

Summarized Results of the Public Opinion Survey on the "Public's Views on Exchange Visits by the Heads of the Competent Authorities for Cross-Strait affairs and on Cross-Strait Relations"

(February 20 to 22, 2014)

- Over 60% of the public agree that Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) Minister Wang Yu-chi's first visit to the Mainland and the holding of the meeting between the heads of cross-strait competent authorities is conducive to direct interaction between officials across the Taiwan Strait (65.1%) and the future development of cross-strait relations (61%).
- The majority of the public think that the first meeting between the heads of cross-strait competent authorities is a major breakthrough in official cross-strait interactions (51%) and is conducive to the handling of cross-strait affairs (63.1%). The majority also affirm the establishment of a mechanism between the MAC and the Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO) for operational liaison and communication (63.1%); the Mainland's agreement to substantively implement health insurance coverage for Taiwanese students in the Mainland (73.8%); and other results of the meeting discussions, as well as approve the continuous holding of meetings between the heads of cross-strait competent authorities (67.1%).
- Over 70% of the public agree that the MAC Minister's visit to the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum in Nanjing to hold a memorial service for Dr. Sun highlighted the reality of the Republic of China's existence (71.5%). A similar proportion also support the approach of sharing Taiwan's achievements in freedom and democracy and calling for the reciprocal flow of news information across the strait during the MAC Minister's visits to Nanjing and Shanghai.
- 61.7% of the public believe that the regular holding of the Cross-strait Agreement Result and Review Meeting would be conducive to the implementation and execution of cross-strait agreements. As for the "Tenth Round of Cross-Strait High-Level Talks" held on February 26 and 27, a majority of 60% to 70% of the surveyed public expressed support for negotiation issues concerning "cross-strait meteorological cooperation" (67.9%) and "earthquake monitoring cooperation" (72.6%).

I. Survey Background and Methods

In order to understand the public's views on related issues concerning cross-strait relations, the MAC commissioned the Taiwan Real Survey Co., Ltd. to conduct a telephone survey of adults aged 20 and over in the Taiwan Area from February 20 to 22, 2014. A total of 1,068 effective samples were collected, with a sampling error of 3% based on a 95% confidence level.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on the MAC Minister's first visit to the Mainland and the holding of the meeting between the heads of the competent authorities for cross-strait affairs

65.1% of the public believe that the MAC Minister's visit to the Mainland and the holding of the meeting between the heads of cross-strait competent authorities is conducive to direct interaction between officials across the Taiwan Strait, while 22% felt it is not conducive. Furthermore, 51% of the public agree that the holding of the first meeting between the heads of cross-strait competent authorities is a major breakthrough in official cross-strait interactions, while 26.3% disagree with this position.

Regarding Minister Wang's statement on the ROC 103 years' existence during his visit to the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum to pay respects to Dr. Sun, 71.5% of the public believe that this highlights the fact of the ROC existence, while only 15% do not feel so.

(2) Views on the establishment of a normal liaison and communication mechanism between the MAC and the TAO

63.1% of the public believe that establishment of a mechanism between the MAC and the TAO for operational liaison and communication is conducive to the handling of cross-strait affairs, while 20.8% hold the opposite view.

(3) Views on providing health insurance coverage for Taiwanese and Mainland students

During the meeting between heads of cross-strait competent authorities, Minister Wang stated that attention should be given to medical coverage for Taiwanese students studying in the Mainland. The Mainland expressed willingness to substantively implement coverage of Taiwanese students under the local health insurance system. 73.8% of the public express satisfaction with this arrangement, while only 13.1% were unsatisfied. Moreover, 56.7% of the public approve the inclusion of Mainland students studying in Taiwan under Taiwan's National Health

Insurance, while 32% do not approve this.

(4) Overall views on the MAC Minister's visit to the Mainland and the meeting between heads of cross-strait competent authorities

Minister Wang's first visit to the Mainland and the successful conclusion of the meeting between heads of cross-strait competent authorities received a 50% satisfaction rate from the overall surveyed public. Furthermore, 61% of the public believe that Minister Wang's Mainland visit and the holding of the meeting between heads of cross-strait competent authorities are conducive to the future development of cross-strait relations.

Regarding the continuous holding of meetings between heads of cross-strait competent authorities, 67.1% of the public express approval, compared to 16.8% who do not approve this. Additionally, 70.4% of the public approve the government's arrangements for the TAO Director to visit Taiwan under the principles of reciprocity and dignity; and 64.2% of the public believe that the TAO Director's visit to free and democratic Taiwan would be conducive to benign developments across the Strait.

(5) Views on the Cross-strait Agreement Result and Review Meeting

61.7% of the public believe that the regular holding of the Cross-strait Agreement Result and Review Meeting would be conducive to the implementation and execution of cross-strait agreements.

(6) Views on the negotiation issues for the Tenth Round of Cross-Strait High-Level Talks between the SEF and the ARATS

Regarding the Tenth Round of Cross-Strait High-Level Talks between the Straits Exchange Foundation and the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits, 67.9% of the public express support for including meteorological cooperation among the negotiation issues, compared to only 13.3% who do not support this; and 72.6% of the public express support for including earthquake monitoring cooperation among the negotiation issues, compared to just 12.4% who do not support this.