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TAEF UPDATES

The 2020 Yushan Forum Report is Now Available Online



Monday, February 22, 2021

Despite the fact of being shortened by one day due to the pandemic, the 2020 Yushan Forum still gathered numerous high-profile figures to talk about the very important issue to every one of us in the post-pandemic era—Forging a Resilient Future Together:

According to President Tsai Ing-wen, one of the most important goals of the New Southbound Policy is to ensure sustainable prosperity for the Asian community.”

Vice-President Lai Ching-te stressed that, “Taiwan will strengthen its disease prevention capabilities and make its health care more precise and accurate in the future to join the cohort in combatting the pandemic.” Malcolm Turnbull, Former Prime Minister of Australia added, “Democracies must maintain their commitment to democratic sovereignty and must not leave them aside; these values should not be for sale.”

In session one, you can read about realizing partnerships & collaborations in the post-COVID-19 world. Following right after, speakers in sessions two discuss mitigating global challenges through innovative approaches.

[Read more](#)

TAEF COMMENTARIES

Liberty Times

The International Boycott of Confucius Institutes Expands the Cultural Appeal of Taiwan Studies

Monday, February 8, 2021

- Dr. Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao, Chairman, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation

- Dr. Alan H. Yang, Executive Director, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation

Since China launched the Confucius Institute Global Expansion Plan in 2004, thousands of Confucius Institutes and Confucius classrooms were established. The Confucius Institute aimed to cooperate with internationally renowned universities and higher education institutions; promoting Chinese education, but also cultivate a pro-Beijing community.

Whether it is a Confucius Institute or a Confucius Classroom, it has become an accredited and distorted version of Chinese culture and Chinese teaching curriculum promoted by the Communist Party in Beijing.

Investigations have found that the Confucius Institute deliberately concealed the history of the Tiananmen Square incident, deliberately distort the fact that Taiwan's sovereignty is independent of China, maliciously vilified the personality of the Dalai Lama, and endangered the freedom of thought and speech in academic education.

[Read more in Mandarin](#)

NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

Focus Taiwan

Indonesian Delegation Visits Taiwan's Jakarta Office to Discuss Migrant Worker Freeze

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Indonesian officials in charge of migrant worker issues visited Taiwan's representative office in the capital city of Jakarta Monday (Feb. 22) to exchange views about the East Asian nation's freeze on migrant workers.

Three previous rounds of bilateral discussion failed to overcome the impasse. However, Indonesia has postponed changes to its worker placement fee policy, which Taiwanese employers are opposed to, until July.

Benny Rhamdani, the head of the Agency for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers (BP2MI), visited the Taiwanese office and invited its

officials to learn more about coronavirus testing and prevention measures at the main migrant worker training center, CNA reported.

The freeze on Indonesian workers, imposed last December, was partly the consequence of too many of the workers testing positive for coronavirus in Taiwan despite having received a negative PRC test result in their home country.

[Read more](#)

REGIONAL HEADLINES

The Guardian

Australia's Move to Tame Facebook and Google is just the Start of a Global Battle

February 26, 2021

Facebook and Google have become accustomed to an open world of information on which to build their closed ecosystems. Not any more. Australia is proceeding with a new media code that will force platforms to pay for news and bargain with news publishers.

While Google has complied, Facebook called the regulators' bluff by banning Australian news from its platform, before reaching a deal with the Australian government that allows it to avoid the new code, but only if it signs agreements with key publishers.

The new law is a bold move that shows that countries are realising they have more to gain by regulating the digital titans rather than bowing to their might.

[Read more](#)

CNA

Thai PM Says Meeting with Myanmar's Military Envoy Not 'Endorsement'

February 26, 2021

Thailand's prime minister said on Thursday (Feb 25) his meeting with Myanmar's military-appointed foreign minister this week following a coup in the neighbouring country did not mean "endorsement".

The meeting on Wednesday mainly saw him listening to Wunna Maung Lwin, appointed by the Myanmar military who seized power earlier this month, about "political developments" and the situation in Myanmar, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha told reporters.

He also denied that Thailand has joined Indonesia in becoming a mediator to solve the situation in Myanmar.

[Read more](#)

The Jakarta Post

Malaysian Wins Challenge Against Islamic Law Banning Gay Sex

February 25, 2021

A Malaysian man Thursday won the country's first legal challenge against Islamic laws banning gay sex. A victory hailed as "monumental progress" in combatting persecution of the LGBT community.

He was charged in an Islamic court in 2019 with attempting to have "intercourse against the order of nature", and several others in the same case have already pleaded guilty and were caned as a punishment.

Critics say the climate is worsening for the gay community in Muslim-majority Malaysia, with government officials often speaking out against LGBT people.

[Read more](#)

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