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TAEF UPDATES

Law Students from National Taiwan University Visit TAEF



Thursday, January 7, 2021

TAEF had its first visiting group of the year 2021 yesterday, who were law students from the National Taiwan University. They were received by Dr. Alan H. Yang, the Executive Director of TAEF, and Mr. Cheng-Chia Tung, the head of TAEF's Young Leader Program.

Cheng-Chia introduced the Five Core Action Programs, the SEASAT Youth Camp, and the New Reality of Asia, our brand-new event of 2021 focusing on youth professional development. Dr. Yang mentioned that the purpose of the TAEF is a think tank with cultural exchanges and strategic objectives as its vision and the implementation of the New Southbound Policy is aimed at people-centered rather than profit-making.

Read more

NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

Taipei Times

Customs Standards Agreement Signed with New Zealand

Saturday, January 2, 2021

The two countries are to recognize that trade operators approved by each other's customs agencies comply with international norms. Taiwan and New Zealand last month signed an agreement to mutually recognize their authorized economic operators (AEO), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Thursday. The deal is expected to enhance customs cooperation and supply chain safety between the two countries, Department of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Director-General Larry Tseng said.

"Through the arrangement, exporters awarded AEO status in Taiwan and New Zealand can enjoy trade facilitation for their goods in each other's territory," Tseng said. The agreement was signed on Dec. 14 and Dec. 18 by the heads of the representative offices of both countries, and becomes the eighth such document signed between Taiwan and another nation, Tseng said.

[Read more](#)

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Channel News Asia

Terminated HSR project a missed opportunity to boost economic competitiveness for Singapore, KL: Experts

January 6, 2021

The plan was to connect Singapore and Kuala Lumpur - two metropolitan cities in Southeast Asia - by a high-speed rail, revving both economies and propelling each to become a formidable force in the region.

However, this was not to be after the KL-Singapore High-Speed Rail (HSR) project was terminated on New Year's Day after the agreement to construct it lapsed on Dec 31, 2020.

Malaysia allowed the HSR bilateral agreement to lapse on the deadline after both sides could not agree to changes it had proposed.

[Read more](#)

The Strait Times

Former Reform Party Chairman Andy Zhu and Others Form New Political Party, Singapore United Party

January 3, 2021

Former Reform Party (RP) chairman Andy Zhu, along with seven other former RP members, including ex-treasurer Noraini Yunus, has formed a new political party.

The Singapore United Party (SUP), which now has 11 members, was registered as a society on Dec 24, according to a notice in the Government Gazette.

The move revived talk of internal conflict within the party, which is led by Mr Kenneth Jeyaretnam.

[Read more](#)

Nikkei Asia

Myanmar Conflict Zones Kept Offline Despite Suu Kyi Digital Push

January 2, 2021

Myanmar authorities began strengthening their grip over the nation's cyberspace in March, with directives to mobile operators to block certain websites.

Myanmar citizens living in some of the country's ethnic conflict zones are facing difficulties accessing the internet due to government restrictions and the low level of communications infrastructure, despite national leader Aung San Suu Kyi's push for a digital economy in the aftermath the coronavirus pandemic.

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