



Thailand and Vietnam, and were attended by over 2,000 industry representatives, scholars and experts. The summits had facilitated joint endeavors in the areas of textiles, basic technologies and automation for light industries, semiconductors, electronics, food technology, smart cities, metal and food processing, smart machinery, information services, shipbuilding, and cultural and creative industries.

For example, Taiwan's Institute for Information Industry and Thailand's Digital Economy Promotion Agency are developing a mechanism for smart city pilot projects. A Taiwanese developer is planning to build the Technology Innovation International Park in Bengaluru, India, which will serve as an integrated zone accommodating over 50,000 people. Another Taiwanese firm is collaborating with a Malaysian hospital to export smart orthopedic surgery glasses to Malaysia. In the Philippines, a Taiwanese company is working with the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority and the Valenzuela City government to develop a smart transportation service system for electric tricycles in the city. In Vietnam, a local hospital is working with a Taiwanese company to introduce smart learning in medical training.

The Flagship Program for Cooperation in Industrial Innovation, based on the New Southbound Policy and Five Plus Two Industrial Innovation program, has innovation and industrial upgrading at its core. The program will be propelled by wide-ranging exports to and the extension of Taiwan's domestic market into partner countries. Through the Four Major Innovation Sectors and Three Specific Strategies, the program will grasp the enormous consumer markets of partner nations as well as their demand for innovative and creative industries. This in turn will strengthen Taiwan's industrial chain partnerships with partner countries. A new economic cooperation model will be created by redefining the role of all parties concerned in industrial chains, injecting momentum into their economies, jointly developing local markets, and forging reciprocal long-term partnerships.



Yushan Forum

The New Southbound Policy adopts a people-centric approach. The key to its success lies not merely in cooperation initiatives introduced by the government, but more in the abundant strengths of the private sector. The foundation for the policy will be further consolidated by enhancing civil society connections between Taiwan and partner countries through the integrated use of public and private resources. The Yushan Forum was conceived with this goal in mind, allowing the private sector to lead but with government participation. It serves as a major platform for regional dialogue that highlights Taiwan's values and distinctive traits.

Successfully held on October 8th and 9th, 2019, the Yushan Forum has entered its third year. Compared to other regional dialogues, it has gradually established its own unique characteristics. It seeks to promote discourse and collaboration in the Indo-Pacific based on Taiwan's soft power in the areas of economy and trade, agriculture, healthcare, education, science and technology, environmental protection, disaster prevention and relief, and SMEs, as well as its experience in civil society development.

The Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation (TAEF) commenced operations in June of 2018. Its activities are not limited to organizing the Yushan Forum; it also serves as



a leading think tank, promoting dialogue between think tanks, academics and policymakers across the region as well as exchanges among civil society representatives such as NGOs and youth leaders. It has quickly garnered international acclaim, and was the only institution from Taiwan to be ranked among the best new think tanks in the 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report published by the University of Pennsylvania.

In addition to hosting the annual Yushan Forum, the TAEF is focusing on five key areas in which to build international connections through collaboration with other important think tanks and NGOs in Asia.

Asian youth leadership: Together with National Chengchi University's Center for Southeast Asian Studies, the Ramon Magsaysay Transformative Leadership Institute, and the American Institute in Taiwan, the TAEF organizes a youth forum and a youth camp to nurture social innovation and public governance skills among youth leaders from Taiwan and other Asian and like-minded nations.

Think tank collaboration: The TAEF and the Institute of Developing Economies of the Japan External Trade Organization signed an MOU for cooperation and dialogue





on Asian political and economic developments, cross-border migration, and other issues of mutual interest. The TAEF also plans to publish a research report on Taiwan-India relations, and another on Taiwan businesses and Taiwan's image.

Civil society connections: The TAEF is working with the Taiwan Alliance in International Development and other domestic and foreign NGOs to encourage closer collaboration on civil society networks, women's issues, and talent incubation between Taiwan and Southeast Asian, South Asian, and other Asian countries.

Regional resilience: In April of 2019, the TAEF established the Asia Regional Resilience Consortium to serve as an international network for think tanks and partners from different disciplines and industrial sectors to work together on regional disaster prevention and relief.

Cultural exchanges: In a partnership with the National Culture and Arts Foundation, the TAEF is working with Asian cultural institutions to introduce an art and cultural exchange platform aimed at promoting long-term collaboration among cultural communities, cultural promotion institutions, and cultural leaders.

Through the Yushan Forum, Taiwan will continue to use its soft power to inspire innovative and pragmatic strategies for bilateral and multilateral cooperation so as to make its own unique contributions to regional development.