiative called the Thousand Talents Plan. Established in 2008, the Thousand Talents is a kind of academic honor that recruits talent and technology transfers to China. It typically provides a highfalutin title, visa privileges, and, most importantly, money.

Taiwan ranked 17th in education systems effectiveness index (Taiwan News, 18.7.2019)

Taiwan took 17th place out of 50 economies in the 2018 Worldwide Educating for the Future Index (WEFFI). Conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), it assesses the readiness of global education institutions to equip youths with the skills required for the future. Finland claimed the top spot, followed by Switzerland, New Zealand, Sweden, and Canada. Singapore, ranked 7th, on a par with Germany, and was the only Asian country to make the top 10, according to the report.

Taiwan's National Tsinghua University launches project in Singapore (Taiwan News, 19.7.2019)

National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) signed an agreement with Singapore's "My First Skool" kindergarten system on July 19 to launch a new type of education in the Southeast Asian city-state. NTHU will develop localized teaching materials and train teachers at a newly established primary school in Northeast Singapore before expanding the system to 140 more schools, the United Daily News reported.

National Taiwan University among 60 top universities for reputation (Taiwan News, 19.7.2019)

National Taiwan University (NTU) ranks between No.51 and No.60 in the world for its reputation, according to a list drawn up by Times Higher Education. Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford top the list, followed by Cambridge and Oxford, with the rest of the top 10 filled by other educational institutions in the United States.

Taiwan ranks 5th at 2019 International Physics Olympiad (Taiwan News, 19.7.2019)

Taiwan won five medals and ranked 5th place in the International Physics Olympiad. The 50th International Physics Olympiad took place in Israel this year. Out of 78 countries and 360 participating students, the Taiwanese team won two gold and three medals.

Taiwan to see largest university merger in its history (Taiwan News, 23.7.2019)

A proposed merger of three universities in Taiwan could mark the largest of its kind in the history of the island's tertiary education. National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, and National Yunlin University of Science and Technology have announced plans to consolidate into a single new university. Approval by their respective administrations is required for the plan to go ahead and is expected as early as the end of the year, reported Liberty Times.

Taiwan indigenous children's choir awarded gold at Vienna Intl. Competition (Taiwan News, 29.7.2019)

At the 2019 Vienna International Choir Competition and Festival, the choir from Qingye Elementary School in Pingtung County was awarded a gold diploma in the category of Best Folk Arrangement. At the awards portion of the competition and festival on July 28, the Qingye Choir Conductor, Tang Hsiu-yue, was also recognized in Vienna for her contribution to the school's vibrant and internationally recognized chorus music program.

Taiwan wins 2 gold, 2 silver medals at Chemistry Olympiad in Paris (Focus Taiwan, 30.7.2019)

Taiwan took two gold and two silver medals at the International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO) that ended July 29 in Paris, according to the Ministry of Education (MOE). Kuo Lun-hsin of Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School and Wang Yu-hsiang of Taichung Municipal Taichung First Senior High School won the two golds, the ministry said in a statement.

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