

## CONTENT

- TAEF Updates
- New Southbound Policy News
- Southeast Asia/ South Asia / AUS / NZ News

## TAEF UPDATES

### TAEF Welcomes The Asia Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation, Inc. (APPPFI), Philippines



*Tuesday, June 18, 2019*

The Asia Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation, Inc. (APPPFI), Philippines, visited TAEF and were welcomed by Chairman Dr. H.H. Michael Hsiao. Both sides enjoyed a fruitful discussion on Taiwan's New Southbound Policy and the Indo-Pacific strategy of United States.

[Read more](#)

*Taiwan News*

### Taiwan to Include 7 Southeast Asian Languages in Basic Education



*Tuesday, June 25, 2019*

A total of seven Southeast Asian languages will be included in the curriculum of schools at primary and secondary education levels in Taiwan in August, as part of the island's effort to promote cultural diversity and inclusiveness.

The language training will be provided as mandatory courses once a week starting the first year at elementary schools. Students are allowed to select languages they prefer, including Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai, Burmese, Cambodian, Malay, and Filipino. The courses will become elective for junior high and senior high school students, said the Ministry of Education (MOE) in a press conference on Tuesday (June 25).

The policy is implemented to accommodate the increasing number of descendants -- estimated to be 153,987 -- of new immigrant families. Around 2,328 teachers will be put in place for the language program, reported Liberty Times.

[Read more](#)

*Taiwan News*

## Taiwan Youth Ambassadors to Visit Allies on Diplomatic Mission

*Thursday, June 20, 2019*

A total of 75 Taiwanese students have been conferred the title of “Youth Ambassador” and will be embarking on a ten-day international exchange program in the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Kiribati, and the Solomon Islands in August.

The list of ambassadors was announced in a press conference by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) on Thursday (June 19). The program, which aims to introduce the vitality of Taiwan to the world, received 1,100 applications from 84 universities this year.

According to Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Hsu Szu-chien (徐斯儉), this year marks the highest number of applicants ever as well as an increased interest in Southeast Asian countries, in line with the New Southbound Policy that has been at the core of the Tsai administration.

[Read more](#)

*Focus Taiwan*

## Taiwan can Count on U.S.' Commitment to a Shared Future: AIT Director



*Tuesday, June 18, 2019*

Taiwan can count on the United States' "unwavering commitment to our future together," while China is cause for concern, Brent Christensen, director of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), said on Tuesday at a forum in Taipei.

"Taiwan will always have a home in the community of democracies, and it can count on the United States' unwavering commitment to our future together," he said at the forum, which was jointly organized by the AIT and Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA).

Also addressing the forum, TAITRA Chairman James Huang (黃志芳) said the Taiwan government's New Southbound Policy that was launched 2016 is convergent with the U.S.' Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy as they are both focused on ASEAN and South Asia.

[\*Read more\*](#)

## SOUTHEAST ASIA / SOUTH ASIA / AUS / NZ NEWS

*Nikkei Asian  
Review*  
**Cambodia  
Building**

*The Straits Times*  
**Malaysia  
Accepts Ruling  
on Pedra**

*Bloomberg*  
**India Plans to  
Offer  
Incentives to**



## Collapse Probed as Anti-China Sentiment Simmers

*June 25, 2019*

The booming Cambodian property sector is facing intense scrutiny this week after a building under construction by Chinese developers collapsed, killing 28 workers sleeping inside.

The seven-story building caved in just before 5 a.m. on Saturday in Sihanoukville, a once sleepy coastal city radically transformed in recent years into a casino-resort town by a Chinese-driven construction rush.

Survivors said about 50 workers were inside when the building collapsed. Twenty-six people were injured, including two men pulled alive from the rubble on Monday afternoon.

[\*Read more\*](#)

## Branca, says Mahathir

*June 25, 2019*

Malaysia accepts the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) 2008 ruling which awarded Pedra Branca to Singapore, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said on Tuesday (June 25), as he cited the case to show how ASEAN member states can cooperate despite not seeing eye to eye on every issue.

Delivering the keynote speech at the 33rd Asia-Pacific Roundtable in Kuala Lumpur, he said that while Malaysia still feels strongly about Pulau Batu Puteh - the Malay name for Pedra Branca - it has accepted the ICJ's decision.

[\*Read more\*](#)

## Companies Moving from China

*June 25, 2019*

India is weighing offering incentives to attract companies moving out of China amid its trade war with the US, a person familiar with the development said.

Financial incentives such as preferential tax rates and the tax holiday provided by Vietnam to lure companies are among measures being considered, the person said, asking not to be identified as the discussion is still private.

Industries identified for incentives include electronics, consumer appliances, electric vehicles, footwear and toys, according to a trade ministry document seen by Bloomberg.

[\*Read more\*](#)