



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

(April 17~20, 2009)

- 79.6 percent of the public approve of the negotiation and signing of a cross-strait agreement on jointly fighting crime.
- 58.4 percent of the public support expanding weekday charter flights into regular flights; 56.6 percent of the public believe cross-strait financial cooperation will be conducive to Taiwan's economic development; and 60.9 percent of the public believe the planned negotiations on economic issues will be conducive to the normalization of cross-strait economic and trade relations.
- Over half (53.2 percent) of the public believe cross-strait relations are more relaxed compared to a year ago; and over half (50 percent) have confidence in the government's ability to maintain cross-strait peace and stability.
- The vast majority of the public (84.7 percent) still 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"). The percentage advocating "maintaining the status quo indefinitely" has trended higher.
- The percentages of the public believing that the mainland China government is unfriendly toward the government and people of Taiwan, respectively, are 44.3 percent (including 16.0 percent responding "extremely unfriendly" and 28.3 percent responding "unfriendly"); and 41.3 percent (including 12.9 percent responding "extremely unfriendly" and 28.4 percent responding "unfriendly").

I. Survey Background and Methods

To understand the Taiwan people's views on issues related to cross-strait relations, the Mainland Affairs Council 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 April 17 to 20, 2009. A total of 1,132 effective samples were collected, with a sampling error of about 2.91 percent based on a 95 percent confidence level.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on overall cross-strait relations

Overall, 53.2 percent of the public believe that cross-strait relations today are "more relaxed" compared to a year ago. 27.1 percent of the public believe relations are "unchanged" and 14.0 percent of the public believe relations have grown "more tense." In addition, regarding the government's ability to maintain cross-strait peace and stability, 50.0 percent of the public say they are confident and 40.3 percent are not confident.

(2) Views on cross-strait negotiations

Regarding issues to be discussed in the upcoming Third Chiang-Chen Talks, a high percentage (79.6%) of the public approve of the negotiation and signing of a cross-strait agreement on jointly fighting crime to resolve the issues of judicial investigation and expatriation of criminals; 58.4 percent of the public support expanding weekday charter flights into regular flights, and 56.6 percent of the public believe cross-strait financial cooperation will be conducive to Taiwan's economic development. Moreover, 60.9 percent of the public believe the economic topics to be discussed during the planned negotiations (regular cross-strait flights, financial cooperation, Mainland investment in Taiwan, etc.) will be conducive to normalizing cross-strait economic and trade relations.

(3) Views on unification vs. independence

The vast majority of the public (84.7 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 (35.0 percent), while the percentage of the public advocating "maintaining the status quo indefinitely" continues to rise.

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

Regarding the pace of the government's opening up of cross-strait civilian exchanges, a larger percentage of the public (40.6 percent) believe the pace is "just right", while 33.6 percent of the public believe "too fast." The proportion of people responding that the pace is "too fast" is higher than the proportion believing the pace is "too slow" (12.3 percent).

(5) Public perception of the Mainland government's attitude toward Taiwan

44.3 percent of the public believe the Mainland government is unfriendly toward the ROC government, while 35.3 percent believe it is friendly; 41.3 percent of the public believe the Mainland government is unfriendly toward the people of Taiwan, while 39.7 percent believe it is friendly.