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## TAEF UPDATES

### 2019 AIT-SEASAT Youth Camp



*Friday, July 12, 2019*

Jointly organized by the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation (TAEF), the AIT-SEASAT Youth Camp will be held from 29th July to 2nd August in Taipei. Over 1,300 applications were received, and after undergoing a stringent selection process, 30 delegates from Southeast Asia and South Asia, as well as 30 delegates from Taiwan were selected. This camp builds on a six-year tradition of promoting cross-cultural understanding and cooperation among Asia's dynamic youth community with Taiwan.

## ASIA ENGAGEMENT CONSORTIUM UPDATES

## NCCU Center for Vietnamese Studies

### Vietnamese Culture: From the Red River to the Mekong River



*Friday, June 28, 2019*

Together with the Association for Taiwanese and Vietnamese Cultural Exchange, the Center of Vietnamese Studies at National Chengchi University published a book titled "Vietnamese Culture: From the Red River to the Mekong River".

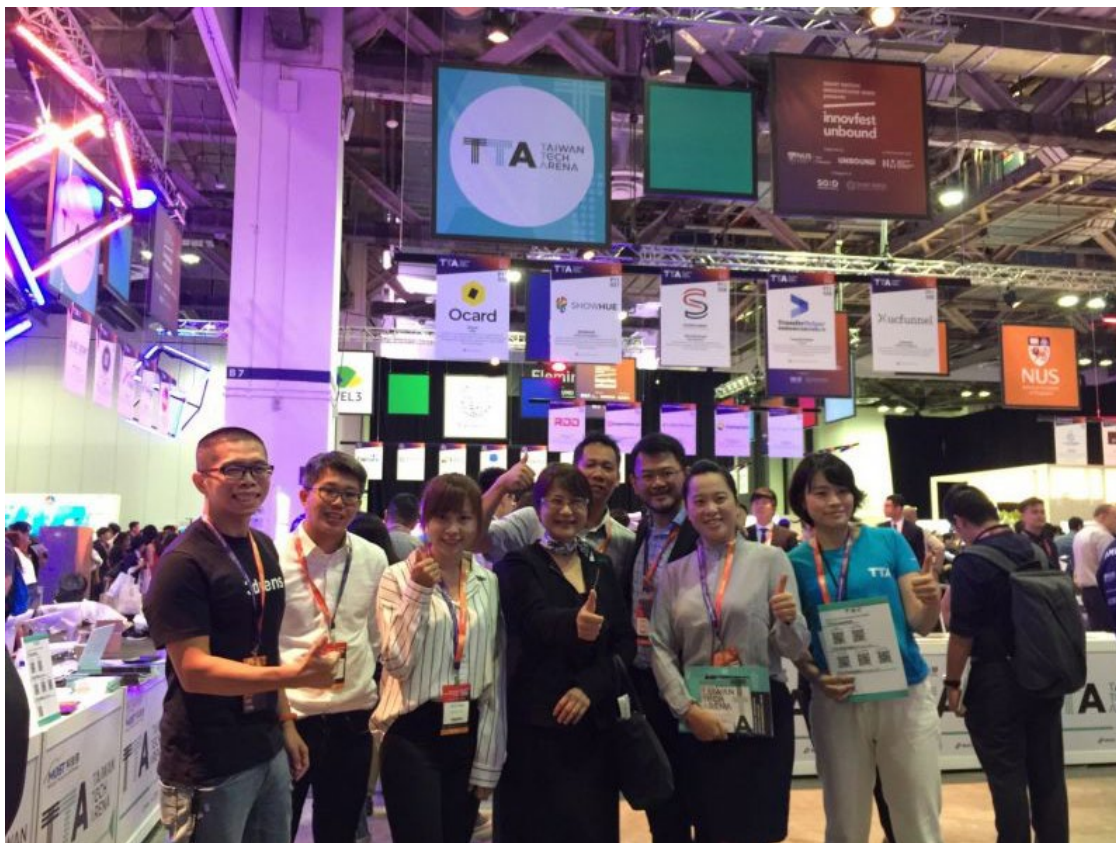
Over 20 experts on Vietnamese research from Taiwan, Vietnam and Japan contributed to the publication. The book highlights different cultural practices and influences across the north, central and south of Vietnam, including those of minority groups in the region. It traces the development of Vietnamese civilisation along the three main rivers running through Vietnam, and explores how Vietnamese culture has received and transformed influences from other cultures into their own unique practices.

[\*Read more in Chinese\*](#)

## NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

*Taiwan Today*

### Taiwan Startups Secure Deals Worth over US\$20 million at Singapore Trade Show



*Tuesday, July 09, 2019*

Taiwan companies secured orders worth NT\$640 million (US\$20.5 million) at Innovfest Unbound in Singapore, spotlighting the success of government efforts to promote emerging enterprises, the Ministry of Science and Technology said on July 9.

Organized by Taiwan Tech Arena, the country's pavilion at Southeast Asia's largest innovation trade show spotlighted 28 new ventures in fields such as artificial intelligence, Internet of Things and health care.

According to the ministry, smart city solutions provider NADI System Corp. was the first local firm to seal a deal, securing a US\$1 million order at the opening of the two-day event on June 27. The Taipei City-based company has developed software integrating 3D visualization and data management technology to enhance security systems in large venues such as airports and power plants.

[Read more](#)

*Taipei Times*

## Taiwan Extends Visa-Free Entry for Four Countries

*Saturday, July 06, 2019*

The government announced an extension of visa-free treatment for citizens of the Philippines, Thailand, Brunei and Russia for another year after seeing significant growth in tourist numbers from these nations .

Tourism Bureau statistics showed that nationals from 18 New Southbound Policy partner countries, most of whom are ASEAN members, including the Philippines, Thailand and Brunei, made a total of 2.6 million visits to Taiwan last year, up 13.61 percent from 2.29 million a year ago.

Meanwhile, since Russian passport holders were first granted visa-free entry in September last year, there has been a 65 percent increase from a year earlier in the number of Russian travelers to Taiwan, ministry data showed.

[Read more](#)

## *Taiwan News*

### **Taiwan Sets Up Platform to Promote the Island's Dental Skills Overseas**

*Friday, June 28, 2019*

Taiwan's dental technology is about to become a lot better known overseas after several organizations joined hands to form an international dental marketing platform on Friday (June 28).

The Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), the Taiwan Dental Association and the Metal Industries Research & Development Center would help the local sector expand into the international market, the Central News Agency reported.

One of the planks in the government's New Southbound Policy was already to encourage patients from South and Southeast Asian to seek medical care in Taiwan. TAITRA said it was planning to organize promotional activities in the region to share Taiwan's experience in health-related fields. The island's dental technology and know-how should be shown to the outside world, while the treatment of foreign patients should be encouraged, said officials at a news conference on Friday.

[Read more](#)

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

*Bangkok Post*

*Bloomberg*

*Channel News*



## Australia Debates Developing Nuclear Weapons

*July 08, 2019*

Facing a wobbly ally in the United States and an increasingly bellicose China, Australia's military strategists are cautiously debating whether the country needs to consider developing its own nuclear deterrent.

A century-old alliance with the United States brought bankable security guarantees, while mineral exports to China ensured 28 recession-free years at home.

But Donald Trump's limited regard for alliances and Xi Jinping's quest for primacy in the Pacific have put both pillars of Australian security in doubt.

[Read more](#)

## Singapore Pushes for Mediation Role as Trade War Breeds Disputes

*July 10, 2019*

Singapore wants to position itself as a hub for business mediation to help resolve commercial conflicts, at a time when tensions between the U.S. and China could affect investments and trade flows.

The city-state is looking to build on its reputation as a top arbitration destination in Asia as it prepares to sign the [Singapore Convention on Mediation](#) which comes under the auspices of the United Nations. More than 10 countries are expected to sign at a ceremony in Singapore on Aug. 7, after which they'll ratify it in their national parliaments, Law Minister K. Shanmugam said in an interview this week.

[Read more](#)

## Asia Bacteria in 2015 GBS Outbreak is Widespread in Southeast Asia: Researchers

*July 10, 2019*


**A** Group B Streptococcus (GBS) bacteria strain that caused an outbreak of fish-borne blood poisoning in 2015 is widespread in Southeast Asia, said researchers at Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) Singapore, who identified the pathogen.

The strain, called ST283, had landed more than 160 people in hospital with fever and invasive infections, such as meningitis, after they consumed raw freshwater fish.

Researchers said on Wednesday that the disease is more widespread than believed, and has been affecting humans and farmed fish across Southeast Asia for decades.

[Read more](#)

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