

**CONTENT**

- TAEF Updates
- Asia Engagement Consortium Updates
- New Southbound Policy News
- Regional Headlines

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**TAEF UPDATES**

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**Post-salon Update: A People-Centered Exchange**



*October, 2020*

The New Southbound Policy is an important economic and strategic objective of the Taiwanese government, said Dr. Michael Hsiao, chairperson of Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation. In 1994, President Lee Teng-hui began the process with what could be termed "Southbound Polic 1.0," encouraging the government, state-owned enterprises, and party-run businesses to invest in Southeast-Asian nations. In 2003, President Chen Shui-bian ushered in the second iteration of this initiative, but its effectiveness was limited and there was no involvement from the private sector.

According to Mr. Volkan Huang, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Information Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan panorama has done much reporting on topics concerning New Southbound Policy partner countries' cultures, and immigrants from those countries. The MOFA, as the agency behind Taiwan Panorama, always gets a look at each issue before publication, and as each issue's first reader, he always pursues it with great interest.

*Read more*

**Konrad Adenauer Stiftung(KAS) and Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation(TAEF) Released the First Joint Report on the Future of Work**

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung(KAS) and Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation(TAEF) released the first joint report based on the results of a joint research project "Future of Work".

The report discusses the rising global issues of the future of work and its impact on youth employment in Taiwan. It begins by giving a brief background of Taiwan's demography, economics, and labor profile. It points out the three main challenges of the future of work in Taiwan: (1) the structural change of the nature of work, (2) the gap between education and youth employment, and (3) issues of workforce and social protection. The paper concludes by highlighting the advantages that Taiwan holds in preparing for the future of work and a brief set of policy recommendations that will enable it to harness these advantages.

[Read more](#)

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## ASIA ENGAGEMENT CONSORTIUM UPDATES

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*Thinkers' Studio*

### Connecting with Southeast Asia - Independent Art and Cultural Worker of SEA

東南亞連線  
Connect with SEA  
與獨立藝術文化工作者

七個場次 X 七個國家 X 七位獨立組織、經理人代表  
Seven talks / Seven countries / Seven International organizations, Producers, Curators

9月~11月 September - November

菲律賓 Philippines - 柬埔寨 Cambodia - 新加坡 Singapore  
寮國 Laos - 馬來西亞 Malaysia - 泰國 Thailand - 印尼 Indonesia

主辦單位 Thinkers' Studio  
Organizer by: Thinkers' Studio

贊助單位 財團法人 國家文化藝術基金會  
Sponsor by: NCAF National Culture and Arts Foundation

Friday, October 30, 2020

The pandemic has drastically evolved since the initial outbreak. As a result, there have been negative impacts on international exchanges, as well as many on-site exchanges of the performing arts industry. Faced with the geographical constraints due to travel restrictions, shall we begin to think about how international exchange affairs should continue through existing resources and technology, and maintain in-depth exchanges?

At the same time, Thinkers' Studio also hopes to break through the current situation of Taiwanese media's Western orientation and learn more about the current situation of Southeast Asian countries neighboring Taiwan. Therefore, Thinkers' Studio hopes to use its role as an independent platform for art and literature and to have intensive connections and cooperation with international performing arts workers and platforms in Southeast Asia, and to maintain the state of international communication with network media resources.

[Read more in Mandarin](#)

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*Taipei Times*

## EDITORIAL: Reshaping Taiwan's Supply Chain

*Monday, October 26, 2020*

**T**ake a look at what is happening in global supply chains: Taiwan has received NT\$1.13 trillion (US\$39.08 billion) of investment pledges from companies to move parts of their production lines back home; India is emerging as the world's second-largest smartphone manufacturer, as large companies such as Apple Inc move their operations there; and Japan plans to significantly ramp up a program encouraging businesses to build production sites in Southeast Asia to diversify supply chains out of China.

If there were any doubt about the effects of the US-China trade dispute and the COVID-19 pandemic on the landscape of global supply chains, the news that continues to come through should make it crystal clear: There is an increasing need to make supply chains more flexible and resilient in the post-COVID-19 world.

That is because there is growing awareness that supply chains have become weak and vulnerable to events beyond the control of those who manage or rely on them.

[Read more](#)

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## REGIONAL HEADLINES

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*The Strait Times*

**Thai PM Prayut  
Okays Charter  
Change, Ending  
Senate's Power to  
Vote for Premier**

*October 29, 2020*

**T**hai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha gave the green light to amending the kingdom's Constitution on Wednesday (Oct 28), as Parliament's two-day special debate on the ongoing political crisis wrapped up.

Mr Prayut said he agreed with many of the points

*SCMP*

**Bilahari Kausikan  
Dismisses Claims  
he is an 'Agent',  
After Hinting  
ASEAN Should  
Expel Cambodia,  
Laos over Chinese  
Influence**

*October 28, 2020*

**A** Singaporean former diplomat who sparked a diplomatic storm by suggesting the Association of Southeast Asian Nations expel Cambodia and Laos – following criticisms of their pro-Beijing stances on the South China Sea and Chinese dams on the Mekong – has mocked accusations he is

*BBC*

**Bihar Elections:  
First Major Polls  
Since Pandemic a  
Rest of Modi's  
Popularity**

*October 28, 2020*

**M**ore than 70 million voters are eligible to cast their ballots for 243 assembly seats in the eastern state of Bihar. Polling began on Wednesday in the first of three phases and votes will be counted on 10 November.

Traditional forms of campaigning were

made by MPs about the crisis, but said the main thing was to support the charter amendment.

However, Parliament must follow the current Constitution, since it would remain in effect until a new Constitution is established, he added.

Charter amendment is one of three core demands being made by pro-democracy protesters.

[Read more](#)

working as an “agent” of a foreign power.

Bilahari Kausikan, a former permanent secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Singapore, caused controversy when he said last week the two Mekong nations were “teetering precariously” towards ceding influence to an outside power.

While he did not make explicit who this outside power was, the comment followed remarks from Bilahari about Asean’s failure in 2012 to agree a joint communique on how to deal with Beijing’s claims in the South China Sea.

[Read more](#)

suspended and virtual rallies were held initially. Polling stations and voting time have been increased to avoid congestion. But all this may well be too late: people and leaders alike have thrown caution to the wind in recent weeks and turned up enthusiastically - and unmasked - at huge public meetings.

[Read more](#)

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