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TAEF UPDATES

Releasing Greetings and Congratulatory Messages to the 2021 Yushan Forum



NOVEMBER 9, 2021
2021 Yushan Forum | Greetings and Congratulatory Messages from Ms. Jane Nishida, Assistant Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



NOVEMBER 12, 2021
2021 Yushan Forum | Greetings and Congratulatory Messages from the Hon. Christopher Pyne



NOVEMBER 12, 2021
2021 Yushan Forum | Greetings and Congratulatory Messages from Rt. Hon. Winston Peters



NOVEMBER 3, 2021
Greetings and Congratulatory Messages

October 30, 2021

Although many international friends were unable to attend this year's Yushan Forum in person, they have recorded greetings and congratulatory messages, sending their best wishes to Taiwan and the New Southbound Policy. TAEF will be releasing all the

greetings and congratulatory messages to the Yushan Forum from friends and partners to celebrate the valuable friendships across the region.

To watch more greetings and congratulatory messages

To watch more on Youtube

To visit Yushan Forum

TAEF COMMENTARIES

The Diplomat

Moving Toward Sustainable Australia-Taiwan Ties

November 4, 2021

- Dr. Sana Hashmi, Visiting Fellow, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation

- Dr. Alan H. Yang, Executive Director, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation

The recently concluded Yushan Forum, known for its role as the flagship conference to propagate Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen's New Southbound Policy, generated much anxiety and furor in Chinese policy circles. A major attraction of the event was the presence of former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, who made an unambiguous statement about the dangers posed by China's aggressive postures and the role Taiwan and Australia could play in dealing with it. Interestingly, Abbott Taiwan's visit came at a time when China's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) incursions were at a peak, with international support pouring in for Taiwan.

Abbott's trip to Taiwan became a topic of discussion in Taiwanese, Chinese, and Australian media alike. The main objective of his visit was to attend the Yushan Forum, where he delivered a keynote address along with Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen. Abbott mentioned that two years back, he had declined an invitation to attend the forum due to a likelihood of provoking China but readily accepted the invitation to attend in 2021. Even though he visited in his personal capacity, his decision this year echoed changing Australian perceptions about Taiwan, China, and the cross-strait dynamics.

While earlier Australia's interests mainly lay in preserving peace and stability in the region, it has now begun to call Taiwan an important partner in the Indo-Pacific. After a long time, Taiwan is being seen for what it is: a thriving liberal democracy in a region where they are in short supply. There is a visible shift in how Taiwan is perceived vis-à-vis China. Recent developments have also led to a realization that engaging Taiwan is beneficial, and relations with Taiwan should not be held hostage to China. Australia is realizing the futility of keeping ties with Taiwan at a bare minimum when China shows no interest in mending ties with the leadership.

Read more

The Asian Age

Is India really being cautious in interactions with Taiwan?

October 20, 2021

- Dr. Sana Hashmi, Visiting Fellow, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation

Taiwan has gained bipartisan support in the United States and its relations with the European Union are also improving, but this has been an outcome of consistent lobbying with the legislators and policymakers in the West. This is missing in the case of India. India is a key player in the Indo-Pacific region, and Taiwan's policies and approaches align with that of India's. Taiwan should reach out to India as waiting for the latter to be proactive will be another missed opportunity.

After a gap of three years, the India-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Forum was revived in October 2020 that highlighted the cherished ideals of democracy. Convening the meetings of the parliamentarians from both sides will be beneficial for understanding each other's perception and interests. Second, there is a dire need for the think tanks from the two countries to institutionalise their interactions with each other. India and Taiwan should initiate a think tank network for giving a platform to the strategic thinkers from the two countries to interact freely. In the absence of formal diplomatic ties, the Indian diaspora has played a crucial role in building bridges between the two countries. A diaspora-led initiative will lead to greater synergies between India and Taiwan.

As Taiwan's New Southbound Policy enters its second phase, it is crucial that Taiwan considers placing India and its people at the centre of the policy and find ways to elevate ties. For Taiwan, the key to elevating ties with India is parliamentarians, think tanks and the diaspora.

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CONSORTIUM UPDATES

Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

The 2021 Global Cooperation and Training Framework on Defending Democracy Through Media Literacy

2021 GCTF 全球合作暨訓練架構 Defending Democracy Through Media Literacy III



November 10, 2021

On November 9th, the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy co-hosted an online workshop with the American Institute of Taiwan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association, British Office Taipei, and Slovak Economic and Cultural Office Taipei. This occasion marked the first time the British Office and Slovak Economic and Cultural Office co-hosted the workshop.

The theme of this year's workshop was: "Defending Democracy Through Media Literacy III".

Some highlights included opening remarks from TFD Chairman You Si-ku, who covered many areas related to discovering and combatting misinformation. He stated that authoritarian nations have undermined democracies by means of misinformation, adding that Taiwan is no exception. More importantly, these forms of misinformation have also disrupted pandemic prevention. He assured the participants that Taiwan hopes to grasp every opportunity to exchange experiences with other countries and bolster the capabilities of the international community to respond to information warfare.

Read more

Migrant Workers From Indonesia Expected Soon

November 16, 2021

The first group of Indonesian migrant workers to be allowed into Taiwan since an entry ban was lifted could arrive as early as tomorrow, Minister of Labor Hsu Ming-chun said yesterday.

Taiwan on Thursday lifted its ban on Indonesian migrant workers after banning their entry in December last year following a surge in COVID-19 cases in Indonesia.

So far, 109 migrant workers from Indonesia have registered their information with the Ministry of Labor in preparation for entering Taiwan.

All of them are set to work as domestic caregivers and 96 of them have been assigned rooms at government quarantine centers, Hsu told reporters.

The first group of 11 workers could arrive in Taiwan as early as tomorrow, Hsu said.

Seven of the 96 workers who would be staying at a quarantine center have not been inoculated against COVID-19, but they could get vaccinated in Taiwan in accordance with Central Epidemic Command Center regulations

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REGIONAL HEADLINES

Reuters

APEC Leaders Vow to Tackle Economic Recovery, COVID 19, Climate

November 13, 2021

Leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum vowed on Friday

Nikkei Asia

Marathon Cop26 Talks Extended into Saturday 'To Find Right Balance'

November 13, 2021

Negotiations at the United Nations climate conference are set to continue through the

The Straits Times

Thailand Defends its Strict Royal Insults Law at UN Rights Review

November 10, 2021

Thailand defended its controversial law criminalising criticism of its powerful monarchy on Wednesday (Nov 10),

to address economic recovery in the region by shoring up supply chains, tackling labour issues and continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a joint statement after a virtual meeting hosted by New Zealand, the leaders of the 21-member grouping also pledged to work together to address climate and environmental challenges.

With the COVID-19 crisis far from over, we are determined to use all available macroeconomic tools to address the adverse consequences of COVID-19 and sustain economic recovery, while preserving long-term fiscal sustainability," the leaders said in their joint statement.

"We will intensify efforts to ensure goods continue to flow even under challenging circumstances."

The summit of the Pacific Rim countries came amid heightened regional trade and geopolitical tensions, particularly between China and the United States, and global efforts to tackle the pandemic and the climate crisis.

Addressing APEC leaders at the summit, U.S. President Joe Biden underscored his commitment to strengthening the U.S. relationship with APEC economies "in order to advance fair and open trade and investment,

night, overrunning the scheduled Friday end date, as the chair sought to "find the right balances" for an agreement on international efforts to stop global warming.

A new revised text will be worked on and made available by Saturday morning, followed by informal plenary session, COP26 President Alok Sharma said in a statement late Friday, adding that he expects formal plenary meetings to adopt decisions and conclude the conference Saturday afternoon.

The two-week conference, hailed as the most important climate negotiations since the ones that produced the 2015 Paris Agreement, had been scheduled to end at 6 p.m. Glasgow time.

"This is our collective moment in history," Sharma told a three-hour informal plenary session. "We need that final injection of that can-do spirit to get this shared endeavor over the line." A major sticking point has been Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which seeks to set highly technical rules for a global carbon offsetting mechanism and international carbon markets. Parties have been unable to reach an agreement on the details for years.

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as United Nations member states expressed concern over its rights record and arrests of youth protesters pushing for royal reforms since last year.

Thailand has one of the world's harshest "lese majeste" laws, setting jail terms of up to 15 years for anyone convicted of defaming, insulting or threatening King Maha Vajiralongkorn and his closest family.

During a universal periodic review on Wednesday by a working group of the UN Human Rights Council, Thailand was urged to amend its lese majeste law by some member states who said it restricted freedom of expression.

Thai officials, however, argued it protects the monarch and therefore national security, and that royal insult cases were carefully handled. "It reflects the culture and history of Thailand, where the monarchy is one of the main pillars of the nation, highly revered by the majority of Thai people," Nadhavathna Krishnamra, a foreign ministry representative, told the meeting.

"Its existence is closely linked to safeguarding the key national institutions and national security."

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bolster American competitiveness, and ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific".

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