

Deputy Minister Wu: Pragmatically Position Cross-Strait Relations, Strengthen Cross-Strait Mutual Trust, and Jointly Create Win-Win Outcome under Framework of ROC Constitution

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Deputy Minister Wu Mei-hung of the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) attended the 19th Asian Chinese Amity Conference held in Tokyo, Japan at 10:30 this morning (July 4, 2014). During her speech on the current development of cross-strait relations, Deputy Minister Wu indicated that the government's Mainland policy is to pragmatically position cross-strait relations under the ROC Constitution framework and to steadily promote institutionalized cross-strait negotiations on the basis of the "1992 Consensus of one China with respective interpretations" and adhering to the principle of handling "easy matters before difficult ones, urgent matters before non-urgent ones and economic matters before political ones." To date, the two sides have signed 21 agreements. The government has adopted a "building blocks" approach in its pursuit of long-term peace across the Taiwan Strait. In terms of the economy, security and order of cross-strait exchanges, the government has safeguarded the interests of the people on both sides and earned the public's affirmation.

Deputy Minister Wu particularly emphasized to the overseas Chinese participants that, in February this year (2014), MAC Minister Wang accepted an invitation by Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO) Director Zhang Zhijun to visit the Mainland, making him the first incumbent MAC minister to visit the Mainland in an official capacity in the over 65 years of political separation across the Taiwan Strait. The two sides held the first meeting between heads of cross-strait competent authorities, representing the start of normalized official interactions and contacts

across the Strait. Last week (June 25 to 28), TAO Director Zhang visited Taiwan and held the second meeting between heads of cross-strait competent authorities. The two sides discussed and reached consensus on issues including humanitarian visit functions for SEF and ARATS reciprocal institutions and Mainland tourist transits in Taiwan. They also agreed to continue to promote cross-strait cultural, education, technology, and media exchanges. The meeting had important significance for normal official interactions and benign development across the Strait. It also enabled the Mainland cross-strait authorities to personally experience Taiwan's democratic and pluralistic society, properly understand views in Taiwan concerning cross-strait relations development, and pragmatically and objectively view the cross-strait status quo.

Deputy Minister Wu concluded by noting that actions and efforts by the government to improve cross-strait relations have led to a virtuous cycle of enhancing cooperative relations between Taiwan and other countries and expanding Taiwan's international interaction and cooperation. Looking to the future, the government will proactively and steadily continue dialogue and communication with the Mainland on the basis of mainstream public opinion; it will take advantage of institutionalized exchanges to make democracy, freedom, and human rights core values shared by both sides, and thereby create momentum for the Mainland to cross the deep water area of reforms. At the same time, the two sides should seek to overcome difficulties and work together to complete ECFA follow-up negotiations on issues such as the Trade in Goods Agreement and Dispute Settlement Agreement. The two side should also deepen and broaden cross-strait exchanges and cooperation to create favorable opportunities for the long-term development of institutionalized cross-strait relations and joint participation in regional economic integration.

After the speech, Deputy Minister Wu joined in a warm exchange of views with the overseas Chinese participants. The conference was attended by nearly 240 participants, including President Mao You-tsu of Chinese Association in Japan, President Li Wei-hsiang of Tokyo Association of Chinese Residents, President Hung

Shen-hsin of Chinese Association of Osaka, as well as representatives of overseas Chinese groups, overseas Chinese scholars, members of the overseas Chinese community, and persons from various sectors across Asia. Taiwan's representative to Japan, Ambassador Ssu-tsun Shen, and Vice Minister Roy Yuan-Rong Leu of the Overseas Community Affairs Council also participated at the conference as well.