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TAEF UPDATES

TAEF Welcomes International Relations Experts from the U.S.



Tuesday, June 04, 2019

Political science academics from the U.S. visited TAEF on June 04. The delegation was led by Professor Robert Pape, from the Department of Political Science, The University of Chicago, and received by Chairman Dr. H.H. Michael Hsiao and Executive Director Dr.

Alan Hao Yang. Both parties enjoyed a fruitful discussion on Taiwan's New Southbound Policy.

[Read more](#)

TAEF COMMENTARY

The Diplomat

Despite China's Tough Talk, US Should Move Forward With Taiwan

-Dr. Alan Hao Yang | Executive Director, TAEF

-Jeremy Huai-Che Chiang | Research Associate, TAEF

Thursday, June 06, 2019

U.S.-Taiwan relations have improved significantly since President Tsai Ing-wen's inauguration in 2016, and President Donald Trump's in 2017. Both administrations have dedicated efforts to explore developing U.S.-Taiwan relations beyond the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (TRA).

Many will argue that going down a path of improved U.S.-Taiwan relations is both unnecessary and dangerous, meaninglessly risking China's wrath. Such critics would argue that the TRA is enough, and there is no need to expand U.S.-Taiwan ties further. But Chinese antagonism toward warming U.S.-Taiwan relations must be seen in a new context, which will show why Taiwan's upgraded international participation is not only necessary, but also vital for the ongoing U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy.

As China's economic and military might rises, the United States needs all the partners it has to tackle this new geopolitical reality. An upgraded U.S.-Taiwan relationship will only serve, not harm, that goal. Taiwan has much to contribute beyond mere cross-strait relations.

[Read more](#)

ASIA ENGAGEMENT CONSORTIUM UPDATES

Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

East Asia Democracy Forum 2019



Wednesday, June 12, 2019

The Taiwan Foundation of Democracy will be organizing the 6th East Asia Democracy Forum on June 26 (Wed). The focus of this year's forum is on combating authoritarian influence on democracies. The forum will discuss how authoritarian regimes intend to shape the region by exporting their political system and ideals through social media. Through dialogues and exchanges of ideas, pro-democracy advocates and activists in Asia will be able to acquire and equip themselves with more knowledge to defend democracy and strengthen their network of like-minded counterparts.

[*Read more*](#)

NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

Taiwan News

Taiwan's ITRI Strikes Electric Vehicle Deal in Thailand

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

The Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI, 工研院) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Thai company Panus Assembly to develop electric vehicles in the latest example of Taiwan's New Southbound Policy.

The policy, implemented since 2016, strives for closer economic, cultural and tourism links with the nations of South and Southeast Asia, including Thailand.

At the same time, ITRI also forged an "electric bus alliance" between Taiwanese and Thai companies which would allow parts suppliers from the island to expand their business overseas, the Liberty Times reported. Eventually, Taiwan could export 300 electric buses to Southeast Asia, according to estimates.

[Read more](#)

Taiwan News

Taiwan's New Southbound Policy Attracts More ASEAN Companies to List on TWSE

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Taiwan Stock Exchange Corporation (TWSE) announced on Tuesday (June 11) that in addition to Vietnam, Thailand has become an important trade partner of Taiwan, with three Thai companies listing in Taiwan, reported Central News Agency.

The three Thai companies listed on TWSE are printed circuit board manufacturer Apex International (泰鼎-KY), maker of precision metal parts JPP-KY, and jewelry maker Regal Jewelry Group (日成-KY), according to TWSE.

As more Thailand-based businesses are expected to list publicly in Taiwan, TWSE's representatives left for Bangkok on Monday (June 10) to hold "Taiwan Capital Market Overview" seminars for interested companies.

[Read more](#)

Taiwan Today

International Conference on Disaster Mitigation and Earth Sciences Concludes in Taipei



Tuesday, June 11, 2019

The "Promoting International Collaboration of Earth Sciences and Smart Disaster Reduction in Southeast Asia" conference wrapped up June 10 in Taipei City, strengthening regional cooperation across such areas as environmental adaption and risk assessment.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the one-day seminar was co-organized by Academia Sinica, Taiwan's foremost research institution. It drew 37 officials and scholars from nine Asia-Pacific countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand and Thailand.

Among the keynote speakers were Chen Yue-gau, geosciences professor at National Taiwan University in Taipei; Renato Solidum Jr., undersecretary for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change at the Philippines' Department of Science and Technology; and Mark Stirling, geology professor at the University of Otago in New Zealand.

[*Read more*](#)

SOUTHEAST ASIA / SOUTH ASIA / AUS / NZ NEWS

BBC
**Christchurch
Attack: Brenton**

Business Times
**Vietnam Poised
To Be Third**

*Channel News
Asia*
Singapore

Tarrant Pleads Not Guilty to All Charges

June 14, 2019

The main suspect in the Christchurch attacks in March, has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Brenton Tarrant is charged with the murder of 51 people, 40 counts of attempted murder and one terrorism charge in New Zealand's deadliest peace time mass shooting.

A number of the survivors of the attack and relatives of the victims were in court for the hearing, the BBC's Sydney correspondent Hywel Griffith reported.

As lawyer Shane Tait read out his client's not guilty pleas, a number of those present gasped and became tearful.

[Read more](#)

Biggest Urban Market In SEA

June 13, 2019

Vietnam has been forecasted to become Southeast Asia's (SEA) third largest urban market in the region come the year 2030. The forecast was based on the latest consumer number data as more Vietnamese transition to urban spending.

According to [Nhan Dan Online](#), Euromonitor International's Income and Expenditure Research Manager, An Hodgson, said Vietnam's fast transition towards urbanization will help drive the country towards commercial success within the next 10 years.

[Read more](#)

'Highly Values' Relations with Cambodia and Vietnam: MFA After PM Lee's Remarks on 1978 Invasion


June 07, 2019

Singapore "highly values" its relations with Cambodia and Vietnam, its Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said on Friday (Jun 7) after a recent Facebook post by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong mentioning Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia in 1978 drew the ire of both Indochinese nations.

Responding to media queries, an MFA spokesperson said: "Notwithstanding our differences in the past, we have always treated each other with respect and friendship."

[Read more](#)

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