

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

(October 24~28, 2018)

- Nearly 70% of the public do not identify with mainland China's repeatedly stressed position that "the two sides belong to one China" as a political precondition to cross-Strait interaction and Taiwan's international participation (68.7%). Nearly 80% of the public support the government adherence to the values of freedom and democracy and cooperation with like-minded countries to jointly promote peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and the larger region (79%). More than 80% of the public support the position that Taiwan's future and the development of cross-Strait relations must be decided by the 23 million people of Taiwan (85.9%).
- Over 70% of the public support the government's advocacy of strengthening cross-Strait related laws and regulations and carrying out necessary management measures (72.5%). Nearly 90% of the public agree that cross-Strait exchanges and cooperation concern the rights and interests of the people and government authority and that the two sides should begin with communication and interaction (86.8%).
- Over 70% of the public support the government's proposed initiatives to improve Taiwan's competitive advantage in response to the Taiwan-related measures adopted by mainland China (77.5%). More than 50% of the public the statement that "mainland China is issuing residence permits to Taiwanese people as part of its political united front" (55.7%).
- People in favor of "maintaining the status quo defined in a broad sense" still account for the great majority of the public (83.4%), maintaining a long-term stable trend. As for views on the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 33.0% of the public believe it to be "just right," followed by the percentages believing the pace to be "too fast" and "too slow" at 10.0% and 39.7%, 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 October 24 to 28, 2018. A total of 1,085 valid samples were collected, with a sampling error of plus or minus 2.98% at a 95% level of confidence.

II. Major Findings

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

More than 60% of the public support the emphasis of the president in her National Day Address that defending the sustainable development of the Republic of China and maintaining cross-Strait peace and regional stability are the greatest common denominators among all people of Taiwan (63%), as well as the position that, facing pressure from mainland China, Taiwan will not escalate confrontation, will not give in, will not be provoked into confrontation or conflicts, and will not deviate from the will of the people (62.1%).

(2) Views on Mainland China's Taiwan-related measures and the government's response

Over 70% of the public do not identify with mainland China's persistent political, diplomatic, and military intimidation and suppression of Taiwan, which has undermined the cross-Strait status quo and regional peace (78.3%), and recent wresting away of several of Taiwan's diplomatic allies, which threatens Taiwan's space for survival in the international arena and adversely affects cross-Strait relations (77.7%). Nearly 70% of the public do not identify with mainland China's repeatedly stressed position that "the two sides belong to one China" as a political precondition to cross-Strait interaction and Taiwan's international participation (68.7%). Additionally, more than 50% people approve the statement that "Mainland China is issuing residence permits to Taiwanese people ostensibly for daily life convenience, however this in actuality this is part of its political united front" (55.7%). Nearly 50% of the public approve the government's deliberation of a system requiring Taiwanese people with Mainland residence permits to report to the competent authority (49.3%). Over 70% of the public support the government's advocacy of strengthening cross-Strait related laws and regulations and carrying out necessary management measures to maintain the order of cross-Strait exchanges and protect national security and interests (72.5%).

In addition, over 70% of the public support the government's proposed measures 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 promotion of 31 Taiwan-related measures and measures to attract talent, technology, and capital from Taiwan (77.5%). A similar percentage agree with the government's regular assessment of relevant risks and appeal for people going to mainland China for work or study to be aware of the differences between the systems, regulations, and living environments on the two sides and to abide regulations on exchanges to protect their personal rights and interests (78.9%). More than 80% of the public approve the position that cross-Strait exchanges and cooperation concern the rights and interests of the people and government authority and that the two sides should first communicate and interact (86.8%).

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

Nearly 80% of the public support the government's approach of adhering to the values of freedom and democracy and cooperating with other like-minded countries to jointly promoting peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and the larger region (79.0%). More than 80% support the government's position that Taiwan's future and the development of cross-Strait relations must be decided by the 23 million people of Taiwan (85.9%).

(4) Views on unification or independence

An overwhelming majority of the public (83.4%) 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 (31.1%), followed by "maintaining the status quo indefinitely" (22.3%).

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

Regarding the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 33.0% of the public believe the pace to be "just right", while 10.0% and 39.7% 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" (62.8%) is higher than the percentage believing it is "friendly" (22.5%). Regarding the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the people of Taiwan, 44.6% of the public believe it is friendly, slightly higher than the 40.0% believing it is unfriendly.