



Press Review Taiwan Science, Technology and Education

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Science / Technology	2
Taiwan-made rapid test for COVID-19 may be available by year-end: NHRI (Focus Taiwan, 01.06.2020) ...	2
MediaTek denies helping Huawei skirt U.S. sanctions (Focus Taiwan, 02.06.2020)	2
4 Taiwan municipalities win at IDC Smart City Asia Pacific Awards (Taiwan Today, 03.06.2020)	2
Chunghwa Telecom receives first 5G license in Taiwan (Focus Taiwan, 03.06.2020).....	2
Taiwan draws up plan to woo US\$1.3 billion of annual tech research in semiconductors, 5G and AI (SCMP, 04.06.2020)	2
Taiwan approves 1st domestic COVID-19 antibody reagent (Focus Taiwan, 05.06.2020)	2
Taiwan launches website to share COVID-19 experience worldwide (Focus Taiwan, 07.06.2020)	2
Far EasTone second company in Taiwan to gain 5G license (Focus Taiwan, 10.06.2020)	2
Cabinet passes NT\$17.7 bn. plan to develop display technology sector (Focus Taiwan, 11.06.2020)	3
FinTech cooperation agreement inked by Taiwan, Canada (Taiwan Today, 17.06.2020)	3
Hon Hai sets up research institute for new technology development (Focus Taiwan, 17.06.2020)	3
HTC unveils Taiwan's first 5G smartphone (Taiwan News, 17.06.2020)	3
Taiwan, Sweden launch NT\$250 million initiative (Taipei Times, 19.06.2020).....	3
Taoyuan plans agricultural biotech park to boast Taiwan's circular economy (Taiwan News, 23.06.2020)	3
Taiwan's Pingtung County begins installing 99MW solar power station (Taiwan News, 29.06.2020)	3
Education	4
Analysis Many challenges ahead for making Taiwan bilingual (The China Post, 22.06.2020)	4
NTU sets goal to become carbon neutral by 2048 (Focus Taiwan, 23.06.2020)	4



Science / Technology

Taiwan-made rapid test for COVID-19 may be available by year-end: NHRI (Focus Taiwan, 01.06.2020)

Two Taiwanese research institutes said June 1 that they are likely to have a rapid diagnostic test for the COVID-19 coronavirus ready for the market by the end of the year. A prototype of the test, which was unveiled in early April, produces results within 10-15 minutes and has a 70 percent accuracy rate, according to the National Health Research Institutes (NHRI), which is developing the test in collaboration with the National Defense Medical Center.

MediaTek denies helping Huawei skirt U.S. sanctions (Focus Taiwan, 02.06.2020)

MediaTek Inc., the largest integrated circuit designer in Taiwan, said June 2 that it is not involved in any arrangement to help Huawei Technologies Inc. of China obtain chips from Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC), in contravention of United States sanctions.

4 Taiwan municipalities win at IDC Smart City Asia Pacific Awards (Taiwan Today, 03.06.2020)

Taiwan municipalities won big at the 2020 IDC Smart City Asia Pacific Awards, claiming four top prizes in the 14-category competition, according to organizer U.S.-headquartered International Data Corp. May 28. Among the winning projects were Taipei City Government initiative Omni Smart Education and New Taipei City Government undertaking Smart Community App 2.0. The former won for education while the latter took home the award for civic engagement.

Chunghwa Telecom receives first 5G license in Taiwan (Focus Taiwan, 03.06.2020)

Chunghwa Telecom Co., one of five telecom operators that spent a total of roughly NT\$138 billion (US\$4.6 billion) in an auction that ended in mid-January to secure 5G spectrum, received the first 5G license in the country June 3, according to the National Communications Commission (NCC).

Taiwan draws up plan to woo US\$1.3 billion of annual tech research in semiconductors, 5G and AI (SCMP, 04.06.2020)

Taiwan is dangling incentives to attract more than NT\$40 billion (US\$1.3 billion) of annual investments in research and technology, creating a seven-year blueprint to safeguard the island's lead in semiconductors and other cutting-edge fields. As part of the initiative, the cabinet plans to allocate more than NT\$10 billion to entice foreign chip makers to set up R&D facilities locally, confirming an earlier Bloomberg News report. The government said June 4 it aims to subsidise as much as half of all research and development costs incurred by global chip companies that build centers on the island.

Taiwan approves 1st domestic COVID-19 antibody reagent (Focus Taiwan, 05.06.2020)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a domestically-developed and produced antibody reagent for the COVID-19 coronavirus disease, the first of its kind licensed in Taiwan, an FDA official said June 5. The license for mass production was issued last week after the antibody reagent passed clinical testing, evaluation and verification, Wang Chao-yi, a research fellow in the FDA's medical equipment division, told CNA.

Taiwan launches website to share COVID-19 experience worldwide (Focus Taiwan, 07.06.2020)

The Ministry of Health and Welfare has launched a website to share with the world the successful policies that Taiwan has implemented in its prevention efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic, the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) said June 7. The website, titled "Taiwan Crucial Policy for Combating COVID-19," provides information about major developments and policies in Taiwan relating to its battle against the coronavirus since Dec. 31, 2019, CECC administration department chief Cheng Shun-ping said at a daily press briefing.

Far EasTone second company in Taiwan to gain 5G license (Focus Taiwan, 10.06.2020)

Far EasTone Telecommunications Co. received a 5G license June 10, becoming the second telecom operator in Taiwan to do so, according to the National Communications Commission (NCC). After a review of Far EasTone's efforts to build its 5G network, the regulatory NCC issued a license to the company, one week after Chunghwa Telecom Co. also gained approval, NCC Chief Secretary Hsiao Chi-hong said.



Cabinet passes NT\$17.7 bn. plan to develop display technology sector (Focus Taiwan, 11.06.2020)

The Executive Yuan on Thursday approved a plan to invest NT\$17.7 billion (US\$597.5 million) over five years to develop display technologies and their practical applications in retail, transportation, medicine and entertainment. The "Taiwan Display Technologies and Applications Action Plan" aims to give Taiwan a leading share in the global screen-based technology industry by growing its annual output value to NT\$2.5 trillion by 2030.

FinTech cooperation agreement inked by Taiwan, Canada (Taiwan Today, 17.06.2020)

The Cabinet-level Financial Supervisory Commission has concluded a financial technology cooperation agreement with the Canadian Securities Administration, spotlighting efforts to promote global partnerships in the potential-laden sector.

Hon Hai sets up research institute for new technology development (Focus Taiwan, 17.06.2020)

Taiwanese manufacturing giant Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. said June 17 it has established a research institute to focus on the development of new technology. The institute has five areas of research, namely artificial intelligence, semiconductors, new generation communications, cyber security and Quantum computing, and it develops "3 plus 3" applications for robots, medical care, electric vehicles, AI, semiconductors and 5G, Hon Hai said.

HTC unveils Taiwan's first 5G smartphone (Taiwan News, 17.06.2020)

HTC Corporation announced two new smartphone models June 17, including Taiwan's first 5G cellphone, which will begin shipping in August. As Taiwan is entering the 5G era, brands such as Samsung, LG, and Sony have hit the Taiwan 5G smartphone market with mobile devices priced at more than NT\$30,000 (US\$1,000). In a push to remain competitive in this domain, HTC will be offering the HTC U20 5G — Taiwan's first 5G smartphone — and the HTC Desire 20 pro, which does not support 5G, CNA reported.

Taiwan, Sweden launch NT\$250 million initiative (Taipei Times, 19.06.2020)

Taiwan and Sweden have launched their first joint research initiative with a budget of nearly NT\$250 million (US\$8.43 million) to be spent over five years on six teams working on information and communications technologies, bioengineering and materials research, the Ministry of Science and Technology said yesterday. The initiative was established after the ministry and the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research in August last year signed a memorandum of understanding, the ministry said in a news release.

Taoyuan plans agricultural biotech park to boast Taiwan's circular economy (Taiwan News, 23.06.2020)

Taoyuan Mayor Cheng Wen-tsan has announced a plan to build an agricultural biotech park aimed at cutting red tape in order to free up Taiwan's biotech sector. The mayor visited I-Mei Foods's biomedical operations center in Taoyuan's Longtan District on June 22, where he laid out a plan for an "agricultural biotech park" to support local biotechnology businesses and promote a circular economy approach to minimizing waste and pollution during production.

Taiwan's Pingtung County begins installing 99MW solar power station (Taiwan News, 29.06.2020)

A solar power company on June 23 began installing a 99MW photovoltaic (PV) solar power station in Jiadong Township, an area of Pingtung County severely affected by subsidence, after two years of negotiations with more than 1,000 landowner. Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony, Ysolar Co. President Huang Zhi-wen said that the biggest challenge facing the development of solar energy is obtaining approval from landowners, CNA reported. He added that the company offered 20-year leases and NT\$400,000 (US\$13,333) for every 0.96992 hectare of land



Education

Analysis | Many challenges ahead for making Taiwan bilingual (The China Post, 22.06.2020)

President Tsai Ing-wen's expressed hopes on June 21 that Taiwan would become a "bilingual country" by 2030, a goal which is deemed unlikely given Taiwan's lack of English teachers and the short timeframe for implementing reforms. According to the president, a major setback of Taiwan's teaching environment is the focus on English vocabulary and grammar. The goal is to bring English education into students' daily life and allow more them to interact with the international community.

NTU sets goal to become carbon neutral by 2048 (Focus Taiwan, 23.06.2020)

National Taiwan University (NTU) on June 23 released its first social responsibility report, in which it said it is aiming to halve its carbon emissions by 2028, its 100th anniversary, and become carbon neutral by 2048. NTU president Kuan Chung-ming said the university has been working over the years to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Paris Agreement goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

[Top of the Document](#)