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TAEF UPDATES

TAEF Received Vice President Lai and Minister Tung



Tuesday, March 23, 2021

TAEF has been honored to receive high-profile government officials in consecutive weeks.

On March 18, Minister Chen-Yuan Tung of the Overseas Community Affairs Council (OCAC) visited TAEF. Having served as Taiwan's ambassador to Thailand for three years, Minister Tung shared that Taiwanese business communities are influential, united, and well-connected with local communities, which constitutes the foundation of Taiwan-Thailand relations.

We exchanged ideas on how to better share resources and expand networks under the New South Policy. TAEF is looking forward to working alongside OCAC to foster friendship and to strengthen partnership with our counterparts in New Southbound

countries.

In the following week, on March 23, we received Vice President Ching-te Lai. Being the keynote speaker at last year's Yushan Forum's Roundtable Dialogue, Vice President Lai pays considerable attention to Taiwan's New Southbound Policy.

During his visit, we had a fruitful exchange of ideas on the future developments of the New Southbound Policy, which has great potential to build partnerships between Taiwan and the region in areas such as culture, regional resilience, and people-to-people exchange.

[The highlight of Vice President Lai's speech at the 2020 Yushan Forum](#)
[OCAC's programs towards NSP countries](#)

TAEF COMMENTARIES

Mint

Why India Needs to Look East At Taiwan?

Thursday, March 18, 2021

- Rahul Jacob, former South China correspondent of the Financial Times

"If there is one country India should be using as a role model for pandemic management, as well as putting its Make-in-India initiative on a stronger foundation, it is Taiwan."

The Taiwan-India relation has been a widely-discussed topic in the Indo-Pacific. A feature of this issue was published recently on [Mint](#), an India-based online newspaper, in which politicians and several academics of different disciplines were interviewed, including TAEF's executive director Dr. Alan Yang and visiting fellow Dr. Sana Hashmi.

"The pandemic has given Taiwan an opportunity to demonstrate its capability to be a responsible member of the international community," said Dr. Alan Yang, explaining the difference between Taiwan and China. He also pointed out that Taiwan has extensive experience in assessing locations for supply chain development in Southeast Asia and has recently invested 2 billion USD in India, creating thousands of job opportunities.

Meanwhile, from the political point of view of India, Shiv Shankar Menon--the former ambassador to China--underlined that Taipei and New Delhi should consider signing a bilateral trade agreement since it will enhance the two countries' complementary nature in manufacturing: Taiwan as a world-leading provider of technology prowess in global

supply chains, and India as a global manufacturing hub with its large workforce and mid-level managerial talents.

From Taiwan's political perspective, Chih-Cheng Lo, a DPP legislator, believed that India was the prime beneficiary of Taiwan's New Southbound policy since India is an important new destination for Taiwan to relocate its SMEs from China.

However, some difficulties are ahead of this potential India-Taiwan partnership in trade and investment: both legislator Lo and Rahul Jacob mentioned India's bureaucratic red tape. In addition, Taiwanese SMEs do not find their interests in line with Modi's policies, which proposes production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes, targeting large companies while raising duties on thousands of manufacturing inputs.

Dr. Hashmi, TAEF's visiting fellow, pointed out that there is a lack of a framework or a rule book governing India-Taiwan ties in areas other than science and technology.

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ASIA ENGAGEMENT CONSORTIUM UPDATES

TAEF & Taiwan Alliance in International Development

[Call for Registration] Workshop Series on International Development: Education Work in New Southbound Countries



國際發展新南向

國際發展中的
教育援助

4月19日

13:30 - 17:00

光鹽會議中心

主辦單位
TAEF
協辦單位
Taiwan Aid

Do you know that most international development projects of Taiwan's NGOs in South and Southeast Asian countries lie in the field of education?

Amidst the pandemic, Taiwanese NGOs, especially those who work overseas, face various challenges from strict social distancing rules to the urgency of aiding socially vulnerable groups in the context of Covid-19.

In the first session of our Workshop Series on International Development, we will invite five NGOs, working on education in different New Southbound countries, to share their experiences. How did they overcome challenges brought by the pandemic? What kind of cooperation between NGOs and between NGOs and government agencies could be developed, particularly within the framework of the New Southbound Policy?

Date & Time: April 19 (13:00-17:00)

Venue: Salt & Light Conference Center 光鹽會議中心

Address: 7F., No. 369, Fuxing N. Rd., Songshan Dist., Taipei City

Registration

NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY NEWS

Taiwan News

Taiwan Eases Restrictions on Business Travelers from Vietnam, Singapore

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Taiwan moves Vietnam and Singapore to a list of low-risk countries, allowing business travelers 5-day quarantines.

During his weekly press conference on Wednesday afternoon, Minister of Health and Welfare and CECC head Chen Shih-chung announced that because Vietnam and Singapore have met Taiwan's criteria to be categorized as low-risk for two consecutive weeks, their status has been changed from medium to low-risk.

Since March 1, business travelers from low-risk countries or regions are only required to undergo five days of quarantine, while business travelers from medium-risk areas need to quarantine for seven days.

Chen said that over the past two weeks, the majority of confirmed coronavirus cases in Vietnam were imported from abroad, while the new local cases were close contacts of those who had been in quarantine. He pointed out that over the same period, Singapore has only reported two local cases.

Read more

REGIONAL HEADLINES

SCMP

Singapore and Indonesian Foreign Ministers to Discuss Myanmar during Meeting

March 25, 2021

Indonesia and Malaysia are seeking an urgent Asean meeting to discuss the crisis, which has prompted international condemnation against the military.

Thousands of anti-coup protesters on Thursday marched on the streets of Myanmar, as the Singapore foreign minister was set to meet his Indonesian counterpart on a trip that was expected to include discussions on Myanmar.

Indonesia and Malaysia are seeking an urgent meeting of Southeast Asia's Asean regional grouping, of which Myanmar is a member, to discuss the crisis.

The Times of India

Philippines Says 220 Chinese Boats Have Encroached in South China Sea

March 21, 2021

The Philippines urged China on Sunday to recall more than 200 Chinese boats in the South China Sea, saying the presence of the vessels violated its maritime rights as it claims ownership of the area.

The Philippine military had conducted air and maritime patrols in the South China Sea to further validate the report, spokesman Marine Major General Edgard Arevalo said.

The vessels are fishing boats believed to be manned by Chinese military-trained personnel, according to Philippines security officials.

VnExpress

Vietnam Climbs up in Global Happiness Ranking

March 20, 2021

Vietnam has climbed up four spots to 79th out of 149 countries and territories included in the 2021 World Happiness Report.

Vietnam scored 5.411 points, up from the 5.353 it got last year, according to the latest report released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, a global initiative launched by the United Nations in 2012.


In Southeast Asia, Vietnam's position was better than Malaysia (81), Indonesia (82), Laos (100), Cambodia (114) and Myanmar (126). It ranked behind Singapore (32), Thailand (54th) and the Philippines (61).

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