

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

(July 25~29, 2019)

- Nearly 90% of the public disapprove mainland China's "one country, two systems" initiative, which treats Taiwan as a local government and special administrative region and implies that the Republic of China (ROC) government no longer exists (88.7%). In addition, more than 80% of the public oppose mainland China's refusal to commit to renouncing the use of force against Taiwan (87.8%). On the other hand, around 80% of the public support the government's policy to enhance our self-defenses, reject the "one country, two systems model for Taiwan," and safeguard national sovereignty and Taiwan's democracy (80.2%).
- More than 80% of the public disagree with mainland China's united front work used to infiltrate, win over, and divide Taiwanese society in order to achieve unification (85.9%). In turn, more than 60% of the public approve the government's five amendments to national security related legislations to gradually improve the "security network for democracy" (61.4%).
- Nearly 90% of the public disagree with mainland China's long-term diplomatic suppression of Taiwan, as well as its hindrance of Taiwan's ability to hold international events and participate in international organizations (88.4%). More than 80% of the public approve President Tsai Ing-wen's position that Taiwan's 23 million people have the right to participate in international affairs without being obstructed by any political preconditions (84.8%); and that Taiwan's future and the development of cross-Strait relations must be decided by the 23 million people of Taiwan (88.0%).
- The great majority of the public (87.3%) support "maintaining the status quo defined in a broad sense," maintaining a stable trend over the long term. As for views on the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 42.3% of the public believe it to be "just right," while 11.9% and 28.7% believe to be "too fast" and "too slow", respectively.

I. Survey Background and Methods

In order 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 telephone interviews with adults aged 20 and over in Taiwan from July 25 to 29, 2019. A total of 1,095 valid samples were obtained with a 95% confidence level and a sampling error of plus and minus 2.96%.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on mainland China's measures towards Taiwan and the situation in Hong Kong

Nearly 90% of the public disapprove mainland China's "one country, two systems" initiative, which treats Taiwan as a local government and special administrative region and implies that the ROC government no longer exists (88.7%). More than 80% of the public oppose Xi Jinping's refusal to commit to renouncing the use of force against Taiwan (87.8%) and announcement made to intimidate Taiwan with force (87.8%), which said that Chinese armed force would be conducting military exercises off the southeast coast of the Mainland during President Tsai's recent overseas visit. In similar percentage, the public disagree with mainland China's long-term diplomatic suppression of Taiwan, hindrance of Taiwan's ability to hold international activities and participate in international organizations (88.4%). The public also disapprove mainland China's united front work used to infiltrate, win over, and divide Taiwanese society in order to achieve unification (85.9%).

Additionally, more than 60% of the public approve of the government's support for the million-person protests in Hong Kong to protect freedom, rule of law, and human rights following controversies over Hong Kong government's proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and mainland China's moves which undermine Hong Kong's freedom, rule of law, and security (64.7%).

(2) Views on the government's cross-Strait policy and future of cross-Strait relations

More than 60% of the public support the government's five amendments to national security related legislations to gradually improve the "security network for democracy" (61.4%). These amendments were made under the Act Governing Relations between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area (provisions on travel controls to the Mainland by retired generals and cross-Strait political agreements), the National Security Act, Classified National Security Information Protection Act, and Criminal Code. Over 70% of the public support President Tsai's approach to upholding democracy, protecting sovereignty, and never bowing to force (73.9%) amidst pressure from mainland China.

More than 80% of the public approve President Tsai's claim that Taiwan's 23 million people have the right to participate in international affairs without being obstructed by any political preconditions (84.8%). Similar percentage of the public support the government's policy to enhance Taiwan's self-defenses, reject the "one country, two systems model for Taiwan," and safeguard national sovereignty and Taiwan's democracy in the face of political and military suppression from mainland China (80.2%). Furthermore, 88% surveyed believe that Taiwan's future and the development of cross-Strait relations must be decided by the 23 million people of Taiwan.

(3) Views on unification or independence

An overwhelming majority of the public (87.3%) 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 (31.6%), followed by "maintaining the status quo indefinitely" (27.1%).

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

Regarding the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 42.3% of the public believe the pace to be "just right", while 11.9% and 28.7% believe to be "too fast" and "too slow," respectively.

(5) 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 ROC government is "unfriendly" (65.5%) is higher than the percentage believing it is "friendly" (20.5%). Regarding the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the people of Taiwan, 51.4% of the public believe it is unfriendly, slightly higher than those believe being "friendly" (36.5%).