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TAEF UPDATES

Major Ministries Mobilized to Strengthen Policy Goals of the New Southbound Policy



Saturday, November 7, 2020

Besides the word epidemic, the other defining keyword of 2020 should be “Indo-Pacific”. The intense political rivalry between the United States and China has allowed the international community to focus more on the changing dynamics of the Indo-Pacific.

Since the 1990s, Taiwan has adopted a "Southbound Policy" focusing on the island's investment in Southeast Asia. By extension, the New Southbound Policy(NSP) launched in 2016 holding the people-oriented agenda is no longer limited to the numbers in the field of economic and trade, but a human-centric and value-driving exchanges in talents, technology, resource sharing, social culture, art, and identity cultivation. With such a value, the New Southbound Policy has been practiced for a great variety of issues (economy, education, technology, agriculture, labor, art & culture, etc), which has allowed Taiwan and her regional partners to work together for the regional resilience.

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TAEF COMMENTARIES

Building Resilience through Multifaceted Engagement: Highlighting Taiwan's Experiences

-Alan H. Yang, Executive Director, TAEF

Maintaining resilience will facilitate the restoration of order and return to normality and stability. Being resilient for any country or society is in great demand, not only in response to natural or manmade disasters but also in the face of large-scale challenges to existing social or economic order and threats to humanity, it is critically important to maintain resilience to reinforce the effectiveness and efficiency of good governance. Being resilient, on the other hand, is to ensure the viable delivery of public service as well as the stable practice of social welfare and the existence of vibrant civil society, altogether leading to safeguard the well-being and lives of the people.

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ASIA ENGAGEMENT CONSORTIUM UPDATES

Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

Symposium on U.S-China-Taiwan Relations post-U.S Election



Friday, November 6, 2020

Associate Professor Eric Chen-hua Yu of the Department of Political Science of National Chengchi University first discussed the issue of inaccurate polls, because many election polls in the United States predicted that Biden would win the election by a large margin, which is far from the current results.

Professor Yu believes that this has something to do with the way American polls are conducted. For example, the response rate of telephone polls in the United States is quite low. Internet polls cannot take into account the fact that 15% of people still have no Internet access. The flaw is that only indoor phones are feasible; even though polls indicate that they combine these methods to achieve the final result, it is not clear what the method is.

NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

Taiwan Insight

Forging a Resilient Future: New Southbound Policy and Beyond

Friday, October 23, 2020

Economic interdependence under rapid globalization has brought about unprecedented economic prosperity. However, it has to some degree failed to promote the establishment of mechanisms for inclusive regional cooperation in Asia. Globalization has not promoted the types of positive diffusion that has been anticipated, in the sense that growing cooperation on technical and economic issues have not been able to stimulate a much greater sense of solidarity around common values. In Asia in particular, stark differences in values highlight the unsustainability of today's globalization model, which often emphasizes economic and trade growth at the expense of these other factors.

Redressing this issue has become one of the core tenets of Taiwan's New Southbound Policy, which was launched in 2016. This policy aims to develop and pursue a more people-centered model of interaction with neighboring countries in Southeast Asia and Oceania, focusing on cooperation with the civil societies and communities of partner countries. Yet to what extent has this vision been realized?

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REGIONAL HEADLINES

The Strait Times

Strong Turnout for Myanmar Election Despite Covid-19 Pandemic

November 9, 2020

Myanmar started vote counting on Sunday (Nov 8) in the country's second election since military rule ended in 2011.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, millions voted, with long lines

SCMP

Indonesia Looks to Secure Limited Trade Deal with US after Washington Extends its GSP Access

November 9, 2020

Indonesia is looking to propose a limited trade deal with the United States, after Washington extended Jakarta's access to a preferential tariff agreement following US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's October 29

East Asia Forum

Laos Set its Own Debt Trap

October 31, 2020

On 23 September the Fitch Ratings agency downgraded Laos' credit rating to CCC — the second downgrade in 2020, having dropped to B- in May. Much of the blame lies with COVID-19, which has seen Laos' economic growth drop

outside polling booths, which opened at 6am local time.

The ruling National League for Democracy party is widely expected to triumph again. The polls are seen more as a barometer of public satisfaction on its first-term performance under leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who has an uneasy power-sharing arrangement with the country's military.

Television broadcasts showed early ballots being counted in the presence of candidates, election officers and observers. Official results could come as soon as late on Sunday.

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visit to the Southeast Asian nation.

The new agreement could double trade value between the countries to US\$60 billion in five years' time, deputy foreign affairs minister Mahendra Siregar told This Week in Asia. "We hope to further our discussion with the US about how to utilise Indonesia's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) status, and also to talk about a trade agreement that is more permanent and broader," he said.

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from 5.5 per cent in 2019 to a projected 0.5 per cent for 2020. This represents the country's slowest economic growth recorded since 1990.

But while COVID-19 represents a clear and pronounced shock, credit ratings are not determined solely on the grounds of economic growth. 'Inadequate' foreign exchange reserves, a widening current account deficit, contingent liabilities from public-private partnerships, poor governance — including weak institutional capacity and corruption controls — and constrained political freedoms that limit accountability have all contributed.

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