



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



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Science / Technology

TSMC, Alibaba top domestic, foreign patent applicants in Taiwan (Focus Taiwan, 3.8.2019)

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC), the world's largest contract chipmaker, was the largest invention patent applicant in Taiwan in the first half of this year, according to the Intellectual Property Office. As for foreign firms, Alibaba, the Chinese e-commerce giant, ranked as the largest invention patent applicant in Taiwan in the first six months of this year, according to data compiled by the office.

APO smart manufacturing center of excellence launched in Taichung (Taiwan Today, 07.8.2019)

Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organization launched its Center of Excellence on Smart Manufacturing Aug. 6 in Taichung, reflecting global recognition of the central Taiwan city's high-tech prowess. Proposed by Taiwan and approved during the APO's Governing Body Meeting April 10-12 in Manila, the facility is the second of its kind in the country following the Center of Excellence on Green Productivity set up in New Taipei City six years ago.

Indigenous anti-radiation drone to be exhibited at TADTE (Focus Taiwan, 9.8.2019)

Taiwan's indigenous "Jian Hsiang" anti-radiation drone, which has the ability to destroy radar stations and S400 missiles along China's coastline, is expected to be displayed at the upcoming Taipei Aerospace and Defense Technology Exhibition (TADTE) in Taipei. The 2019 TADTE, highly anticipated by the industry and the public due to accomplishments announced by defense-related institutions in Taiwan over the past months, will be held Aug. 15-17 at the Taipei World Trade Center Exhibition Hall 1.

Tech companies plan more investments in Taiwan (Taiwan Today, 09.8.2019)

Four more high tech companies have promised to invest in Taiwan under the government's incentive program to encourage Taiwanese enterprises operating overseas to return home, boosting total pledges to almost NT\$540 billion (US\$17.22 billion) so far this year, according to the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA). The MOEA said on August 5 that the four electronics companies — printed circuit board (PCB) maker Unimicron Technology Corp., electronics ODM and OEM services provider Qisda Corp., chip resistor supplier Ta-I Technology Co., and diode and related item producer Taiwan Semiconductor Co. — plan to invest more than NT\$32.5 billion in Taiwan.

Artificial intelligence R&D cooperation pact inked by ITRI, UCLA (Taiwan Today, 14.8.2019)

A memorandum of understanding on artificial intelligence R&D cooperation was signed by Hsinchu-based Industrial Technology Research Institute and University of California, Los Angeles's Samueli School of Engineering Aug. 13 in the northern Taiwan county. Inked by ITRI President Edwin Liu and engineering school dean Jayathi Murthy, the pact enables the institutions to foster related exchanges in cultivating AI talent and jointly developing advanced robots. The first group of ITRI researchers will visit UCLA next month, according to the institute.

Aerospace, defense technology expo takes off in Taipei (Taiwan Today, 15.8.2019)

The biennial Taipei Aerospace and Defense Technology Exhibition kicked off Aug. 15 at Taipei World Trade Center, spotlighting the latest components and systems at 800 booths operated by 160 exhibitors from home and abroad. Organized by the government-supported Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), the three-day expo features leading organizations such as the Ministry of National Defense and multinationals like BAE Systems, Honeywell International Inc. and Lockheed Martin.

MOST celebrates 60 years of scientific achievement (Taiwan Today, 21.8.2019)

A special event marking the 60th anniversary of the Ministry of Science and Technology was staged Aug. 20 in Taipei City, underscoring the MOST's achievements in shaping the technological landscape of Taiwan. Established in 1959 as the National Long-Term Science Development Committee, the MOST was initially tasked with overseeing Taiwan's research organization planning and tertiary education. It was renamed National Science Council and elevated to Cabinet-level status in 1969 before taking its present form in 2016.

VP Chen touts Taiwan's progress in smart manufacturing promotion (Taiwan Today, 22.8.2019)

The government is sparing no effort in fast-tracking Taiwan's industrial transformation by assisting local firms improve digital and smart manufacturing capabilities, according to Vice President Chen Chien-jen during the opening of the Intelligent Asia Exhibition Aug. 21 in Taipei City. Under the government's five-plus-two innovative industries initiative, Taiwan's machinery sector posted record output of NT\$1.18 trillion (US\$37.62 billion) in 2018, up 7.3 percent year on year, Chen said.



U.S. naval research vessel visits Keelung for science project (Focus Taiwan, 22.8.2019)

A United States naval research vessel arrived in Taiwan for the first time on August 19 to conduct a joint science project with one of the nation's top universities, according to the Maritime Port Bureau (MPB). The R/V Sally Ride, currently docked at the East 4 Pier of northern Taiwan's Keelung Port, will stay until Sept. 2 to carry out exchanges with Taipei-based National Taiwan University (NTU) and to replenish supplies, according to a MPB press release. After leaving Taiwan, it will head to seas near Palau for a joint oceanic and atmospheric research project with NTU researchers.

International smart agriculture conference wraps up in Taipei (Taiwan Today, 23.8.2019)

The International Conference on Smart Agriculture and Food Safety Management wrapped up Aug. 22 in Taipei City, spotlighting government efforts to foster exchanges on and bolster the adoption of intelligent farming solutions. Co-organized by the Cabinet-level Council of Agriculture and sponsored by Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organization, the two-day event brought together more than 300 academics, business representatives and officials from home and abroad. Exhibits showcased the latest Taiwan agriculture innovations, such as an autonomous underwater vehicle for monitoring aquaculture ponds, a robot for keeping chickens active, and a wearable device for assisting fruit pickers.

TSMC ranks as No. 3 chip supplier in H1; MediaTek No. 15 (Focus Taiwan, 24.8.2019)

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) was the world's third largest chip supplier in the first half of 2019 while Taiwan-based MediaTek Inc. made the list of the top 15 IC chip suppliers for the first time, according to a recent market survey. In a research report, market information advisory firm IC Insights said TSMC posted US\$14.85 billion in sales in the first six months of 2019, down 9 percent from a year earlier because of inventory adjustments by its clients.

Micron's Taichung plant expected to be ready in 2020 Q4 (Focus Taiwan, 26.8.2019)

Micron Memory Taiwan Co., a subsidiary of U.S.-based dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chip maker Micron Technology Inc., said on August 26th that construction of a new plant coded A3 is scheduled to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2020. The announcement made by Micron Taiwan came after local media reported earlier on the same day that the U.S. DRAM giant would invest NT\$400 billion (US\$12.70 billion) to build two wafer plants -- A3 and A5 -- in central Taiwan to produce next-generation DRAM chips.

Taiwan unveils driverless WinBus (Taiwan News, 27.8.2019)

Taiwan unveiled an autonomous electric mini-bus on August 26, which has an optimized positioning system and will undergo testing later this year before entering mass production by the end of 2021. The driverless "WinBus" was designed by the government-funded Automotive Research & Testing Center, based in Changhua County, in collaboration with more than 20 industry groups. The project received NT\$40 million (US\$1.26 million) in sponsorship from the Department of Industrial Technology (DOIT) of the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA), reported CNA.

Taiwan, Sweden ink R&D synergy cooperation pact (Taiwan Today, 30.8.2019)

A memorandum of understanding on academic R&D synergy cooperation was inked by the Ministry of Science and Technology and Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF) Aug. 27 in Stockholm. Under the pact, the two sides will work together in advancing interdisciplinary research in information, communication and systems technology, as well as life and materials sciences. In addition, SSF will allocate 30 million krona (US\$3.08 million) for one to three projects each involving four to six research groups from Taiwan and Sweden for up to six years.

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Education

Taiwanese student wins top prize in Microsoft Office contest (Taiwan News, 01.8.2019)

Taiwanese student Wang Li-ting won one of the top prizes in the 2019 Microsoft Office Specialist World Championship that concluded July 26th in New York. The annual global competition, which tests students' skills using Microsoft Office Word, Excel and PowerPoint, was held this year July 28-31, drawing over 200 participants from 65 countries.

Taiwan wins big at international mathematics competition (Focus Taiwan, 06.8.2019)

A Taiwanese delegation has won seven gold medals at a just-concluded international mathematics competition in South Africa, a local math education foundation announced on August 3. The delegation of 28 elementary and junior high school students has won three gold medals, nine silvers, five bronzes and nine honorable mentions in the individual competition of the 20th International Mathematics Competition (IMC), held Aug. 1-6, according to Chiu Chang Mathematics Education Foundation.

Taiwan's college admission rate at record low (Taiwan News, 08.8.2019)

The college admission results based on Advanced Subjects Test (AST) scores were released on August 7 and saw the lowest admission rate in Taiwan in 16 years. According to the Board of College Recruitment Commission, 24,575 places were designated for this round of admission, with an additional 10,001 places remaining from previous rounds, amounting to 34,567 available spots in all. A total of 42,604 people had signed up for assignment and 34,633 earned a place, which corresponds to an 81.29 percent admission rate, reported the Liberty Times.

Taiwan's Team NCTU competes in DARPA Subterranean Challenge (Taiwan News, 12.8.2019)

A team from National Chiao Tung University (NCTU) left for the US today (Aug. 12) to compete in the Subterranean Challenge, a robotics competition held by the United States' Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). DARPA's Subterranean Challenge is a high-level competition that promotes robotics and national defense technologies. Each competition takes place over three years, with the winning team to be awarded the coveted prize of US\$2 million (NT\$63 million) in 2021.

Taiwan should recruit more students from Hong Kong and Macau (Taiwan News, 19.8.2019)

Universities see the recent anti-China sentiment in Hong Kong as an opportunity and have called on the Ministry of Education to allow more students from Hong Kong and Macau to study in Taiwan. The number of students from Hong Kong and Macau pursuing higher education in Taiwan has been decreasing in recent years, probably due to low birth rate and the scholarships provided by the Chinese government. Facing pressure from the declining birth rate in Taiwan, universities hope the government can increase the quota for students from Hong Kong and Macau by 10 percent, reported the Liberty Times.

Taiwan shines at international WorldSkills Competition (Focus Taiwan, 28.8.2019)

Taiwanese competitors at a global vocational skills competition in Russia won 15 medals and 23 medallions for excellence, putting Taiwan in 4th place among the 63 competing countries and regions. The WorldSkills Kazan 2019, which measures excellence and encourages hundreds of young people to turn their passion onto a profession, attracted more than 1,000 competitors from around the world, including 58 from Taiwan.

Starting salary of higher education graduates averages NT\$34,278 (Focus Taiwan, 29.8.2019)

Full-time workers with tertiary education received NT\$34,278 per month in starting salary on average in 2018, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Labor August 25. Ph.D graduates received the highest average monthly pay of NT\$67,495. Masters [sic] degree holders ranked second with NT\$49,017. Junior college graduates received NT\$31,331, which was NT\$909 more than the average for those with bachelors [sic] degrees, the statistics showed.

AIT to celebrate Education Month in September (Focus Taiwan, 30.8.2019)

The American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) said on August 27 it will launch an education month in September as part of its yearlong celebration of 40 years of friendship and partnership between the United States and Taiwan. Since the start of the year, the AIT@40 campaign has been holding monthly events under various themes that highlight the current nature of U.S.-Taiwan relations. "In honor of AIT@40 Education Month, AIT will host a series of events celebrating the strong educational ties between the United States and Taiwan," it said in a statement in August 27.

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