

Summarized Results of the Public Opinion Survey on "Public Views on Current Cross-Strait Relations"

(March 7 to 10, 2013)

■ 79.3% of the public support continued cross-strait exchanges in mass communication fields such as television, movies, radio, and news to promote the cross-strait flow of information; and 71.9% of the public identify with the position that media exchanges between Taiwan and the Mainland will enable Mainland reporters to experience personally Taiwan's free press environment.

■ Majority of the public (69.8%) believes that the Mainland's censorship on Taiwan news websites has negative influence on the free flow of news and information across the Taiwan Strait.

■ 68.7% of the public support the continuous handling of cross-strait exchange issues through institutionalized negotiations.

■ Overwhelming majority of the public (86.1%) still supports "maintaining the status quo defined in a broad 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").

I. Survey Background and Methods

To understand Taiwanese people's views on issues related to cross-strait relations, the MAC 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 March 7 to 10, 2013. A total of 1,085 valid samples were collected, with a sampling error of minus or plus 2.98% at a 95% level of confidence.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on cross-strait news and media exchanges and information flow

79.3% of the public support continued cross-strait exchanges in mass communication fields such as television, movies, radio, and news to promote the cross-strait flow of information, while 11.7% do not support such exchanges. Moreover, 71.9% of the public agree with the view that Taiwan should engage in news and media exchanges with the Mainland, so that Mainland reporters can experience personally Taiwan's free press environment, while 19.9% do not agree with this view.

(2) Views on the free flow of news and information across the Taiwan Strait

69.8% of the public believe that the Mainland's censorship on Taiwan news websites has negative influence on the free flow of news and information across the Taiwan Strait, while 15.7% and 3.2% of the public believe they have no influence or no negative influence, respectively.

(3) Views on institutionalized cross-strait negotiations

68.7% of the public support the continuous handling of issues related to cross-strait exchanges through institutionalized negotiations, while 14.7% do not.

(4) Views on unification vs. independence

An overwhelming majority of the public (86.1%) still support "maintaining the status quo defined in a broad 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 (33.2%), followed by "maintaining the status quo indefinitely" (28.2%).

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

Regarding the current pace of cross-strait exchanges, 45.2% of the public believe it to be "just right", while 31% believe it to be "too fast" and 13.2% "too slow."

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

51.9% of the public believe that the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the ROC government is "unfriendly," higher than the percentage believing it is "friendly" (31.2%). Regarding the Mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the people of Taiwan, 43.9% of the public believe it is unfriendly, while 39.7% believe it is friendly.