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TAEF UPDATES

Highlight moments: Resilient Cities Forum



December 30, 2021

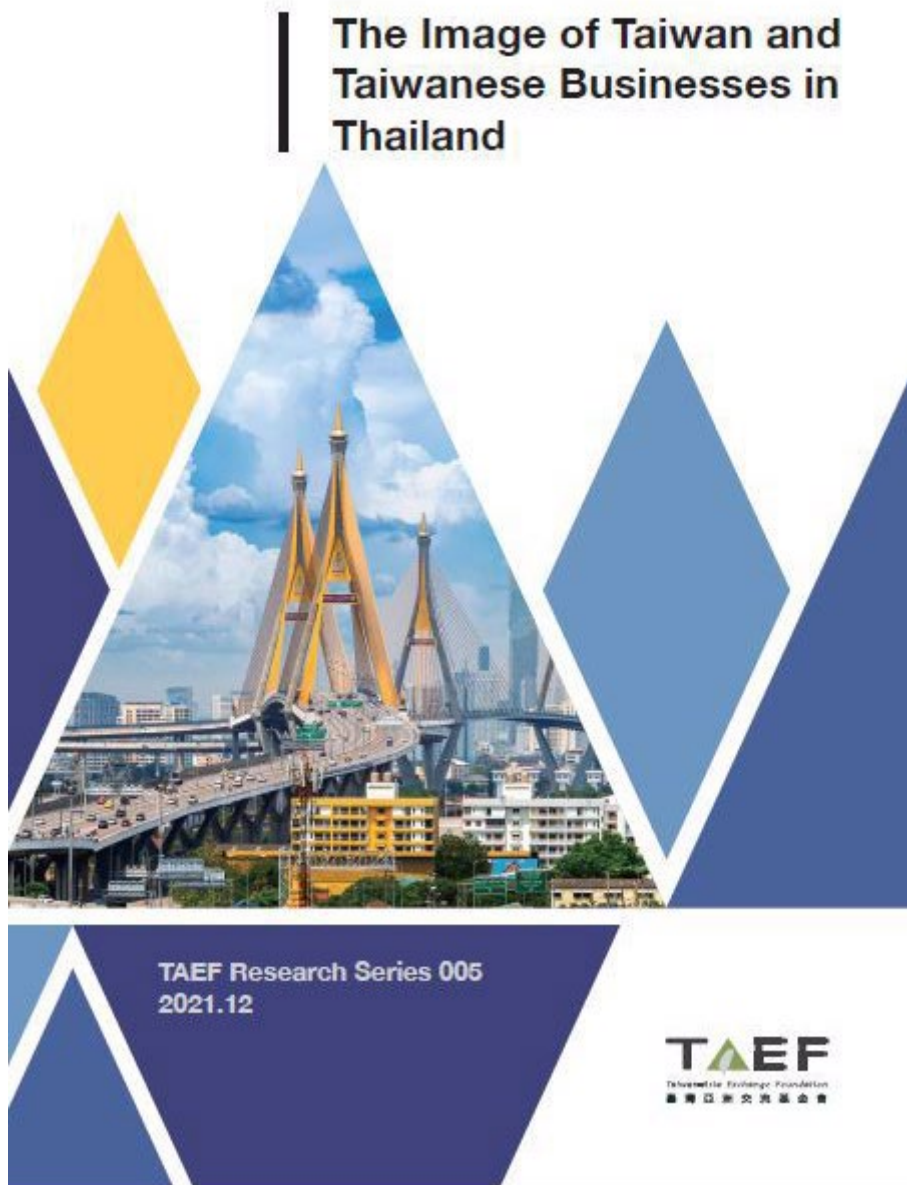
In collaboration with Taoyuan City Government, TAEF had the pleasure to co-organize the 2021 Resilient Cities Forum in Taoyuan on the 13th of December. The timing of this event is also significant because it was held just a few weeks after the COP26 in Glasgow, UK. By having honorable speakers such as international political leaders, municipality governors, and social and economic experts, the Forum took place to address essential issues regarding resilience building in the post-pandemic era:

sustainable economy, good governance, and global partnership. A piece of detailed editorial coverage on the Forum is now available on *The News Lens* and a short video recording the highlights of the event is now on the Foundation's Facebook page.

[Read more in Chinese](#)

[To Watch the Video](#)

TAEF Published the Full Report of the Survey Project on the Image of Taiwan and Taiwanese Businesses in Thailand



December 27, 2021

Since 2019, the Taiwan Asia Exchange Foundation (TAEF) has been conducting research on the image of Taiwan and Taiwanese Businesses in countries targeted by Taiwan's New Southbound Policy (NSP). It has successively released survey reports on

Vietnam and Indonesia and surveyed the perceptions and evaluations of New Southbound countries regarding the image of Taiwan and Taiwanese businesses. In 2021, the center of Mainland Southeast Asia and the second-largest economy in Southeast Asia—Thailand—was selected for a similar survey.

The survey results indicated that as per the responses of the Thai business and managerial professionals, Taiwan and Taiwanese businesses have the second-best image. The countries with the best image were Japan, Taiwan, and the United States, in that order. As for businesses with the best image, there were US, Taiwanese, and Japanese businesses, in that order. Most participants held that Taiwan's respect for law and order, advanced medical healthcare, and friendliness best represented the overall image of Taiwan, and they commended Taiwanese businesses for its image of being compliant with laws and regulations, innovative, and trustworthy. However, there remains scope for improvement concerning their performance in implementing CSR and treating employees well.

[Read the Full Report](#)

TAEF COMMENTARIES

Financial Express

Taiwan's Push for Democratic Resilience

December 27, 2021

- Dr. Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao, Chairman, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation

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

United States President Joe Biden-led Summit for Democracy was held on December 9-10 in a virtual format. This much-speculated and awaited summit was well attended by many leading democracies of the world. As one of the flourishing democracies, Taiwan was also seen in attendance, represented by Audrey Tang, Taiwan's Digital Minister and Bi-khim Hsiao, Taiwan's representative to the United States. Biden's Summit for Democracy was driven by the idea that in the face of populism, authoritarianism, and other forms of non-democratic systems looming large, it is critical to keep 'democratic' flock together.

The salience of this summit lies in a deeper understanding on part of the Biden administration that democracy is not just a form of government, it is a goal in itself- a value that must be cherished, preserved and celebrated. It is this vision of democracy as a norm that has seemingly rattled that even authoritarian countries call themselves democracies.

That said, unlike other political systems, democracy is also a way of life- a work in

progress, which is why it needs sustained attention and careful nurturing to make it more resilient.

It is ideas like these that are consistently echoed in Taiwan's policy circles. For instance, during the 2021 Open Parliament Forum held in Taiwan in early December, where President Tsai Ing-wen herself reiterated Taiwan's commitment to work together with liberal democracies for forging a stronger democratic alliance for bolstering collective democratic resilience and ensuring realization of open governance.

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NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

Taipei Times

Ex-transport Minister Tipped for New Position

December 27, 2021

Former minister of transportation and communications Lin Chia-lung has reportedly been selected for the new position of ambassador-at-large for digital New Southbound Policy initiatives.

President Tsai Ing-wen favors Lin for the role, which is to serve as a liaison between the government and private sector, a source said.

Administrative affairs would be handled by National Security Council advisory member Fu Don-cheng.

Lin's office said that the former minister closely monitors the nation's industrial development, although he at the moment is focusing on the Jan. 9 Taichung legislative by-election and did not comment further on the position.

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Taipei Times

Vietnam Ousts UK as No. 9 debtor in Q3

December 27, 2021

Vietnam became Taiwan's ninth-largest debtor at the end of the third quarter, as

growing tensions between Washington and Beijing prompted many enterprises to move to the Southeast Asian country, boosting demand for funds, the central bank reported on Friday.

On a direct risk basis, loans extended to Vietnam by Taiwanese banks had climbed to US\$14.86 billion by the end of the third quarter, from US\$13.49 billion at the end of the second, the central bank said.

The UK dropped one place to become Taiwan's 10th-largest debtor with debt to Taiwanese banks totaling US\$14.56 billion, up from US\$13.99 billion the previous quarter, it said.

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South China Morning Post

Taiwan Speeds up Investment Diversification away from Mainland China amid Cross-strait Tensions

December 23, 2021

Taiwan has accelerated investment diversification away from mainland China, placing an emphasis on managing exposure to its largest export and investment destination amid ongoing cross-strait tensions and changes to the global supply chain.

Investment in mainland China dropped by 14.5 per cent from a year earlier to US\$4.79 billion in the first 11 months of 2021, according to data from Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Investment from mainland China dropped by 62.9 per cent year-on-year to US\$46 million, taking the accumulated total since 2009 to US\$2.46 billion, with the funds mainly focused on wholesale and retail, electronics and banking.

Taipei has tried to form an economic and security alliance with the United States and Japan, while seeking more business opportunities via its New Southbound Policy which aims to enhance cooperation and exchange between Taiwan and 18 countries in Southeast Asia, South Asia and Australasia.

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REGIONAL HEADLINES

CNN

Thousands Left Homeless and Hungry at Christmas as Philippines Faces up to Climate Crisis Reality of Super Typhoon

December 28, 2021

Nearly 4 million people across more than 400 cities were affected by Typhoon Rai, according to the Philippine National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

More than half a million remained displaced during Christmas -- one of the most important holidays in the Catholic-majority nation.

"Families have nothing," Jerome Balinton, humanitarian manager for Save the Children said. "Bright lights and Christmas music is replaced with dirty, humid evacuation centers. Their only wish this Christmas is to survive."

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said the government will raise money for the rehabilitation and recovery of typhoon-ravaged areas. The United Nations has also promised more than \$100 million in aid.

AP NEWS

Myanmar Fighting Forces 4,200 People to Flee into Thailand

December 22, 2021

Fighting between Myanmar government forces and ethnic guerrillas has sent about 4,200 villagers fleeing across the border into Thailand over the past week, a Thai army officer said Wednesday.

That number includes more than 2,500 who fled into Thailand on Friday from territory held by the ethnic Karen minority. A similar wave took place in April, when several thousand villagers from Myanmar's eastern state of Karen fled following airstrikes by the Myanmar government.

Usually when such incidents occur, the villagers are allowed to stay in Thailand for a few days and then are returned to Myanmar.

Thai Defense Ministry spokesperson Gen. Kongcheep Tantravanich said a total of 4,216 villagers crossed the Moei River into Thailand from Dec. 16 to Dec. 21 because of skirmishes between the Myanmar government and ethnic

Guardian

China Accuses Australia of 'Violent' Interference in Five Eyes Response to Hong Kong Election

December 21, 2021

China has accused the Australian government of "violently interfering" in its internal affairs after Australia joined with its Five Eyes allies to voice grave concerns about the "erosion of democratic elements" in Hong Kong.

Pro-Beijing candidates have been confirmed to occupy nearly every seat in Hong Kong's new legislature after an overhaul of the electoral system that authorities said would ensure "patriots run Hong Kong".

The Australian foreign affairs minister, Marise Payne, joined with her counterparts from the US, the UK, Canada and New Zealand to say Sunday's vote and said that it had reversed the trend of candidates with diverse political views having contested elections in Hong Kong.

The Chinese embassy in Canberra said the new members of Hong Kong's legislative council had been "elected smoothly" and

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Karen forces. Of that number, 861 have returned and 3,355 are being sheltered in Mae Sot district in the western border province of Tak, he said. The Moei River marks the border between the two countries.

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it was a “crucial” moment in “the transition period of Hong Kong from chaos to stability and prosperity”.

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