

CONTENT

- TAEF Updates
- Asia Engagement Consortium Updates
- New Southbound Policy News
- Southeast Asia/ South Asia / AUS / NZ News

TAEF UPDATES

2019 AIT-SEASAT Youth Camp



Thursday, Aug 01, 2019

After 4 days of indoor courses and off-campus visits, youth campers presented their solutions to the most challenging issues in the region, including gender inequality, plastic waste, the lack of freedom of speech, and the rise of nationalism. Campers provided creative solutions to all these issues including creating new apps and holding campaigns with the support of the private sector.

In these 4 days, all campers had a wonderful learning experience, and this would not

happen without the support of partner organizations, including the Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs, National Culture and Arts Foundation, National ChengChi University Outreach Office, China Airlines, Easycard Corporation, and Taipei 101.

ASIA ENGAGEMENT CONSORTIUM UPDATES

NCCU CSEAS's Cross-Country Internship Program Visits Thailand



Friday, Aug 09, 2019

Students in the 2019 "Cross-Country Internship Program" organized by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), National Chengchi University (NCCU) visited Thailand from August 6 to 9, welcomed by Thammasat University. During the visit, Prof. Sitthiphon Kruarattikan gave a lecture on Thailand's modern political history, and Prof. Sustarum Thammaboosadee shared his knowledge and experience about portable welfare in the age of globalization. In addition to lectures, students also visited Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand, Labour Right Promotion Network Foundation, and Amphawa and Mekong markets. After these fieldworks, Taiwanese and Thai students discussed and prepared for presentations on specific topics in order to exchange their viewpoints.

NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

Taipei Times

Visa-free Program May be Expanded: Minister of Transportation and Communications

Tuesday, Aug 06, 2019

The government is considering including more countries in its visa-waiver program to attract more tourists after China last week suspended a program that had allowed individual tourists from 47 Chinese cities to travel to Taiwan, Minister of Transportation and Communications Lin Chia-lung (林佳龍) said yesterday.

“We are also planning to attract more international tourists by either further simplifying the visa application process for visitors from Southeast Asian countries or including more countries in the visa-waiver program,” he said.

The government is reviewing certain countries covered by the New Southbound Policy, including Singapore, Vietnam and Indonesia, Lin said.

[Read more](#)

Taiwan News

Taiwan President Advocates for Sustainable Indo-Pacific

Tuesday, Aug 06, 2019

President Tsai Ing-wen attended the opening ceremony of the 49th General Assembly of the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union (APPU) this morning (Aug. 6), calling for member states to strive towards the Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN. The president first welcomed representatives from Japan, Malaysia, Nauru, Palau, Tuvalu, and Papua New Guinea to participate in the APPU in Taiwan.

Tsai stated that Taiwan will continue to implement its New Southbound Policy, cementing the country's relationships with its Southeast Asian neighbors. Taiwan has also collaborated with the U.S. and Japan on establishing the Global Cooperation and Training Framework and the Indo-Pacific Democratic Governance Consultations to foster new talent and promote better governance in the region.

The president reiterated the shared maritime links and democratic values among member states and called for all participants to build a sustainable Indo-Pacific region.

[Read more](#)

Taiwan News

Taiwan Young Agricultural Ambassadors to Visit Thailand, India



Monday, Aug 05, 2019

Two groups of Taiwan young agricultural ambassadors will visit Thailand and India later this month as part of government efforts to forge closer ties with New Southbound Policy target countries, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Each comprising 15 university students, the teams will meet with local officials, visit farms, produce wholesalers and Taiwan-owned businesses, and take part in educational and research exchanges.

The Thailand group will focus on areas spanning agricultural machinery and supplies development, greenhouse production systems, seedling cultivation, and waste management and recycling, while the India group will address issues like ongoing collaborative projects in bamboo and mushroom cultivation, as well as promoting mutual recognition of organic agriculture standards.

SOUTHEAST ASIA / SOUTH ASIA / AUS / NZ NEWS

BBC NEWS

Article 370: India Strips Disputed Kashmir of Special Status

Aug 05, 2019

India's government has revoked part of the constitution that gives Indian-administered Kashmir special status, prompting fears of unrest.

Pakistan condemned India's decision to revoke the special status of its part of Kashmir as illegal, saying it would "exercise all possible options" to counter it.

The ruling BJP made revoking Article 370 part of the party's 2019 election manifesto - and it won a landslide victory earlier this year. It has argued that Article 370 has prevented the region's development and its integration with

The Jakarta Post

EU Criticizes 'Militarization' of South China Sea

Aug 05, 2019

The "militarization" of the South China Sea is threatening peace in the contested waterway, the EU's top diplomat said Monday in Hanoi, echoing warnings from the US as pressure mounts against Beijing's ambitions in the region.

Tensions between the communist neighbours have soared after a Chinese geological survey vessel entered waters around the Spratly Islands claimed by Hanoi in early July.

Vietnam has repeatedly called for the ship to leave, while Beijing has refused to confirm the vessel's presence.

Bangkok Post

Asia-Pacific Ministers Vow to End Regional Rows

Aug 03, 2019

Foreign ministers of Asia-Pacific countries have affirmed they were committed to resolving conflicts in the South China Sea, Myanmar's Rakhine state, and the Korean Peninsula, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Arthayudh Srisamoot, deputy permanent secretary for foreign affairs, told the press after the 9th East Asia Summit (EAS) that foreign ministers had acknowledged the early completion of the Single Draft Negotiating Text of the Code of Conduct (CoC) in the South China Sea, and hoped to see resolutions to the maritime disputes within

India.

Prior to the announcement, a telecoms and media blackout began on Sunday evening in the region. The government explained the move as being aimed at preempting any violence that the announcement might trigger.

[Read more](#)

The US, EU and Australia have all called for freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, which is also contested by Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

[Read more](#)

three years.

"The CoC will be in line with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea [Unclos] that endorses freedom of navigation and overflight. Asean and China reiterate that the CoC abides by and aligns with existing international law," he told journalists.

[Read more](#)

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