

## **Summarized Results of the Public Opinion Survey on "The Public's View on the Outcome of the Second 'Chiang-Chen Talks'"**

(November 5 to 8, 2008)

- **71.79 percent of the public support the handling of issues arising from cross-strait exchanges through an institutionalized negotiation mechanism between the two sides.**
- **Nearly 70 percent of the public approve of the results of the latest round of negotiations between the SEF and the ARATS (including the four issues of air transportation, sea transportation, postal service cooperation and food safety); and 61.76 percent of the public believe that the outcome of the talks will have a positive impact on Taiwan's economic development.**
- **66.92 percent of the public do not agree with the statement that the Taiwan visit by ARATS Chairman Chen Yunlin will undermine the dignity of Taiwan.**
- **68.33 percent of the public believe that the participation by government officials responsible for related affairs in the actual negotiations is conducive to resolving cross-strait issues. Moreover, 74.69 percent of the public support the continuation of direct dialogue between officials of both sides.**
- **Regarding the issues to be discussed during the next round of cross-strait negotiations, 75.07 percent of the public believe that first priority should be placed on reaching an agreement on "the order of cross-strait exchanges." Other issues in descending order of importance include: "cross-strait investment cooperation" (57.36 percent), "cross-strait industrial cooperation" (51.36 percent), "cross-strait financial cooperation" (46.39 percent), "cross-strait cultural, education and media exchanges and cooperation" (44.05 percent), and "cross-strait fishery cooperation" (39.36 percent).**

### **I. Survey Background and Methods**



In order to gain understanding of the public's views on the outcome of the second "Chiang-Chen Talks," the MAC commissioned Burke Marketing Research Ltd. to conduct a telephone survey of adults aged 20 and over in the Taiwan Area from November 5 to 8, 2008. A total of 1,067 effective samples were collected, with a sampling error of about three percent based on a 95 percent confidence level.

## **II. Major Findings**

### **(1) Views on the cross-strait negotiation mechanism**

71.79 percent of the public "strongly support" or "support" the approach to resolving cross-strait issues arising from cross-strait exchanges through the institutionalized negotiation mechanism between the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) and the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS), while 18.74 percent of the public "do not support" or "strongly do not support" this approach.

### **(2) Views on the outcome of negotiations between the SEF and the ARATS**

61.76 percent of the public believe that the agreements reached during the latest round of talks between the SEF and the ARATS will have a "positive impact" on Taiwan's economic development, while 14.43 percent of the public believe they will have a "negative impact."

Regarding the expansion of weekend charter flights to daily service, 70.29 percent of the public say they are "very satisfied" or "satisfied," while 17.15 percent of the public say they are "unsatisfied" or "very unsatisfied." On the issue of adding 16 cross-strait charter flight points in the Mainland, 71.32 percent of the public say they are "very satisfied" or "satisfied," while 16.22 percent of the public say they are "unsatisfied" or "very unsatisfied." Regarding the establishment of the new direct air routes for cross-strait charter flights, 80.41 percent of the public say they are "very satisfied" or "satisfied," while 13.31 percent of the public say they are "unsatisfied" or "very unsatisfied."

On the issue of direct shipping, 80.88 percent of the public say they are "very satisfied" or "satisfied," while 13.12 percent of the public say they are "unsatisfied" or "very unsatisfied."

Regarding the signing of an agreement between the two sides on establishing a mechanism to handle food safety issues, 68.98 percent of the public say they are "very satisfied" or "satisfied," while 25.21 percent of the public say they are "unsatisfied" or "very unsatisfied."

Regarding the expansion of cross-strait postal service cooperation, 84.63 percent



of the public say they are "very satisfied" or "satisfied," while 9.75 percent of the public say they are "unsatisfied" or "very unsatisfied."

### **(3) Views on Taiwan visit by ARATS Chairman Chen**

66.92 percent of the public "disagree" or "strongly disagree" with the statement that Chairman Chen Yunlin's visit to Taiwan to hold the talks would undermine Taiwan's dignity, while 26.53 percent of the public "strongly agree" or "agree" with this statement.

### **(4) Views on the actual participation of government officials in negotiations**

Regarding the participation by government officials responsible for related affairs in actual negotiations, 68.33 percent of the public believe this would be "extremely conducive" or "conducive" to resolving issues arising from cross-strait exchanges, while 25.39 percent of the public believe it would be "unconducive" or "extremely unconducive." Moreover, 74.69 percent of the public "strongly support" or "support" the continuation of negotiations through direct dialogue between government officials of both sides, while 19.02 percent of the public "do not support" or "strongly do not support" this approach.

### **(5) Views on issues to be discussed during the next round of cross-strait negotiations**

Regarding issues to be discussed during the next round of cross-strait negotiations, 75.07 percent of the public believe that reaching an agreement on the issue of "the order of cross-strait exchanges" (including joint crackdown on crime, mutual judicial assistance, and expansion of food safety cooperation) should be given top priority. Other issues, in descending order of importance, are "cross-strait investment cooperation" (protection of Taiwanese business investment and avoidance of double taxation) at 57.36 percent; "cross-strait industrial cooperation" (establishing industry standards) at 51.36 percent; "cross-strait financial cooperation" (banking, securities and futures cooperation) at 46.39 percent; "cross-strait cultural, education and media exchanges and cooperation" (cross-strait student and media personnel exchanges) at 44.05 percent; and "cross-strait fishery cooperation" (issues concerning fishery resources and Mainland fishermen) at 39.36 percent.