

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

(September 24-26, 2009)

- 77.1 percent of the public approve of granting work rights to legal Mainland spouses, while 66.3 percent of the public approve reducing the period required for Mainland spouses to obtain an ROC ID card from eight years to six years.
- 60.9 percent of the public approve holding the fourth cross-strait negotiations in Taiwan before the end of this year, while over half of the public (54.8 percent) approve of promoting an Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA).
- 60 percent of the public believe that improved cross-strait relations are conducive to expanding Taiwan's international space, while 75.5 percent of the public approve the government's prioritization of seeking participation in specialized agencies of the United Nations.
- The overwhelming majority of the public (87 percent) still support maintaining the status quo defined in a broader 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 the Taiwan 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 September 24 to 26, 2009. A total of 1,091 effective samples were collected, with a sampling error of about 2.96 percent based on a 95 percent confidence level.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on relaxing policy on Mainland spouses

Over 70 percent of the public (77.1 percent) approve of granting work rights to legal Mainland spouses, higher than the percentage of the public expressing disapproval (17.8 percent). Moreover, over 60 percent of the public (66.3 percent) support the government's move

to shorten the period required for Mainland spouses to obtain an ROC ID card from eight years originally to six years, while 23.1 percent disapprove. Moreover, 50 percent of the public (50.2 percent) disapprove further shortening this period.

(2) Views on cross-strait negotiations

60.9 percent of the public support holding the fourth cross-strait negotiations in Taiwan before the end of this year, while 22.6 percent disapprove. In addition, over half of the public (54.8 percent) support promoting an Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA), higher than the percentage expressing disapproval (26.3 percent).

(3) Views on expanding Taiwan's international space

60 percent of the public believe that improved cross-strait relations are conducive to expanding Taiwan's international space, while 32 percent of the public believe they are unconducive. Furthermore, over 70 percent of the public (75.5 percent) support the government to give priority to participating in specialized agencies of the United Nations, far higher than the percentage expressing disapproval (11.7 percent).

(4) Views on overall cross-strait relations

54.4 percent of the public believe that cross-strait relations today are "more relaxed" compared to a year ago. 10.6 percent of the public believe relations have become "more tense," and 30.1 percent of the public believe relations are "unchanged."

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

Regarding the government's pace in opening up civilian cross-strait exchanges, the largest percentage of the public (44.7 percent) believe the pace is "just right," higher than the percentage believing it is "too fast" (33.1 percent) or "too slow" (12.4 percent).

(6) Views on unification vs. independence

The overwhelming majority of the public (87 percent) advocate maintaining the status quo defined in a broader 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 on this issue, "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later" enjoys the highest level of support (35.4 percent), while 28 percent of the public advocate "maintaining the status quo indefinitely."

(7) Public perception of the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward Taiwan

45.1 percent of the public believe the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the

ROC government is unfriendly, while 37 percent of the public believe it is friendly. Regarding the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the Taiwan people, 38.7 percent of the public believe it is unfriendly, while 44.7 percent of the public believe it is friendly.