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TAEF UPDATES**TAEF Signs MOU with Institute of Developing Economics,
Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO)**

Sunday, March 17th, 2019

An MOU has been signed between the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation (TAEF) and the Institute of Developing Economics, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO), formalizing a five-year collaboration between the two institutions.

The partnership aims to promote research on Asia's economic development and other areas of shared interest.

[Read more](#)

Asian Dialogues: Transformative Leadership in Action [Call for Participants]



Thursday, April 11th, 2019

Organized by the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation (TAEF), in partnership with the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation and the American Institute in Taiwan, the talk brings together older and younger generation leaders in an open dialogue on three key themes—democratic deficit, development deficit and trust deficit.

Through sharing experiences and engaging in an honest dialogue, older and younger generations of leaders can bridge the discourse gap across the three thematic areas. The event highlights on the value of intergenerational discourse in the transfer of “wisdom” and how today’s youths can serve as agents of impactful social innovation in their respective communities and beyond.

[Read more](#)

TAEF Welcomes Foreign Media Delegation from New Southbound Policy Partner Countries



Tuesday, March 11th, 2019

A foreign media delegation from New Southbound Policy target countries visited TAEF and were welcomed by Chairman Dr. H.H. Michael Hsiao and Executive Director Dr. Alan Hao Yang. The parties discussed challenges, opportunities, reception and milestones of the NSP, as well as explored the possibilities of increasing collaboration between their respective countries and Taiwan.

[Read more](#)

TAEF COMMENTARY

Liberty Times Net

Beyond Going South, Taiwan is Not Alone

-Dr. H.H. Michael Hsiao | Chairman, TAEF

-Dr. Alan Hao Yang | Executive Director, TAEF

Tuesday, March 11th, 2019

Both Taiwan and Korea aspire to diversify their foreign policy direction and highlight their role as an important contributor to Southeast Asia through their respective southbound policies.

Unlike South Korea, it is difficult for Taiwan to cooperate with other countries through government level interactions due to its unique international status. However, cooperation can still be realized through diversified cooperation between the government and the people, through public diplomacy and soft power.

[Read the article in Chinese](#)

ASIA ENGAGEMENT CONSORTIUM UPDATES

TAEF X NCKU CVS

International Workshop on Vietnamese Language Teaching and Testing



Friday, March 8th, 2019

TAEF co-organized the "International Workshop on Vietnamese Language Teaching and Testing" with Center for Vietnamese Studies, National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) on March 8-9, 2019. They enjoyed a fruitful and candid discussion on the current situation of Vietnamese language education in Taiwan and Japan, and how cooperation between Taiwan and Japan regarding education and research on Southeast Asia could be further enhanced.

[Read more](#)

Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

The 6th Asia Young Leaders for Democracy Program: Enhance the Resilience of Democracy [Call for Participants]



Tuesday, August 20th, 2019

In 2014, the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD) established the Asia Young Leaders for Democracy program (AYLD), aiming at strengthening democracy in Asia through young people's collaborations. Each year, young practitioners advocating for democracy and human rights across the countries in Asia are invited to participate in the AYLD which empowers them through lectures, discussions, and site visits.

The aim of this year's program is to work with participants to innovate a more inclusive model of democratic participation, encourage more dialogue to break down echo chambers, and provide interdisciplinary lectures and workshops to build up participants' capacity to safeguard democracy.

[Read more](#)

NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

Taiwan Today

Taiwan, US Launch Indo-Pacific Democratic Governance Consultation



Wednesday, March 20th, 2019

Taiwan and the U.S. jointly launched the Indo-Pacific Democratic Governance Consultation March 19 in Taipei City, reflecting the strength of bilateral relations and a shared commitment to promoting freedom, democracy and rules-based order in the region and beyond

Taiwan and the U.S. jointly launched the Indo-Pacific Democratic Governance Consultation March 19 in Taipei City, reflecting the strength of bilateral relations and a shared commitment to promoting freedom, democracy and rules-based order in the region and beyonds.

The first event will take place in September in Taipei, with the U.S. delegation expected to be led by a senior official from the Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

[Read more](#)

Focus Taiwan

World's Second ICBC to be Established in Taiwan

Saturday, March 9th, 2019

The world's second WorldSkills International Capacity Building Center (ICBC), an

institute aimed at supporting global skills development, will be established in Taiwan, Vice Labor Minister Lin San-quei (林三貴) said on Saturday March 09 2019.

The Workforce Development Agency under the Ministry of Labor will sign a memorandum of understanding with WorldSkills International (WSI) on the matter, according to Lin, who serves as WSI vice president for special affairs.

The new ICBC will introduce Taiwan's vocational strengths -- such as carpentry and machinery -- to countries in Africa and those targeted by Taiwan's New Southbound Policy.

[Read more](#)

Taiwan News

CDC Dengue Fever Workshop Deepens Taiwan-Indonesia Medical Cooperation



Wednesday, March 13th, 2019

A Taiwan-Indonesia dengue fever prevention workshop kicked off March 11 in Taipei City, underscoring the government's commitment to strengthening regional infectious disease networks.

Organized by the Centers for Disease Control under the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the five-day event highlighted dengue data collection methods and surveillance technologies, as well as studies of mosquito species that are vectors of the virus. Keynote

speakers included Tu Wu-chun, an entomology professor at National Chung Hsing University in central Taiwan's Taichung City, and Chan Ta-chien, an epidemiologist at Taipei-based Academia Sinica, the nation's foremost research organization

[Read more](#)

SOUTHEAST ASIA / SOUTH ASIA / AUS / NZ NEWS

The Straits Times
**Thailand Votes:
 Record Number
 of Early Voters
 Hints at
 Possible
 Cliffhanger**

March 20th, 2019

More than 2.2 million Thais turned out for early voting - almost 90 per cent of those registered - for the country's hotly anticipated national election, as the junta's main opposition predicted a cliffhanger in the first polls in eight years.

The 2011 election had a 55 per cent turnout for advanced voting, bringing about 1.4 million early to the ballot box.

[Read more](#)

BBC
**Christchurch
 Shootings: NZ
 Cabinet Backs
 Tighter Gun
 Laws**

March 18th, 2019

New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern has said she will announce detailed gun law reforms within days, after an attack on two mosques left 50 people dead.

Ms Ardern said her cabinet had backed gun law changes "in principle".

Australian Brenton Tarrant, 28, a self-described white supremacist, has been charged with murder. Police say the killer used military-style assault weapons modified to make them more deadly - which is not illegal under current legislation.

[Read more](#)

CNN
**For India's 84
 Million First-
 Time Voters,
 Election Finally
 Gives Them A
 Voice**

March 18th, 2019

In less than a month, the world's biggest democratic exercise begins in India. And out of a total of 900 million eligible voters, a staggering 84.3 million -- including 15 million aged 18 or 19 -- will be casting ballots for the first time.

Voting will be held in seven phases across the vast country, from 11 April to 19 May, with the result announced on May 23. The Hindu nationalist government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which stormed to power at the last general election in 2014, is battling a

challenge led by the
secular opposition
Congress party

[Read more](#)

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