

## CONTENT

- TAEF Updates
- TAEF Commentaries
- Consortium Updates
- New Southbound Policy News
- Regional Headlines

## TAEF UPDATES

### Call for Submission: TAEF Survey on Taiwan NGOs' Responses to Covid-19 in Asia



*Due on April 20, 2021*

**D**o you work for a Taiwanese NGO in South and Southeast Asia? And how was your organization's work affected in 2020 in the midst of a global health crisis?

In the year 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic swept the world. The resulting lockdown measures have pushed the already disadvantaged groups into a more vulnerable situation. Taiwan has done a relatively good job in fighting the pandemic. Not only did

the Taiwanese government send masks and medical supplies to countries in need, but also the Taiwanese international development NGOs offered help and provided services for the disadvantaged groups in other countries.

In view of this, TAEF, with a focus on South and Southeast Asia, intends to conduct a questionnaire survey to understand how Taiwanese NGOs' overseas work has been affected by the Covid-19, and what kinds of measures they have adopted to mitigate the negative effects posed by the pandemic on their work and to ensure their services can be well delivered to their clients.

This survey also attempts to understand the outcomes of the adopted measures, the difficulties the NGOs faced, and the future direction of their work in response to the continued spread of Covid-19 in 2021.

Please help fill in this [online questionnaire](#) if your organization in Taiwan delivers international development works in South and Southeast Asia, due on April 20, 2021. Your participation will be highly appreciated.

The collected data will be analyzed and used to write an article picturing Taiwanese NGOs' Responses to Covid-19 in Asia. The article, together with a number of cases, will be published in Chinese and English versions later this year, presenting Taiwanese NGOs' capacity.

## TAEF Upcoming Event: Future of work for the Asian Youth

**"The Future of Work for the Asian Youth (Vietnam)"**  
 Webinar  
 Date: 26 April, 2021 (Monday)  
 Time: 10:00 AM Hanoi/ 11:00 AM Taipei/12:00 noon Tokyo

*Date & Time: 11:00, Monday, April 26, 2021*

*Venue: online*

*Language: English*

The fourth and final webinar in the future of work for the Asian Youth Webinar Series focuses on Vietnam.

The Webinar series organized by the Regional Economic Programme Asia (SOPAS) of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Japan and the TAEF highlights the key issues behind the changing employment landscape of Asia's young people.

Find out how current trends are radically shifting the nature of employment and quality of life for young people in the region!

*Registration*

## TAEF's Visiting Fellow Sana Hashmi Spoke at the Legislative Yuan



*Friday, March 26, 2021*

On March 26, TAEF visiting fellow Dr. Sana Hashmi was invited to speak at the conference, "Taiwan's strategy under Inia-China competition," held at the Legislative Yuan on March 26.

Dr. Hashmi mentioned that during the last year the Covid-19 pandemic has attracted India's attention to Taiwan's strategic position and that Taiwan-India relations should not be limited to jointly deterring the threat of China. New Delhi should detach its Taiwan policy from China.

She then suggested some potential partnerships and cooperations between Taiwan and India: Indian think tanks or media, for instance, can open their branch offices in Taiwan; or the Taiwanese government can provide New Southbound scholarships, funding research projects on India's Look East Policy--a way in which Taiwan can involve in the discussions over the Policy. Last but not least, Dr. Hashmi pointed out some limits existing between Taiwan and India, such as India's compliance to One China Policy.

*To watch the full conference*

*News story covered by the Liberty Times (in Chinese)*

---

## TAEF COMMENTARIES

---

*The News Lens*

### Taiwan and the Possibility of the Quad Plus

*Thursday, April 8, 2021*

*- Sana Hashmi, visiting fellow of the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation*

*“Including Taiwan in the Quad Plus might not be a step in the right direction. There are many other ways to facilitate Taiwan’s participation in the Indo-Pacific.”*

On March 12, in the first-ever Quadrilateral Security Leaders’ summit that took place virtually, the four member countries — Australia, India, Japan, and the United States — reiterated their commitment to promote a free, open rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific. Following the order, they will advance security and prosperity and counter threats both in the region and beyond. The landmark summit resulted in a single joint statement showing the greater alignment of interests and approaches among the four countries.

China’s growing aggression compelled the Quad countries to revive the grouping in 2017, after a decade of lying dormant. Taiwan, a fellow democracy under its direct threat, seems to be a plausible member. However, even though the U.S. and Japan support the expansion of Taiwan’s global space, certain of the contribution that Taiwan could make towards ensuring a rules-based order, Taiwan is not only absent from the high-level discussions but also not at the top of the Quad’s agenda yet.

Discussing Taiwan under the Quad framework might demonstrate the four countries’ commitment to maintaining the rules-based order in the region, but including it in the Quad Plus might not be a step in the right direction. Taiwan should figure prominently in the discussions within the Quad at all levels and the focus should be on finding a way to facilitate Taiwan’s participation in the Indo-Pacific.

*Read more*

---

## CONSORTIUM UPDATES

---

*Asia Regional Resilience*

## 2021 Asia-Pacific Disaster Management Summit

2021  
亞太防災高峰會  
Asia-Pacific Disaster Management Summit

氣候緊急時代下的  
區域韌性與國際合作

4/22  
台大集思會議中心  
蘇格拉底廳

Regional Resilience and International Cooperation in Climate Emergency

主辦單位 TAEF TADPI 協辦單位 messe frankfurt

*Date & Time: 10:00-17:30, Thursday, April 22, 2021,*

*Venue: Room Socrates, GIS NTU Convention Center*

*Language: Chinese & English*

Organized by the TAEF and Taiwan Association for Disaster Prevention Industry with the support from Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd Taiwan Media Branch, the 2021 Asia-Pacific Disaster Management Summit will focus on regional and international cooperation in a climate emergency.

The summit will be commenced with a keynote speech of Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba, former mayor of Hiroshima, sharing Japan's strategies of disaster response for the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami. Following Dr. Akiba's speech, a dialogue between Dr. Akiba, Mr. Wen-tsan Cheng, mayor of Taoyuan, and Mr. Chien-Hsin Lai, Director-General of Water Resource Agency, will take place.

In the afternoon session, panelists from governmental agencies, corporations, and research institutes will discuss two essential actions under climate emergency: "Thinking of Disaster Prevention" and "Community & Individual Works for Disaster Prevention."

*Registration*

### NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

*Taiwan News*

**'Indian Holi Taipei' event to donate funds to Hualien train crash victims**

*Friday, April 9, 2021*

The proceeds from the annual "Indian Holi Taipei" festival, which will be held at a riverside park in New Taipei on Saturday (April 10), will be donated to a relief fund for victims of the Hualien train derailment.

Tickets are NT\$450 and will include an Indian vegetarian lunch, bottled water, snacks, beverage, and colored paints.

The festival organizers of this year's event will be donating all proceeds from ticket sales and sponsorships to a government relief fund for the victims and their family members.

The Holi is a "festival of colors" where participants throw colored dye and powder at each other. The local Indian community has been organizing Holi since 2012 on a non-profit basis to bring the community together with the idea that "We are one world," similar to the splashing of colors that blurs cultural and ethnic differences.

[Read more](#)

## REGIONAL HEADLINES

*Nikkei Asia*

**Rohingya in India under Threat of Deportation to Junta-ruled Myanmar**

*April 8, 2021*

Clouds of fear have enveloped the Rohingya refugee camp in India as the authorities have detained nearly 200 refugees since March in the Jammu and Kashmir region. Human rights defenders are concerned over the possible deportation of Rohingya,

*SCMP*

**China, US send warships into disputed waters as tensions rise over Whitsun Reef**

*April 5, 2021*

China and the United States have sailed aircraft carriers into contentious waters in the East and South China seas, the latest maritime contest between the strategic rivals at a time of heightened tensions in the region.

*ASEAN Today*

**Facebook, Google to build undersea cables linking Southeast Asia to the US**

*April 1, 2021*

Facebook has announced plans to lay two underwater cables connecting the US to Indonesia and Singapore, the first set of cables directly linking Southeast Asia to North America.

Facebook says that the

especially at a time when Myanmar is under military control and has ongoing civil disobedience.

"We were asked by the local police to fill in the form for registration [at a stadium]," a Rohingya refugee in Jammu told Nikkei Asia on condition of anonymity about an incident he saw last month. "We were also told that, after COVID-19 tests, we will be released. [But] instead, people who were present [at] the stadium were taken to a detention center in the Hiranagar subjail in Kathua." According to him, there were five to seven pregnant women among the detainees.

As the government mulls the repatriation of the Rohingya Muslims from India, the fate of over 6,000 refugees in Jammu is in the balance. Local authorities in Jammu and Kashmir, in line with directions given by New Delhi, are busy working on identifying local Rohingya, who are seen as "illegal immigrants" and needed to be deported back to Myanmar.

[Read more](#)

Analysts say their naval presence in the Indo-Pacific at the same time highlights the risk of military conflict between the powers, as Beijing asserts its maritime claims in the region more aggressively and Washington focuses its defence strategy on countering China.

It comes amid a deepening dispute between Beijing and Manila over the presence of Chinese vessels – which the Philippines says are a maritime militia but China says are fishing boats – in the Whitsun Reef in the South China Sea.

The Philippine foreign ministry on Monday said China's claims that the boats were sheltering from bad weather were "blatant falsehoods" and "clearly [a] false narrative of China's expansive and illegitimate claims in the West Philippine Sea".

[Read more](#)

Echo and Bifrost trans-Pacific cables, as the company is calling them, will increase capacity for data transfer between the Americas and Southeast Asia by 70%. The Echo cable is also backed by investment from Google, which says that the cable will run from "Eureka, California to Singapore, with a stop-over in Guam, with plans to also land in Indonesia. Additional landings are possible in the future."

The move is the latest in a growing trend of tech companies like Microsoft and Facebook investing in connectivity infrastructure around the world—Google is an investor in six undersea cables that have already been completed. Until recently, projects like fiber optic cables were primarily undertaken by telecom firms. Around 98% of the world's internet and telephone communications are now carried by undersea cables, with about 400 in existence as of March 2021, according to Bloomberg.

[Read more](#)

This message was sent to shulingk76@gmail.com by service@taef.org  
Room 1107, 11F, NO.136, Section 3, Ren'ai Road, Da'an District Taipei City Taipei Taiwan

 [Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage Subscription](#) | [Forward Email](#) | [Report Abuse](#)

[View this email in your browser](#)

You are receiving this email because of your relationship with Taiwan Asia Exchange Foundation. Please [reconfirm](#) your interest in receiving emails from us. If you do not wish to receive any more emails, you can

[unsubscribe here.](#)



**This is a Test Email only.**

This message was sent for the sole purpose of testing a draft message.