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TAEF UPDATES

Workshop on Resilience Building



December 16, 2020

Together with Mei-Zhou Community Task Force for Disaster Preparedness, TAEF organized this morning a workshop on community resilience building against water-related disasters in Yilan county. Mr. Wen-Long Wu, commander of the task force and Mr. Ho-Lun Chan, vice commander of the task force introduced the operation of their team and shared their experience of exchanging with other communities around Taiwan.

According to Dr. Alan Yang, executive director of the TAEF, Taiwan and Southeast Asian countries have similar geographic and weather conditions while facing natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and typhoons. Therefore, Taiwan can share her experience in a disaster-resistant community task force with neighboring countries.

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Asia Engagement Consortium Updates

Modern Vietnamese Literature Book Launch



December 18, 2020

Thanks to the efforts of Director Jiang Weiwen of National Cheng Kung University's Vietnam Studies Center and many translators, the Mandarin and Hokkien editions of "Modern Vietnamese Literature", written by Nguyễn Đăng Điệp, a modern literary critic and the director of Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), has been published.

The Chairman of the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation, Dr. Michael Hsiao pointed out that many art and literature workers in Taiwan and Southeast Asia are committed to deepening regional cultural exchanges. Their remarkable achievements are worthy of wide publication - in continuation of the New Southbound spirit. The publication of "Modern Vietnamese Literature" is not only an important milestone but also allows us to see the intricate relationship between literature and society.

Read more in Chinese

NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

Radio Taiwan International

Taiwan, Indonesia hold talks on Indonesian migrant worker issues

December 23, 2020

Representatives of Taiwan and Indonesia have held a virtual meeting to discuss points of disagreement surrounding the employment of Indonesian migrant workers in Taiwan.

Indonesia plans to shift responsibility for Indonesian migrant workers' airfare and other expenses onto Taiwanese employers starting in January. The move will make it more

expensive to hire Indonesian migrant workers, and Taiwanese employers of migrant workers have expressed their opposition to the plan.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian side has expressed disappointment at Taiwan's decision to ban entry for Indonesian migrant workers indefinitely. Taiwanese authorities made the decision after a large number of workers arriving from Indonesia tested positive for COVID-19.

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REGIONAL HEADLINES

The Strait Times

Indonesian President Inaugurates \$4 bln 'Strategic' Port

December 21, 2020

Indonesian President Joko Widodo inaugurated the Patimban sea port in West Java on Sunday (Dec 20), saying the new gateway would have a "strategic" role in boosting the nation's pandemic-hit economy.

The 43.2 trillion rupiah (\$4 billion) port in the town of Subang, 140km east of the capital Jakarta, is one of the government's priority infrastructure projects, designed to boost South-east Asia's largest economy and relieve pressure on Jakarta's congested Tanjung Priok port.

Speaking via link from the state palace, the president, widely known as Jokowi, said the first of three phases of the strategic project in Indonesia's most populous province had been finished.

SCMP

In Thailand, Pro-Democrats Take Aim at 'Big House' Political Dynasties in Local Elections

December 20, 2020

Framed by a giant poster of himself, Wittaya Khunpleum, who belongs to one of Thailand's most successful – and notorious – family political clans, takes the microphone and leads the crowd of mainly middle-aged supporters in chants of "We love Chonburi!"

Much of Thailand is run by such clans, dubbed Baan Yai or "Big Houses" – dynasties enmeshed in local government, business and society who trade favours, award contracts, intimidate rivals and win elections.

But by playing money politics, these dynasties also impede the country's democratic growth, according to critics, who see Sunday's elections of Provincial Administrative Organisations (PAOs) – the first since the 2014 coup – as a chance to test

Nikkei Asia

Elections \$2.4bn Japan Fund to Help Decarbonization in 26 ASEAN Cities

November 17, 2020

The Japanese government will set up a fund worth 250 billion yen (\$2.4 billion) to support Japanese companies' "smart-city" projects in Southeast Asia, in competition with Chinese, South Korean and other foreign rivals, and to help further decarbonization measures.

The government will encourage Japanese companies to participate in projects in 26 cities in the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, including Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta, Bangkok, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

Tokyo will ask the 26 cities to present plans for developing smart cities by the end of this year and is planning to select eligible projects by spring. The government expects Japanese companies to work out

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whether a vibrant young reform movement on the streets translates into votes for greater democracy throughout the country.

basic plans for the selected cities and conduct feasibility studies.

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