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TAEF UPDATES

TAEF Continues to be 2019 Best New Think Tank



Monday, January 27, 2020

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. With the help of a panel of over 1,796 peer institutions and experts from the print and electronic media, academia, public and

private donor institutions, and governments around the world, the TTCSP's annual Global Go To Think Tank Index ranks the world's leading think tanks in a variety of categories. While TAEF was chosen to be one of the 2018 Best New Think Tanks last year, we continue to be listed as one of the 2019 Best New Think Tank among international think tanks.

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ASIA ENGAGEMENT CONSORTIUM UPDATES

National Culture and Arts Foundation

Online Archive of Taiwan's International Exchanges of Culture and Arts



Wednesday, January 15, 2020

The National Culture and Arts Foundation (NCAF) has launched its online archive of Taiwan's international exchanges of culture and arts; these are the most recent results from projects sponsored by NCAF. The online archive currently includes projects on theater and performance, musical festivals, and dance, among others.

[Read more in Chinese](#)

Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

Workshop on "Post-Election Outlook for Taiwan and Beyond: Stability or Uncertainty?"



Sunday, January 12, 2020

The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD) on Jan. 12 co-hosted the “Post-Election Outlook for Taiwan and Beyond: Stability or Uncertainty?” workshop with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Foreign Policy Research Institute, the Foundation for Scholarly Exchange (Fulbright Taiwan), and Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The event invited eight academics and experts from Taiwan and the U.S. to share their analysis on the Taiwan's 2020 presidential and legislative election results, and the implications of the results for cross-Strait relations and regional security. TFD Vice President Ketty W. Chen and Hudson Institute Senior Fellow Robert Spalding moderated the workshop.

[Read more in English](#)

[Read more in Chinese](#)

NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

Nikkei Asian Review

Taiwan's Strong GDP Growth Shows It Does not Need China to Succeed

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Taiwan is having a seriously good trade war. Preliminary data out last week showed growth actually accelerated in the fourth quarter to 3.4%, from 3% in the third. Even better, President Tsai Ing-wen just won re-election by a landslide, giving her a strong mandate to rebalance Taiwan's economy away from China.

[Read more](#)

A Victory to Cherish

Saturday, January 25, 2020

One of the biggest political stories of the year so far has been Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen securing a second term in a sweeping electoral victory which saw her frontally challenging the might of China. Her victory allowed her to underscore that "Taiwan is showing the world how much we cherish our free democratic way of life and how much we cherish our nation." The target of this barb was very clear both in Taipei and in Beijing and as the two recalibrate their relationship, there would be a recognition that perhaps China-Taiwan ties would never be the same again.

Tsai has been very keen to cultivate new partners and her New Southbound Policy (NSP), has sought to enhance links with countries across South and Southeast Asia. India is a natural partner in more ways than one. At a time of US-China trade tensions, Taiwanese firms are keen to take advantage of India in various sectors such as technology, renewable energy, electric vehicle and agriculture. This is reflected in Taiwan's decision to open four trade offices in India in the last few years. As Taiwan looks at India more closely, New Delhi needs to reciprocate and welcome Taiwanese investment, even prioritise it. And closer interactions between the two on strategic matters are now the need of the hour.

[Read more](#)

The Diplomat

What's Next for Taiwan's New Southbound Policy in Tsai's Second Term?

Saturday, January 25, 2020

After Tsai's victory in the recent election, her second term offers the opportunity for Taiwan to build on the successes of the NSP as well as to address some of the remaining challenges. Of course, at the most basic level, Tsai's reelection itself has removed the lingering question that had loomed about the sustainability of the NSP under a different administration and itself paves the way for continuity. But beyond that, there is room for some expansion of policy areas that would enhance the NSP's attractiveness to the region [relative to those of other Indo-Pacific actors by playing to Taiwan's strengths](#), be it on education, democracy, or approaches to certain non-traditional security challenges.

Of course, all this is easier said than done. Building on success and addressing challenges will require not only continued high-level commitment by Tsai and her team, but also the necessary resources and personnel at home as well as support from regional countries and Taiwan's partners abroad. And getting collaboration off the ground and

changing perceptions will take time. But given the promise that the NSP has shown so far for Taiwan and for the region, Tsai's reelection offers a valuable opportunity to build on the foundations of a key foreign policy priority.

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REGIONAL HEADLINES

The New York Times

India, Brazil Agree to Boost Ties in IT, Biofuel and Mining

January 25, 2020

India and Brazil agreed to boost trade and investment across a range of fields such as defense, mining, biofuel, cybersecurity, food, the environment and health. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded Brazil as "a valuable partner" as he and visiting President Jair Bolsonaro witnessed the signing of 15 agreements by their officials in the Indian capital.

Modi told reporters that the two sides have reached an agreement to promote investment in each other's country. India and Brazil will also work for reforms in the

BBC News

Future Forward: Thai Opposition Party Cleared Over Illuminati Claims

January 21, 2020

A court in Thailand has acquitted one of the country's largest opposition parties after it was accused of having links to a mythical secret society.

A sedition charge against Future Forward alleged that it was influenced by the Illuminati and was seeking to overthrow the monarchy. The Constitutional Court dismissed the charge. A guilty verdict could have seen the party banned. But it is still facing several cases that could result in its dissolution.

Future Forward was founded less than two

The Diplomat

New Security Plan Puts Vietnam-Cambodia Defense Ties in the Headlines

January 21, 2020

Over the weekend, Vietnam and Cambodia inked a new security cooperation plan. The signing of the agreement highlighted the defense aspect of the wider relationship between the two countries as well as how they continue to manage the opportunities and challenges therein amid wider domestic and regional developments.

The signing of the plan itself comes as no surprise: such cooperation plans are an annual feature of the bilateral security relationship. And as with previous documents of

functioning of the United Nations, Modi said. Both India and Brazil are seeking membership on the U.N. Security Council.

The two leaders expressed confidence that a bilateral trade target of \$15 billion could be set for 2022 by both countries, said a joint statement issued at the end of their talks.

They also emphasized the need for stronger international partnership in countering terrorism and violent extremism, including through increased sharing of timely, actionable and complete information and intelligence.

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years ago. It has appealed strongly to young voters and won the third largest share of seats in last year's general election. But the party's campaign to reform the military has angered supporters of the government, which is still headed by generals who led a military coup in 2014.


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this ilk, the key will be less about the commitments made by both sides and more about how they translate it into reality to make inroads on issues that have proven challenging to address previously for various reasons, including political differences as well as capacity issues.

Nonetheless, the document did highlight efforts by both sides to continue to attempt to further collaboration in spite of the challenges they face.

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