

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

(August 9~13, 2018)

- More than 80% of the public support the government's position that the two sides should respect each other and resolve differences through communication and dialogue without preconditions (82.9%), and support the position that Taiwan's future and the development of cross-Strait relations must be decided by the 23 million people of Taiwan (86.1%).
- Nearly 70% of the public approve the government's position to continue seeking support in the international community for Taiwan's right of international participation (68.6%). More than 60% of the public support President Tsai Ing-wen's position that Taiwan will strive to maintain the status quo of cross-Strait peace and stability and make a greater contribution to a free and open Indo-Pacific region (61.1%).
- More than 80% of the public support the government's position that cross-Strait related exchanges and activities should exclude political thinking, maintain equality and dignity, and comply with the law (82.5%). Nearly 70% of the public do not identify with mainland China's repeatedly stressed position that "the two sides belong to one China" is a political precondition to cross-Strait interaction and Taiwan's international participation (68.2%).
- People in favor of "maintaining the status quo defined in a broader sense" still account for the great majority of the public (85.8%), maintaining a long-term stable trend. As for views on the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 35.1% of the public believe it to be "just right," followed by the percentages believing the pace to be "too fast" and "too slow" at 8.4% and 42.9%, respectively.

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 the Election Study Center of National Chengchi University to conduct a telephone survey of adults aged 20 and over in the Taiwan Area from August 9 to 13, 2018. A total of 1,093 valid samples were collected, with a sampling error of plus or minus 2.96% at a 95% level of confidence.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on recent cross-Strait issues

More than 80% of the public believe mainland China's use of political factors to cancel the 2019 East Asian Youth Games in Taichung City is not conducive to cross-Strait relations (82.4%); and 70% of the public support the petition by related government agencies and the Taichung City Government to the East Asian Olympic Committee for reinstatement of hosting rights (70.1%). More than 80% of the public believe the demands by mainland Chinese officials that 44 foreign airlines change the designation of Taiwan on their websites is not conducive to cross-Strait relations (85.2%). Moreover, nearly 60% of the public agree with the statement that, "The recent emphasis of mainland Chinese officials on 'one family across the Strait' while continuing to suppress Taiwan militarily and in diplomacy amounts to saying one thing but doing another" (57.8%).

(2) Views on the government's cross-Strait policy and issues of concern

Nearly 70% of the public do not identify with mainland China's repeatedly stressed position that "the two sides belong to one China" is a political precondition to cross-Strait interaction and Taiwan's international participation (68.2%). A similar percentage approves the government's position to continue seeking support in the international community for Taiwan's right to international participation in the face of mainland China's long-term suppression of Taiwan's international space (68.6%). Furthermore, 60% of the public support President Tsai's position that Taiwan will strive to maintain the status quo of cross-Strait peace and stability and contribute more to a free and open Indo-Pacific region (61.1%). In addition, 80% of the public support the government's position that cross-Strait related exchanges and activities should exclude politics, maintain equality and dignity, and comply with the laws and regulation (82.5%). More than 60% of the public support the government's approach of strengthening management measures for cross-Strait exchanges to prevent mainland China's united front infiltration of Taiwan (64.7%).

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

More than 80% of the public support the government position that the two sides should respect each other and resolve differences through communication and dialogue without

preconditions (82.9%) and that Taiwan's future and the development of cross-Strait relations must be decided by the 23 million people of Taiwan (86.1%).

(4) Views on unification or independence

An overwhelming majority of the public (85.8%) still support "maintaining the status quo defined in the 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"). Of the six possible positions, "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later" enjoys the highest level of support (36.4%), followed by "maintaining the status quo indefinitely" (23.2%).

(5) Views on the pace of cross-Strait exchanges

Regarding the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 35.1% of the public believe the pace to be "just right", while 8.4% and 42.9% believe it is "too fast" and "too slow," respectively.

(6) Public perception on the attitude of the Mainland government toward Taiwan

The percentage of the public believing that the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the government of the Republic of China is "unfriendly" (65.1%) is higher than the percentage believing it is "friendly" (20.2%). Regarding the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the people of Taiwan, 47.8% of the public believe it is unfriendly, higher than the 41.0% believing it is friendly.