

Summarized Results of the Public Opinion Survey on the "Public's View on Current Cross-Strait Relations"

(May 11 to 13, 2018)

- More than 70% of the public support the government's commitment over the past two years to maintaining the status quo of cross-Strait peace and stability and seeking to participate in the international community (73.3%). More than 80% of the public support the position that the two sides should respect each other and resolve differences through communication and dialogue without preconditions (83%). Nearly 90% of the public think the two sides should engage in healthy and normal contact and exchanges (88.1%).
- More than 80% of the public think mainland China's political obstruction of Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA) is detrimental to the health safety, interests, and rights of the people of Taiwan (83.3%); and do not identify with mainland China's repeated military and diplomatic pressuring of Taiwan to accept its position that "the two sides belong to one China" as a political precondition for cross-Strait interaction and Taiwan's international participation (80.5%).
- Over 70% of the public support the position of President Tsai Ing-wen, facing the cross-Strait situation, emphasizing the firm defense of Taiwan's free and democratic way of life and the right of the people of Taiwan to choose their future (76.5%). More than 80% of the public support the approach of ongoing efforts to maintain the status quo of cross-Strait peace and stability and promote regional peace, stability and prosperity with other countries in the region (87.2%).

I. Survey Background and Methods

To understand the views of the Taiwanese people on issues related to cross-Strait relations, the Mainland Affairs Council commissioned Taiwan Real Survey Co., Ltd. to conduct a telephone survey of adults aged 20 and over in Taiwan from May 11 to 13, 2018. A total of 1,077 effective samples were collected, with a sampling error of plus or minus 2.99% at a 95% level of confidence.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on recent developments in cross-Strait relations

Over 70% of the public disapprove mainland China's enticement of Dominican Republic by massive financial aid to sever diplomatic relations with Taiwan and suppression of Taiwan's space for international survival (75.5%). More than 80% of the public think mainland China's political obstruction of Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA) harms the health, safety, interests, and rights of the people of Taiwan (83.3%); and that mainland China's recent live-fire military exercises off the coast of Fujian and repeated deployment of military aircraft encircling Taiwan to threaten Taiwan with force is not conducive to the development of cross-Strait relations (88.5%). Over 80% of the public do not identify with mainland China's repeated military and diplomatic pressuring of Taiwan to accept its position that "the two sides belong to one China" as a political precondition for cross-Strait interaction and Taiwan's international participation (80.5%).

(2) Views on the government's cross-Strait policy position

Over 70% of the public support the government's firm defense of national sovereignty and dignity and the well-being of the people, commitment to maintaining the status quo of cross-Strait peace and stability, and efforts to participate in the international community over the past two years (73.3%), as well as support President Tsai's position of firmly defending Taiwan's free and democratic way of life and the right of the people of Taiwan to choose their future (76.5%). Nearly 90% of the public support the government's position that maintaining positive interaction is a shared responsibility of both sides of the Strait and that the two sides should engage in healthy and normal contact and exchanges (88.1%), while over 70% of the public support the government's initiatives to strengthen talent incentives, promote industrial innovation and upgrading, and develop the cultural film and television industries to improve Taiwan's competitive advantage in response to mainland China's Taiwan-related measures (77.5%).

(3) Views on the future development of cross-Strait relations

More than 80% of the public agree with the government's position that mainland China

should pragmatically face the Republic of China and respect Taiwan's identity and that this would be beneficial to the long-term development of cross-Strait relations (80.2%); agree that the two sides should respect each other and resolve differences through communication and dialogue without preconditions (83%); and support President Tsai's emphasis on continuing to strive to maintain the status quo of cross-Strait peace and stability, promote regional peace, stability and prosperity with other countries in the region (87.2%). Furthermore, nearly 80% of the public approve the statement that, "The leaders of the two sides should be able to meet without setting political preconditions and based on the principle of reciprocity" (78.2%).