



Press Review Taiwan Science, Technology and Education

Trade Office of Swiss Industries, Taipei, March 1-31, 2020

Science / Technology	2
Taiwan synthesizes anti-viral drug favilavir for COVID-19 patients (Focus Taiwan, 02.03.2020)	2
CPC receives 1st shipment of carbon neutral LNG (Taiwan Today, 05.03.2020)	2
Taiwan moves closer to developing COVID-19 rapid screening reagent (Focus Taiwan, 08.03.2020)	2
Qualcomm launches Taiwan innovation center for startup ecosystem (Focus Taiwan, 09.03.2020)	2
Formosat-7 data set for public release (Taiwan Today, 09.03.2020)	2
Rapid COVID-19 screening kits could be available by year-end (Focus Taiwan, 11.03.2020)	2
Taiwan to share disaster prevention practices, technologies with Japan (Taiwan Today, 12.03.2020)	2
Taiwan using electronic system to expedite entry of arriving travelers (Focus Taiwan, 18.03.2020)	3
ITRI cancer treatment technology wins bronze at Edison Awards (Taiwan Today, 20.03.2020)	3
CDC announces tech partnerships for overseeing home quarantine (Taiwan Today, 20.03.2020)	3
NCTU, TSMC unveil breakthrough for IC manufacturing (Taiwan Today, 24.03.2020)	3
Tea compound targeted as potential coronavirus inhibitor (Focus Taiwan, 25.03.2020)	3
Taiwan aerospace firms secure US\$2 billion in global orders (Taiwan Today, 26.03.2020)	3
Taiwan has antimalarial drug seen as possible COVID-19 treatment: CECC (Focus Taiwan, 26.03.2020) ..	3
Education	4
MOFA launches 2020 youth ambassador program (Taiwan Today, 04.03.2020)	4
Taiwan youngsters win 9 gold medals at IEYI 2019 (Taiwan Today, 17.03.2020)	4



Science / Technology

Taiwan synthesizes anti-viral drug favilavir for COVID-19 patients (Focus Taiwan, 02.03.2020)

Taiwan's non-profit Development Center for Biotechnology (DCB) announced March 2 that it has synthesized favilavir, an experimental medication being used in other countries as an investigational therapy to combat the COVID-19 coronavirus. The center will work closely with local biopharmaceutical companies certified for current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) to provide enough favilavir for patient care in Taiwan, the DCB said. According to Chuang Shih-hsien, an executive with the DCB, the anti-viral drug was first developed by Fujifilm Toyama Chemical Co. and approved for the Japanese market in March 2014.

CPC receives 1st shipment of carbon neutral LNG (Taiwan Today, 05.03.2020)

The country's first shipment of carbon neutral liquefied natural gas arrived at Yung-An LNG Receiving Terminal March 4 in the southern port city of Kaohsiung, underscoring government efforts to reduce Taiwan's carbon emissions. According to state-owned CPC Corp. headquartered in Kaohsiung, the 64,000 tons of LNG are part of a deal with Singapore-based Shell Eastern Trading Pte Ltd. The cargo's arrival coincides with the 30th anniversary of LNG imports to Taiwan, signifying a commitment to reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable business practices, CPC said.

Taiwan moves closer to developing COVID-19 rapid screening reagent (Focus Taiwan, 08.03.2020)

Taiwan's Academic Sinica has synthesized monoclonal antibodies that are able to identify the protein of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), an important step in the direction of producing a rapid screening reagent for the fast spreading pathogenic virus. The potential reagent, if successfully mass produced in the future, will shorten the test for the new coronavirus from about 4 hours to 15-20 minutes, significantly improving screening efficiency, the top academic research institution in the nation said in a statement on March 8.

Qualcomm launches Taiwan innovation center for startup ecosystem (Focus Taiwan, 09.03.2020)

U.S. chip giant Qualcomm Inc. opened an innovation center in Taipei March 9 to promote the development of a startup ecosystem in Taiwan and deepen the company's collaboration with Taiwan. Qualcomm Taiwan President S.T. Liew and Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Hsu Yu-chin attended the opening ceremony of the Qualcomm Innovation Center, Taiwan. The center will be used as the base for the Qualcomm Innovate in Taiwan Challenge (QITC), a contest and incubation project that has been well-received by the startup community, according to the company.

Formosat-7 data set for public release (Taiwan Today, 09.03.2020)

Taiwan's National Space Organization (NSPO) announced March 6 that data from satellite constellation Formosat-7 is now available to the public. According to NSPO, the data collected in tandem with the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is released daily at 2 a.m. Coordinated Universal Time. This is made possible by the joint Taiwan-U.S. launch of six satellites in June of last year. The information can be accessed via the website of the Space Weather Operational Office under Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau, said Cheng Chia-ping, CWB deputy director-general, and will be integrated into daily weather forecasts. The move is expected to increase forecast accuracy by as much as 10 percent.

Rapid COVID-19 screening kits could be available by year-end (Focus Taiwan, 11.03.2020)

Rapid screening kits being developed by Taiwan's National Health Research Institute (NHRI) for the coronavirus disease COVID-19 could be available for use by medical personnel by the end of the year, the institute's president said March 11. The NHRI is currently testing the virus identification capacity of the antibodies that were selected for the development of COVID-19 rapid screening kits, Liang Kung-yee said, noting that the testing is expected to be completed by March 31. The next steps will be to conduct technology transfers to companies and undertake clinical trials with human tissue samples, Liang said.

Taiwan to share disaster prevention practices, technologies with Japan (Taiwan Today, 12.03.2020)

Taiwan's National Science and Technology Center for Disaster Reduction (NCDR) and Japan's National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience signed a memorandum of cooperation on disaster prevention and preparedness March 10 in New Taipei City. Under the five-year pact, NCDR under the Ministry of Science and Technology will assist the Japanese institution by sharing information on disaster management best practices. The deal also includes data from monitoring and response systems for earthquakes, floods and landslides.



Taiwan using electronic system to expedite entry of arriving travelers (Focus Taiwan, 18.03.2020)

The Taiwan government has set up an electronic system that will speed up the entry process for passengers arriving from overseas, amid tighter border control measures aimed at slowing the spread of the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) said March 18. Arriving passengers can go online ahead of time to the website of the Ministry of Health and Welfare and complete the required declaration form, which is called the Novel Coronavirus Health Declaration and Home Quarantine Notice, the CECC said.

ITRI cancer treatment technology wins bronze at Edison Awards (Taiwan Today, 20.03.2020)

State-backed Industrial Technology Research Institute won bronze in the cellular research medical/dental category at the U.S.-based Edison Awards March 18 for its development of an innovative cancer treatment, spotlighting Taiwan's R&D prowess. ITRI's iKNOBEADS, short for biomimetic knobby magnetic beads, are microparticles with tailorable sizes and shapes that can strengthen and activate T cells to fight cancer more effectively. Unlike a normal spherical bead, its morphologies can create a larger surface area to improve interactions with the key regulators of inflammation in the human immune system.

CDC announces tech partnerships for overseeing home quarantine (Taiwan Today, 20.03.2020)

Taiwan is stepping up measures to monitor individuals undergoing home quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic through a series of technology partnerships, according to the Centers for Disease Control under the Ministry of Health and Welfare March 18. The CDC is joining hands with New Taipei City-headquartered consumer electronics company HTC Corp. to create a chatbot for Line, a popular instant messaging application in the country, the CDC said. The bot will provide a means for those undergoing home quarantine to report their health statuses and obtain firsthand information regarding self-care. It is expected to significantly reduce the burden on frontline medical personnel.

NCTU, TSMC unveil breakthrough for IC manufacturing (Taiwan Today, 24.03.2020)

An indigenously developed advance in integrated circuit technology was unveiled by Hsinchu City-based National Chiao Tung University and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Ltd. March 17 in northern Taiwan. With support from the Ministry of Science and Technology's Taiwan Consortium of Emergent Crystalline Materials program, the joint research team discovered how to synthesize single-atom-thick sheets of boron nitride. Used as an insulating layer in 2D semiconductors, the sheets are a critical step in industrywide efforts to scale down the size of transistors and increase the efficiency of ICs.

Tea compound targeted as potential coronavirus inhibitor (Focus Taiwan, 25.03.2020)

Researchers in Taiwan have identified an antioxidant compound in locally grown black tea leaves, as a potential inhibitor of protease activity in SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), Chiayi Chang Gung Memorial Hospital said March 25. A Taiwanese research team led by Wu Ching-yuan, head of the hospital's Department of Traditional Chinese Medicine, used a high-performance computing system to identify potential antiviral components and herbals in traditional plants, the university said in a statement that day.

Taiwan aerospace firms secure US\$2 billion in global orders (Taiwan Today, 26.03.2020)

Taiwan's Aerospace Industrial Development Corp. and three other homegrown aviation sector firms secured international orders totaling NT\$62 billion (US\$2 billion) over the next 10 years, according to the Ministry of Economic Affairs March 25. State-backed AIDC, Gongin Precision Ind. Co. Ltd., Mirle Automation Corp. and Vision Wide Tech Co. Ltd. will tap opportunities predominantly in the global aerospace composites market. GPIC specializes in waterjet cutting equipment; MAC, 3D laser-cutting and -drilling systems; and VWTC, ultrasonic machining.

Taiwan has antimalarial drug seen as possible COVID-19 treatment: CECC (Focus Taiwan, 26.03.2020)

Quinoline antimalarial drugs, which have recently been discussed as a possible treatment for the COVID-19 coronavirus, are produced in Taiwan and could be made available if testing proves them to be effective, the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) said March 26. In a recent small French study, doctors used one drug in the quinoline family -- hydroxychloroquine -- to successfully reduce the duration and severity of COVID-19 in patients suffering mild symptoms, CECC expert Chang Shan-chwen said at a press conference.



Education

MOFA launches 2020 youth ambassador program (Taiwan Today, 04.03.2020)

The International Youth Ambassadors Exchange Program is now open for entries through to the end of next month, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced March 3, spotlighting government efforts to foster the next generation of diplomatic talent. Open to ROC (Taiwan) nationals under 35 years old currently studying on an undergraduate or graduate course in one of the country's universities or colleges, the program is looking to attract the best and brightest, the MOFA said. Candidates from diverse backgrounds are wanted capable of adapting to the different environments of host countries, it added.

Taiwan youngsters win 9 gold medals at IEYI 2019 (Taiwan Today, 17.03.2020)

Taiwan's gold medal winners from International Exhibition for Young Inventors 2019 were presented with awards by Chu Nan-shyan, chief secretary of the Ministry of Education, March 13 at MOE headquarters in Taipei City. At the event held last year in Jakarta, Indonesia, Chu said, the Taiwan team submitted 43 inventions to the competition, nine of which won gold medals. Of the 140 entries from 11 countries, IEYI gave out 33 golds in total, Chu added. Among notable winners was a tilting suitcase, a collaborative effort by representatives from three schools in southern Taiwan. It was created to address the inconvenience of staying in a hotel room too small to accommodate luggage.

[Top of the Document](#)