



Scholarship season

Taiwan is a vibrant democracy in Asia with well-established higher educational system that provides opportunities for international students to study a wide variety of subjects, ranging from Chinese language and history to tropical agriculture and forestry, genetic engineering, business, semi-conductors, among others. There are different scholarship programs available to foreign students. This year, a total of eight scholarships under the Taiwan Scholarship Program (for degrees) and 10 under the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship Program (for the Chinese language) will be offered to citizens of Hungary, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Kosovo. The deadline for application is April 18, 2017.

For details, please visit tro.hu.

hear it from the students

Hello, my name is Dorka Kardos and I am currently pursuing my Master's degree in International Communication Studied at National Chengchi University. Coming to study in Taiwan has been the best opportunity of my life so far. I am not only able to learn from great professors from perspectives different from mine and improve my Chinese, but I also found amazing friends for life, both Taiwanese and other foreigners from literally all around the world. Being away from home can be hard; but having friends that are like family and the warm welcome of the Taiwanese who do their best to make us feel at home make Taiwan a wonderful place to be a student.

Hey! My name is Natalia Beneitez, I'm a Guatemalan student at National Taiwan University. It's been almost two years and a half since I got here to study Chinese for one year and then start my four-year degree. If I could describe my experience in Taiwan in one simple phrase, it would definitely be, which literally translates into English as "self-transcend," meaning challenging oneself to achieve more. Life here has given me the convenience and liberty to grow up and become independent. I'm constantly challenged and put out of my comfort-zone. I love the people, and how easy it is to feel welcome and safe. For me overall Taiwan is a pretty amazing island to live in as a student.



Presidential Office: Taiwan in close communication with U.S.

Commenting on the phone call earlier on February 10, 2017 between U.S. President Donald J. Trump and mainland Chinese leader Xi Jinping, Presidential Office Spokesperson Huang Chung-yen said that Taiwan and the United States have been in close contact and communication regarding this development, and continue to take an effective "zero surprise" approach.

Huang added that the United States is Taiwan's most important strategic partner in the world. Taiwan is fully aware of the priority that the United States assigns to East Asia peace and stability – including the continuation of an excellent Taiwan-United States relationship.

Regional stability in East Asia is of vital importance to U.S. interests, he said, and as a member of the international community, Taiwan will continue to strengthen its cooperative ties with the United States such that the two sides can jointly further the peace, stability and welfare of this region.

The spokesperson also emphasized that it is in Taiwan's interest to ensure the sustainability of the country's

freedom and democracy; active participation in the international community; and regional peace and stability. "Maintaining positive relations with the United States and across the Taiwan Strait are both in line with our national interest and key to regional peace and stability, and as such they are goals that this administration will work hard to achieve," Huang said.

In the recent days, said the spokesperson, the U.S. administration including Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has on multiple occasions reiterated its support for Taiwan and its commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act, and for this Taiwan is most grateful.

Source: Office of the President

Electric motorbike sales hit new high in Taiwan

The sale of electric motorcycles reached 20,000 units in 2016, up 98 percent from the previous year, according to the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA), which, encouraged by the new high, said it will continue incentives for buyers with the aim of doubling sales this year.

Economics Minister Lee Chih-kung announced the goal February 6, as well as a plan to cover Taiwan with battery charging or replacement stations for motorcycles with a density of one per kilometer.

As part of its carbon emission reduction efforts, the MOEA has since 2009 adopted measures to encourage people to buy or replace their fossil fuel motorcycles with ones powered by electricity.



Since that year, the amount of electric motorbikes sold in Taiwan had accumulated to 60,000 units as of 2016. The figure, however, is relatively low compared with the number of motorcycle riders in the country, which registered 13.67 million in December 2016, according to data from the Directorate General of Highways.



Although much is still to be done, the motorcycles used in Taiwan are transforming from those using internal combustion

engines to those powered by electricity, Lee said. To encourage more people to purchase electric motorbikes,

Lee said the government has cut the commodity tax on them to zero, and that the tax exemption will remain in effect until the end of 2021.

Meanwhile, the current government subsidies

for electric motorbike buyers will also remain effective, Lee said, expressing hope that sales of electric motorcycles will increase to 200,000 units a year by 2021.

Cruise ships, passengers to Taiwan expected to grow 30% this year

The numbers of cruise ships and cruise ship passengers visiting Taiwan in 2017 will both grow about 30 percent, Taiwan International Ports Corp. (TIPC) projected February 10.

The state-run port management company estimated that about 600 cruise ships will sail in and out of Taiwan this year, 30 percent more than in 2016, and cruise ship passengers will rise by the same percentage in 2017 to 1 million.

Citing data from a Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) report on

cruise trends in Asia, TIPC said Taiwan was Asia's second largest source market for cruise tourism in 2016.

"This strong showing put Taiwan well ahead of Singapore and Japan and highlighted the growth potential for this sector," TIPC said.

The CLIA has predicted that the number of cruise ship passengers will reach



25.3 million globally in 2017, including 3.3 million from Asia.

Growth in the sector should be helped by Hong Kong-based Star Cruises' move to schedule cruises between Keelung and Japan's Okinawa and Ishigaki Is-



lands year round in 2017 after only offering them from April to October in 2016, TIPC said. One of the world's largest cruise lines, Star Cruises has long

maintained home port operations at the Port of Keelung in northern Taiwan.

"Furthermore, 2017 will inaugurate the permanent home port operations at the Port of Keelung of Princess and Costa cruise lines—moves

that will significantly expand cruise travel brand and itinerary choices for Taiwan travelers," TIPC said in an English-language statement.

Source: Focus Taiwan, Photo: Courtesy of Taiwan Tourism Bureau

Taiwanese Go prodigy wins big for 5th consecutive year

Taiwan Go master Hsieh Yi-min succeeded in defending her Kisei title against challenger Nyu Eiko at the 20th NTT DoCoMo Female Kisei Go Tournament in Tokyo on February 6, taking 5 million Japanese yen (NT\$1.37 million) in prize money.

Hsieh went up against Eiko in the final match of the contest, upsetting the 17-year-old Japanese in a 2-to-1 victory to grasp the Kisei championship title for the fifth straight year.

Hsieh, who lives in Japan, has been a Honinbo champion since 2007, aged just 17. Honinbo is recognized as the oldest and most prestigious Go tournament title in Japan, dating back to 1941.

She was introduced to Go at the age of 5, and later became a professional player in 2004, formally registering with the Japan Go Association when she was 14. She later won the Kisei title in 2010, making her the first female to win the three major tournaments in Japan's professional Go scene. The Kisei championship was Hsieh's seventh title, following her wins in 2010-11, and 2013-17.

Source: Focus Taiwan



Taiwan-Canada research team sheds light on dinosaur evolution

A Taiwan-Canada research team has discovered evidence of protein preservation in a 195 million-year-old dinosaur fossil, a significant finding that may provide more information on the biology and evolution of the long-extinct animals, according to Hsinchu City-based National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center (NSRRC) February 2.



The study was conducted by researchers from the NSRRC, National Central University, National Chiao Tung University, National Chung Hsing University and University of Toronto Mississauga. It was published online January 31 in the journal *Nature Communications*.

Using the NSRRC's synchrotron, a type of particle accelerator, the team found proteins known as collagen type I preserved inside the vascular canals of the rib of a *Lufengosaurus*, a long-necked, plant-eating dinosaur from the Early Jurassic epoch. The animal's remains were unearthed in Yunnan province, mainland China.

"Our finding extends the record of preserved organic remains more than 100 million years and highlights the importance of using in situ approaches to these types of investigations," said Lee Yao-chang, an NSRRC scientist and primary author of the paper. The researchers also

discovered evidence of the existence of haematite particles, and proposed that the particles may have played a crucial role in the preservation of the proteins by preventing further oxidation of the collagen.

"It's exciting to discover proteins of such an old age, as biocomponents normally degrade quickly after an animal dies," he said. "During the ensuing fossilization process, vertebrate bones and teeth are gradually transformed into inorganic rocks, which offer little valuable biological or evolutionary information." Lee said the micro-spectroscopic methods employed by his team make possible future explorations of even older proteins.

While it is impossible to recover dinosaur DNA from the proteins, Lee said his team's approach may help scientists extract more organic remains from fossilized bones and advance the study of animals that once roamed the Earth.



Pingxi Sky Lantern FESTIVAL



Courtesy of New Taipei City Government

The annual sky lantern festival in New Taipei City's Pingxi District was held February 11 this year, with hundreds of lanterns released into the air. The event was No. 3 on National Geographic magazine's list of 10 best winter trips worldwide for 2016, and praised by the Discovery Channel as the second largest carnival in the world. Launched in 1999, Pingxi Sky Lantern Festival has been gaining fame in the global tourism sector on the strength of its combined aspects of tradition and cultural creativity, according to New Taipei City Government's Tourism and Travel Department.

Should you have any question, please contact us at taiwaninfo.hungary@gmail.com
TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE, HUNGARY
1088 Budapest, Rákóczi Rd. 1-3./II.
tro.hu, roc-taiwan.org/hu_hu