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TAEF UPDATES

NGO Symposium at Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation



Tuesday, June 30, 2020

Earlier today, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation (TAEF) invited its partner organizations – the Taiwan Alliance in International Development, Vision Youth Action,

The Garden of Hope Foundation, Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation, The Mustard Seed Mission, Taiwan Dental Organization, Changhua Christian Hospital International Medical Center, and Eden Social Welfare Foundation – to a seminar discussing possible actions and orientation that Taiwanese NGOs' assistance programs can take under the New Southbound Policy (NSP).

Taiwan's NGOs have long been involved in countries covered by the NSP. During today's discussions, TAEF's partner organizations shared insightful information based on their experiences and looked forward to expanding Taiwan's NGO presence and network in NSP countries.

[Read more](#)

ASIA ENGAGEMENT CONSORTIUM UPDATES

Taiwan External Trade Development Council

Combating COVID-19, Taiwan's Scientific and Technological Strengths Gain International Recognition

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Given the way COVID-19 can spread exponentially, conventional X-ray, and RT-PCR test check-ups are unable to achieve the rate of diagnosis necessary to flatten the curve. A Taiwanese research organization has been utilizing the country's scientific and technological resources to develop an AI solution that can significantly speed up the process and has gained recognition and requests from the EU, UK, and US.

Working closely with the Taiwan CDC and the country's leading medical institutions, Taiwan AI Lab has developed an AI-based COVID-19 screening platform, the SARS-CoV-2 Classifier. The platform is designed to use thorax X-ray images to determine if candidates have pneumonia, then determine if they have COVID-19 or not.

Based on the results so far, the solution is capable of achieving 89% accuracy in identifying unique COVID-19 symptoms, such as pulmonary fibrosis, 2-5 days before official diagnoses are made. The platform is also highly friendly in terms of deployment, only a chest X-ray is machine required. Already 4 medical centers in Taiwan have adopted the platform for their COVID-19 diagnostic procedures.

[Read more](#)

Focus Taiwan

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Reports Q1 Accomplishments on Economic Diplomacy

Sunday, June 21, 2020

In cooperation with economics-related agencies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has helped increase foreign investment in Taiwan and procurement by foreign companies in the first quarter of the year, compared with the same period of 2019.

In the January-March period, foreign investment increased by 40 percent, and procurement by foreign companies from Taiwan surged by 109 percent year-on-year, the ministry said in a statement released on Saturday.

MOFA, through its more than 100 offices overseas, has helped attract foreign investment to Taiwan amounting to US\$350 million for the first three months of the year, compared to US\$250 million recorded in the same period of last year, the ministry said.

On the other hand, foreign companies' procurements from Taiwan reached US\$230 million in Q1, compared to the US\$110 million recorded during the same period last year, the MOFA said.

In terms of the government's New Southbound Policy (NSP), Taiwan's total trade with NSP-target countries reached US\$27.37 billion in Q1, a 5 percent year-on-year increase compared to the US\$26.09 billion recorded in the same period of last year, MOFA said.

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REGIONAL HEADLINES

The Jakarta Post

Vietnam PM Warns of Economic Calamity at

South China Morning Post

Singapore Relection: PAP to Campaign on Bread-and-

The Strait Times

Coronavirus: Indonesia's President Joko Widodo Blasts

ASEAN Summit

June 26, 2020

Vietnam warned Friday the virus pandemic had swept away years of economic gains as Southeast Asian leaders met online for a summit also dominated by anxiety over Beijing's moves in the flashpoint South China Sea.

The current chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) also wants to use the summit to inject momentum into talks on a sprawling China-backed trade pact.

The immediate focus for the 10-member bloc is the crippling cost of the coronavirus, which has ravaged the economies of tourism and export-reliant countries such as Thailand and Vietnam.

"It has swept away the successes of recent years... threatening the lives of millions of people," Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said in a sobering

Butter Issues, PM Lee Says

June 27, 2020

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, facing a July 10 snap election, on Saturday said his People's Action Party (PAP) will campaign on bread-and-butter issues amid the coronavirus crisis, in a departure from its usual practice of addressing long-term issues during elections.

Unveiling the party's manifesto, Lee said the plans he was announcing differed from a normal election, when the campaign agenda would "focus on all our long-term ideas to improve and transform Singapore".

In normal times, "Singaporeans expect everything to continue running smoothly and the PAP to continue to govern properly before and after election", Lee said.

[Read more](#)

'Business as Usual' Attitude, Warns of Cabinet Reshuffle

June 29, 2020

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has threatened to reshuffle the Cabinet as he expressed frustration over the "lack of a sense of crisis" in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said the government ministers were working in a business as usual mode in tackling the crisis.

In a video of a Cabinet meeting released by the presidential palace on Sunday (June 28), Mr Joko said he was very disappointed with the slow disbursement of urgently needed funds such as aid for the poor, stimulus for businesses to pre-empt layoffs, money to buy medical equipment and special allowances for medical doctors and nurses.

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