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**TAEF UPDATES**

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**The 2021 January Issue of TAEF Quarterly Has Recently Published**



*Tuesday, January 19, 2021*

**T**he latest issue of TAEF Quarterly, titled 2020 Yushan Forum: Exploring Taiwan's New Southbound Trajectories post-Covid, provides readers with the four special reports covering the depth and breadth of Taiwan's New Southbound Policy and the preliminary results fostered by dozens of cross-ministerial agencies.

*Read more in Mandarin*

**Connecting Southeast Asia: Living the New Southbound Policy**

*Tuesday, January 22, 2021*

**T**he New Southbound Policy is not merely a government launched initiative, but a people-to-people project. Starting with our first video, did you know that immigrants

are an indispensable part of Taiwan's vibrant multicultural community? Today more than 560,000 new immigrants living in Taiwan according to the statistics from Taiwan's National Immigration Agency (NIA) of the Ministry of the Interior. Around 30% of them come from Southeast Asian countries, such as Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

In our second episode, the Hakka Affairs Council (HAC) has been promoting exchanges between different Hakka communities both at home and abroad. There are at least 4 to 5 million Hakka in Southeast Asian countries, such as Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore. In line with the New Southbound Policy, HAC has enlarged its overseas exchange counterparts from associations to communities.

Last but not least, the Overseas Community Affairs Council (OCAC) gradually enhances the connection and exchange between Taiwan and the New Southbound partner countries by providing services based on the needs of overseas communities, and reforming overseas affairs via innovation, digitization, integration platform, and cooperation with the civil society.

Check out our videos and learn about our projects and initiatives!

*Video 1*

*Video 2*

*Video 3*

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## NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

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*Focus Taiwan*

### Taiwan Offers to Help Following Indonesia's Deadly Quake

*Saturday, January 16, 2021*

Taiwan's government is willing to provide humanitarian assistance to the victims of a deadly earthquake that hit the Indonesian island of Sulawesi early Friday, the Presidential Office said that day.

"Presidential Office Spokesman Xavier Chang said President Tsai Ing-wen has instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) to express her government's sympathies and concerns to the quake victims and their families.

"President Tsai has also instructed the ministry to convey Taiwan's intention to help the Indonesian government in its disaster relief efforts," Chang said.

*Read more*

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## REGIONAL HEADLINES

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*The Jakarta Post*

**Key Thai  
Opposition Figure  
Faces Royal  
Defamation Charge**

*The Strait Times*

**Malaysia Takes  
WTO Legal Action  
Against EU Over  
Palm Biofuel Curbs**

*East Asia Forum*

**What Next for Laos'  
Growth Strategy?**

January 21, 2021

**A** Thai Billionaire opposition figure was accused Wednesday of defaming the monarchy, a day after a court sentenced a former civil servant to more than 40 years in jail for lese majeste crimes.

Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, founder of the now-dissolved Future Forward Party, was accused of contravening Thailand's strict royal defamation laws by posting a video Monday criticizing the government's vaccine strategy.

In the video he raised questions about whether Thailand's vaccination campaign is too reliant on Siam BioScience, which is owned by the Crown Property Bureau - a body that manages the royal family's multi-billion-dollar fortune.

*Read more*

January 16, 2021

**M**alaysia is taking legal action at the global trade watchdog against the European Union and member states France and Lithuania for restricting palm oil-based biofuels, the government said.

The world's second-largest palm oil producer, which has called an EU renewable-energy directive "discriminatory action", is seeking consultations under the World Trade Organisation's Dispute Settlement Mechanism, the Plantation Industries and Commodities Ministry said in a statement on Friday (Jan 15).

Minister Mohd Khairuddin Aman Razali said the EU proceeded with implementing the directive without considering Malaysia's commitment and views, even after Malaysia gave feedback and sent economic and technical missions to Europe.

*Read more*

January 15, 2021

**T**he economic growth trend in Laos started when it first opened to foreign trade and investment in the early 1990s. Three major economic crises have hit Laos since, profoundly affecting the country's growth strategies.

Laos is a landlocked country whose substantial interaction with the outside world is carried out through Thailand, one of its immediate neighbours. Trading with or through Thailand to the west had long been the most economically efficient route for geographic and historical reasons.

Most cities in Laos are also distributed along the western border with Thailand, making trading westward simply more efficient. The formalisation of trade and investment westwards in 1989 was a pragmatic reverse of the stagnant attempts to establish an alternative connectivity eastward via Vietnam since 1975.

*Read more*

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