

Summarized Results of the Public Opinion Survey on "Public Views on the Reciprocal Establishment of Institutions by the SEF and the ARATS"

(June 5 to 8, 2013)

- 71.1% of the public approve the establishment of reciprocal institutions between the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) and Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) to directly serve and assist the people on both sides; and 75.4% of the public feel this will be beneficial to building mutual understanding and reducing hostility across the Strait.
- 78.7% of the public approve the government's efforts to include the issuance of travel documents and notification to the Taiwan side of and enjoying visiting rights to Taiwanese people whose freedom has been restricted through coercive measures in the Mainland among the business functions served by the SEF institutions in the Mainland. 84.9% of the public approve of the government's efforts to secure guarantee and convenience measures for the SEF institutions and staff in the Mainland under the principles of parity and dignity.
- On the basis of respecting the other sides's regulations or social concerns, 80.2% of the public think that regulating respective staff dispatched to SEF-ARATS institutions on either side with codes of conducts would be conducive to protecting social security.
- 67.9% of the public approve the formulation of the draft statute governing the establishment of Taiwan branches by Mainland institutions as a basis for the authorization and management for future ARATS institutions established in Taiwan. Furthermore, 72.4% of the public support submitting the draft statute governing the establishment of Taiwan branches by Mainland institutions to the Legislative Yuan in advance so that future negotiations between the

administrative agencies and the Mainland will have already undergone congressional oversight.

- 82.6% of the public think that national security and stability can be ensured by the requirements that the competent authorities heed overall national interests and the reciprocity principle in the processing of the Mainland's application to establish ARATS branch institutions in Taiwan and that any violation to domestic laws by the other side will be dealt with by the government through necessary measures.

I. Survey Background and Methods

To understand Taiwanese people's views on issues related to the establishment of reciprocal institutions between the SEF and ARATS, the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) commissioned the Center for Public Opinion and Policy at the Taipei Municipal University of Education to conduct a telephone survey of adults aged 20 and over in Taiwan from June 5 to 8, 2013. A total of 1,077 valid samples were collected, with a sampling error of plus or minus 3% at a 95% level of confidence.

II. Major Thinkings

(1) Overall views on the establishment of reciprocal institutions between the SEF and ARATS

71.1% of the public approve the establishment of institutions by the SEF in the Mainland and by the ARATS in Taiwan to provide direct services and assistance to the people on both sides, while 18% of the public do not approve this. 64.7% of the public approve the government's plan for the two sides to directly appoint government officials to their reciprocal institutions to carry out operations under the principle of reciprocity, while 25.4% of the public do not approve this.

(2) Views on the establishment of reciprocal institutions between the SEF and ARATS and granting guarantee and convenience measures

73.7% of the public think it necessary to accord guarantee and convenience measures to the SEF-ARATS reciprocal institutions and their staff in the exercise of their functions, while 18.4% of the public disagree with this position. 84.9% of the public approve the government's efforts to secure guarantee and convenience measures for the SEF institutions and staff in the Mainland under the

principles of parity and dignity, while 9.3% do not approve this.

(3) Views on the business functions and scope of SEF institutions in the Mainland

Among the services and functions that the public hopes will be prioritized for the Mainland institutions of the SEF, "providing necessary assistance in emergencies" (19.6%) accounted for the highest proportion. The other priority items, including "providing legal advisory services" (17.1%), "cooperation among and services provided in economic, trade, tourism, cultural, educational, social and other exchanges" (16.8%), "issuance of travel documents" (15.8%), "enjoying visiting rights to Taiwanese people whose freedom have been restricted through coercive measures in the Mainland" (15.5%), and "document notarization, certification or verification" (15.3%), were in roughly equal proportion.

In order to meet the demands of people's exchanges across the Strait and to safeguard the people's rights and interests, 78.7% of the people approve the government's efforts to include the issuance of travel documents, notification to the Taiwan side of and enjoying visiting rights to Taiwanese people whose freedom have been restricted through coercive measures in the Mainland as functions of the SEF institutions in the Mainland.

(4) Views on codes of conduct for the reciprocal institutions of the SEF and the ARATS

On the basis of respecting the other sides's regulations or social concerns, 80.2% of the public think that regulating respective staff dispatched to SEF-ARATS institutions on either side with codes of conducts would be conducive to protecting social security.

(5) Views on the establishment of institutions in Taiwan by the ARATS

51.6% of the public think that the establishment of institutions in Taiwan by the Mainland's ARATS will have a good influence on the country and society, while 19.7% and 14.1%, respectively, think it will have a "negative influence" and "no influence."

(6) Views on legislation on the establishment of institutions in Taiwan by the Mainland

67.9% of the public approve the formulation of the draft statute governing the establishment of Taiwan branches by Mainland institutions according to provisions in the Act Governing Relations between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area as a basis for the authorization and management for future ARATS institutions established in Taiwan. Furthermore, 72.4% of the public support submitting the draft statute governing the establishment of Taiwan branches by Mainland institutions to the Legislative Yuan in advance so that future negotiations between the administrative agencies and the Mainland will have already undergone congressional oversight, while 19.1% of the public disagree with this.

Furthermore, 82.6% of the public think that national security and social stability can be ensured by the requirements that the competent authorities heed overall national interests and the reciprocity principle in the processing of the Mainland's application to establish ARATS branch institutions in Taiwan and that any violation to domestic laws by the other side will be dealt with by the government through necessary measures.

(7) Views on the effect of the establishment of reciprocal institutions between the SEF and ARATS on cross-strait relations and Taiwan's foreign relations

75.4% of the public think that establishment of SEF-ARATS reciprocal institutions will be beneficial to building mutual understanding and reducing hostility across the Strait, while 19.3% disagree with this view. 62.4% of the public think that establishment of SEF-ARATS reciprocal institutions will make the international community aware of improvements in cross-strait relations and bring about a positive influence on Taiwan's external relations in the future, while 15.1% and 12.5%, respectively, think this will have a negative influence and no influence.