



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



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Science / Technology

Taiwan to launch new ocean research fleet in 2020 (Focus Taiwan, 2.9.2019)

A new fleet of marine research vessels is expected to be formally established in the first half of 2020, helping Taiwan expand its capability in marine and oceanographic research and boost the country's efforts to develop its own shipbuilding industry, experts familiar with the project have said. The fleet will include the existing 2,000-ton vessel "Legend," two new 500-ton research vessels and another 1,000-ton vessel.

Taiwan hospital makes breakthrough in hemophilia screening (Focus Taiwan, 4.9.2019)

A research team at Tri-Service General Hospital in Taipei has developed a screening technique to more accurately identify genetic defects that cause mild classic hemophilia, the head of the hospital's hemophilia center said on September 4. Classic hemophilia, also known as hemophilia A, is a genetic disorder caused by a missing or defective factor VIII, which is a clotting protein, Chen Yeu-chin, head of the hospital's hemophilia center, said at a press conference.

Yunlin research center bolsters Taiwan's floriculture industry (Taiwan Today, 6.9.2019)

Phalaenopsis Kenneth Schubert Tari-12 is found in only one place in the world: the Floriculture Research Center in western Taiwan's Yunlin County. Featuring delicate petals patterned in pink, red and white, the hybrid orchid is among several experimental strains set for possible commercial cultivation in around three years' time. Established by Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute under the Cabinet-level Council of Agriculture, FRC opened its doors in 2001. The center hosts laboratories, greenhouses and net houses, aviary-like plots of cultivated land protected by giant meshes, where new varieties of plants are developed and reproduced at scale through tissue culture.

Taiwan launches its first gut microbiota laboratory (Focus Taiwan, 5.9.2019)

Taipei Veterans General Hospital (TVGH) launched Taiwan's first dedicated gut microbiota laboratory on September 4, in a bid to develop new therapies for patients with infections that cause diarrhea. According to the hospital, the laboratory is expected to store at least 100 fecal samples to study gut microbiota, which could contribute to the treatment of *Clostridium difficile*-- a bacteria that can cause healthcare-associated diarrhea-- as well as autism, Parkinson's disease, allergies, diabetes and other diseases.

Germany hoping to cooperate with Taiwan on climate change research (Focus Taiwan, 10.9.2019)

A German climatologist said on September 10 that his country is very willing to share with Taiwan its experience in transition to renewable energy and hopes that the two sides can foster exchanges on research into climate change and its impact on the environment. Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, director emeritus of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), made the comment during a visit to the Ministry of Science and Technology in Taipei, where he met with Minister of Science and Technology Chen Liang-gee to discuss exchanges with Taiwan on the issue of climate change.

Google to set up data center in Tainan (Focus Taiwan, 11.9.2019)

U.S.-based tech giant Google Inc. said on September 11 that it will set up a data center in Tainan that will be its second data center in Taiwan after its first one started operations in Changhua in 2013. Google said in a statement that it has purchased land in Tainan in preparation for the establishment of the center after an assessment that picked the city as the location for the investment.

SEMICON Taiwan to open on Sept. 18; leaders to gather in tech forum (Focus Taiwan, 14.9.2019)

SEMICON Taiwan, one of the leading exhibitions in the global semiconductor industry, is scheduled to open on September 18 with a tech think tank forum to be the focus, due to the presence of many industrial heavyweights, according to the organizer SEMI. SEMI, a global industry association of companies that serves the manufacturing supply chain in the electronics industry, said SEMICON Taiwan [...] will put much emphasis on high-end technology development, tech integration and industrial sustainability.

MediaTek invests over NT\$100 billion on 5G chip development (Focus Taiwan, 19.9.2019)

MediaTek Inc., the largest integrated circuit designer in Taiwan, announced on September 19 that it has invested more than NT\$100 billion (US\$3.23 billion) in 5G chip related research and development. To maintain its lead over competitors in 5G development, the company said it has also assigned thousands of personnel to the field. MediaTek has been one of the global 5G chip development pioneers with the IC designer sending samples to clients who are expected to use the firm's chips in products that are scheduled to hit the market in the first quarter of next year, according to MediaTek CFO David Ku.



Presidential Science Prize winners announced (Taiwan Today, 19.9.2019)

Winners of the Presidential Science Prize were announced on September 18 in Taipei City, recognizing the lifelong contributions of the recipients toward advancing scientific research in Taiwan. Local academics Chen Yuan-tsong, Lee Yuan-pan and Wei Fu-chen beat out four other nominees to claim the biennial honor. They will each receive a certificate, trophy and cash prize of NT\$2 million (US\$64,516) from President Tsai Ing-wen at a presentation ceremony October 29.

5G spectrum auctions to kick off Dec. 10 (Focus Taiwan, 23.9.2019)

The National Communications Commission (NCC) is scheduled to start auctions of 5G spectrums December 10, NCC Acting Chairman Chen Yaw-shyang said on September 23. In a hearing held by the transportation committee of the Legislative Yuan, Chen laid out the schedule for Taiwan's 5G spectrum auctions and the plan for the country's next-generation telecommunications technology development. Speaking to lawmakers, Chen said that after completing the spectrum auctions, the NCC is scheduled to issue 5G licenses by the end of January 2020.

New findings in Taiwan may lead to 'cure' for diet-induced obesity (Focus Taiwan, 27.9.2019)

Scientists at Taiwan's top research institute said recently they are optimistic about a study they are conducting, which may one day lead to a "cure" for diet-induced obesity, a serious health and social issue in many parts of the world. Juan Li-jung, the leading bioscientist on the Academia Sinica team, said earlier this week that their experiments on mice showed that the removal of a specific gene could contribute to better metabolic function. The team found that the level of the gene called N- α -acetyltransferase 10 protein (Naa10p) positively correlates with obesity in mice, Juan said. If the findings could be applied to humans, it would mean a "cure" for diet-induced obesity, she said.

Microsoft opens expanded AI research center in Taipei (Focus Taiwan, 27.9.2019)

Microsoft Corp. opened an expanded hub in Taipei on September 27 for the research and development of artificial intelligence technology and to mark the 30th anniversary of its presence in Taiwan. At the opening ceremony, President Tsai Ing-wen hailed the expanding investment in Taiwan by the American multinational technology company. "We look forward to seeing this state-of-the-art AI R&D Center in Taiwan become a key driver of next-generation technology that will help Taiwan shine on the world stage as an R&D powerhouse," Tsai said.

Taiwan-US science, technology cooperation strengthened (Taiwan Today, 27.9.2019)

A Taiwan-U.S. science and technology collaboration meeting wrapped up on September 23 in Virginia, underscoring the commitment of both sides to strengthening exchanges in key areas like education and fundamental research. Organized by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the U.S. and the American Institute in Taiwan, the daylong event took place at the National Science Foundation. It was convened by Lin Minn-tsong, director-general of the Department of Natural Sciences and Sustainable Development under the Ministry of Science and Technology, and Rebecca Keiser, head of the NSF Office of International Science and Engineering.

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Education

Team Taiwan clinches 3rd at International Earth Science Olympiad (Taiwan Today, 3.9.2019)

Team Taiwan won three golds and one silver to claim third at the 13th International Earth Science Olympiad in Daegu, South Korea, according to the Ministry of Education on September 2. Held August 26 to September 3, IESO involved 163 high schoolers from 43 countries and territories competing in subjects such as geology, geophysics, meteorology, oceanography and terrestrial astronomy.

APEC talent development forum wraps up in Taiwan (Taiwan Today, 18.9.2019)

An Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum on how industry-academia collaboration can strengthen talent development wrapped up on September 18 in Taipei City, spotlighting government efforts to boost exchanges among member economies. Organized by the Ministry of Education under the heading "Regional Industry-Academia Collaboration for Talent Development: An Exchange of Skills Training, Internships and Jobs," the three-day event comprised speeches, panel discussions and fact-finding visits. Attendees included officials and experts from Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Russia, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines.

NTU ranked 120th best university in the world (Focus Taiwan, 12.9.2019)

National Taiwan University (NTU) jumped 50 places to become the 120th ranked university in the world out of 1,396 evaluated, according to the Times Higher Education (THE) report released on September 11. Published for the 16th year, the London-based magazine's World University Rankings 2020 included almost 1,400 universities from 92 countries and regions, making it the largest and most diverse university rankings to date.

President Tsai receives outstanding young adults (Taiwan Today, 24.9.2019)

President Tsai Ing-wen received the winners of this year's 10 Outstanding Young Persons Awards at the Presidential Office on September 23 in Taipei City, describing them as an inspiration to all. These talented individuals are set to be the drivers of Taiwan's future development, Tsai said. The people and government are thankful for their contributions and look forward to seeing them achieve even greater things, she added. The 10 winners of the prestigious annual honor are Chang He-sen, Chien Chi-ling, Chou Tien-chen, Chuang Huai-chia, Lin Cheng-jung, Liu Po-chun, Tsao Yu-Chung, Wang Ting-chieh, Wu Chi-heng and Yang Hung-yi..

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