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**TAEF UPDATES**

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**Bamboo Curtain: Art Connect Podcast**



*Friday, February 5, 2021*

Last year, TAEF launched an interview project on Southeast Asian arts and cultures during the global pandemic. Together with Taiwan Panorama, we interviewed the founder Margaret Shiu and her colleague Analeigh Yao at Bamboo Curtain Studio (BCS). Shiu shared how her team had been trying “to turn the studio into an online platform that helps to connect Taiwanese and international artists, encouraging them to exchange ideas and experiences, with a view to facilitating further collaborations.”

We also learned from Yao regarding the project ArtConnect at BCS. Through this project, Yao did a preliminary mapping of how Southeast Asian arts and cultures have been influenced by the pandemic. Aside from questionnaires distributed among Southeast Asian partners, ArtConnect had also launched a podcast series to, according to BCS website, bring you how the artists and cultural organizations in Taiwan and Southeast Asia region are responding to the pandemic with arts and actions. The series will also be looking at what’s happening in the art communities around these countries? And what has changed due to the coronavirus?

*Read more*

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**ASIA ENGAGEMENT CONSORTIUM UPDATES**

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## Taiwan's Role in the Indo-Pacific strategy and Discussion on Potential Cooperation Between Taiwan and the US



*Tuesday, February 2, 2021*

The Prospect Foundation recently held a symposium on Taiwan's role in the Indo-Pacific strategy and relevant issues. The Chairperson of Prospect Foundation, Mr. Mark Chen, delivered opening remarks, and Director Dr. Lai I-Chung moderated the meeting. Guest speakers include Professor Chien-Fa Yen of Chien Hsin University of Science and Technology and Professor Kuo Yujen of Sun Yat-sen University Institute of China and Asia-Pacific Studies.

Professor Yen Chien-Fa believed that Beijing had demonstrated good intentions to the Biden administration to bring the US-China relations back to the Obama-era track. But Beijing had also announced sanctions against 28 Trump administration officials and dispatched fighter jets to harass Taiwan.

Professor Kuo Yujen believed that the United States and China would gradually resume dialogue and negotiations in the early days of Biden's administration and would not reverse Trump's trade and technology sanctions against China. However, the Biden administration will re-negotiate with China based on the US-China trade and technology relations during Trump's period. In terms of strategic security, although Biden did not propose a specific strategic axis, he will likely pursue multilateral security platforms such as QUAD and QUAD+ to contain China.

*Read more in Mandarin*

## *National Culture and Arts Foundation*

### **NCAF Launched a New Online Publication Series on Electronic Curatography**



*Friday, February 5, 2021*

Under the cooperative framework of the Asia Engagement Consortium, TAEF and National Culture and Arts Foundation (NCAF) have worked together on the cultural session in annual Yushan Forums, and an MOU with the Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies. With an aim to promote cultural exchanges between Taiwan and Asia, NCAF has launched numerous impressive projects, such as “ARTWAVE—Taiwan International Arts Network platform.”

Since its establishment in 2018, ARTWAVE had held Curators’ Intensive Taipei (CIT) International Conference and commissioned to establish “Curating Asia International” (CAI) to foster art and cultural connection between Taiwan and Asian partners.

We selected a few articles written by authors from New Southbound countries, and encourage you to join us in thinking about the development of contemporary art in Asia, as well as the position of Asia in the contemporary art world.

*Read more*

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## NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

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*Focus Taiwan*

### **Philippine Official Thanks Taiwan after Successful Surgery on National**

*Thursday, February 4, 2021*

**A** Philippine official on Thursday thanked Taiwan following the recovery of a Filipino migrant worker who was discharged from a local hospital that day after recovering from an operation to remove a brain tumor earlier this year.

Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) Vice Chairman Gilberto Lauengco extended his thanks to Taiwan and the medical team during an event held at Asia University Hospital (AUH), where Frolian Tagara was successfully operated on to remove a medial sphenoid wing meningioma, according to a statement issued by the hospital.

Speaking at the event, AUH Superintendent Hsu Yung-hsin (許永信) said Tagara first suffered a diminution of vision, headaches and epilepsy before being diagnosed in October with the brain tumor, which had to be removed with a highly complex operation.

[Read more](#)

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## REGIONAL HEADLINES

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*The Strait Times*

**UN Security Council Calls for Release of Myanmar's Suu Kyi, Biden Tells Generals To Go**

*February 5, 2021*

**T**he United Nations Security Council called for the release of Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi and others detained by the military and stressed the need to uphold democracy, but stopped short of condemning this week's coup.

In the United States, President Joe Biden said the military should step down and his security adviser said the administration was considering an executive order that could include sanctions.

Myanmar's long and troubled transition to democracy was derailed on Monday when army commander Min Aung Hlaing took power, citing alleged irregularities in a November election that Suu Kyi's party won in a landslide. The electoral commission has said the vote was fair.

[Read more](#)

*Times of India*

**Onus on Pakistan to Create Condition for Normal Ties, India Responds**

*February 5, 2021*

**I**ndia responded cautiously to Pakistan army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa's remark that it was time to extend the hand of peace "in all directions", with the foreign ministry saying that the onus to create the right conditions for improvement in ties was on Pakistan. The government said its position on ties with Pakistan was well-known.

"India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence. The onus is on Pakistan for creating such an environment," said MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava

[Read more](#)

*Nikkei Asia*

**Indonesia Economy Shrinks in 2020 for First Time in Two Decades**

*February 5, 2021*

**I**ndonesia's economy contracted in 2020 for the first time in more than two decades as COVID-19 crippled business activity across the archipelago.

The gross domestic product of Southeast Asia's largest economy plunged 2.07% from a year earlier, according to data released Friday -- a marked downturn from 2019 when Indonesia recorded growth of 5.02%.

The median forecast of 17 economists polled by Reuters was for a 2% annual contraction, while Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati had previously forecast the economy would shrink between 1.7% and 2.2%.

[Read more](#)

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