



Photo by Theerasak Saksriravee



## Taiwan Fellowship

The application for this year's Taiwan Fellowship program kicked off in May. Since the program's launch in 2010 by the ROC Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Taipei Representation Office in Hungary has recommended more than a dozen scholars, mostly from Hungary, to conduct research in Taiwan.

The program, according to MOFA, aims to award foreign experts and scholars interested in research related to Taiwan, cross-strait relations, mainland China, the Asia-Pacific region and Chinese studies to conduct advanced research at universities or academic institutions in Taiwan. The ultimate goal is to help deepen understanding between Taiwan and the international community.

The fellowship can last from three months to a year, and a monthly stipend ranging from NT\$50,000 (US\$1,530) to NT\$60,000 (US\$1,840), as well as a round-trip airfare, are provided to the recipients.

MOFA pointed out that every year about 100 researchers have taken part in the program since its inception. Officials hope to emulate the success of US scholarships such as the Fulbright Program, and in doing so, to exercise public diplomacy.

Participants need to find a university or research institute in Taiwan willing to

serve as their host during the fellowship. Upon completion of their research stint in Taiwan, the recipients can either choose to submit a paper of at least 20 pages or, at the invitation of MOFA, to present their projects at the quarterly Taiwan Fellowship seminars at the National Central Library (NCL) in Taipei. The NCL handles the administrative work of the fellowship program.

Ákos Kopper, head of the European Studies Department at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, was impressed by the well-educated and highly qualified colleagues he has met, and the experience of living in Taiwan. "Being a Taiwan Fellowship recipient was one of the most decisive experiences of my academic career," Kopper said.

He added that, "seeing Taiwan – a modern lively democracy – makes one ponder about the attitude of the West towards the East, about its paternalism and occasion-

Taipei Representative Office in Hungary



al arrogance.” Kopper spent four months conducting research in Taipei in 2015.

For Lóránt Stóhr, associate professor at the University of Theatre and Film Arts in Budapest, living in Taiwan was made easier with the help of NCL. The staff at NCL also “regularly sent me news and from time to time organized events and gatherings for the scholarship recipients.”

Stóhr was recipient of a 2015 fellowship and conducted a three-month research at the National Taiwan University of Arts (NTUA). The film professor, however, was less satisfied with the NTUA, “partially because of the lack of English skills – and that hindered the research quite a lot.”

But both recipients seem to have enjoyed the diversity of the country. Living in Taipei, Kopper observed that “democracy is

perfectly compatible with Chinese culture, thus culturalist arguments on what countries are suitable for democracy are totally misplaced.” And this has inspired him to work on an article on diplomacy and democracy. “Taipei is a culturally vivid city that assists the art themed researches with many libraries, archives and collections,” Stóhr said, noting that the many cultural institutes in Taipei helped compensate for the linguistic deficiencies he experienced at his host university. He particularly singled out the staff at NCL, “who spoke English really well.”

While Stóhr is of the opinion that a lack of Mandarin or Taiwanese makes it more difficult to get around, Kopper hopes he will have other opportunities to visit “the beautiful island.”

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## Taiwan, Switzerland ink railway collaboration pacts

**Taiwan Railways Administration (TRA) under the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Forestry Bureau under the Council of Agriculture concluded two memorandums of understanding with Swiss railway operator Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn (MGB) May 6 in Taipei, paving the way for wide-ranging bilateral cooperation.**

Signed respectively by TRA Director-General Chou Yung-hui, bureau Director-General Lee Tao-sheng and MGB Chief Executive Officer Fernando Lehner, the memorandums establish sister relations between Taiwan’s iconic Alishan



Forest Railway and MGB, along with its subsidiary Gornergrat Bahn.

In a ceremony held at TRA Taipei Station, Premier Chang San-cheng praised Alishan railway and MGB for spurring economic growth while contrib-



uting to environmental protection. “It’s a perfect match of two world-class railways,” Chang said, adding that he expects the partnerships to enhance people-to-people exchanges and promote tourism in Asia and Europe.

Under the TRA-MGB memorandum, the two organizations will exchange information and share experiences in business operations, development strategies and talent cultivation, as well as jointly organize marketing campaigns and projects of mutual interest. The bureau-MGB memorandum covers many of the same areas, in addition to major station and website promotions. Constructed as the highest narrow-gauge railway in Asia in 1912 during the Japanese colonial period, the 78-kilometer Alishan line runs through the scenic mountain resort of Alishan in Chiayi County.



The railway is famous for its spiral route and zigzag switchbacks. During an ascent from 30 meters to 2,451 meters above sea level, the vegetation changes from tropical to temperate and alpine, making it one of Taiwan’s most popular tourist attractions.

MGB operates the famous Glacier Express that runs through the scenic Swiss Alps. The more than 100-year-old Gornergrat Bahn is a mountain track railway linking the resort village of Zermatt in southern Switzerland to the summit of the Gornergrat, the best location to view the 4,478 meter-high Matterhorn.

TRA is working to promote Taiwan’s railways around the world through overseas exchange programs. The latest memorandums follow Alishan line’s two pacts with Japan’s Oigawa Railway in 1986 and Kurobe Gorge Railway in 2013.

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## Inaugural Europe Fair wraps up in Taipei City

**The inaugural Europe Fair wrapped up May 8 at Taipei Songshan Cultural and Creative Park, underscoring the strength of Taiwan-EU ties across such areas as culture, education, research and technology.**

Staged by the Republic of China (Taiwan) Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), European Economic and Trade Office (EETO) in Taipei and Taipei City Government, the three-day event attracted around 30,000 attendees.

The representative offices of 13 EU states, including Belgium, Italy, Germany, Hun-

gary, Spain and the United Kingdom, took part in the fair. Their official presences were complemented by fine dining events, performances and tourism seminars, as well as privately run booths offering European food and wine.

MOFA Minister David Y. L. Lin said at the launch of the event that it will help Taiwan



people better understand the EU and bring the two sides closer together, especially in economic and trade relations. He credited the Schengen visa-waiver program as one of the main reasons for the region's growing popularity as a destination for arrivals from Taiwan.

On Jan. 11, 2011, Taiwan was admitted to the list of countries whose citizens enjoy visa-free access to the Schengen Area, enabling them to visit 36 European countries and territories for up to 90 days without a visa. In 2015, people from Taiwan made 161,529 visits, up 20.83 percent from the year before, according to the Tourism Bureau under the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. EETO Head Made-

leine Majorenko said she expects the fair to become an annual festival for the people of Taiwan, and a platform for sharing EU founding values like democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. "That's why we want to celebrate this special day with our friends here," Majorenko said, adding that Taiwan-EU relations are "excellent" and both sides can do more to promote the partnership.

According to the EETO, the event is part of worldwide celebrations for May 9 Europe Day, which doubles as the EU's birthday. It reflects the growing importance the EU places on Taiwan, when it comes to strengthening cooperation and exchanges across a broad spectrum of areas.

## Computex Taipei plans InnoVEX exhibit for startups

Asia's largest computer trade show, Computex Taipei, for the first time will set up a dedicated area this year for startups, with the aim of facilitating the exchange of ideas for building businesses and to attract investors, the organizers said May 4.

The dedicated area, called InnoVEX, will house 170 startups from 20 countries, which have signed up to take part in the trade fair May 31-June 4, according to the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA). The startups include the Melbourne-based software firm CareMonkey, which designs medical and security apps, and Bulgarian drone maker Dronamics, TAITRA said.

The Taiwanese company iStaging Corp. will also highlight its augmented reality and virtual reality technologies that can be used to display the products of interior designers, furniture retailers and real estate agencies, TAITRA said. The InnoVEX area will also feature a series of lectures on the startup eco-system, suc-

cessful business examples, and the latest trends in Silicon Valley and the tech world, including artificial intelligence and driverless cars, TAITRA added. In addition, Computex will offer a US\$30,000 cash prize to the winners of an InnoVEX contest in which exhibitors will be asked to present innovative ideas for attracting investment, the trade promotion body said.

COMPUTEX 2016 will be held at Taipei World Trade Center Exhibition Halls 1 and 3, the Taipei International Conference Center, and Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center, Hall 1. Over 1,600 exhibitors from 28 countries will be using over 5,000 booths to showcase their products and services, expecting to attract over 130,000 international and local buyers.





## National Museum of History forges licensing cooperation with France

Taiwan's National Museum of History established a licensing cooperation agreement with the Réunion des musées nationaux-Grand Palais (RMN-GP) of France in Paris on May 11.

The agreement was signed by Tsai Hsiao-ying, director of the Taiwan Cultural Center in Paris, and Roei Amit, head of digital services at the RMN-GP, at Taiwan's representative office in France.

Under the agreement, a first batch of 300 digital images from the National Museum of History can be licensed to users via an international licensing platform under the RMN-GP, providing European residents with easier access to the history museum's archives. The images include some of the works of late calligraphers Pu Xin-yu and Yu Yu-jen as well as artifacts listed by the Taiwan government as cultural heritage. Tsai said the National Museum of History is one of the oldest museums



in Taiwan and is also one of those that are actively promoting overseas licensing. She said

the cooperation with the RMN-GP will allow Taiwan's national treasures to be displayed overseas without border restrictions.

Meanwhile, Amit said the RMN-GP's image department is an important institution in Europe and currently maintains cooperation with about 100 museums.

With approximately 1 million images online, the RMN-GP's image department has become a leading brand in Europe, he said, adding that the cooperation with the National Museum of History will create a good opportunity for the RMN-GP to expand its archives.

Text: Focus Taiwan, Image: www.nmnh.gov.tw

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## TSMC ranks 6th for innovation in semiconductor study

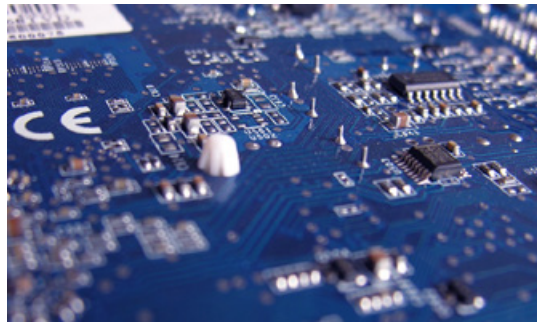
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Ltd. of Hsinchu City in northern Taiwan ranks sixth in the latest Top 10 Global Innovators-Semiconductor study released May 11 by international media outlet Thomson Reuters.

The world leader in contract integrated circuit manufacturing services earned the recognition on the back of its 1,424 patent registrations in 2015. This high-tech patent portfolio reflects TSMC's commitment to

R&D and position as a growth leader in the local semiconductor industry. TSMC accounted for 53.7 percent of the global output for the contract IC manufacturing services sector in 2014, according to U.S.-head-



quartered technology research firm Gartner Inc. The company also ranked No. 1 for patent power last year by IEEE Spectrum – the flagship magazine of U.S.-based Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.



According to the Industrial Economics and Knowledge Center, a research unit under

the government-supported nonprofit Industrial Technology Research Institute in Hsinchu County, the output of Taiwan's semiconductor industry hit a record NT\$2.26 trillion (US\$70 billion) in 2015, up 2.8 percent from

the year before and surpassing the global average of a 1.9 percent decline.

*Text: Taiwan Today, Photo: Rob Bouwman*

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## Taiwan transforms into mecca for medical tourism

**Taiwan's world-class physicians, nurses and treatment facilities are transforming the country into a mecca for medical tourism and significantly boosting national economic development.**

A central plank in this process is the liver transplant team at the Kaohsiung branch of Chang Gung Memorial Hospital (GGMH). Led by Dr. Chen Chao-long, the team performed Asia's first successful liver transplant in 1984, and set a world record in 1997 when it accomplished the first living donor transplant without blood transfusion. The CGMH team completed its 1,500th case in early April, and reported one- and five-year survival rates of 96 percent and 91 percent, respectively, among the best.

Equally impressive is the Heart Center of Cheng Hsin General Hospital, where a team performed the world's first case of artificial heart implementation followed by successful heart and kidney transplants in 1996. To date, the center has completed 454 successful transplants, and its five-year survival rate of 74 percent is one of the highest in the world.

Craniofacial reconstruction is another area where Taiwan excels on the global stage, thanks to efforts by the Chang Gung Craniofacial Research Center in northern Taiwan's Taoyuan City. Since its establishment in 1981, the facility has treated more than 30,000 patients with cleft lip and palate, boasting a success rate of 100 percent.

Taiwan is also renowned for its leading-edge technology in aesthetic medicine, cardiovascular treatment, dental implants, health checks and joint replacements. These affordable services are proving increasingly popular with patients in overseas markets.

Ministry of Health and Welfare statistics show Taiwan welcomed 305,045 such patients in 2015, up 76 percent from 2012. Related sector output totaled NT\$16 billion (US\$491 million), an increase of 65 percent during the period.

*Taiwan Today*

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