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TAEF UPDATES

Leaders from 10 Countries, including the US, Japan, Australia, Gathered at the 2021 Yushan Forum to Jointly Plan for the Post Pandemic Era



The two-year epidemic has severely impacted the well-being of the international community. In order to demonstrate the fruitful results and determination of the New Southbound Policy in continuing to cultivate regional partnerships, the Taiwan Asia Exchange Foundation held the 2021 Yushan Forum on the 8th of October 2021. The theme for this year's Forum was "Resetting Priorities of Progress with Resilience". This forum included politicians, experts, scholars, business leaders, and civil representatives from more than 10 countries, who shared with the international community the important contributions of Taiwan and Asian countries in post-epidemic development, and the plan for the New Southward Policy and the vision of cooperation with Indo-Pacific allies.

At this critical moment, when the New Southbound Policy is entering its fifth year, President Tsai Ing-wen pointed out in her opening ceremony speech that since the New Southbound Policy was promoted in 2016, Taiwan has signed more than 80 cooperation agreements with partner countries. Taiwan is situated in a fast-growing Indo-Pacific region. It is willing and able to continue to share and cooperate with Asian partners in diverse fields such as biotechnology, semiconductors, disaster prevention, and medical resources. President Tsai further stated that even though Taiwan has no intention of triggering a military conflict, it will firmly guard its democratic system.

Chairman Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao of the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation said, "In the era of social distancing, Taiwan's New Southbound Policy is continuing to create new social connections. I want to reiterate here: with new opportunities, new regional trends, and new allies. The New Southbound Policy is prepared to enter the new second stage and promote inclusive regional growth. " He emphasized that in the hope of assisting the government to build a resilient foundation for the "New Southbound 2.0", Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation planned to publish this year "From Taiwan to Asia: Taiwan's NGO Aid Actions in the Epidemic", a series of surveys on "Taiwan and Taiwanese Business Image Survey Project", and the "Asian Youth and Future Work" report as well as to promote institutional cooperation in Asian curation.

To know more about the Yushan Forum

Press Release: The Image of Taiwan and Taiwanese Businesses in Thailand



October 20, 2021

Since 2019, the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation (TAEF) has been conducting research on the image of Taiwan and Taiwanese businesses in countries with the largest volume of Taiwanese investments. This series of research are the first research projects in Taiwan to survey the overall image of Taiwan and Taiwanese businesses abroad. With the continuous efforts of the TAEF, the surveys in Vietnam and Indonesia were completed by the year 2020. In 2021, the TAEF continued to implement the survey project on the image of Taiwan and Taiwanese businesses in Thailand, which has successfully interviewed 120 business elites—that have business relationships with Taiwanese businesses—for the purpose of investigating the perception, value, modality, advantages, and challenges of the images of Taiwan and Taiwanese businesses.

By conducting a questionnaire survey and a qualitative interview, this research project aims to objectively evaluate the image of Taiwan and Taiwanese businesses in Thailand, and objectively examine Taiwan and Taiwanese businesses' impact on and contribution to the Taiwan-Thailand trade relationship over the past 30 years. The results will be a reference for Taiwanese companies in running businesses in Thailand and the Taiwanese government in its fostering of Taiwan-Thailand relations and development of subsequent New Southbound Policy projects.

The TAEF held the “Press Release on The Image of Taiwan and Taiwanese Businesses in Thailand” at the Howard Plaza Hotel Taipei on October 20, 2021, inviting the media and press to cover the first release of the research results of the survey of the image of Taiwan and Taiwanese businesses.

To read the full report of the Taiwan and Taiwanese Businesses in *Vietnam and Indonesia*

To read media coverage on the press release

Press Release: "From Taiwan to Asia: Taiwan NGOs' International Assistance under COVID-19 Crisis"



October 21, 2021

Taiwan's non-government organizations (NGOs) have not only concentrated on domestic issues but also actively participated in international development work, providing services in Asia. Since the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged the world, Taiwanese NGOs in international cooperation and development faced numerous obstacles such as service interruptions, difficulties in resource delivery, and increased costs. The pandemic has arose many questions such as what countermeasures NGOs operating in the New Southbound countries have taken to ensure the continuation of their services, and what additional modes of assistance they have provided to the local communities.

In response, the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation (TAEF) launched a survey on Taiwan NGOs' responses to Covid-19 in Asia in 2021 and published *From Taiwan to Asia: Taiwan NGOs' International Assistance under COVID-19 Crisis*, Taiwan's first report on the issue area, published both in Chinese and English editions. The report compiled the difficulties, response actions, and achievements of 30 Taiwanese NGOs (23 NGOs and international assistance centers of 7 hospitals) in the New Southbound countries during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, and summarized 10 major actions taken by them in

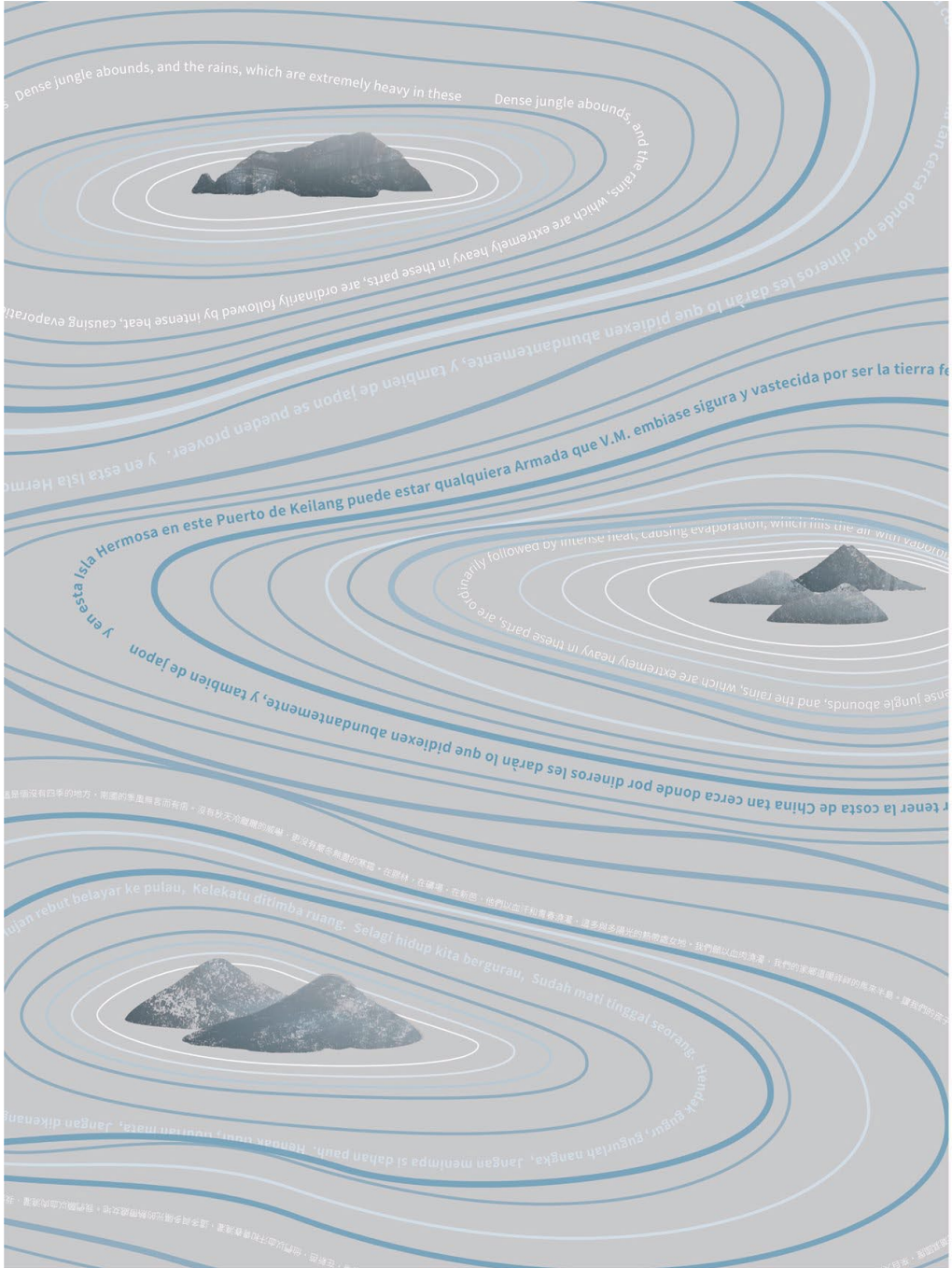
their response to COVID-19. This report also contains the response strategies and service projects implemented by 12 NGOs in multiple New Southbound countries and the transnational health cooperation conducted by 7 hospitals in the One Country, One Center project under the New Southbound Policy. Lastly, the report analyzes the action characteristics and future directions of the Taiwanese NGOs, based on which, the TAEF suggests that the Taiwanese NGOs establish a platform to advance collaboration and exchanges and that the government should increase resources to support the international development work, incorporate international assistance into the New Southbound Policy, and establish a national team of NGOs.

TAEF hosted a press conference on October 21st, 2021 to share the research findings with the media. Aside from presenting the report, the TAEF also invited representatives from the Department of NGO International Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Taiwan Alliance in International Development; and World Vision Taiwan to discuss major actions of strengthening cross-border cooperation after the pandemic, alongside future directions that the Taiwanese NGOs need to implement with the support of the government and society.

To read the full report

Re-searching the Seas: Archipelagic Memories in Circulation, from Penang, Keelung, to Manila

展覽時間 2021/10/22-10/31 | 地點 太平青鳥3F |



流轉的島嶼記憶

檳城·基隆·馬尼拉—與海共讀

指導單位 / 文化部 主辦單位 / 財團法人文化臺灣基金會、財團法人臺灣亞洲交流基金會、基隆市文化局
展覽策劃 / 合方創意 攝影選書 / Lightbox 攝影圖書室 在地合作 / 雞籠卡米諾

廣告

Open on October 22, 2021

When we are envisioning art and cultural exchange between Taiwan and Southeast Asia, how port cities could play the important role of nodal points that facilitate vibrant interactions? To fully explore the energies of Asian port cities and their historical connections, TAEF is glad to co-organize an exhibition with various government sectors, art organizations, and cultural workers. Titled "Re-searching the Seas: Archipelagic

Memories in Circulation," the exhibition features historical documents, published materials, photobooks, serial podcasts, and special talks that highlight the existing and potential relations among Taiwan, Malaysian, and the Philippines.

Adviser | Ministry of Culture

Organizers | Cultural Taiwan Foundation, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation, and Keelung City Cultural Affairs

Curator | Have Fun Creative

Photobooks | Lightbox

Local Partner | Keilang Camino

Media Partner | Verse

Special Thanks | Department of Urban Planning at Keelung City Government and Bleu&Book

Media Production | Journey Studio

Research Partner | SEA Plateaus

To know about the exhibition

TAEF COMMENTARIES

The News Lens

New Southbound Policy: The Role of the Yushan Forum



October 07, 2021

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

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

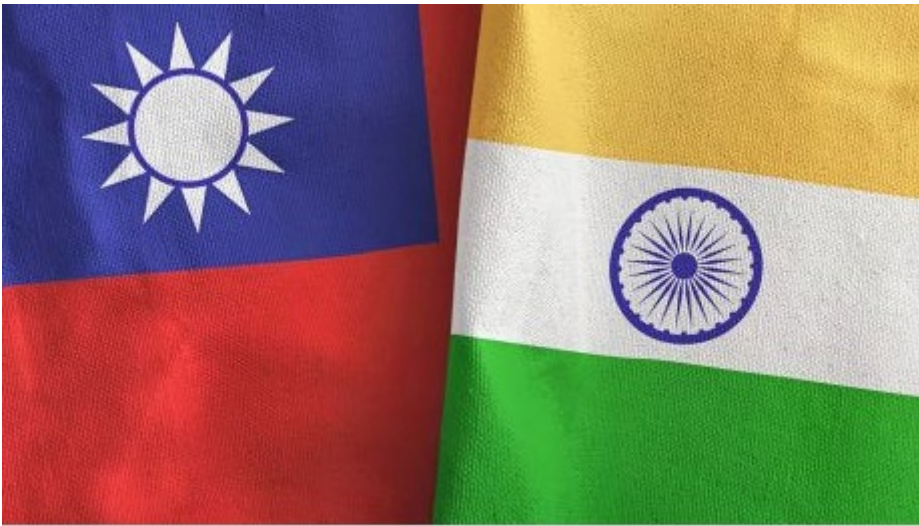
Engaging South, Southeast Asian countries, Australia, and New Zealand as a part of Taiwan's foreign policy has been an important element of President Tsai Ing-Wen's (蔡英文) agenda, the signs of which were evident even before she assumed the President's office. Soon after she took charge, these policy priorities started to figure in the foreign policy agenda with concrete actions following up quickly.

Subsequently, the New Southbound Policy (新南向政策) a policy framework to meaningfully engage the countries of South Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. It was a significant development as until 2016, Taiwan's foreign policy was primarily focused on managing Cross-Strait ties, and was largely West-centric in its outlook. Southeast Asia also figured in the priority list due to strong business-to-business linkages as well as two-way cultural affinities. The initiation of the New Southbound Policy allowed Taiwan to engage these countries on a wide-range of issues with great enthusiasm.

[Read more](#)

Sunday Guardian

Think Tanks Key to Better India-Taiwan Relations



September 25, 2021

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

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

Clearly articulated policy frameworks play a crucial role in determining a country's foreign relations. Such frameworks are most affected in dealing with a specific theme or

approach vis-à-vis a particular region. India's Look East Policy, upgraded as Act East Policy by the Narendra Modi government is a classic example in that regard.

Strategic use of think tanks and their public events to articulate foreign policy agenda has been one of the key steps the Modi government has taken. Whether it is the India's Ministry of External Affairs-funded Raisina Dialogue or the use of the Singapore-based Shangri La Dialogue as a platform, PM Modi has made think tanks all the more relevant in policymaking.

On a similar note, Taiwan's New Southbound Policy also has a clear objective to engage with the countries of South, Southeast Asia, as well as Australia and New Zealand. What connects these two policies is the increasing focus of their respective policies to engage the countries in the region.

There is little doubt that under Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) administration, Taiwan's external engagement has acquired greater priority. Like India's Act East Policy, Taiwan's New Southbound Policy is also getting action-oriented to engage its Asian partners. A number of diplomatic, economic, and people-centric initiatives have been taken to bolster Taiwan's regional partnerships since 2016.

[Read more](#)

CONSORTIUM UPDATES

Taiwan AID

[Call for Registration] Multi-stakeholder Forum on Civil Society-Government Partnership in Development Cooperation: Overview and Prospect

歡迎從事國際發展與人道援助工作之實務工作者、NGO工作者、學者、政府部門代表及企業人士報名參加。

多方利害關係人論壇

國際發展合作中的政府 與公民社會夥伴關係 —— 現況與展望

Multi-stakeholder Forum on Civil Society-Government Partnership in
Development Cooperation : Overview and Prospect

日期 | 2021/10/28 Thu.

地點 | 張榮發基金會國際會議中心

簡介 | 邀集政府與公民社會代表，共同探討如何在政策與實務上強化國際發展中的政府與公民社會夥伴關係，建立長久友善的政策環境，提升台灣國際發展與援外工作能见度。

主辦單位
Organizers



指導單位
Sponsor



報名連結
Registration

<https://forms.office.com/r/6SFqEvXZZ8>



October 28, 2021

Taiwan Alliance in International Development (Taiwan AID) will be hosting a forum titled "Multi-stakeholder Forum on Civil Society-Government Partnership in Development Cooperation: Overview and Prospect," inviting civil society representatives, government officials, Members of Parliament, and foreign representatives, and academics to discuss issues that can promote private-public partnership and inspire diverse points of view and suggestions, for the purpose of

sharing the latest trends in international development policies and reaching consensus on future legal amendments and policy drafting.

Registration

NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

ABC NEWS

Office Tony Abbott Stresses Solidarity with Taiwan in Yushan Forum Speech after Chinese Jets Fly Near Island

October 8, 2021

Former prime minister Tony Abbott has described China as a "bully" and stressed the importance of "solidarity with Taiwan", while addressing a regional conference on the island.

Mr Abbott made the visit to Taiwan, where he met President Tsai Ing-wen, after a weekend in which China flew dozens of military jets near the island as part of a bid to exert power over the territory.

Mr Abbott, who is visiting Taiwan in a private capacity under a "diplomatic bubble", said he previously "hesitated to attend this conference, lest that provoke China", but said the superpower's actions in recent years had changed his stance.

Ms Tsai launched the Yushan Forum, sponsored by a government-backed think tank, with a more restrained speech, omitting any direct mention of China, before Mr Abbott listed a number of transgressions in his keynote address.

Read more

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Reuters

ASEAN Excludes Myanmar Junta Leader from

Nikkei Asia

Singapore Backs Beijing's CPTPP Bid, Chinese

AP NEWS

India, China Army Talks to Defuse Border

Summit in Rare Move

October 17, 2021

Southeast Asian countries will invite a non-political representative from Myanmar to a regional summit this month, delivering an unprecedented snub to the military leader who led a coup against an elected civilian government in February.

The decision taken by foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at an emergency meeting on Friday night was an unusually bold step for the consensus-driven bloc, which traditionally favours a policy of engagement and non-interference.

Brunei, ASEAN's current chair, issued a statement citing a lack of progress made on a roadmap that the junta had agreed to with ASEAN in April to restore peace in Myanmar.

Singapore's foreign ministry said on Saturday the move to exclude junta chief Min Aung Hlaing was a "difficult, but necessary, decision to uphold ASEAN's credibility".

A spokesman for Myanmar's military government blamed "foreign intervention" for the decision.

Ministry Says

October 16, 2021

Singapore has welcomed China's application to join the CPTPP trade agreement, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong told Chinese President Xi Jinping in a call that day that Singapore "welcomes and supports" China's application to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, "which will benefit the prosperity and development of the region," a Chinese statement said.

A release from the Singaporean Foreign Ministry did not mention any discussions regarding the CPTPP.

Xi expressed China's willingness to help put the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership -- a separate, broader trade agreement -- into effect as scheduled.

Since China and Taiwan both applied to join the CPTPP in September, Xi has been working to win over the pact's Southeast Asian and South American members.

Read more

Tensions Fail

October 11, 2021

Talks between Indian and Chinese army commanders to disengage troops from key friction areas along their border have ended in a stalemate and failed to ease a 17-month standoff that has sometimes led to deadly clashes, the two sides said Monday.

The continuing standoff means the two nations will keep troops in the forward areas of Ladakh for a second consecutive winter in dangerously freezing temperatures.

India's defense ministry, in a statement, said it gave "constructive suggestions" but the Chinese side was "not agreeable" and "could not provide any forward-looking proposals." A statement from a Chinese military spokesperson said "the Indian side sticks to unreasonable and unrealistic demands, adding difficulties to the negotiations."

The commanders from both armies met for the talks Sunday after a gap of two months at Moldo on the Chinese side in the Ladakh area.

Since February, both India and China have withdrawn troops from some faceoff sites on the northern and southern banks of Pangong Tso, Gogra and Galwan

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Valley, but they continue to maintain extra troops as part of a multi-tier deployment.

[Read more](#)

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