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## TAEF UPDATES

### [Call for Registration] Resilient Cities Forum in Taoyuan



The poster features a pink and dark blue background. On the left, the text reads: "Resilient Cities Forum in TAOYUAN" in large blue letters, followed by "Sustainable Economy, Good Governance, and International Cooperation" in smaller white text. Below that, the Chinese text "韌性城市論壇" and "永續經濟、良善治理與國際合作" are displayed, along with the date "12/13". On the right, there is a grid of pink circles and a stylized white graphic. The TAEF logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

December 10, 2021

The Taoyuan City Government and the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation will co-organize on Dec. 13 the "Resilient Cities Forum in Taoyuan" to strengthen the practices of "Sustainable Development Goals" established by the United Nations.

Through three major topics, including sustainable economy, good governance, and international cooperation, this forum aims to share Taiwanese, Asian, and Western experiences in promoting green lifestyles, human rights, and transnational initiatives.

This forum will serve as a dialogue platform between Taiwan and the global community, with an aim to highlight how important cities across the globe could cooperate and grow together through resilient projects.

The forum will be offering Transportation between the venue, HSR Taoyuan Station and Taipei City; meal boxes; beverages; and a souvenir bag with Taoyuan resilient items (limited).

*Registration*

## **Film Screening: Taiwan-Indonesia-Sarawak International Ethnographic Microcinema**

## 科技部「臺印尼東南亞族群文化與社會科研中心維運計畫」

指導單位：科技部、國立臺東大學

主辦單位：國立臺東大學南島文化中心、財團法人臺灣亞洲交流基金會

影片拍攝與製作團隊：國立臺東大學南島文化中心、印尼丹絨布拉大學國際事務中心、馬來西亞大砂勞越大學人類學與社會學系、臺印尼東南亞族群文化與社會科研中心

MOST 科技部 國立臺東大學

南島文化中心 TAEF



UNIMAS

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### 7部影片 | 3國青年 | 跨境探討建築、信仰、客家、認同、美食與靈力

Kin Beyond Borders: The Malays of Southern Borneo 跨越國境的親緣:南婆羅洲的馬來人 | Mind, Body, Soul & Borneo 婆羅洲島上的心、身與性靈 | HAKKA 客家 | Three teachings 三教 Tri Dharma | Traditional Food in West Kalimantan and Taiwan 傳統美食在西加里曼丹與臺灣 | Identity 認同 | Believers 虔信者

中英字幕 · 臺灣 · 印尼 · 砂勞越青年導演現場與談



現場與線上參與報名，請掃QR code，填寫表單，報名額滿為止

December 4, 2021

Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation and the Center of Austronesian Culture at NTU jointly organized a film screening event at the Thinkers' Studio Taipei that showcased 7 international ethnographic microfilms produced by youth directors. The films featured the intersections of traditional buildings, religious beliefs, Hakka culture, identities, traditional cuisine, and soul and spirit.

The film production project was advised by the Ministry of Science and Technology and

the National Taitung University, and organized by the Center of Austronesian Culture at NTTU; Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation; International Affairs Office of Universitas Tanjungpura; Department of Sociology and Anthropology of the University of Malaysia Sarawak; and the Center of Southeast Asian Ethnicities, Cultures, and Societies.

[Read more in Chinese](#)

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## TAEF COMMENTARIES

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*The Taipei Times*

### ASEAN is Core to Southbound Policy

*November 27, 2021*

- Dr. Sana Hashmi, Visiting Fellow, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation
- Dr. Alan H. Yang, Executive Director, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation

A number of like-minded countries have placed ASEAN and its centrality at the core of their Indo-Pacific strategies. Likewise, Taiwan has emphasized the importance of Southeast Asian countries for its own policy vision. The emergence of the Indo-Pacific construct has provided further thrust for Taiwan to expand its external engagement. This complements Taiwan's New Southbound Policy.

There is little doubt that Taiwan's policy framework and external outreach to the Southeast Asian region has been an encouraging story. This is one reason that when President Tsai Ing-wen introduced her administration's flagship proposal, the New Southbound Policy, she included the 10 ASEAN members as well.

Since the 1990s, and more precisely under former president Lee Teng-hui, Southeast Asia has been an important region for Taiwan. Proximity and cultural affinity between Taiwan and some countries in Southeast Asia made it easier for Taiwan to establish robust economic ties. Taiwanese businesspeople who moved to Southeast Asian countries in the 1980s have also contributed to the advancement of these ties. The bond with Southeast Asia has only grown stronger in the past three decades.

Taiwan has advanced relations with ASEAN members in a wide range of areas, including the four pillars of the New Southbound Policy: promoting economic collaboration; conducting talent exchanges; sharing resources; and forging regional links. While Taiwan is slowly moving toward expanding ties with the other New Southbound Policy countries, all four pillars are well-placed in Taiwan's relations with ASEAN members.

[Read more](#)

*French Institute of International Relations*

# India-Taiwan Ties: A Case for Stronger Partnership

*November 2021*

*- Dr. Sana Hashmi, Visiting Fellow, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation*

**T**he links between India and Taiwan have gathered unprecedented momentum in recent years. This has largely come about due to growing support for Taiwan at civil society level in India.

Taiwan has tried to reach out to India. Its carefully crafted New Southbound Policy, President Tsai Ing-wen's flagship foreign policy move, which was officially launched in 2016, has served as a roadmap for greater engagement with Taiwan's potential friends and partners – especially India. India's Act East policy and Indo-Pacific outreach efforts have also encouraged Taiwan to widen and deepen its engagement with India. This, however, is a recent development facilitated by a variety of strategic developments in the region. With the Indo-Pacific construct taking a firmer shape, New Delhi-Taipei ties are poised to assume a more concrete shape and provide a meaningful role for the bilateral relations, which have ebbed and flowed since the establishment of unofficial relations between the two democracies in 1995.

For a long time, the China factor has overshadowed India-Taiwan relations. While Taiwan itself was taking a conciliatory stance toward China before Tsai assumed the president's office in 2016, India's complicated relationship with China also played a role in preventing Delhi and Taipei from intensifying their relationship. However, China's assertive foreign policy under President Xi Jinping has compelled several countries to find a long-term and viable solution to address their national concerns. China's reluctance to address India's territorial concerns and two major Chinese territorial incursions over the past four years (Doklam 2017, Galwan 2020) have forced India to rethink its China policy. In the process, India-Taiwan ties have also benefitted, and India is making efforts to revamp its Taiwan policy. The early signs of this were visible during the initial phase of the first term of the Narendra Modi government (2014–17).

There are noticeable signs of India slowly shedding its hesitancy about Taiwan, but it still remains cautious. To step up the momentum, Taiwan needs to maximize the potential of the New Southbound Policy in engaging India and other major actors in the Indo-Pacific region. Given that India is a key focus country within the framework of the New Southbound Policy, Taiwan should take further steps to strengthen relations with the South Asian country. This partnership is mutually beneficial in several aspects. It will be a missed opportunity for both Taiwan and India if the two sides do not find a way to engage each other purposefully.

*[Read more](#)*

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## CONSORTIUM UPDATES

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*Taiwan Foundation for Democracy*

**Announcement of the Recipient of the 2021 Asia Democracy**

# and Human Rights Award



*December 3, 2021*

**T**he Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD) announced today (11/30) that the 2021 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award will be awarded to Afghanistan lawyer Humaira Rasuli.

Humaira Rasuli is an Afghan human rights lawyer and the co-founder and executive director of the Women for Justice Organization (WJO). She started participating in social activism when she was 16 years old and a refugee in Pakistan. After returning to Afghanistan, she led lawyers, gender experts, and activists in WJO to increase women's access to justice, uphold the rule of law in Afghanistan, and investigate some of the most emblematic sex crime cases in the country. She also formerly led Medica Afghanistan which is another women's rights organization that provides psychosocial counseling and legal support to female survivors of sexual violence.

Chairman of the TFD You Si-Kun said this year's Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award is awarded to Humaira Rasuli in recognition of her contributions and endeavors to promote Afghan women's rights. Chairman You hopes that this year's award will further inspire the world to pay closer attention to human rights in Afghanistan, especially women's rights. He also hoped that it will encourage human rights defenders and those who have been deprived of human rights, and demonstrate that there are still many people around the world that support them and to not lose hope.

*[Read more](#)*

## Trade Between Taiwan and Singapore Surges 33%

December 1, 2021

Trade between Taiwan and Singapore surged by 36% to reach US\$31.1 billion (NT\$861.67 billion) for the period from January to October despite the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, reports said Wednesday (Dec. 1).

During all of 2020, bilateral trade totaled US\$28 billion, Taiwan's envoy in Singapore, Francis Liang, told a virtual forum hosted by the South and Southeast Asia Association Taiwan.

During his speech, he also described Singapore as the "engine" of the government's New Southbound Policy, since their bilateral trade accounted for 25.6% of the trade between Taiwan and the 18 countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific targeted by the policy, CNA reported.

Singapore also invested US\$9.1 billion in Taiwan between Jan.-Sept. 2021, showing the close economic and trade partnership between the two countries, according to Liang. The diplomat emphasized the key role the Southeast Asian nation played in helping Taiwan develop the regional market and establish its presence in international trade bodies.

[Read more](#)

## REGIONAL HEADLINES

*Bloomberg*

**Australia Joins  
Diplomatic  
Boycott of China  
Winter Olympics**

December 8, 2021

*Straits Times*

**Putin Visits India  
to Boost Military  
and Energy Ties**

December 7, 2021

*VOA*

**China Launches  
High-Speed Rail  
Through Laos in  
First Leg of  
Southeast Asia  
Corridor**

December 2, 2021

Chinese and Lao

**A**ustralia will join the U.S.-led diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics to protest the nation's alleged human rights abuses, in a move set to further worsen relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison's move makes Australia the first major country to follow the U.S. in deciding against sending officials to the spectacle starting Feb. 4 - while both will allow their athletes to participate. The decision also comes after China threatened the U.S. with retaliation, warning that ties between the world's two largest economies may suffer.

"The human rights abuses in Xinjiang and many other issues that Australia has consistently raised, we have been very pleased and very happy to talk to the Chinese government about these issues," Morrison told reporters in Sydney on Wednesday.

"But the Chinese government has consistently not accepted those opportunities for us to meet about these issues," he said, adding that it shouldn't be a surprise that Australian officials "would, therefore, not be going to China for those games."

[Read more](#)

**M**oscow and New Delhi signed a deal on Monday (Dec 6) that will see India produce more than 600,000 AK-203 assault rifles, said Russian weapons maker Kalashnikov.

The deal was struck during Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India for talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two countries also signed a deal on military-technical cooperation until 2031, the Tass news service quoted the Kremlin as saying.

Mr Putin was expected during his visit to seek the strengthening of military and energy ties with a traditional ally, which is being courted by Washington.

In its efforts to address a rising China, Washington has set up the Quad security dialogue with India, Japan and Australia, raising concerns in both Beijing and Moscow.

India was close to the Soviet Union during the Cold War, a relationship that has endured, with New Delhi calling it a "special and privileged strategic partnership".

[Read more](#)

**C**hina officials Friday will inaugurate a \$5.9 billion high-speed rail line through Laos, six years after breaking ground on the first leg of Beijing's grand plans to link China's underdeveloped interior with the bustling seaports of Singapore by train.

The 414-kilometer ribbon of steel and concrete ties Laos' northern border with China's Yunnan province to its frontier with Thailand at Vientiane, Laos' capital, across 167 bridges and 75 tunnels. With a top speed of 160 kilometers per hour, sleek new bullet trains will cut a bone-jarring 15-hour road trip down to under four hours, promising a new tide of trade and tourists from China for one of Southeast Asia's poorest countries.

For Beijing, it is the critical opening move of a key Belt and Road Initiative project aimed at not only developing Yunnan by plugging it into some of Southeast Asia's biggest economies but at pulling the region further into China's orbit, analysts say.

"From a Chinese perspective it enables China to look at continental Southeast Asia as part of the hinterland, and they'll have better control, they'll have better access because the train is there," said Ruth Banomyon, a professor at Thailand's Thammasat




University who studies  
international trade,  
transport and logistics.

*Read more*

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