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TAEF UPDATES

Call for application: 2021 SEASAT Youth Camp



Due on April 30, 2021

Now in its third cycle, the Southeast Asia-South Asia-Taiwan (SEASAT) Youth Camp, jointly organized by the TAEF and the American Institute Taiwan, will bring together promising Asian youths for a journey of diversified learning, leadership enrichment, and fostering lasting connections during their stay in Taipei, Taiwan from July 27-29, 2021.

Dedicated to the youth aged between 18-24 from Southeast Asia, South Asia, and

Taiwan, the third edition of the SEASAT youth camp provides an interdisciplinary program featuring various topics around the theme “Home”, addressing some of the most major issues in the world today, such as human rights, climate change, migration, and social innovation. More details on this year's program and speakers can be found on our [Facebook page](#).

Submit your application here before April 30

TAEF Event Focus: Education Work in New Southbound Countries



Event date: April 19, 2021

At the first workshop of the International Development Workshop Series, co-hosted by TAEF and Taiwan AID, five organizations—Zhi-Shan Foundation, the Field Relief Agency of Taiwan, Glocal Action, Taiwan Fund for Children and Families, and Calls over Ridges—were invited to share their experience regarding how they started education work in Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Nepal, respectively, and their strategies in response to the COVID-19.

Although the five organizations have distinct histories and developed different education programs according to local contexts, all of them emphasized the importance of the participation of local communities and the establishment of solid partnerships with local organizations. In face of COVID-19, they not only delivered emergency relief services but also developed systematic response strategies and identified innovative approaches during the service delivery process, which have been well used to ensure the disadvantaged children can continue to receive an education.

Read more

“Format Wars: The Birth of Transpacific Informatics”, TAEF research fellow's project granted by NCAF



Friday, April 23, 2021

With the support from one of its entrepreneurial members and Wising Arts Foundation, National Culture and Arts Foundation launched a grant program for visual arts and art criticism in 2018 to encourage writings on arts and cultural issues, interactions among art spaces, cooperation with press and media to publish art criticism, and development of visual arts.

After three years of operation, NCAF's grant program for visual arts and art criticism held the first forum at Wising Art Place on April 17. The forum invited four speakers (TAEF's assistant research fellow Ding-Liang Chen, poet, and art critic Enkaryon Ang, photographer Kuan-Yu Chen, and artist Wen-Hsuan Chen).

Chen's project "Format Wars: The Birth of Transpacific Informatics" investigated contemporary novels, poetry, new media arts, and historical archives produced in Taiwan, Guam, and the Philippines to bring up an archipelagic critique that unsettles the ideology of continental-centrism, on the one hand, and to gesture toward an interdisciplinary approach that transcends the disciplinary boundaries between humanities and science and technology studies.

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The Diplomat

Time to Take Taiwan Studies Beyond America

Friday, April 16, 2021

- Sana Hashmi, visiting fellow of the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation

- Marcin Jerzewski, research fellow at the Taiwan NextGen Foundation

"Taiwan could gain outsized rewards from promoting the field in Australia, India, and Indonesia."

Having long been relegated to the fringes of sinological research, Taiwan studies is finally establishing itself as an independent, interdisciplinary field of studies. This development has important domestic implications for Taiwan, as it creates a space for more holistic and critical definitions of Taiwanese identity, inclusive of the multifarious experiences of Indigenous Austronesians, Hoklos, Hakkas, the so-called Mainlanders, and more recent migrants from Southeast Asia. Equally important are the international implications. The rise of Taiwan studies positively contributes to the nation's soft power projection and helps shape discourse on Taiwan globally, as the relevance of Taiwan studies is arguably directly proportional to the relevance of Taiwan itself.

The recent decision of Taiwan's executive bodies to expand funding for Taiwan studies at top U.S. institutions, namely Harvard University, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Texas at Austin, was welcomed with great enthusiasm on both sides of the Pacific. Following the above logic, this zeal should hardly be surprising.

Nevertheless, an important question remains unanswered. Why is similar vigor not shown toward the countries under the New Southbound Policy?

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CONSORTIUM UPDATES

Asia Regional Resilience

2021 Asia-Pacific Disaster Management Summit



Event date: April 22, 2021

On April 22, the earth day, the TAEF co-organized with its ARC member, the Taiwan Association for Disaster Prevention Industry (TADPI) the 2021 Asia-Pacific Disaster Prevention Summit, inaugurated by Mr. Michael Hsiao, chairman of the TAEF, Mr. Wen-tsan Cheng, mayor of Taoyuan City, Dr. Chien-Hsin Lai, director-general of Water Resource Agency, and Dr. Chi-Ming Peng, chairman of TADPI.

In his opening remarks, TAEF chairman Michael Hsiao mentioned the “globalization of disaster” that the world is facing today while reminding all of us that as residents on an island, we need to be humbler before nature. Chairman Hsiao hoped that by presenting experiences of disaster relief and prevention from Japan, Taoyuan City, and Meizhou community of Yi-Lan, the summit would allow the attendees of the summit to learn methods of resilience from the levels of the country, metropolitan, and community. Meanwhile, TADPI chairman Peng mentioned the ambition of his organization in sharing Taiwan’s experience in disaster prevention with our regional neighboring countries by working together with the TAEF.

Taoyuan’s experience in drought resistance seems to be very helpful while the island is confronting a water shortage crisis currently. By sharing Taoyuan’s history in fighting against drought, Mayor Cheng mentioned that Taoyuan city would have been a major granary for Northern Taiwan neither a hub of the island’s hi-tech industry along with Hsinchu today without its construction of water conservancy established 300 years ago. The city’s strength in disaster preparedness is even better demonstrated by the fact that it has started drought resistance projects back in October 2020, six months ahead of other metropolitans in Taiwan. Now, Taoyuan city is able to provide 220 000 tons of water every day to Hsinchu. At the end of his remarks, mayor Cheng underlined the

importance of elevating urban capacities in managing water resources as well as that of cooperation with the central government.

Following mayor Cheng's remarks, Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba, former mayor of Hiroshima, made a comprehensive presentation on Japan's experience in disaster prevention and relief by introducing several cases of the 2011 Tohoku earthquakes as well as judiciary implementation in provenance of this major disaster.

Live streaming videos of the summit

NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

Taipei Times

Many aim to form travel bubbles with Taiwan: bureau

Friday, April 23, 2021

More countries and territories are interested in forming "travel bubbles" with Taiwan, the Tourism Bureau said yesterday.

Earlier this year, then-minister of transportation and communications Lin Chia-lung (林佳龍) told a meeting of the legislature's Transportation Committee that, in addition to Palau, the nation was negotiating "travel bubble" agreements with the governments of Japan, South Korea, Vietnam and Singapore.

Yesterday, bureau Director-General Chang Hsi-chung (張錫聰) told reporters on the sidelines of a committee meeting that more nations are seeking to ink "travel bubble" agreements with Taiwan.

Guam, Hawaii, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam have been enthusiastic about establishing a travel corridor with Taiwan, Chang said.

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REGIONAL HEADLINES

The Diplomat

Australia Ends

BBC

Covid-19 in India:

Nikkei Asia

Myanmar junta

China Deals on National Interest Grounds

April 22, 2021

Australia has cancelled two Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) infrastructure deals with a state government, provoking an angry response from Beijing. The bilateral deals with Victoria state were among four vetoed under new laws that give the federal government power to overrule international agreements by lower-level administrations that violate the national interest, Foreign Minister Marise Payne said late Wednesday.

The BRI deals struck with Beijing in 2018 and 2019 triggered the legislative response. Victoria Education Department pacts signed with Syria in 1999 and Iran in 2004 were also canceled.

"I consider these four arrangements to be inconsistent with Australia's foreign policy or adverse to our foreign relations," Payne said.

The Chinese Embassy in Australia said in a statement the decision "further shows that the Australian government has no sincerity in improving China-Australia relations."

Why second coronavirus wave is devastating

April 21, 2021

Rajeshwari Devi, 58, died on Sunday after waiting for two days to get uninterrupted oxygen, an ambulance and a bed in a Covid-19 hospital.

She kept waiting and gasping but it was too late by the time help arrived. She was taken to a hospital emergency room on 16 April after her oxygen saturation level dropped. Her CT scan showed that she had developed severe pneumonia.

But without her Covid report the hospital refused to admit her. She spent around 36 hours in the emergency room on oxygen support in the northern Indian district of Robertsganj. The staff there told her family they were running out of oxygen and she needed to be moved to a bigger hospital but there was no ambulance or any promise of a bed.

The desperate family took her in their car to a hospital where a bed had become available after the intervention of a politician. She had no oxygen support in the car - she died minutes before she could be admitted to hospital.

chief to attend ASEAN summit in Indonesia

April 17, 2021

Myanmar junta chief Min Aung Hlaing will attend an Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Indonesia on April 24, a Thai foreign ministry spokesman said on Saturday, for his first known foreign trip since he staged a Feb. 1 coup.

Myanmar has been in upheaval since Min Aung Hlaing ousted an elected government led by democracy champion Aung San Suu Kyi, with security forces killing 728 people, according to an activist group tally, in an attempt to stamp out protests.

In the latest violence, security forces shot and killed two people in the ruby-mining town of Mogok, one of several towns in which crowds came out to protest on Saturday, a resident told Reuters and media reported.


Myanmar's neighbours have been trying to encourage talks between the rival sides to resolve the crisis but the military has shown little willingness to engage with them or talk to the ousted government.

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