

Summarized Results of 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"

(January 17 to 19, 2014)

- A majority of the public approve the government's approach of arranging for Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) Minister Wang Yu-chi to visit to the Mainland under the principles of equality and dignity (55.8%) and based on the "1992 Consensus of one China, with respective interpretations" (52.6%).
- 60.5% of the public believe that the meeting between the MAC Minister and the Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO) Director to discuss issues related to cross-strait exchanges will be conducive to the development of cross-strait relations. Moreover, 57.1% think that the use of official titles in mutual address between the two sides will be conducive to official interactions across the Taiwan Strait.
- 68.8% of the public believe that the establishment of direct contact and communication mechanisms for operational affairs between the MAC and the TAO would be conducive to the handling of cross-strait affairs.
- Regarding the discussion topics during the meeting between the MAC Minister and the TAO Director, the vast majority of the public affirm discussions on establish direct contact and communication mechanisms between the MAC and the TAO (68.8%); seeking agreement for the Mainland SEF institutions to have "humanitarian visit" function (80.2%); discussing lifting bans on Taiwan's news websites (70.4%) and protecting freedom of the press(79.4%); and expressing position on Taiwan's participation in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) and Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) (69.5%).
- More than half (55.6%) of the public approve the government's position on the "1992 Consensus of one China with respective interpretations," in which "one China" is the Republic of China.

I. Survey Background and Methods

In order to understand the public's views on related issues concerning cross-strait relations, the MAC commissioned the Global Views Survey Research Center to conduct a telephone survey of adults aged 20 and over in the Taiwan Area from January 17 to 19, 2014. A total of 1,069 effective samples were collected, with a sampling error of 3% based on a 95% confidence level.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on the government's position on the "1992 Consensus"

55.6% of the public approve the government's position on the "1992 Consensus of one China with respective interpretations," in which "one China" is the Republic of China. 28.6% do not approve this.

(2) Views on plans for MAC Minister Wang Yu-chi's visit to the Mainland

55.8% of the public approve the government's approach of arranging for MAC Minister Wang Yu-chi to visit to the Mainland under the principles of equality and dignity, while 27.2% do not approve this. Moreover, 52.6% of the public support the government's visit arrangements being based on the "1992 Consensus of one China with respective interpretations," while 33.4% of the public do not approve this approach.

(3) Views on interactions between officials in charge of cross-strait affairs

60.5% of the public think that the meeting between the MAC Minister and the TAO Director to discuss cross-strait exchanges related issue will be conducive to the development of cross-strait relations, while 29.7% think this will be not be conducive. Additionally, 57.1% think that the use of official titles in mutual address between the two sides will be conducive to official interactions across the Taiwan Strait, compared to 30.8% holding the opposite view.

54.8% of the public indicated that the MAC Minister's visit to the Mainland and first official meeting with the Taiwan Affairs Office Director is a significant development in cross-strait relations, while 34.7% disagree with this position.

(4) Views on communication mechanisms between the competent authorities for cross-strait affairs

68.8% of the public indicated that the establishment of direct contact and communication mechanisms for operational affairs between the MAC and the TAO would be conducive to the handling of cross-strait affairs, while 20.3% said this would not be conducive. Furthermore, 65.7% of the public approve discussions on such mechanisms during the meeting between the MAC Minister and the TAO Director, while 22.8% do not approve this.

(5) Views on humanitarian visits

75.3% of the public support the government's efforts to seek agreement for the SEF institutions in the Mainland to enjoy functions of proactively visiting Taiwanese people whose freedom have been restricted in the Mainland through coercive measures, while 14.5% do not support this. Furthermore 80.2% of the public approve the approach of the MAC Minister seeking to secure the Mainland's agreement to include "humanitarian visits" among the service functions of the Mainland SEF institutions when he meets with the TAO Director, compared to only 11.8% who do not approve this.

(6) Views on cross-strait news information exchange

The Mainland still bans access to Taiwan's news websites. 70.4% of the public support government talks with the Mainland on the issue of lifting bans on Taiwan's news websites, while

19.3% do not support this.

Mainland reporters enjoy extensive freedom of the press when covering the news in Taiwan. However, Taiwan reporters covering the news in the Mainland are subject to numerous controls. 79.4% of the public agree with talks between the government and the Mainland on protecting freedom of the press, compared to 13% who disagree.

68% of the public support inviting Mainland journalists to Taiwan for exchange visits to facilitate the flow of information across the Strait and improve the news media environment in the Mainland, while 22.8% do not support this.

(7) Views on joint cross-strait participation in regional economic integration

Countries around the world are actively negotiating on signing free trade agreements and participating in regional economic organizations. 67.3% of the public support the position that the government should accelerate promotion of joint participation by the two sides in regional economic integration. Moreover, 69.5% of the public support the MAC Minister in conveying position for Taiwan's participation in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement to the TAO Director during their meeting.

(8) Views on a visit to Taiwan by Director Zhang Zhijun of the Mainland's TAO

65.2% of the public approve the TAO Director Zhang Zhijun to visit Taiwan. 62.3% of the public support the MAC Minister inviting TAO Director to visit Taiwan, while 28.7% of the public do not support this.