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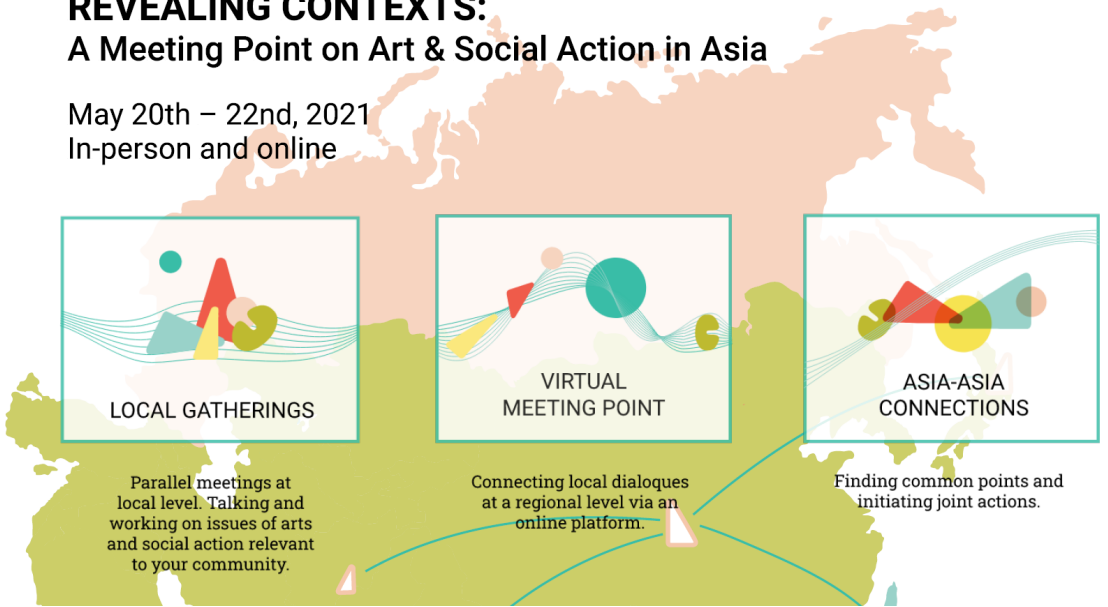
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## TAEF UPDATES


### Upcoming cultural event: Revealing Contexts

#### REVEALING CONTEXTS: A Meeting Point on Art & Social Action in Asia

May 20th – 22nd, 2021  
In-person and online



Event dates: May 20-22, 2021

Co-hosted by the TAEF and Mekong Cultural Hub, the *Revealing Contexts Roundtable* will be taking place on May 20 in C-LAB, Taipei. You will be hearing panelists from  sharing their points of view on “The Future of Art and Social Action in Post-Pandemic Asia”.

Following the round table discussion, Taiwan’s The Garden of Hope Foundation (勵馨

基金會) will share their experiences on projects and services dedicated to Southeast Asian migrant workers in Taiwan, and a performance by Formosa Circus Art (福爾摩沙馬戲團) will be presented and involve the audience participation.

The next two days will be filled with numerous virtual workshops and curated conferences presented by Southeast Asian art organizations.

*Agenda & registration*

## Application deadline extended: 2021 SEASAT Youth Camp



*Application deadline: May 16, 2021*

Considering that many young people have been busy preparing for mid-term in April, the SEASAT organizing committee decided to extend the application deadline until 23:59, 16 May 2021.

Meanwhile, TAEF unveiled [the complete list of the speakers](#) for the 2021 SEASAT Youth Camp who will address the topics below:

- Human Rights & Technology
- Obstacles in Climate Change Negotiations
- Migrant Workers & Marginalization
- Equal Access to Public Healthcare
- Workshop "Spark for Society"
- Young Leader Talks

*Submit your application*

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**TAEF COMMENTARIES**

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# Think tanks can link Taiwan, India

*Wednesday, April 28, 2021*

*- Sana Hashmi, visiting fellow of the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation*

*“Taiwanese and Indian think tanks could play the role of catalysts for public discussion about India-Taiwan relations,”*

Indian think tanks are playing a huge role in conveying India’s geostrategic interests. To further gather ideas on how to strengthen the security partnership and advance their foreign policy interests, groupings such as the ASEAN-India networks of think tanks and the EU-India Think Tanks Twinning Initiative has been launched.

Over the past few years, Taiwan’s strategic culture has been shaped by its desire to engage countries in the Indo-Pacific region. High-level conferences, such as the Ketagalan Forum, the Yushan Forum, and the Taiwan-US-Japan Trilateral Indo-Pacific Security Dialogue, are helping Taiwan to increase its outreach, and engage policymakers and academics around the world.

Somewhat like India’s Delhi Dialogue, Taiwan holds the Yushan Forum focusing on Taiwan’s relations with South and Southeast Asia.

The New Southbound Policy, Taiwan’s flagship foreign policy, is people-centric. Five years after its initiation, there are visible results.

However, more steps could be taken to bolster the policy. One of the important steps in this direction would be to increase think tank interactions between Taiwan and New Southbound Policy countries.

*[Read more](#)*

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## CONSORTIUM UPDATES

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*Asia Engagement Consortium*

**The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy calls for nominations for the 16th Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award**



TAIWAN FOUNDATION  
for DEMOCRACY  
財團法人  
臺灣民主基金會

## 2021 ASIA DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

*Deadline: June 30, 2021*

There was no award recognizing efforts in developing or sustaining democracy and human rights in Asia until 2006.

As the first national democracy assistance foundation in Asia, the TFD established the Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award (ADHRA) — the first democracy and human rights award in Asia — to support courageous individuals and groups who build democracy, stand up for justice, and defend human rights. The ADHRA is annually awarded to one individual or organization that has made significant contributions to the advancement of democracy or human rights in Asia through peaceful means.

The laureate will have demonstrated a long-term commitment to the cause of freedom in the region. Nominations are open to the public. Each nominee must be nominated in writing by at least two credible organizations or individuals from the field of democracy or human rights.

*More information*

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## NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

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*The Indian Express*

**'Why the Taiwan Covid model works', an op-ed by Shih-Chung Chen, Minister of Health & Welfare of Taiwan**

*Friday, May 7, 2021*

Due to its proximity to China, Taiwan was expected to be one of the countries most severely affected by the epidemic. But given its experience of fighting the 2003 SARS outbreak, Taiwan did not ignore the alarms, piecing together evolving official and unofficial accounts to form a picture of the emerging disease that implied a scope and severity worse than what the global public perception suggested. Authorities used this

information to launch enhanced monitoring in December 2019, and have tirelessly implemented public health containment measures since Taiwan's first case was detected in January 2020. As of April 30, 2021, there had been 1,128 confirmed cases, including 12 deaths, in Taiwan. Life and work have continued much as normal for the majority of the population.

After dealing with SARS, Taiwan established a nationwide infectious disease healthcare network, which provides the legal authority for transferring patients with highly contagious diseases to designated facilities. This has helped protect health systems and health professionals from being overwhelmed, and allowed most non-Covid-19 health services to continue.

[Read more](#)

## REGIONAL HEADLINES

CNA

**Companies seek alternatives as workers from India, Bangladesh dwindle**

*May 7, 2021*

From May 2, Singapore barred entry or transit for visitors with recent travel history to Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

This travel ban, which includes long-term pass holders, came amid a series of moves to tighten Singapore borders as the COVID-19 outbreak in India worsens and Singapore clocked more local coronavirus cases in recent weeks.

The Building and Construction Authority

Quartz

**China's wolf warriors are undermining Beijing's empathetic messaging on India's Covid-19 crisis**

*May 4, 2021*

China has been trying hard to repair its global image, tarnished by the spread of Covid-19, but its efforts are being undermined by some of its "wolf warriors."

On Saturday (May 1), the official Weibo account of China's Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission stirred a huge backlash after one of its posts attached a picture juxtaposing China's successful launch of a module into space with one that shows India's cremation pyres burning at night.

BBC

**Australia's India ban criticised as 'racist' rights breach**

*May 3, 2021*

From Monday, any Australian arriving in the country from India faces fines and up to five years in prison.

It comes after Canberra banned all flights from the virus hotspot until 15 May.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has dismissed accusations of racism.

There are an estimated 9,000 Australians in India, 600 of whom are classed as vulnerable.

The government said the

on Apr 26 said that it will grant more flexibility for firms to bring in workers from China, among other support measures. But companies told CNA that this will not make up the shortfall.

A manager in the construction industry, who only wanted to be known as Alan, said that the cost of hiring workers from China will "shoot up" as demand increases.

It is estimated that there is a 30 to 40 per cent shortage of workers currently.

[Read more](#)

China's widening rifts between India have, meanwhile, left an opening for Taiwan,

On Sunday, Taiwan flew over 150 oxygen concentrators and 500 oxygen cylinders to help India.

The messages from Taiwanese authorities display the island's agile, proactive "cat diplomacy" approach towards India, and the prospects of potential engagement with India once the pandemic subsides, according to Sana Hashmi, a visiting fellow at the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation.

[Read more](#)


measures, which were announced on Saturday, are based on medical advice aimed at protecting the community.

The virus is surging in India, with daily cases in the country topping 300,000 for 10 consecutive days.

Officials said an increase in infection rates seen in Indian arrivals over the past fortnight has raised concerns. Australia has pursued a Covid elimination strategy - partly through strict border controls and mandatory quarantine - which has seen it record 910 deaths, far fewer than many other countries.

[Read more](#)

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