

**Summarized Results of Public Opinion Survey**  
**(December 21 to 23, 2007)**  
**"The Public's View on Current Cross-Strait Relations"**

Regarding China's attempts at pressuring Taiwan through the United States with a view to opposing Taiwan's holding of a referendum on joining the United Nations, 77.8 percent of the public express that they will not disapprove of holding the referendum because of the US's opposition.

66.8 percent of the public believe that the Chinese authorities are unfriendly to the Taiwanese government, and 50.6 percent of the public believe the Chinese authorities are unfriendly to the Taiwanese people.

On the issue of prioritization of developing diplomatic and cross-strait relations, 68.3 percent of those interviewed agree that the government should continue to develop diplomatic relations with other countries even if doing so will cause tensions in cross-strait relations.

The vast majority of the public (86.5 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 results are consistent with the trends shown in previous surveys.

## **I. Survey Background and Methods**

The MAC commissioned Berke Marketing Research Ltd. to conduct a telephone survey of adults aged 20 and over in the Taiwan Area from December 21 to 23, 2007. A total of 1,067 effective samples were collected, with a sampling error of about 3 percent based on a 95 percent confidence level.

## **II. Major Findings**

### **(1) Views on the referendum on Taiwan's bid to join the United Nations**

Regarding China's attempts at pressuring Taiwan through the United States with a view to opposing Taiwan's holding of a referendum on joining the United Nations, 77.8 percent of the public express that they will not disapprove of holding the referendum because of the US's opposition.

(2) Views on direct cross-strait transportation links

On the issue of direct cross-strait transportation links, 77.4 percent of the public believe such links should be “opened conditionally,” while 16.5 percent believe they should be “opened unconditionally.”

(3) Views on China-bound investments by Taiwanese businesspeople

Regarding restrictions imposed by the government on China-bound investments by Taiwanese businesspeople, 44.3 percent of the public believe such limits should be "slightly tightened," while 37.7 percent believe they should be "slightly eased" and 11.5 percent believe in "maintaining the status quo."

(4) Public perception of China’s hostility toward Taiwan

66.8 percent of the public believe that the Chinese authorities are unfriendly to the Taiwanese government (including 21.4 percent responding "extremely unfriendly" and 45.4 percent responding "unfriendly"). Moreover, 50.6 percent of the public believe the Chinese authorities are unfriendly to the Taiwanese people (including 12.9 percent responding "extremely unfriendly" and 37.7 percent responding "unfriendly").

(5) Views on prioritization of diplomatic and cross-strait relations

On the issue of prioritization of developing diplomatic and cross-strait relations, 32.8 percent believe that it is "more important to develop relations between Taiwan and China," which is equal to the percentage (32.8 percent) of those believing it is "more important to develop relations with other countries." The proportion of people believing the two are of "equal importance" is 30.8 percent. Furthermore, when asked if the development of diplomatic relations will cause tensions in cross-strait relations, 68.3 percent of the public agree that the government should continue to develop diplomatic relations with other countries.

(6) Views on cross-strait exchanges

Regarding the pace of the government’s opening up of cross-strait civilian exchanges, 40.7 percent of the public believe the pace is "just right," 32.2 percent believe it is "too slow," and 18.6 percent believe it is "too fast."

(7) Views on unification vs. independence

The vast majority of the public (86.5 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"). Of the six possible positions on this issue, the largest number (44.9 percent) support "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later," while 20.6 percent support "maintaining the status quo indefinitely." Furthermore, the proportion of people leaning toward independence (19.1 percent, including 7.3 percent for "independence as soon as possible" and 11.8 percent for "maintaining the status quo and independence later") is greater than the proportion leaning toward unification (12.4 percent, including 3.2 percent for "unification as soon as possible" and 9.2 percent for "maintaining the status quo and unification later").

(8) Views on China's "one country, two systems" formula

Regarding China's stance on developing cross-strait relations under the "one country, two systems" formula, 71.2 percent of the public disapprove, while only 17.6 percent of the public agree.