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TAEF UPDATES

TAEF X Taiwan AID

Strengthening and Redefining Taiwan's ODA in Southeast Asia and South Asia



Friday, May 24, 2019

Jointly organized by TAEF and Taiwan AID, a workshop on Strengthening and Redefining Taiwan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) in Southeast and South Asia was held on May 24, 2019. Participants of the workshop included representatives from government agencies, NGOs, and think tanks. Learning from the experiences of Japan and Korea, the participants discussed Taiwan's future challenges in its international cooperation efforts.

[*Read more in Chinese*](#)

TAEF COMMENTARY

Pacific Forum

Reinvigorating Taiwan's Contribution in Regional Disaster Management

-Dr. H.H. Michael Hsiao | Chairman, TAEF

-Dr. Alan Hao Yang | Executive Director, TAEF

Thursday, May 30, 2019

Southeast Asian countries are regularly threatened by natural disasters. According to Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB), more than 2,000 disasters occurred in that country in 2018, causing more than 4,000 deaths and displacing 3 million people. The Philippines also faces worsening challenges caused by natural disasters, which have claimed 10,000 lives and affect millions.

Taiwan too suffers from this threat and has been proactively seeking ways to collaborate with neighboring countries to jointly tackle disasters. By providing capacity building programs, sharing technology in disaster preparedness, strengthening public awareness, and establishing disaster resilient communities, Taiwan is committed to partnership with ASEAN countries.

[Read more](#)

TAEF Currents

China-India Relations: The Modi Effect

-Dr. Raviprasad Narayanan | Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Friday, May 24, 2019

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has imprinted his initiatives by emphasizing the 'individual' over other aspects such as institutions that are the framework of a state's foreign policy. It is an endeavour to create a presidential approach to foreign policy where an individual halo is projected over the nation's external objectives. Modi's visit to Wuhan, China where he had an informal summit with Xi Jinping demonstrates that such an approach to foreign policy generally fails to make a significant breakthrough on disputed issues.

This article will address 7 influential factors to India-China relations, and suggests that Indian political parties imbibe the example of Germany where leading political parties have think tanks explicating on all issues facing the country including foreign policy.

[Read more](#)

Asia Sentinel

Taiwan Spreads Diplomatic Wings Through Regional Health Care

-Dr. Alan Hao Yang | Executive Director, TAEF

-Ho Hui Yan | Research Associate, TAEF

Thursday, May 23, 2019

In a bid to maintain and expand its links with the global community Taiwan is promoting regional links in Southeast and South Asia as a way to communicate through institutional projects generated by its formidable domestic health programs, some of the best in the region.

Medical diplomacy is one of Taiwan's five flagship NSP programs. The government anticipates developing public-private partnerships instead of providing aid, and departs from previous economics-focused strategies. With its emphasis on a people-centered approach, Taiwan is poised to capitalize on its healthcare expertise and realizing its goal of utilizing the NSP to strengthen Taiwan's importance in Asia and beyond.

[Read more](#)

ASIA ENGAGEMENT CONSORTIUM UPDATES

NCCU CSEAS

SEASIA Biennial Conference 2019 "Change and Resistance: Future Directions of Southeast Asia" [Early Bird Registration]



→ SEASIA Biennial Conference 2019 ←

Change and Resistance

Future Directions of Southeast Asia

Dec.5-7,2019

📍 Academia Sinica.Taipei. TAIWAN

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Building on the successful outcome of the 2015 and 2017 Conference, the Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies in Asia (SEASIA) Secretariat will host the SEASIA 2019 Conference in collaboration with Academia Sinica. The SEASIA Secretariat is based at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) of National Chengchi University.

The conference will be held on December 5-7, 2019, at Academia Sinica. Early bird registration is available from now till July 01, 2019.

[Read more](#)

NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

Focus Taiwan

President Touts New Southbound Policy Achievements



新光人壽
Shin Kong Life



新光醫療財團法人
新光吳火獅紀念醫院
SHIN KONG WU HO-SU MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



Thursday, May 30, 2019

President Tsai Ing-wen (蔡英文) said Thursday that Taiwan's New Southbound Policy (NSP), aimed at enhancing cooperation with key players in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Australia and New Zealand, has yielded initial results.

At a forum on the policy, Tsai said the international political situation has changed significantly over the past three years since the policy was launched in 2016.

The increasing geopolitical and geo-economic importance of countries targeted by the NSP has prodded the United States, Japan, South Korea and India to introduce new strategies in the region, Tsai said, adding that this shows the policy is vision-oriented and forward-looking.

[*Read more*](#)

Taiwan News

AI Cooperation Pacts Inked by Taiwan and Singapore

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

A pair of memorandums of understanding on artificial intelligence cooperation were inked on May 27 in Taipei City between two local AI research facilities and Singapore-headquartered Certis Group, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The pacts were signed respectively by Chen Hsin-hsi, director of National Taiwan University's AI Innovation Research Center, and Ted Kuo, chief executive officer of National Chiao Tung University's Pervasive AI Research Labs, with Joseph C. P. Tan, senior managing director of Certis Group.

Under the agreements, the facilities operated by Taipei-based NTU and Hsinchu City-headquartered NCTU in northern Taiwan will collaborate with Certis Group in key AI areas such as big data privacy, Internet of Things data analysis, natural language processing and video image recognition. They also agreed to share R&D resources and promote talent cultivation and exchanges.

[Read more](#)

Taiwan Today

ITRI and Malaysian-Based Company Team Up on Biofuel Project

Tuesday, May 24, 2019

The Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) in northern Taiwan's Hsinchu County is partnering with Malaysia-based All Cosmos Bio-Tech Holding Corp. (ACBT) on a biofuel and sugar production project in the Southeast Asian nation, according to the state-backed R&D agency May 22.

Under a cooperation agreement inked the same day, ITRI will share its advances in sugar production and purification. These will be used to transform biomass into cellulosic sugars—xylose and glucose—for subsequent conversion into biofuel.

Inputs for the project are set to come from palm oil plantations, which generate huge amounts of biomass waste in the form of empty fruit bunch. A pilot plant to turn empty fruit bunches (EFB) into cellulosic sugars is expected to commence operations next year, while plans for another facility to handle biofuel and commercial sugar production are in development, said ITRI.

[Read more](#)

SOUTHEAST ASIA / SOUTH ASIA / AUS / NZ NEWS

BBC

**Narendra Modi
Sworn in for**

Bloomberg

**Why Singapore,
Malaysia,**

The Guardian

**Australian
Navy Pilots Hit**

Second Term after Election Landslide

May 31, 2019

Narendra Modi has been sworn in for a second term as India's prime minister after his party won a landslide majority in the recent election.

Thousands were invited to the ceremony in Delhi, including regional leaders and Bollywood stars.

A new cabinet has also been sworn in, and includes the chief of Mr Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Amit Shah. He is credited with steering the party to victory in the election, the results of which were announced last week.

[Read more](#)

Vietnam Were Added to U.S. Currency Watchlist

May 29, 2019

The U.S. Treasury added Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam to a [watchlist](#) for currency manipulation, putting their foreign-exchange policies under scrutiny.

Singapore made the list because of its large current account surplus and net foreign currency purchases of at least \$17 billion in 2018, equivalent to 4.6% of GDP, according to the Treasury. Malaysia and Vietnam were cited for their bilateral trade and current account surpluses.

[Read more](#)

with Lasers during South China Sea Military Exercise


May 28, 2019

Australian navy helicopter pilots have been hit with laser beams from fishing boats suspected of being part of China's maritime militia during a recent military exercise in the [South China Sea](#).

Indo-Pacific Endeavour is an 11-week, three-ship naval deployment which has visited India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam for a series of military and humanitarian assistance training exercises with other countries.

[Read more](#)

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