



Press Review Taiwan



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Switzerland in the local press

Flow of undocumented migrants to Switzerland shrinks in 2017 (The China Post, 22.02.2018)

Swiss customs authorities say the number of undocumented migrants who entered Switzerland last year shrank nearly by half compared to a record influx in 2016. The Federal Customs Administration says border guards found 27,300 people on illegal stays in Switzerland in 2017, down from nearly 49,000 cases the previous year. The UN's International Organization Migration says about 119,000 migrants crossed last year from Libya to Italy, the main route used by migrants who enter Switzerland—possibly with aims of heading further north.

Swiss gov't seeks to bar minors from using tanning salons (Taiwan News, 15.02.2018)

Switzerland's government says minors should be prohibited from using tanning salons because of the long-term risk that radiation from ultraviolet beds could cause skin cancer. The seven-member Federal Council took the position as it opened a consultation about measures aimed to protect the population from exposure to dangerous rays and excessively loud noises. Other proposals included limits on use of lasers in cosmetic treatments, and new rules about the use of electronic amplifiers during demonstrations.

Switzerland says it supports Kofi Annan report for Rohingya (Taipei Times, 06.02.2018)

Switzerland's president Alain Berset says his country supports the full implementation of the recommendations made by an advisory commission headed by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on resolving the Rohingya crisis. The Annan-led commission submitted a report to Myanmar authorities in August, urging action to prevent violence, maintain peace and foster reconciliation in Myanmar's Rakhine state, where the Rohingya have fled from.

Foreign Policy

Taiwan, Paraguay cut tariffs as bilateral economic accord takes effect (Focus Taiwan, 27.02.2018)

An economic cooperation agreement between Taiwan and Paraguay that was signed in mid-2017 becomes effective, introducing tariff cuts that are expected to save Taiwanese exporters about US\$900,000 (NT\$27 million) per year in total, according to the Bureau of Foreign Trade (BOFT). Under the bilateral agreement, Paraguay will lower tariffs on 19 Taiwanese products, including sporting equipment and ink, while Taiwan will reduce import duties on 54 products from Paraguay such as beef, fruit juices, and pet food.

Taiwan protests forced name change of office in Papua New Guinea (Focus Taiwan, 13.02.2018)

Taiwan has lodged an official protest with the government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) over an instruction ordering Taiwan's representative office in the country to remove the wording "Republic of China" from its name under Chinese pressure, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). Taiwan's representative office in Papua New Guinea was previously called the Trade Mission of the Republic of China (on Taiwan) in Papua New Guinea. Starting last year, Taiwan's representative offices in Ecuador, Dubai, Bahrain and Nigeria have also been forced to change their official names.

Taiwan signs two cooperation pacts with Caribbean allies (The China Post, 05.02.2018)

Foreign Minister David Lee witnessed the signing of cooperation agreements with two Caribbean allies during a visit to Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Kitts and Nevis, according to MOFA. A police cooperation agreement was signed with Saint Lucia to enhance personnel training and exchange of intelligence, while a diabetes prevention cooperation agreement was signed with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Taiwan-EI Salvador FTA-related resolutions go into effect (Focus Taiwan, 03.02.2018)

Four free trade related resolutions signed between Taiwan and El Salvador went into effect, allowing annual reductions in tariffs on specific exports to start taking place. The goal is to reduce the current 5-15 % tariffs to zero in 10 years' time by 2027, the BOFT said, adding that this will make Taiwan's products even more competitive on the international market.

China Relation

China offers to provide Taiwan with earthquake relief aid (Focus Taiwan, 07.02.2018)

China will send Taiwan disaster relief aid after a magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck Hualien County in eastern Taiwan and caused property damage and loss of life, said China's Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO). The mainland is highly concerned about the devastating effects of the powerful earthquake, including significant property damage and loss of life.

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Domestic Policy

MOEA announces household solar power production project (Taiwan News, 24.02.2018)

The Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) announced a project to encourage households in Taiwan to install solar panels on the roofs of their homes. Under the new measures, local governments will work with private sector firms which will organize households in designated areas and build solar panels for them in a bid to reach a fixed level of power production under the supervision of the ministry. The MOEA said the project has designated three sizes for solar panel installation: 10-50 MW for several administrative districts in a single city or county, 1-10 MW for a single administrative district in a city or a county, and 0.5-1 MW for a township.

Government reshuffle lineup announced (Focus Taiwan, 23.02.2018)

Presidential Office Secretary-General Joseph Wu is to replace David Lee as foreign minister, while Lee will lead the National Security Council (NSC), government officials announced. The NSC position was vacated by Yen Teh-fa, who was tapped as defense minister, replacing Feng Shih-kuan. Mainland Affairs Council Minister Chang Hsiao-yueh will be replaced by Chen Ming-tung, a former MAC chairman and a professor at the Graduate Institute of National Development of the National Taiwan University. Kaohsiung Deputy Mayor Hsu Ming-chun has been appointed to be minister of labor, succeeding Lin Mei-chu who tendered her resignation for health reason.

Taiwan aiming to attract more foreign investment: premier (Focus Taiwan, 22.02.2018)

Premier Lai Ching-te said that the government has rolled out five strategies to optimize the environment for investing in startups, with the aim of fostering at least one unicorn startup--a privately owned startup valued at over US\$1 billion--every two years. Meanwhile, the government also aims to turn Taiwan into a capital pooling center in Asia in five years by boosting the growth of capital investment in startups by NT\$5 billion (US\$170.8 million) per year. The five strategies include furnishing startups with funding in the initial stages, talent development and regulatory adjustment, forging partnerships between the government and startups, providing diversified exit channels for startups and helping startups make inroads into the global market.

New rules on foreign professionals take effect (Eye on Taiwan, 08.02.2018)

The Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals, which marks a milestone in Taiwan's recruitment of talent has officially come into effect, according to the National Development Council (NDC). The act relaxes visa, employment, stay and residence regulations for foreign professionals while improving their treatment in the areas of insurance, tax and retirement. The Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals was passed on Oct. 31 last year and took effect today.

Economy/Finance

January jobless rate falls to 32-month low (The China Post, 27.02.2018)

Taiwan's unemployment rate for January fell to a 32-month low as the domestic economy continued to grow steadily, the Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (DGBAS) said. The jobless rate fell 0.03 percentage points in January from a month earlier to 3.63 %, the lowest level since May 2015, when it was 3.62 percent. It was also down 0.15 percentage points from a year earlier.

Taiwan records 30th straight quarter of net financial account outflow (Focus Taiwan, 24.02.2018)

Taiwan has recorded a net outflow in its financial account for the 30th consecutive quarter as of the fourth quarter of last year, the longest run in the country's history, according to the central bank. Taiwan's net outflow in its financial account for the October-December period totaled US\$21.06 billion, bringing the aggregate net fund outflow to US\$354.07 billion or NT\$10.57 trillion. For the entire 2017, Taiwan saw a net outflow in its financial account, which measures the flow of direct investment and portfolio investments. The net outflow last year totaled US\$68.64 billion, an annual record high.

DGBAS raises GDP forecast to 2.42% (Taipei Times, 14.02.2018)

The DGBAS raised its forecast for GDP growth this year to 2.42 %, citing a fair global economic landscape. The revision came after the nation's economy expanded 2.86 % last year. Exports increased 13.22 % last year and are forecast to rise 4.54 % this year, while imports are forecast to expand 6.98 % this year, as local firms increase capital equipment investment after belt-tightening moves last year. Private investment slid into the negative zone over the past six months due to conservative corporate spending. Private consumption is forecast to increase 2.45 % this year, while government consumption is expected to pick up 1.08 %. The CPI is forecast to rise 1.21 %, while the WPI is expected to gain 0.62 %.

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**Taiwan January export value down sequentially (DigiTime, 08.02.2018)**

Taiwan export value totaled US\$27.38 billion in January 2018, slipping 7.2 % sequentially but growing 15.3% on year, recording on-year growth for the 16th consecutive month, in the wake of solid global demand. Import value totaled US\$24.96 billion, up 6.8 % sequentially and 23.3 % on year, a 43-month high, indicating strong domestic demand, in particular in consumer products such as food and cosmetics, according to the (MOF).

January consumer prices in Taiwan show 0.88% rise (Focus Taiwan, 06.02.2018)

Consumer prices in January increased 0.88 % from the same period last year due largely to a spike in the prices of tobacco, fuel, vegetables, dairy and meat products, and medical services, however, the consumer price index (CPI) fell 0.35 % from the previous month, according to the DGBAS. Meanwhile, the wholesale price index (WPI) fell 0.74 % from a year earlier, but the domestic sales price index, excluding imports, rose 2.19 % y-o-y.

Taiwan's forex reserves continue to hit new high (The China Post, 06.02.2018)

Taiwan's foreign exchange reserves at the end of January hit a new high for the 10th consecutive month partly on the back of continued fund inflows by foreign institutional investors into Taiwan, according to the central bank. At the end of January, Taiwan's forex reserves hit a new high at US\$455.72 billion, up US\$4.22 billion from the end of 2017. According to bank data, foreign institutional investors had net fund inflows of US\$4.499 billion in January, which helped drive forex reserves higher.

Taiwan ranks 13th in 2018 Index of Economic Freedom (Taiwan Today, 05.02.2018)

Taiwan ranks 13th out of 186 countries and territories in the 2018 Index of Economic Freedom released by Washington-headquartered think tank The Heritage Foundation. Scoring 76.6 out of 100, up 0.1 of a point from the 2017 edition. According to the index, Taiwan is a dynamic, multiparty democracy boasting one of the richest economies in Asia. This achievement is based on a relatively well-developed commercial code and open-market policies facilitating the flow of goods and capital and strong small and medium enterprises.

Technology/Innovation**TSMC remains top local patent applicant in 2017 (Focus Taiwan, 10.02.2018)**

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC), the world's largest contract chipmaker, retained its position as the No. 1 patent applicant in Taiwan in 2017, according to the Intellectual Property Office under the Ministry of Economic Affairs. In 2017, TSMC filed a total of 937 patent applications, the highest annual total for the company. Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., the world's largest contract electronics maker and a major iPhone assembler for Apple Inc. was the second place domestic firm with 485 applications.

AI robotics hub exhibition center opens in central Taiwan (Taiwan News, 09.02.2018)

The exhibition center of a new robotics hub opened at the Central Taiwan Science Park (CTSP) in Taichung, part of an effort to achieve six major goals using the hub as a platform for the robotics industry. "This hub will serve as a platform for the future development of the robotics industry," Science and Technology Minister Chen Liang-gee said. The ministry will allocate NT\$2 billion (US\$6.78 million) to set up several robotics bases at the CTSP and the Southern Taiwan Science Park over a four-year period, with the aim of setting up 50 start-up businesses, attracting 600 teams to base themselves there, training 4,000 workers, producing 45 robotics application programs, accomplishing 30 key technologies/products and creating 1,450 jobs for technical experts.

Special Focus**President Tsai thanks global community for support in wake of quake (Focus Taiwan, 08.02.2018)**

President Tsai Ing-wen expressed gratitude to the many countries and leaders throughout the world that have sent messages of support to Taiwan since a deadly earthquake hit the eastern county of Hualien. In particular, she mentioned Japan, saying its Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had sent a letter of condolence and had assigned a specialist team to assist in the ongoing rescue efforts in Taiwan. On the other hand, Taiwan's central government declined disaster relief aid from China. Taiwan has also received messages of support and condolences from the United States, the European Union, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, Poland, the Czech Republic, China, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam.

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