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TAEF UPDATES

TAEF Welcomes Radio Taiwan International



Thursday, December 6th, 2018

Guests from Radio Taiwan International visited TAEF on Dec. 6th, and were welcomed by Executive Director Dr. Alan Hao Yang. Both sides enjoyed a candid exchange on Taiwan's New Southbound Policy and discussed for bilateral cooperation in the future.

[*Read more*](#)

TAEF Welcomes Scholars from South Asia



Friday, December 5th, 2018

Dr. Chaminda Abeysinghe from Kelaniya University, Sri Lanka, Visiting Scholar Dr. Sumit Kumar from India, and Dr. Sadia Rahman from National Chung Hsing University visited TAEF on Dec. 5th, and were welcomed by Director Sherry Liu and other staff members. Both sides exchanged thoughts on the New Southbound Policy.

[Read more](#)

TAEF COMMENTARY

East Asia Forum

Taipei Recalibrates to Asia

-Dr. Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao | Chairman, TAEF

-Dr. Alan Hao Yang | Executive Director, TAEF

-Jeremy Huai-Che Chiang | Research Assistant, TAEF

Since Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen's inauguration in 2016, Taiwan has looked to strengthen its ties with neighbouring states in Asia under an approach known as the New Southbound Policy, which seeks to enhance Taiwan's cooperation with Southeast Asia, South Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

The new policy has had some initial successes. Taiwan's high levels of trade and investment with China are yet to drop. But bilateral trade with Southeast and South Asian countries grew around 15 per cent from 2016-17, while Taiwan's Investment in these countries rose by 54 percent.

[Read full article:](#)

TAEF Currents

Public Diplomacy: the Case of the British Council

-Cheng-Chia Tung | Assistant Research Fellow, TAEF

With the New Southbound Policy's (NSP) people-centered agenda, it is the first time that Taiwan's foreign policy has given heightened importance to social connectivity. As this social component is a relatively new practice, Taiwan could look to the example of the British Council, the institution tasked with promoting British culture, language and business around the world.

This article focuses on three aspects. First, it analyses why social connectivity has become an invaluable component of diplomatic work. Second, it touches on the practices of the British Council, and evaluates the conditions underpinning its success. It then concludes by arguing that the Taiwanese government and Taiwan's civil society organizations should increase polylateral cooperation with their counterparts in NSP target countries. Under a free and open environment, partnerships born between CSO counterparts (e.g. Taiwan vis-à-vis South and Southeast Asia) will continue to develop and evolve.

[*Read full article in Chinese:*](#)

The News Lens

The "Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals" Should Not Only Be a Solution to Taiwan's Labor Shortage

-Roberto Hsin-Yu Lin | Assistant Research Fellow, TAEF

-Jeremy Huai-Che Chiang | Research Assistant, TAEF

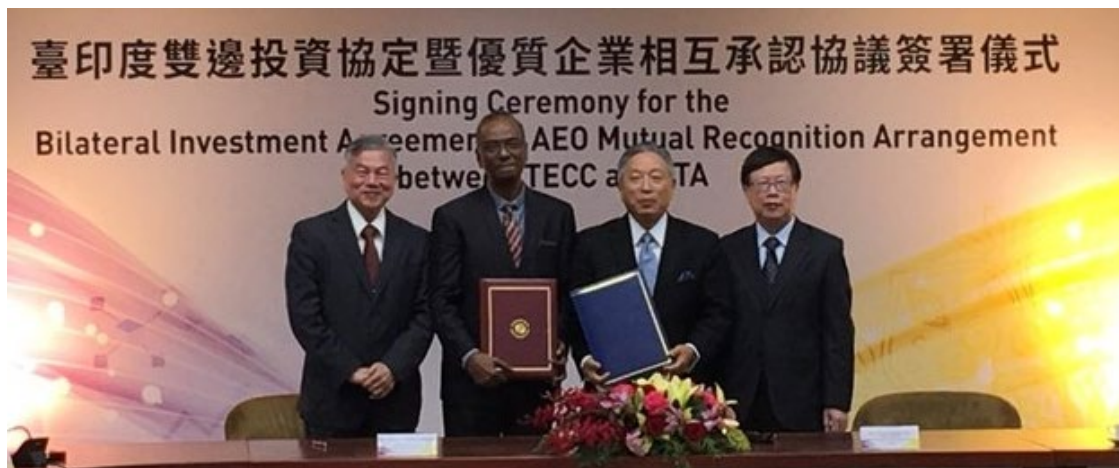
In this article, TAEF researchers Roberto Lin and Jeremy Chiang discuss how Taiwan's new "Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals" can be connected to the administration's New Southbound Policy. While the Act has been widely perceived as a means to fill Taiwan's potential labor shortage, Lin and Chiang argue that the Act should not only be seen as a policy move targeting foreign professionals and skilled workers for Taiwan's economic development, but also a channel to facilitate mutually-beneficial talent exchange between Taiwan and the region.

[*Read full article in Chinese:*](#)

NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

Focus Taiwan

Taiwan and India Update Investment Pact



[Thursday, December 20th, 2018](#)

Taiwan and India updated a longstanding agreement "Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA)" on Dec. 18th, signed by Taiwan's representative to India Tien Chung-kwang and his Indian counterpart Sridharan Madhusudhanan, to further boost trade and investment between the two countries, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) said in a statement.

The revised agreement now also will ensure protection for Taiwanese business investments in India, in line with international standards, and the safety and rights of Taiwanese investors. This program can facilitate trade for importers, exporters, carriers and others in their supply chains, as well as enhance marketability and global competitiveness, the ministry said.

[Read more](#)

Taiwan News

Taiwan Donates US\$500,000 to Indonesia for Tsunami Relief

[Wednesday, December 26th, 2018](#)

Taiwan will donate US\$500,000 (NT\$15.4 million) to Indonesia, following the catastrophic tsunami which struck the Sunda Strait on Dec. 22, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) spokesman Andrew Lee said.

This donation is due to the friendship between Indonesia and Taiwan, and it will support the Indonesian government's reconstruction efforts, as well as other humanitarian projects. MOFA said that Taiwan's representative office in Indonesia will continue to monitor reconstruction efforts, and will maintain close contact with Indonesian authorities.

[Read more](#)

Taiwan News

Leaders and Experts Gather for Women Empowerment in the Indo-Pacific



Thursday, December 13rd, 2018

The “Achieving 50-50: Empowering Women Leaders in the Indo Pacific” workshop aims to develop knowledge and understanding of how to improve participation and representation of women in both government and the private sector. The workshop was held under the US-Taiwan Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF), and was jointly hosted by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the American Institute in Taiwan. Around 30 experts and officials from 14 countries including Taiwan, U.S and other countries in the Asian Pacific region participated in the workshop, sharing their experiences in empowering women.

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Tsao Li-jeý said Taiwan will keep up on building a more equal working environment for female in the near future, and look forward to learning from other neighboring countries.

[Read more](#)

Taipei Times

MOEA to Foster Returns of Companies

Wednesday, December 5th, 2018

The Ministry of Economics Affairs outlined administrative efficiency measures to foster the return of Taiwanese businesses as they cope with US-China trade tensions.

MOEA has decided to leverage the government's ties to help companies relocate manufacturing to Southeast Asian nations under the New Southbound Policy, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Kung Ming-hsin said. More than 60 companies are working on return plans with various government agencies, including about 25 that are being helped by the ministry, Kung said.

[Read more](#)

Taipei Times

Taiwanese Drama to Air in Southeast Asian Countries



[Wednesday, December 5th, 2018](#)

The Taiwanese TV series *The New World* will soon be broadcast on 21 TV networks in 16 nations, including the Philippines and Indonesia, which are listed in the government's New Southbound Policy, and the TV drama is also to be aired in Belize, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, four of Taiwan's diplomatic allies in the Caribbean, in an effort to expand Taiwan's soft power, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Dec. 4th.

[Read more](#)

SOUTHEAST ASIA / SOUTH ASIA / AUS / NZ NEWS

Nikkei Asian

The Jakarta Post

Investvine

Review

Singapore Faces Biggest Reskilling Challenge in Southeast Asia

[December 5th, 2018](#)

Singapore will face the highest rate of job displacement, according to a recent study by Cisco and Oxford Economics, resulting from technological disruption in Southeast Asia, and the country is racing to introduce countermeasures.

It also said the rate of digital transformation taking place "significantly outpaces" that in neighboring countries, which will lead to a much greater displacement of production workers and laborers.

[Read more](#)

Sunda Strait Tsunami Death Toll Rises to 222

[December 23rd, 2018](#)

At least 222 people were killed as waves smashed into houses and other beachside buildings along Indonesia's Sunda Strait, in a disaster that followed an eruption and possible landslide on Anak Krakatau.

More than 800 others were injured and dozens were reported missing after the tsunami hit coastal areas along western Java and southern Sumatra islands. The death toll could increase once authorities hear from all stricken areas.

[Read more](#)

Cambodia Seeks to Double Tourism Arrivals by 2025

[December 10th, 2018](#)

Cambodian has ambitious plans to increase the number of tourism arrivals from six million in 2018 to 12 million by 2025 as it builds two new airports in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap and renews, enlarges and modernises the one in Sihanoukville.

According to Prime Minister Hun Sen, a new airport for Phnom Penh in Takhmao city, Kandal province, some 30 kilometers southeast of Phnom Penh, funded partly by Chinese loans would create 18,000 jobs.

[Read more](#)