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TAEF UPDATES

TAEF Co-host Exhibition “Re-searching the Seas: Archipelagic Memories in Circulation,” Highlighting Cultural Connections between Asian Port Cities



October 30, 2021

TAEF has partnered with the Ministry of Culture, Cultural Taiwan Foundation, Keelung City Cultural Affairs Bureau, Department of Urban Development of Keelung City Government, Have Fun Creative, Lightbox, among other cultural organizations in Taiwan to co-host an important exhibition titled "Re-searching the Seas: Archipelagic Memories in Circulation." Connecting trade histories, oceanic cultures, historical documents, photograph books, and art histories among Keelung, Penang, and Manila, the exhibition aims to highlight the significance of Asian port cities on the stage of world history and to excavate their hidden cultural relations in the past hundred centuries. As Dr. Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao, Chairman of TAEF, pointed out, the long-existing oceanic cultures between Asian cities should be built as the key foundation for facilitating further regional cultural collaboration. Taking the present exhibition as a starting point, TAEF will continue exploring the cultural connections between Asian port cities in the future.

To know more about the Exhibition

TAEF COMMENTARIES

Hindustan Times

Decoding China's Recent Aggression vis-a-vis Taiwan

October 11, 2021

- Sana Hashmi, Visiting Fellow, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation

Cross-strait tensions have escalated again leading to an extensive debate about the potential invasion of Taiwan by China. The intensity of the situation in Taiwan was best manifested in Taiwan's president on October 5, she stated, "If Taiwan were to fall, the consequences would be catastrophic". Her rather alarming statement was in the context of a recent surge in the number of People's Liberation Army(PLA) encroachments into Taiwan's southwestern Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ).

Between October 1 and 5, China sent as many as 150 warplanes into Taiwan's ADIZ. On October 4, 56 PLA aircraft were sent, setting a record of the highest number of warplanes in a single day.

China's bullying tactics are linked to its National Day celebrations held on October 1 and Taiwan's Double Tenth Day on October 10, which unimaginatively heighten jingoist

unification tendencies with China. But the number of incidents is also a telltale sign of Beijing's desperation to intimidate Taipei, and push back the United States (US) and other countries from making any further commitments in supporting and securing Taiwan's position vis-a-vis China.

[Read more](#)

Nikkei Asia

Taiwan Rides Soft Power Wave as Democracies Sour on China

October 20, 2021

- Sana Hashmi, Visiting Fellow, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation

Taiwan cannot match the economic or military might of China. Yet as Beijing doubles down on its belligerent words and actions toward its smaller neighbor, Taiwan is reaping the benefits of soft power as China's image declines.

Harvard University announced last week it has relocated its overseas Mandarin program from Beijing to Taipei -- a shift that its student paper reported was "due to a perceived lack of friendliness from the host institution, Beijing Language and Culture University."

India is another global player that has recently begun to warm up to Taiwan, with which it had previously avoided significant ties out of concern of upsetting Beijing. In 2020, Taiwan donated one million masks to India for its frontline medical workers, a move that, as elsewhere, was well-received. India's border clashes with China also provided Taiwanese officials with an opportunity to connect on a different level: social media messages of democratic solidarity.

"The use of social media by President Tsai Ing-wen and other senior officials to reach out to the Indian netizens has worked well in generating awareness about Taiwan in India," said Sana Hashmi, a visiting fellow at the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation.

Taiwan's typically Western-centric approach to unofficial diplomacy could benefit from paying greater attention to its Asian neighbors, especially India, Hashmi said. There is movement in this space, however, with Taipei and New Delhi reportedly discussing possible cooperation on a \$7.5 billion semiconductor manufacturing hub in India.

"Taiwan already has robust ties with the U.S., Japan, and now with Australia, placing emphasis on India within the larger foreign policy framework and steering discussion on India in its strategic circle will be beneficial for Taiwan," she said.

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Taiwan Expo India



October 27, 2021

Over 200 products across nearly 100 brands will be displayed across 10 pavilions during the second online edition of Taiwan Expo India — the flagship exhibition of Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA). Organized with an aim to strengthen business ties between Taiwan and the ASEAN countries including India, the three-day exhibition started on October 27. This year, some of the most awaited products are LCD display screens for e-vehicle by Acewell, self-service copiers by Avisions, AI Auto Tracking PTZ Cameras by Aver, and healthcare-grade tablets for hospitals and clinical environment by Winmate. Along with these, a varied range of electrical equipment, medical devices, and health and personal care products will also be on display.

To recreate the experience of a physical show, a brand-new three-dimensional virtual exhibition hall has been built for the expo. The visitors will also be offered a chance to contact the exhibitors or the conveners of the pavilion in real-time by dropping a message or starting a video call. In addition to this, the online expo will host a variety of activities like industry forums, new product launches, and B2B online meetings.

To know more about the Expo

Taipei Times

Chang to Push CPTPP Bid at APEC Summit

November 3, 2021

President Tsai Ing-wen is hoping to use this year's APEC leaders' summit as an opportunity to push Taiwan's bid to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Tsai told a news conference yesterday that Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co-founder Morris Chang would again represent the nation at the summit to be held next month in New Zealand.

Tsai said she has asked Chang to seek backing for Taiwan's entry into the 11-nation trade bloc.

Taiwan applied to join the CPTPP in September under the name "the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu" through its representative in New Zealand, who sent the accession form to the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Read more

Nikkei Asia

Indonesia's Gojek and Taiwan's Gogoro to Test Electric Scooters

November 2, 2021

Ride-hailing company Gojek and Taiwan's Gogoro, a leading battery-swapping electric scooter maker, will launch a pilot program to test scooters with swappable batteries in Indonesia's capital, both companies announced on Tuesday. The announcement comes on the back of an April pledge by Indonesia's Gojek to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

The pilot program will begin in the next few months, initially in South Jakarta, with 250 Gogoro scooters and four battery-swapping stations. They plan to increase the number of scooters to 5,000 and add more stations in the future, both companies said in a

statement.

The pilot program is part of a strategic partnership. Gogoro announced in September that it will list in the U.S. via a merger with a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) and that GoTo, Gojek's parent, will be one of the investors participating in private investment in public equity, or PIPE.

Under the pilot program, Gojek and Gogoro will lease the scooters to drivers at a fee that "will not be expensive for drivers," Raditya Wibowo, chief transport officer at Gojek, told Nikkei Asia. The rental fee will cover the costs of changing batteries at the stations and maintenance, he said.

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REGIONAL HEADLINES

Nikkei Asia

Modi Says India Targets Net Zero Emissions by 2070

November 2, 2021

India's prime minister on Monday used the COP26 climate talks to announce 2070 as the target for his country to reach net zero carbon emissions, two decades beyond what scientists say is needed to avert catastrophic climate impacts.

Narendra Modi defended India, however, as having stuck to its climate pledges "in spirit and letter" and noted that his country contained 17% of the

The Guardian

Scott Morrison Tells Cop26 Australia Will Exceed 2030 Target in Bid to Fend off Criticism

November 1, 2021

Scott Morrison has used his national statement at the Cop26 to emphasise that Australia will probably overachieve on its 2030 emissions reduction target in an effort to blunt international criticism about his government's lack of climate ambition. While the lead-up to the Glasgow summit was dominated by Morrison's negotiations with the National party to land a net zero commitment by 2050, the UN-led event is focused on ambition for the 2030s.

The Guardian

ASEAN Summit Begins without Myanmar after Top General Barred

October 26, 2021

Southeast Asian leaders have begun their annual summit without Myanmar, after its military refused to send a representative to the three-day meeting in protest over the exclusion of its top general.

Neither Brunei, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) chair, nor the bloc's secretary-general made a mention of the no-show in opening remarks at Tuesday's virtual meeting.

world's population but was responsible for only 5% of global emissions.

Modi told other world leaders that India would increase the share of renewables in its energy mix from about 38% last year to 50% by 2030.

A COP official welcomed the 2030 pledge but expressed surprise at the 2070 goal, which is beyond China's net zero target of 2060. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said there was hope India might bring 2070 forward.

Only last week, India, currently the world's third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and the United States, rejected calls to announce a net zero carbon emissions target.

It said it was more important for the world to lay out credible pathways to reduce emissions.

[Read more](#)

Australia – part of a bloc of big emitters and exporters at last weekend's G20 summit in Rome attempting to water down commitments in the final communique to phase out coal – has been criticised for not increasing its ambition in the critical decade.

Morrison used his set-piece address to the Glasgow conference to tell his peers that Australia had submitted a new nationally determined contribution, noting that Australia's emissions would "fall by 35% by 2030, far exceeding our Paris commitment".

For 2030, the new NDC says: "Australia reaffirms its ambitious economy-wide target to reduce greenhouse emissions to 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2030, and will exceed it by up to 9 percentage points".

[Read more](#)


In an unprecedented move, ASEAN on October 15 agreed to bar Myanmar's military chief Min Aung Hlaing, who toppled a civilian government on February 1, over his failure to implement a peace plan he agreed with ASEAN in April towards ending a bloody political crisis triggered by the coup. The move was a rare bold step by a regional grouping known for its non-interference and engagement.

ASEAN is made up of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Myanmar joined in 1997 under a previous military government.

Two diplomats told The Associated Press news agency that Brunei invited Myanmar's highest-ranking veteran diplomat, Chan Aye, as a "non-political" representative but she did not attend.

[Read more](#)

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