



Summarized Results of the Public Opinion Survey on the Outcome of the Fourth Chiang-Chen Talks

(December 25-27, 2009)

- Nearly 70 percent of the public (68.3 percent) believe cross-strait institutionalized negotiations are conducive to maintaining peaceful and stable cross-strait relations.
- Over 60 percent of the public (63 percent) think that the establishment of communication and negotiation channels between the officials of both sides responsible for related matters through negotiations is conducive to handling cross-strait exchange issues. Moreover, 64.7 percent of the public approve of holding continued cross-strait institutionalized negotiations.
- The vast majority of the public support both sides to discuss "intellectual property rights protection" (73.3 percent) and a "Cross-strait Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement" (54.6 percent) during the next round of negotiations.
- The vast majority of the public (87.5 percent) still support maintaining the status quo defined in a broader sense (including "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later," "maintaining the status quo and unification later," "maintaining the status quo and independence later," and "maintaining the status quo indefinitely").

I. Survey Background and Methods

To understand the Taiwan people's views on the achievements of the fourth Chiang-Chen Talks and issues related to cross-strait relations, the Mainland Affairs Council commissioned the Center for Public Opinion and Public Policy at the Taipei Municipal University of Education to conduct a telephone survey of adults aged 20 and over in the Taiwan Area from December 25 to 27, 2009. A total of 1,092 effective samples were collected, with a sampling error of about 3 percent based on a 95 percent confidence level.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on institutionalized negotiations

About 68 percent of the public (68.3 percent) think that cross-strait institutionalized negotiations are conducive to maintaining peaceful and stable cross-strait relations, while 24.3 percent of the public disapprove. In addition, 63 percent of the public believe that the establishment of communication and negotiation channels between the officials of both sides responsible for related matters through negotiations is conducive to handling cross-strait exchange issues, while 24.9 percent of the public disapprove. 64.7 percent of the public approve of holding continued cross-strait institutionalized negotiations, higher than the percentage of those expressing disapproval (22.1 percent).

(2) Views on the issue of "avoidance of double taxation"

When it comes to the issue of the "avoidance of double taxation" during the talks, the government has decided to delay the signing of such an agreement because of a few "technical" problems. This decision is supported by 57.7 percent of the public, while 19 percent do not support it.

(3) Views on the issues to be discussed during the next round of talks

Regarding the issues to be discussed during the next round of negotiations—the fifth Chiang-Chen Talks, 73.3 percent of the public approve of holding talks on the issue of intellectual property rights protection, while 14 percent disapprove. When it comes to the Cross-strait Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA), 54.6 percent of the public approve, while 23.7 percent disapprove.

(4) Views on the pace of cross-strait exchanges

With regard to the public's views on the pace of cross-strait exchanges, a larger percentage of the people (40.6 percent) say it is "just right," higher than the percentages believing it is "too fast" (34.8 percent) or "too slow" (14.1 percent), respectively.

(5) Views on unification vs. Independence

The vast majority of the public (87.5 percent) advocate maintaining the status quo defined in a broader sense (including "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later," "maintaining the status quo and unification later," "maintaining the status quo and independence later," "maintaining the status quo indefinitely") Of the six possible positions on this issue, "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later" enjoys the highest level of support (33 percent), while 29 percent of the public advocate "maintaining the status quo indefinitely."

(6) Public perception on the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward Taiwan

46 percent of the public believe the mainland Chinese government is friendly toward the ROC government, higher than the percentage (39.5 percent) believing it is unfriendly.

Moreover, 45.6% of the people believe the mainland Chinese government is unfriendly toward the people of Taiwan, higher than the percentage (41.1 percent) believing it is unfriendly.