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**TAEF UPDATES**

**Members of the National Applied Research Lab Visited the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation**



*Friday, July 10, 2020*

**M**embers of the New Southbound Policy(NSP) project office from the National

Applied Research Laboratories (NARLabs) visited the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation on July 10.

Operated by NARLabs, the NSP project office of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) has the mission to enhance exchanges and cooperation in science and technology between Taiwan and NSP countries.

Since 2017, MoST has funded Taiwanese colleges to establish the "Science and Technology Innovation Center" (STIC) in NSP countries. So far, 12 STIC have been set up in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Vietnam, Thailand, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Myanmar. NARLabs itself also has an office open in Bangkok, Thailand in 2019.

TAEF, promoting NSP from a human-oriented perspective, looks forward to deepening cooperation with NARLabs.

[Read more](#)

## Cultural Salon: Viewing New Southbound From the Lens of New Immigrants [Call for Registration]

NEW SOUTHBOUND

從新住民看新南向

新南向文化沙龍 I

移動中的東南亞

13:30-17:00 (四)  
2020.07.23  
思劇場  
迪化街一段32巷1號3樓

TAEF  
Joleon

*Friday, July 10, 2020*

The New Southbound Cultural Salon will be happening on July 23 at Thinkers' Studio in Taipei. Invited speakers include Morris Huang, the associate negotiator at the Office of Trade Negotiations (OTN), Executive Yuan, and Liang-chun Chen, the Editor-in-Chief of Taiwan Paranoma, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Morris will be providing commentary on the newest developments of the New Southbound Policy (NSP) and the integration of new immigrants through a governmental lens. The OTN is one of the NSP's primary drivers. Besides foreign trade and negotiations, the NSP also covers talent exchange, resource sharing, and regional linkage. In the past four years, exchange programs under the NSP have encompassed across fields such as agriculture, medicine, tourism, construction, education, and more. Liang-chun Chen will be sharing NSP stories accumulated over the years, from art performances to cultural preservation, and tech cooperation to epidemic prevention; reporters from Taiwan Paranoma have documented the relations and stories of Taiwan and New Southbound countries.

*Read more in Chinese*

## ASIA ENGAGEMENT CONSORTIUM UPDATES

*Center for Southeast Asian Studies, National Chengchi University*

### **Book Symposium: Prof. Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao and Asia's New Taiwan**



*Thursday, July 15, 2020*

**P**rof. Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao discussed his four decades of academic tumbling in four dissimilar yet inter-linked academic fields, namely environmental movements, Hakka studies, non-governmental organizations, and Southeast Asian studies at the book launch of *The Age of Progression and Justice*, a collection of academic papers celebrating Prof. Hsiao's achievement.

As a prominent public intellectual, Prof. Hsiao has been providing innovative insights by synthesizing Taiwan's development experience with sociological theories, offering clear policy recommendations for the government, and most essentially, promoting social progress and engagement.

*[Read more in Chinese](#)*

*Center for Vietnamese Studies, National Cheng Kung University*

## **Breakthrough in Literary Exchange: The First Vietnamese Translation of the History of Taiwanese Literature**



Thursday, July 16, 2020

The Center for Vietnamese Studies announced the publication of "ĐẦU LƯỖI VÀ NGÒI BÚT: LỊCH SỬ VĂN HỌC TIẾNG MẸ ĐỂ ĐÀI LOAN" (History of Taiwanese Literature). The *History of Taiwanese Literature* was written by Taiwanese scholar LIAU Sui-beng and published by the National Museum of Taiwan Literature in 2013. It was later translated into Vietnamese and published by Vietnamese Writers' Association (Nhà Xuất Bản Hội Nhà Văn) in Hanoi. Dr. Wi-vun CHIUNG, the editor-in-chief of the

Vietnamese edition and the chairperson of Taiwanese Literature Department at National Cheng Kung University, said that the partnership with the Vietnamese Writers' Association in publishing the Vietnamese edition of the *History* was particularly encouraging under the condition that there are no formal diplomatic relations between Taiwan and Vietnam.

*Read more in Chinese*

## NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

*The Diplomat*

### Calls for India to Play the Taiwan Card Grow Louder

*Thursday, July 9, 2020*

**A**mid the continuing border standoff, there is increasing public antagonism toward China in India. This matches growing anger among Indian elites toward China and India's current China policy, which I wrote about last week. This is leading to more public discussion about possible asymmetric diplomatic strategies to challenge China, such as altering India's "one China policy" to enhance India's relations with Taiwan.

For example, a prominent Indian national newspaper, Indian Express, editorialized in May that India should be pragmatic in considering the question of Taiwan's observer status in the World Health Assembly: the decision "should not be made either out of peevishness or fear." The editorial argued that New Delhi should judge the issue on "apolitical appreciation of the specific technical issues involved." Thus, though the paper did not call for changing India's general policy on China and Taiwan, it was a reflection of the growing debate about the general unhappiness with India's ultra-cautious policy when it comes to China.

Other opinions have been much more insistent. The Times of India, editorializing on the same issue, asked the government to "not shy away from supporting Taiwan." The editorial went one step further than the Indian Express by saying that this should remain an important aspect of the reform of the World Health Organization (WHO). It also argued that India should stop being "overly deferential to Beijing" when China has routinely worked against Indian interests in the UN and other multilateral organizations. The Times of India concluded that "if Delhi is to get itself taken seriously, it must demonstrate that it can stand up and be counted."

It should be noted that this is not the first time that the Times of India has taken such a stand on Taiwan. In 2019, in the wake of Chinese threats to Taiwan, the paper put out an editorial arguing that India should step up its cooperation with Taiwan. It also made

reference to a 2018 Indian Parliamentary Standing Committee report on India-China relations, which called for a stronger partnership between India and Taiwan, adding that it was strange that India has shied away from cooperating with Taiwan, whereas Taipei and Beijing had active trade and investment ties despite their political disagreements.

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## REGIONAL HEADLINES

*SCMP*

**Foreign Ministers from China, Philippines Discuss South China Sea after US Statement from Mike Pompeo**

*July 15, 2020*

**C**hina's foreign minister Wang Yi called on Manila to cherish its hard-won friendship with Beijing and focus on bilateral cooperation, in a Tuesday conversation with his Philippine counterpart Teodoro Locsin Jr that was prompted by an unusually sharp exchange of statements over the 2016 South China Sea arbitral ruling.

Beijing requested the

*The Strait Times*

**Singapore GE2020: PAP Will Have to Review Broader Issues Behind Overall Swing in Votes, Says Tan Chuan-Jin**

*July 13, 2020*

**T**he People's Action Party will have to examine what the broader issues are that caused a swing in votes against it at the general election, said Speaker of Parliament Tan Chuan-Jin on Sunday (July 12).

He noted that the ruling party saw an overall swing against it across the board, including in his group representation constituency of Marine Parade.

*CNN*

**Thailand Could Become the First Southeast Asian Country to Legalize Same-Sex Civil Partnerships**

*July 9, 2020*

**T**hailand's Cabinet on Wednesday approved a draft bill that will legally recognize same-sex civil partnerships and give greater rights to same-sex couples, a potential first for any nation in Southeast Asia if passed into law.

If ratified by parliament, it would make Thailand only the second place in Asia to allow for the registration of same-sex unions after Taiwan

video call, according to the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs. “Both sides reaffirmed that contentious maritime issues are not the sum total of the Philippines-China bilateral relationship,” it said on Wednesday.

Wang also dwelled on the statement by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who on Monday rejected most of China’s claims in the disputed waterway.

Analysts say Washington’s full-throated stance signals more military activity in the South China Sea, and potential sanctions on Chinese entities to push back on Beijing’s influence.

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The PAP garnered 61.24 per cent of the popular vote at the general election, and saw its vote share fall in every GRC and single seat that it contested compared with the 2015 election, with the exception of MacPherson and Mountbatten SMCs.

[Read more](#)


legalized same-sex marriage last year.

While it doesn’t go as far as endorsing same-sex marriage, the Civil Partnership Bill allows same-sex couples to legally register their union, a significant move in what remains a largely conservative nation.

Under the draft bill, same-sex couples can adopt children, claim inheritance rights, and jointly manage assets such as property for the first time.

[Read more](#)

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