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TAEF UPDATES

TAEF Staff Join 2019 European Forum Alpbach to Share Taiwan's Experiences with the World



Thursday, Aug 22, 2019

TAEF assistant research fellow Cheng-Chia Tung and research assistant Jeremy Huai-Che Chiang joined the 2019 European Forum Alpbach, a global interdisciplinary platform for cultural, political, economic, technological, and artistic dialogues among young leaders hosted by an Austrian non-profit organization of the same name. This year's general theme was "Liberty and Security." Aside from engaging with conversations in the forum with passion, Tung and Chiang both highlighted how Taiwan's experiences could shed light on the existing discussions and perspectives. Chiang also held a workshop centering on recent civic movements in Hong Kong as a way to draw the participants' attention to political dynamics in Asia.

ASIA ENGAGEMENT CONSORTIUM UPDATES

2019 Asia Young Leaders for Democracy (AYLD) Program Closes in Taipei



Wednesday, Aug 28, 2019

The 2019 Asia Young Leaders for Democracy (AYLD), an annual program organized by the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, closed yesterday in Taipei. The program this year brought together young democracy and human rights practitioners from over 10 countries in Asia to engage with local NGOs and experts throughout the course of six days.

This year's AYLD program invited experts in the fields of democracy and human rights to speak and exchange ideas with the participants. Pastor Lazarus Chen, the keynote speaker

for AYLD's opening, shared how Taiwan's civil society faced opposition from the conservative religious groups when campaigning for the legalization of same-sex marriage. The program also saw other distinguished speakers talk about the indigenous peoples' movement in Taiwan, participatory democracy, combating disinformation, strengthening cyber security, and media literacy.

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NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

Focus Taiwan

Foreign National Visits Up 13% in First Seven Months of 2019



Monday, Aug 26, 2019

Foreign nationals made nearly 7 million visits to Taiwan from January to July this year, up 12.85 percent from the same period a year earlier, Taiwan's Tourism Bureau said Monday.

During the first seven months, foreign travelers made more than 6.96 million visits to Taiwan, a 793,070 increase compared with the same period in 2018, according to a press release issued by the bureau.

Visitors from countries covered by the New Southbound Policy, 18 countries in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Australia and New Zealand, made 59,183 more visits to Taiwan during the period, a 4.28 percent increase compared with a year ago, it added.

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Taiwan News

President Tsai Vows to Safeguard National Sovereignty



Wednesday, Aug 21, 2019

President Tsai has expressed her strong determination to safeguard Taiwan's sovereignty and the rights of Taiwanese people in the face of Chinese oppression.

At the "2019 Ketagalan Forum Asia-Pacific Security Dialogue" on Wednesday morning (Aug. 21), the president met with Wallace C. Gregson, Senior Director for China and the Pacific at the Center for the National Interest, along with other foreign guests. President Tsai remarked on China's attempts to disturb peace in the Indo-Pacific region, reported the Central News Agency.

The rapidly changing situation in the Indo-Pacific region in recent years have created uncertainties for the future, according to the president. Tsai reportedly stated, "Every

Indo-Pacific country should take responsibilities in maintaining the peace and stability of the region, to which Taiwan can and will make a contribution by cooperating with other countries."

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Taiwan Times

Taiwanese Firms in China Looking to Southbound Nations

Monday, Aug 19, 2019

More Taiwanese companies with operations in China are looking to countries targeted by Taipei's New Southbound Policy as investment possibilities as the US-China trade dispute drags on, Minister Without Portfolio John Deng (鄧振中) said.

Data compiled by the Ministry of Economic Affairs show that the top five destinations of investment by such firms are India, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam, Deng said.

Firms affected by the dispute are desperate to redirect their investment to these countries, and the government should provide more assistance to them, he said.

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SOUTHEAST ASIA / SOUTH ASIA / AUS / NZ NEWS

The New York Times

Muslims in New Zealand Say They Have Been Sidelined in Christchurch Inquiry Image

Aug 28, 2019

Ten days after a gunman killed dozens of people

The Diplomat

A Conversation on the Mekong and a Changing Southeast Asia

Aug 28, 2019

While the Mekong River – one of the world's longest and largest rivers

Foreign Policy

Is India Facing an Economic Crisis?

Aug 27, 2019

Last Friday, India's government finally acknowledged that all

at two Christchurch mosques, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern promised answers.

Her government, she said, would [commission an investigation](#) to delve into the concern haunting every New Zealander, but especially the country's Muslims: Could the terrorist attack have been prevented?

The inquiry, she said, would make a priority of consulting with the Muslim community, a group long overlooked and now desperate for assurances about their safety.

But halfway through what is expected to be an eight-month investigation, members of a panel of influential Muslims appointed to advise the inquiry say they have been sidelined by the officials conducting it.

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– has long been in peril, its future has gotten more attention over the past few years both on its own terms as well as within the context of other geopolitical trends such as the development of mainland Southeast Asian states and the rise of China.

To discuss these issues and more, Luke Hunt recently spoke to Milton Osborne, a visiting fellow at the Lowy Institute who has been associated with Southeast Asia for more than a half-century – viewing the region through various stints including at the Australian Embassy in Cambodia and the Office of National Assessments and authoring 11 books – with a particular focus on the Mekong subregion. They talked about the future of the Mekong, broader geopolitical trends, and Osborne's latest book, *Pol Pot Solved the Leprosy Problem*.

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was not well in the world's seventh-largest economy. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman [rolled back](#) a tax on foreign investors and promised to speed up tax refunds to small businesses, among other announcements. Investors seemed pleased: On Monday, the key Mumbai stock market [gained more than 2 percent](#), after recording its [worst July](#) in nearly two decades. And the markets [continued to rise](#) on Tuesday.

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