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TAEF UPDATES

Call for Application: 2020 Southeast Asia-South Asia-Taiwan (SEASAT) Youth Camp

JULY 20
to
23



Diverse. Empowered. Inclusive.

Monday, March 9, 2020

Now in its second cycle, the Southeast Asia-South Asia-Taiwan (SEASAT) Youth Camp, jointly organized by the TAEF and the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), will bring together promising Asian youths for a week of diversified learning, leadership

enrichment and fostering lasting connections during their stay in Taipei, Taiwan from July 20-23, 2020.

Qualified applicants are citizens of Taiwan and countries from Southeast Asia and South Asia, 18-24 years old, have a good command of the English language, hold a valid passport, have a strong interest in women & gender issues, and have demonstrated leadership potential (e.g. in school, local communities, etc.).

Application period is from 3 March (13:00 GMT+8) to 4 April (23:59 GMT+8). For more information and to submit your application, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2TBTCIM>.

Applications and screening will proceed as scheduled. However, in light of the current international health context, the organizers will continue to monitor the situation and will send updates as the activity dates near.

NOTE: Only local expenses related to official camp activities will be covered by the organizers. These include accommodation, three meals per day + snacks between activities, local insurance, arranged transportation, learning materials, museum passes and other local miscellaneous expenses. Successful participants will be responsible for their round-trip ticket to Taipei.

Read more

TAEF Dialogues with Political-Economic Press Group



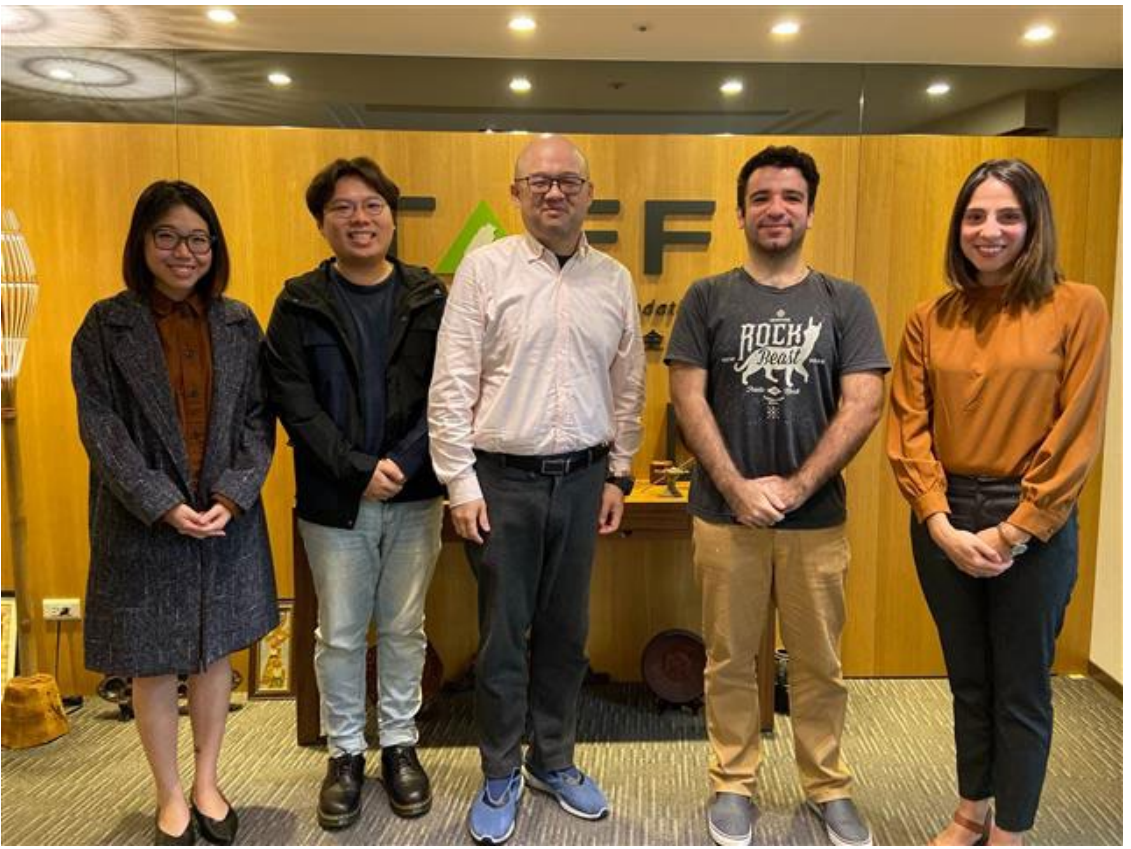
A group of journalists focusing on political and economic issues was invited to visit Taiwan by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and they had an interesting discussion about a wide range of public affairs with Chairman Michael Hsiao and Executive Director Alan Yang including Taiwan's New Southbound Policy (NSP), the changing identity of Taiwanese society in the wake of the NSP, immigrant's rights in Taiwan, and the role of civil society in Taiwan's democratic transition.

Chairman Hsiao began with sharing the achievement of the five flagship programs of the NSP, and pointed out that not only is TAEF responsible for organizing the Yushan Forum, it also works as a platform and a node of the networks connecting governmental sectors, civil societies, youth leaders, and art and cultural groups.

As the exchanges between Taiwan and Southeast Asia become more frequent and more and more Southeast Asian immigrants join the Taiwanese society, members of the press group enquired into the protection and the well-being of immigrants and migrant workers. Chairman Hsiao responded that the Taiwanese government has been investing more government spending into Chinese language courses and community service activities in order to encourage immigrants to take part in their communities. Also, schools have been offering languages course on Bahasa and Vietnamese, giving more chances to Southeast Asian immigrants to demonstrate their strength.

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TAEF Dialogues with Argentina Trade and Cultural Office



Tuesday, March 3, 2020

In an era when the rise of China looms large, Argentina is one of the countries that have shifted their focus to the Asia-Pacific region, especially Southeast Asia, to build alternative cooperative frameworks as counter-strategies. Mr. Fernando Sambrani from Argentina Trade and Cultural Office and researcher Nadia Radulovich payed a visit to TAEF to learn more about Taiwan's New Southbound Policy and how the positive effects of this particular strategic transition in the region could enlighten Argentina's foreign policies and decision-making process.

Although Argentina is not one of New Southbound countries, TAEF's Executive Director Dr. Alan Yang emphasized that Taiwan is willing to work with like-minded democracies to foster regional prosperity and stability. Sambrani and Radulovich were especially interested in the ways in which Taiwan had constructed flexible partnerships with New Southbound countries through various projects focusing on agriculture, civil societies, and youth cultivation, among others. Taiwan's experiences in these people-centered projects, Sambrani and Radulovich suggested, could be an informative reference framework for Argentina's future engagement in the Asia-Pacific region.

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TAITRA Seeks Cooperation with Three Major Trade Unions in Mexico amid Coronavirus Outbreak



Monday, March 9, 2020

Under the influence of the US-China trade war and COVID-19, international companies have been looking for alternative cooperative partners with an attempt to construct another independent supply chain and to diversify risks. Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) had thus signed an MOU with Confederation of Industrial Chambers of Mexico (CONCAMIN). While Mexico is currently Taiwan's largest trade partner in the Latin America, CONCAMIN's member organizations have contributed 30% of Mexico's GDP. The MOU between TAITRA and CONCAMIN is expected to stimulate further collaboration between Taiwan and Mexico. In addition, TAITRA has been trying to build partnerships with Consejo Mexicano de Comercio Exterior de Occidente (COMCE) and Cámara Nacional de la Industria de Transformación (CANACINTRA). TAITRA's cooperation with these three major trade organizations in Mexico marks a significant progress in Taiwan-Mexico relationships.

Read more in Chinese

The New Southbound Policy: Where Do We Go from Here?

Friday, March 6, 2020

Under grand diplomatic strategy of successive administrations in Taiwan, Lee Teng-hui, Chen Shui-bian, Ma Ying-jeou, and Tsai Ing-wen have all attempted to craft a Southbound (Go South) Policy with attributes pertinent to the time-space of its given historical context. Fundamentally, to discuss the New Southbound Policy (NSP) or its predecessors without analyzing the government's diplomatic strategy vis-à-vis cross-strait policy is a disservice to any insightful discussion, due to the two determinants having a direct impact on the strategic objectives of the Go South Policy. This piece, through an analytical lens, would provide context on the continuities and changes of the NSP from previous GSP. It would then explore the political and economic logic behind NSP, and lastly, conclude with the current limitations faced by the government and how these limitations can be overcome.

The NSP being one of Tsai's flagship policies has its purpose grounded in cultural, economical, and security concerns. With hindsight from Lee, Chen, and Ma at hand, Tsai has the privilege to steer clear of past blunders. It is also worth stressing that due to the effects of protests in Hong Kong, Tsai's landslide victory in January, and the outbreak of COVID-19, cross-strait relations are at an all-time low. With that in mind, Tsai should tread carefully on her policy and not overly politicize her agenda, as Chen did. For any substantive developments to occur, Tsai needs to avoid giving other people the impression that the NSP is a byproduct of cross-strait tensions. If so, this would frame the overall initiative as insincere, effectively obstructing her vision of a regional economic community.

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REGIONAL HEADLINES

The Diplomat

Is COVID-19 Eroding China's Influence in Southeast Asia?

The Diplomat

How Strong are Southeast Asia's "Strongmen"?

Eco-Business

Southeast Asia is the World's Bilge Dumping Hotspot—What can be Done to

Stop Ships Discharging Waste Oil?

March 11, 2020

Bilge dumping is when ships illegally discharge untreated, oily wastewater—which collects in the bilge of the ship, which is part of its hull and the lowest part of the vessel—into the ocean, breaking an international law called the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, or [Marpol](#). The law, which has been in place since the 1970s, requires ships to treat bilge water by removing the oil before it is released into the sea.

The thick oil slicks from bilge dumping stay on the water's surface until they're broken down by waves and the wind, dispersing toxins that harm marine ecosystems and coastal communities.

The problem is particularly acute in Southeast Asia. According to [2019 data from Skytruth](#), an organisation that monitors oil pollution globally using satellite imagery, the regional

March 11, 2020

What makes a dictator? This is the subject that Frank Dikötter tackles in his aptly titled book, *How to Be a Dictator*. While the book relates to dictators more generally, it is worth assessing what it says and how it might apply to some of the leaders in Southeast Asia.

Who among Southeast Asia's leaders might fit that description – whether as a dictator strictly defined or as a strongman more generally? Some may say Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, but among others that would follow would be Thai counterpart Prayut Chan-o-cha and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte.

It is worth noting, though, that little connects the three. Duterte, for all his numerous flaws, was voted into office democratically and – despite his dictatorial cravings and barring any constitutional coup –

March 11, 2020

In recent years, China has risen to become the largest source of imports for nine of the 10 Southeast Asian countries. Also, it is an increasingly important export market for all 10. Will coronavirus turn this relationship upside down?

Even before the outbreak, many had warned these countries about their over-reliance on China, but it is coronavirus that has sparked a fire. And with the inflow of tourists – from China especially – practically halted, business owners are feeling the heat.

“I don't have any customers now and I spend a total of \$20,000 per month as I hired about 35 people,” a Korean operator of hotels and saunas in Vietnam's coastal city of Da Nang reports. “I'm keeping them because they are good; we are prepared for a longer break in operations.”

At the same time, Malaysia's and Thailand's beaches have been deserted in the face of decline in the number of tourists. Moreover, analysts are unanimous in predicting that the dampened demand will surely translate into an economic slowdown for the entire region.

[Read more](#)


must exit the Malacañang Palace in 2022. Prayut came to power in a military coup in 2014, but had to go through a sham election in 2019 and prop up a new monarch to be where he is today. Hun Sen, by contrast, has now emasculated the Cambodian monarchy.

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bloc recorded by far the most incidences of bilge dumping globally (see map, right) last year.

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