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**TAEF UPDATES**

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**Asian Performing Arts Forum: Book Reading Session**



*Wednesday, December 2, 2020*

Due to the abrupt pandemic, most art exchanges have been suspended this year. However, TAEF has utilized this opportunity by looking inwards within Taiwan. It was also at this juncture where we realized the diverse and growing cross-cultural, cross-linguistic, cross-ethnic arts and, literary energy. There were many new arts and literature workers who have re-settled in Taiwan, but the public often lacks the opportunity to understand them.

*Read more in Mandarin*

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**Asia Engagement Consortium Updates**

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*Taiwan Foundation for Democracy*

**The Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions Receives the 2020 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award**

*Monday, November 30, 2020*

The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD) announced on November 30 that the 2020 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award will be awarded to the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF).

The Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions is a unique regional organization, the members of which are the national human rights institutions (NHRIs) from across the Asia Pacific region. The APF undertakes important work to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights for the region's most vulnerable people. Founded in 1996 by the initiative of the NHRIs of Australia, India, Indonesia, and New Zealand, the Forum now has a total of 25 NHRIs as its members (16 official members and 9 associate members).

The founding purpose of the APF is to help the existing NHRIs in the region and improve their effectiveness, many of which are under-resourced and lacking the necessary skills to effectively undertake their mandate, and in those countries that do not yet have NHRIs, to encourage and provide assistance to the governments and local civil society to establish NHRIs in accordance with the minimum standards endorsed by the United Nations Principles on the Status of National Human Rights Institutions (the Paris Principles).

[Read more](#)

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## NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

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*Taiwan News*

### Taiwan in talks with Southeast Asian countries for new migrant worker sources

*Wednesday, December 2, 2020*

Taiwan is expected to introduce migrant workers from new source nations starting 2022 to address labor shortage woes, according to the nation's labor authorities.

Though the nations in question are confirmed to be in Southeast Asia, the details cannot yet be disclosed due to ongoing diplomatic negotiations, said Minister of Labor Hsu Ming-Chun on December 2 during a legislative interpellation session, wrote UDN.

A task force will be established to carry out the program, with memorandums of understanding (MOUs) expected to be signed with prospective countries next year, Hsu added.

Taiwan has temporarily blocked entry of Indonesian workers for two weeks from Dec. 2 amid a spike of coronavirus cases among migrant laborers from the archipelagic country. Around 1,350 people are estimated to be affected by the measure aimed at lowering COVID-19 transmission risks, said CNA.

[Read more](#)

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## REGIONAL HEADLINES

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*SCMP*

*SCMP*

*East Asia Forum*

**Up to 1 Billion  
People in Asia to**

## Face Lethal Heatwave Conditions by 2050 due to Climate Change: Report

December 4, 2020

Up to 1 billion people in Asia could live in areas experiencing lethal heatwaves by 2050 as a result of worsening climate change, according to a new report by consulting firm McKinsey Global Institute (MGI).

The modelling in the report outlines that severe heat is just one of the major risks forecast for the continent under RCP8.5, a worst-case scenario situation that could result without collective action to reduce carbon emissions.

Without vastly improved action to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement, Asia is expected to see temperature rises of more than two degrees from pre-industrial levels.

[Read more](#)

## Nurses in the Philippines Can't Go Abroad, but There are Few Opportunities at Home

December 6, 2020

Lorna Sianen Pagaduan was en route to a new nursing job in Libya when she “got stuck in Hong Kong” more than two decades ago.

But that misfortune turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as 22 years later she is now president of the city’s Filipino Nurses Association, and has used her earnings to put six siblings through school.

This is why she rejects the Philippine government’s decision late last month to cap the number of newly hired nurses and other health professionals it sends abroad annually at 5,000, starting from this year.

[Read more](#)

## Indonesia Signed RCEP, What Next?

November 23, 2020

On 15 November 2020, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was finally signed after eight years of negotiation. It is one of the largest trade deals in history, covering a third of the global economy and population. Negotiated among 16 countries — the 10 ASEAN members plus Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea — it was signed without India who withdrew in 2019.

Indonesia has played a significant role in the negotiations. As the seventh largest economy in the world — and the largest in ASEAN — it is in Indonesia’s interest to see this trade deal concluded.

[Read more](#)

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