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TAEF UPDATES

Dr. Musikawong Sudarat from Mahidol University, Thailand and Dr. Lishi Chu from National Chengchi University visited TAEF



Dr. Musikawong Sudarat from Mahidol University, Thailand and Dr. Lishi Chu from National Chengchi University visited TAEF on March 13 and were warmly welcomed by the TAEF Chairman Dr. Michael Hsiao and Executive Director Dr. Alan Yang. Dr. Sudarat is now a visiting scholar at the Institute of Social Research and Cultural Studies, National Chiao Tung University. She conducted field research on Thai migrant workers in Taiwan and compared Taiwan and Thailand in the aspects including recruitment practices and migrant workers' political rights (e.g., the possibilities of establishing labor unions and obtaining residency and citizenship).

Dr. Sudarat shared her research "In between Democratic Labor Movements & Migrant Worker[s] Rights." In particular, she mentioned Thailand's one-stop service centers, which were established to allow undocumented migrant workers to get registered and become legal workers without leaving Thailand. She believes that this kind of policy requires collaboration between the labor sending and receiving countries, as well as the involvement of NGOs and unions.

After Dr. Sudarat's sharing, the guests had a discussion with Dr. Hsiao and Dr. Yang on Taiwan's migrant workers, such as the exclusion of domestic workers from Labor Standards Act and the introduction of migrant workers in agriculture. The TAEF also introduced Taiwan's New Southbound Policy, hoping that through the policy implementation, Taiwan's collaboration with the labor sending countries can be enhanced, and migrant workers' rights can be properly protected.

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ASIA ENGAGEMENT CONSORTIUM UPDATES

Taiwan External Trade Development Council

AIT Chairman Moriarty met with TAITRA President James Huang at the Taiwan-USA Trade and Investment Networking Center



Wednesday, March 4, 2020

James Moriarty, the Chairman of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and James Huang, President of Taiwan External Trade and Development Council (TAITRA), had a VIP tour of the new Taiwan-USA Trade and Investment Networking Center. This exciting new platform will enhance U.S.-Taiwan trade and commercial ties, one of AIT Director Christensen's four priorities.

The Taiwan-USA Trade and Investment Networking Center is the result of a collaborative effort between the government-sponsored TAITRA, AIT, the American State Offices Association (ASOA), and The American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei (AmCham). It is designed to strengthen commercial ties between Taiwan and the U.S. by facilitating cooperation between business partners and offer advisory, analysis, and referral services, among other functions.

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NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

Taipei Times

New Southbound Policy Boosted Tourism: Office

The government's New Southbound Policy last year boosted tourism and trade links with the countries covered by the policy, while education programs stagnated, statistics published by the Executive Yuan's Office of Trade Negotiations showed.

People visiting Taiwan from the 18 nations covered by the policy last year rose by 2.7 million people, or 6.8 percent, from the previous year, the figures showed.

They accounted for 23 percent of all foreign visitors to Taiwan, the office said.

Taiwanese visiting the policy nations rose 15.1 percent annually to 3.2 million, accounting for 18.8 percent of all Taiwanese traveling abroad, it said.

Taiwan also rose to third place in the top 10 list of non-Organization of Islamic Cooperation destinations, up from fifth in 2018, the office said, citing the 2019 Global Muslim Travel Index published by CrescentRating and Mastercard.

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REGIONAL HEADLINES

The Diplomat

**COVID-19:
Countering the
Economic
Contagion**

*South China
Morning Post*

**How the
Coronavirus
may Change the
Geopolitics of
Southeast Asia**

The Jakarta Post

**ASEAN
Response on
COVID-19
under Spotlight
as Crisis
Deepens**

March 23, 2020

The global epicentre is now in Europe.

Infections are rapidly spreading in the United States. Like China, the West fumbled its initial responses. Democracies

March 18, 2020

A regional response on the new coronavirus disease outbreak has come under the spotlight as Southeast Asia

March 24, 2020

At the rate it is spreading across the world, COVID-19 has become a global nightmare. Since China informed the World

Health Organization (WHO) of a cluster of 41 patients with mysterious pneumonia on December 31, 2019, the world has seen COVID-19 cases balloon to 334,981 across 189 countries and territories, with 14,652 deaths, at the time of writing. In the Philippines, from the first case confirmed on January 30, 2020 (a 38-year-old Chinese national), COVID-19 cases have since shot up to 462 confirmed cases, with 33 deaths. Based on big data analysis, there is evidence of undertesting and under-reporting in the Philippines, raising concerns that undetected cases could number in the thousands.

COVID-19 produces two waves of contagion. The first is a disease-based contagion that can swamp domestic healthcare and social protection systems, as well as cripple workers and factories through adverse health outcomes. The second type of contagion refers to the "chilling effect" of COVID-19 on both the economic demand and supply sides of a growing number of countries, notably those in "factory Asia." Adequate and coherent

are slow to react until shocked into action. But these systems are resilient, have strong economic, scientific and administrative capabilities, and have begun to mobilise. The costs to everyone will again be great. But there is no question that they will eventually get a grip on the disease and bring it under control in their own way.

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But is this the beginning of the end, or only the end of the beginning? Will there be a second wave of infections as Chinese migrant workers return to work after an enforced absence? Or

scrambles to prevent the wider transmission of COVID-19, which has reached eight out of 10 ASEAN member states.

The World Health Organization on Tuesday called on countries in the Southeast Asia region to urgently scale up aggressive measures to combat COVID-19, as the number of cases continue to rise globally. The virus, which was first detected in China, spread rapidly to 152 countries and territories, infecting nearly 175,000 people and killing 7,019.

"The situation is evolving rapidly. We need to immediately scale up all efforts to prevent the virus from infecting more people," said Poonam Khetrpal Singh, regional director of the WHO Southeast Asia Region (WHO-SEARO).

"Urgent and aggressive measures are the need of the hour. We need to act now," the WHO official said in a statement.

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policy responses on both fronts will be necessary to prevent this health crisis from turning into an even bigger economic crisis.

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when Western systems relax uncharacteristic restrictions on individual liberties? What will happen if weak health care systems in Africa, the Middle East, India, and Indonesia are overwhelmed?

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