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Over 80 percent of the public support institutionalized cross-strait negotiations

Listening to the People's Voice

The Seventh Chiang-Chen Talks

December 2011

Foreword



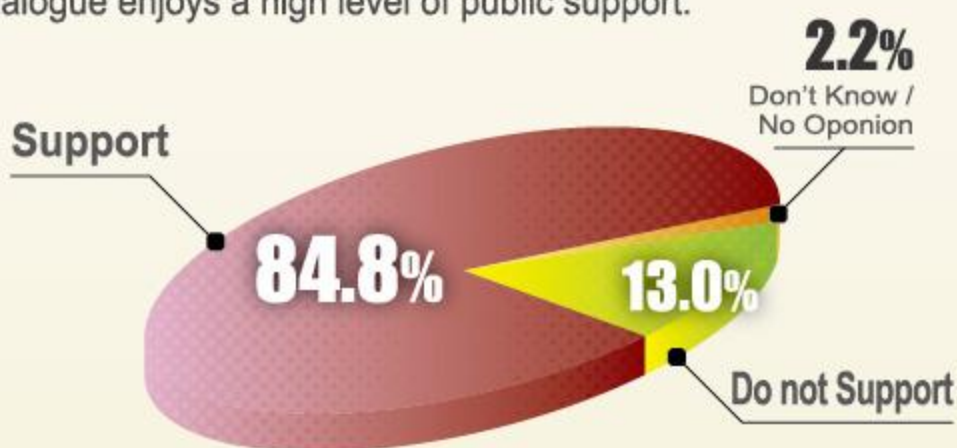
The Seventh Chiang-Chen Talks were held on October 20, 2011, in Tianjin, mainland China. During the talks, the two sides successfully signed the Cross-Strait Nuclear Power Safety Cooperation Agreement, and reached joint opinions on achieving phased negotiation results on the Cross-Strait Investment Protection Agreement as well as strengthening industrial cooperation. The public opinion survey conducted after the talks indicates strong public support for the outcome of this round of negotiations as well as for the continuation of institutionalized negotiations to handle issues resulted from cross-strait exchanges.



MAC Minister Lai Shin-yuan presents the text of the Cross-Strait Nuclear Power Safety Cooperation Agreement to Premier Wu Den-yih (October 21, 2011)

Institutionalized cross-strait negotiations enjoy a high level of public support

In the three and a half years since President Ma took office, the two sides have held seven Chiang-Chen Talks and signed 16 agreements. The survey shows that as high as 84 percent of the people of Taiwan support the continuation of institutionalized cross-strait negotiations to handle issues resulted from cross-strait exchanges, indicating that the government's policy of replacing confrontation with negotiation and conflict with dialogue enjoys a high level of public support.

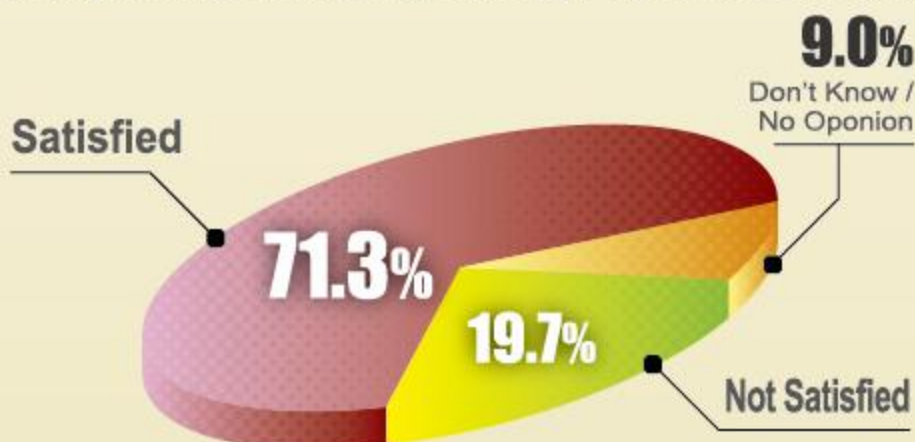


Do you support or not support the continuation of institutionalized negotiations to resolve cross-strait exchange issues?

Nuclear Power Safety Agreement: Ensuring Safety of the Public

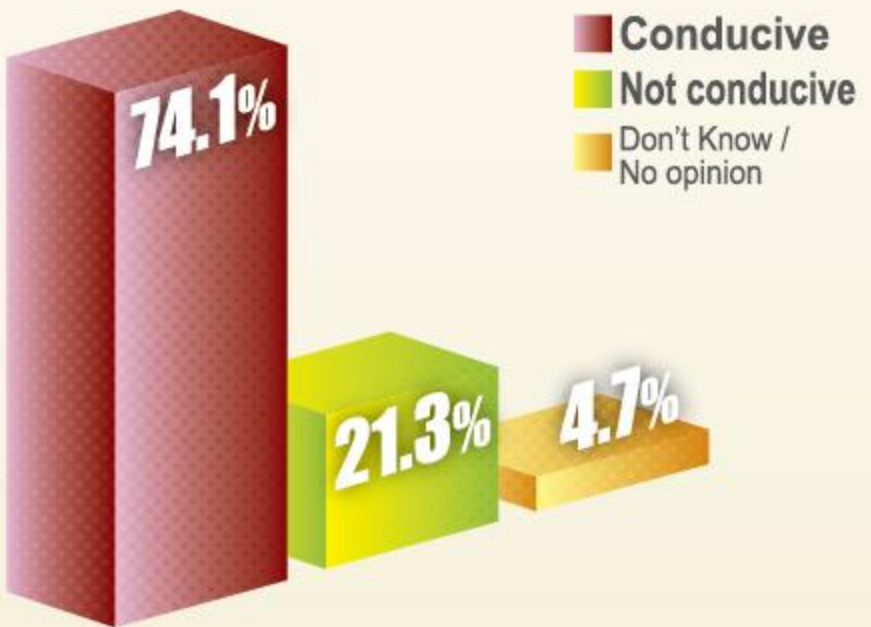


The Cross-Strait Nuclear Power Safety Cooperation Agreement signed during this round of talks calls for the establishment of a "nuclear power safety information exchange mechanism" and an "emergency accident notification mechanism." This negotiation result is supported by 71 percent of the public.

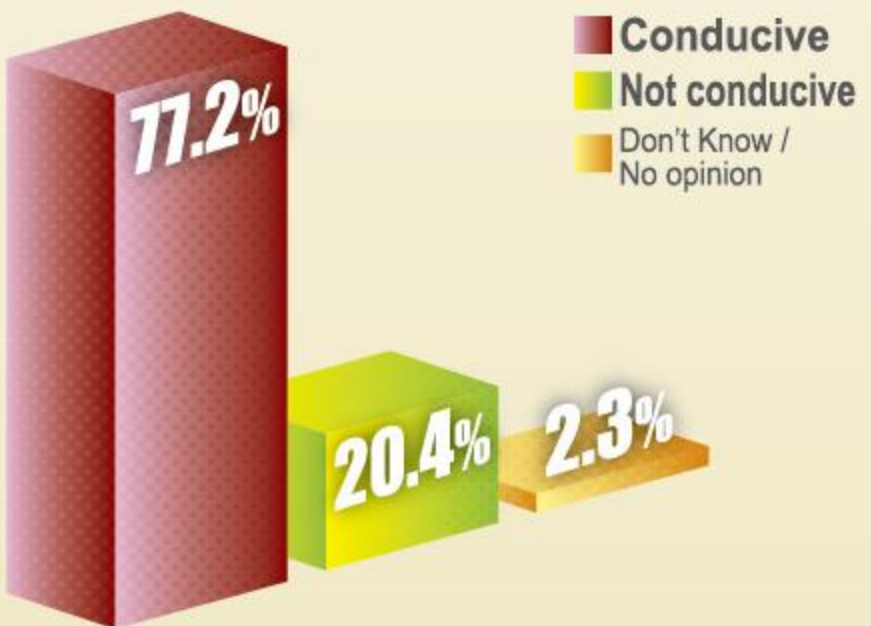


Are you satisfied or not with the outcome of the negotiations on the Cross-Strait Nuclear Power Safety Cooperation Agreement?

As for the specific content of the Agreement, 74 percent of the public believe that cross-strait nuclear power safety information and experience exchange and cooperation will help reduce the occurrence of nuclear plant accidents and safeguard the public's safety and the environmental ecology. Furthermore, 77 percent of the public believe that, in the event of a nuclear plant accident, the ability of the two sides to immediately notify the other side through an emergency reporting mechanism so that preventive and response measures can be adopted is conducive to protecting the life and property of the public.



Do you believe that cross-strait information and experience exchange on nuclear power safety will be conducive or not to public safety and the environmental ecology?

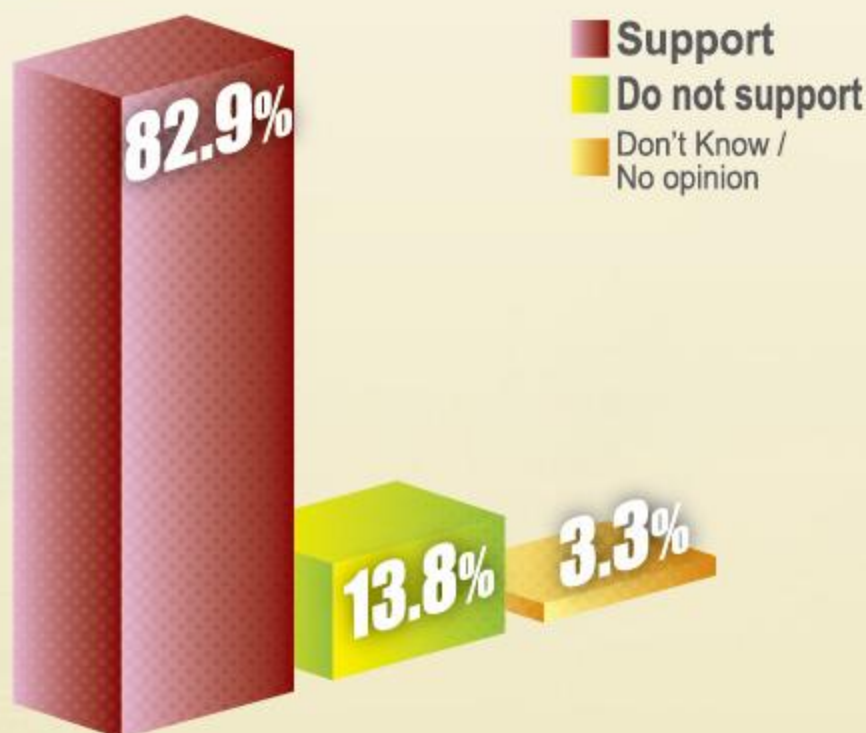


Do you believe the cross-strait nuclear safety emergency reporting mechanism will be conducive or not to protecting the life and property of the public?

Investment Protection Agreement: Continuing to Work for the Rights and Interests of Taiwan Businesses in the Mainland

Due to the broad scope and highly technical nature of the Cross-Strait Investment Protection Agreement, as well as differences between the administrative systems on the two sides, further communication and coordination are still needed both internally and mutually. Consequently, there was insufficient time for the signing of the Agreement at the Seventh Chiang-Chen Talks. However, the two sides have agreed to list the Agreement as a priority issue for the eighth round of talks in order to strengthen protections for the rights, interests, and personal safety of the Taiwan businessmen investing in the Mainland.

The government proceeds with negotiations on the Agreement under the principle that "it is better to sign a good agreement than an early one," an approach approved by 78 percent of the public. As for the phased results achieved on the Agreement (including extending the protection scope to Taiwanese investment made in the Mainland via third places, requiring that the families of Taiwanese businesspersons arrested or detained in the Mainland be notified within 24 hours, and strengthening commercial dispute resolution), 71 percent of the public feel satisfied with this progress and 82 percent support continued negotiations between the government and mainland China on investment protection issues.

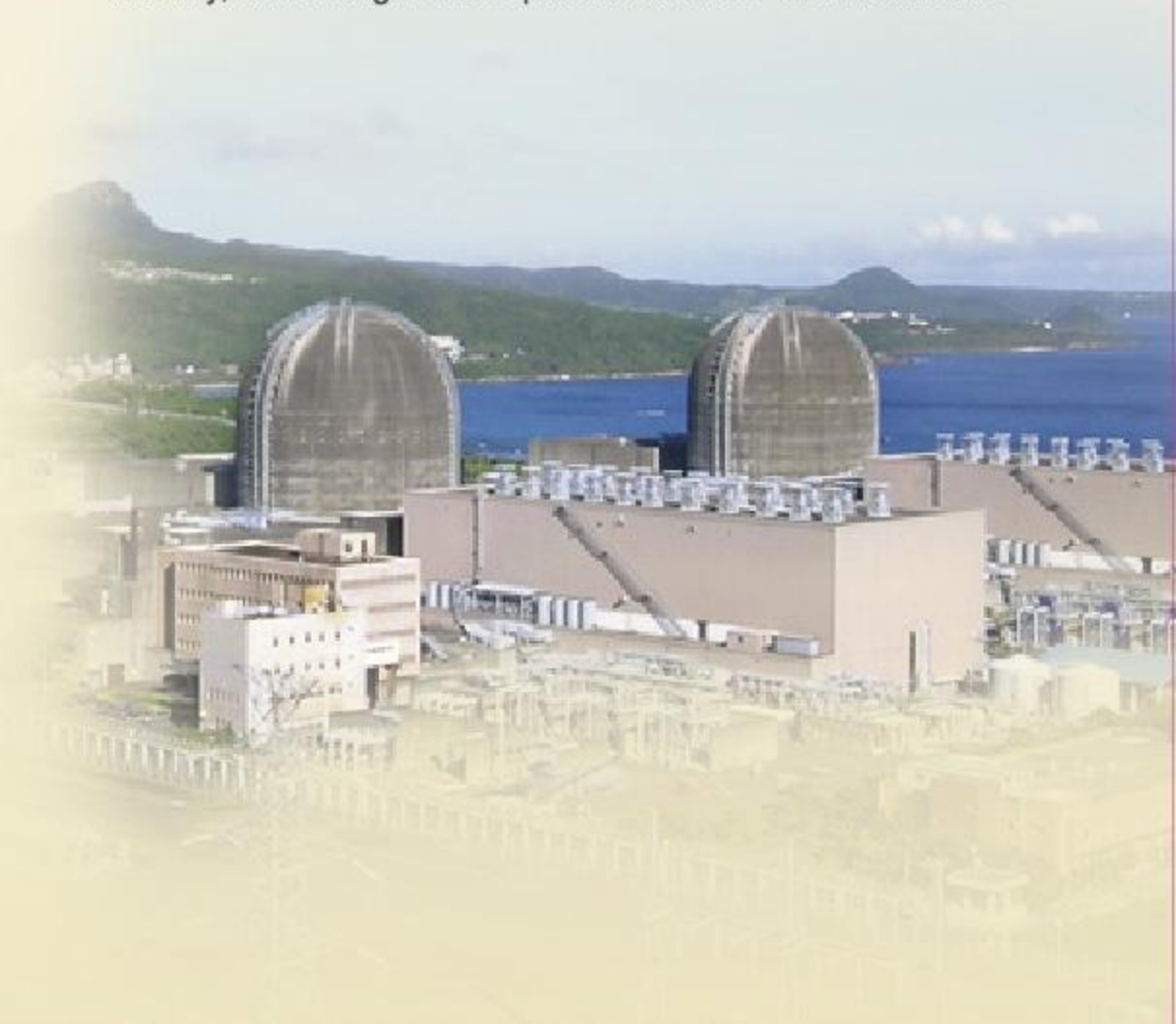


Do you support or not support the continuation of negotiations on the Investment Protection Agreement at the next round of talks?

Conclusion



The government firmly adheres to the principles of "putting Taiwan first for the benefit of the people" and "parity, dignity, and reciprocity" in its continuation to promote institutionalized negotiations on cross-strait issues beneficial to national development as well as improvement of people's livelihood and well-being, prioritizing "urgent matters before less pressing ones, easy issues before difficult ones, and economic issues before political ones." To date, the two sides have signed 16 agreements that have not only pragmatically resolved substantive issues resulted from cross-strait exchanges but also created a soundly operating "official-to-official and mechanism-to-mechanism" model, further embodying the fact of mutual non-denial across the Taiwan Strait and highlighting Taiwan's identity. Looking to the future, the government will continue to steadily carry out dialogues and negotiations with the Mainland based on the policy position of "upholding sovereignty and working for the benefits of the people," in keeping with the premise of "national need, public support, and legislative oversight," and according to the approach of "both promoting and safeguarding the country," so as to advance peace, stability, and benign developments in cross-strait relations.



Annex: Public Views on the Seventh Chiang-Chen Talks

<p>1. The Cross-Strait Nuclear Power Safety Cooperation Agreement signed at this round of talks can reduce the occurrence of nuclear plant accidents through cross-strait information and experience exchange and cooperation in the area of nuclear power safety. Do you believe this will be conducive or not to the public's safety and the environmental ecology?</p>	<p>Conductive: 74.1% Unconductive: 21.3% Don't know / No opinion: 4.7%</p>
<p>2. After signing the Cross-Strait Nuclear Power Safety Cooperation Agreement, in the event of a nuclear plant accident, the two sides will be able to immediately notify the other side through an emergency reporting mechanism so that preventive and response measures can be adopted. Do you believe this is conducive or not to protecting the life and property of the public?</p>	<p>Conductive: 77.2% Unconductive: 20.4% Don't know / No opinion: 2.3%</p>
<p>3. Under the Cross-Strait Nuclear Power Safety Cooperation Agreement, the two sides will establish a "nuclear power safety information exchange mechanism" and an "emergency accident notification mechanism." Are you satisfied or unsatisfied with this negotiation outcome?</p>	<p>Satisfied: 71.3% Unsatisfied: 19.7% Don't know / No opinion: 9%</p>
<p>4. During this round of talks, the government and the Mainland side reached phased results on the Cross-Strait Investment Protection Agreement, including extending the protection scope to Taiwanese investment made in the Mainland via third places, a requirement that the families of Taiwanese businesspersons arrested or detained in the Mainland be notified within 24 hours, and the strengthening of commercial dispute resolution, among other issues. Do you feel satisfied or unsatisfied with this progress?</p>	<p>Satisfied: 71.4% Unsatisfied: 15.4% Don't know / No opinion: 13.2%</p>
<p>5. Due to the broad scope of the talks on cross-strait investment protection, the government is proceeding with negotiations under the principle that "it is better to sign a good agreement than an early one" to strengthen protections for the rights, interests, and personal safety of the Taiwan people investing in the Mainland, Do you approve or disapprove of this approach?</p>	<p>Approve: 78.5% Do not approve: 17.9% Don't know / No opinion: 3.6%</p>
<p>6. Do you support or not support the government's decision to continue negotiations with the Mainland side on issues related to cross-strait investment protection at the next round of talks?</p>	<p>Support: 82.9% Do not support: 13.8% Don't know / No opinion: 3.3%</p>
<p>7. Do you support or not support the continuation of institutionalized negotiations to resolve cross-strait exchange issues?</p>	<p>Support: 84.8% Do not support: 13% Don't know / No opinion: 2.2%</p>
<p>8. During the three-plus years of the Ma Administration, the SEF and the ARATS have held seven institutionalized talks and signed 16 agreements. Do you believe this has protected Taiwan's interests or not?</p>	<p>Yes: 60.9% No: 28.7% Don't know / No opinion: 10.4%</p>
<p>9. During the three-plus years of the Ma Administration, the SEF and the ARATS have held seven institutionalized talks and signed 16 agreements. Do you believe this has protected Taiwan's national sovereignty or not?</p>	<p>Yes: 56.3% No: 31.8% Don't know / No opinion: 11.8%</p>

Survey Date: October 22 to 24, 2011

Survey Respondents: Adults aged 20 and over in the Taiwan Area

Number of Effective Samples: 1,072

Survey Commissioned by: Mainland Affairs Council, Executive Yuan

Sampling Error: ±2.99 %

Survey Unit: China Credit Information Service

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