Important Documents on the 30th Anniversary of Cross-Strait Exchanges

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Important Documents on the 30th Anniversary of Cross-Strait Exchanges

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兩岸交流30
兩岸交流30年回顧與前瞻研討會

01 President Tsai Attends Opening of Symposium on 30 Years of Cross-Strait Exchanges and Prospects for the Future

2017-10-26

01. President Tsai Attends Opening of Symposium on 30 Years of Cross-Strait Exchanges and Prospects for the Future

Date: 2017-10-26

On the morning of October 26, President Tsai Ing-wen attended the opening ceremony of a symposium titled Cross-Strait Exchanges: A 30-Year Retrospective and Prospects for the Future. She reiterated the Taiwan government's long-term position that "our goodwill will not change, our commitments will not change, we will not revert to the old path of confrontation, and we will not bow to pressure." The president also appealed once again to the leaders on both sides of the Taiwan Strait to embrace the harmony and moderation of traditional political wisdom, and seek a breakthrough in cross-Strait relations to create long-term well-being for people on both sides, and eliminate hostility and the fear of war.

A translation of the president's remarks:

This year marks the 30th anniversary of cross-Strait exchanges, and Taiwan's decision to allow citizens to visit relatives in mainland China. That gives today's symposium great historical significance.

In July 1987 Taiwan lifted martial law. In November of that year, our government decided to permit the hundreds of thousands of aging soldiers who came to Taiwan with the Kuomintang government to return to their hometowns to visit relatives. That formally ended the tragic separation of families due to cross-Strait hostilities.

That year thus marked the beginning of a new chapter in peaceful cross-Strait relations.

I want to take this opportunity to talk about part of history that is often overlooked.

Before martial law was lifted, our government had a "three no's" cross-Strait policy of "no contact, no negotiation, and no compromise." All cross-Strait interaction was a violation of political taboo, and illegal. But in 1987 a group of those aging soldiers took to the streets of Taipei to challenge that policy, wearing white shirts with the word "homesick" written on the front.

01. President Tsai Attends Opening of Symposium on 30 years of Cross-Strait Exchanges and Prospects for the Future

At that time, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) had existed for less than a year, and still had limited power. The party nevertheless bravely supported the old soldiers and their cause.

Before the ban on visits to relatives in China was lifted, the DPP Central Standing Committee had already passed a resolution calling for an end to restrictions on cross-Strait travel to visit relatives, arguing that cross-Strait contacts between private citizens should be permitted. That stance helped spur the policy decision to allow visits to relatives in China, a historic milestone in the development of cross-Strait relations.

That was the DPP's first effort as an opposition party to normalize cross-Strait relations, highlighting the people-centered core of the party's cross-Strait policy.

The wounds suffered by cross-Strait families began to heal, and cross-Strait contacts were no longer taboo, spurring increased interaction, familiarity, and understanding for people on both sides. Economic, social, cultural, sports, and academic exchanges soon followed, gradually gaining momentum and developing into wide-ranging people-to-people exchanges.

Since 1987, the people of Taiwan have made nearly 100 million trips to mainland China, and more than 24 million mainland nationals have travelled to Taiwan.

Indirect transport across the Taiwan Strait became direct transport. Currently, private airlines operate nearly 900 cross-Strait flights per week, and more than 17 million indirect cross-Strait trips have been made via Kinmen and Matsu over the years.

Cross-Strait exchanges, which are basically people-to-people exchanges, clearly show how cross-Strait relations have moved from hostility toward peace over the past 30 years.

Since our government established the Mainland Affairs Council and Straits Exchange Foundation in 1991, and passed the Act Governing Relations Between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area in 1992, cross-Strait exchanges gradually gained semi-official, and then official status.

In 1992 representatives from both sides of the Taiwan Strait met for talks in Hong Kong. That launched a series of institutionalized

cross-Strait discussions, including two closely watched Koo-Wang Talks [discussions between Koo Chen-fu（辜振甫）, former Straits Exchange Foundation Chairman, and Wang Daohan（汪道涵）, former Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits Chairman] in the 1990s, and the signing of 23 cross-Strait accords between 2008 and 2016.

The DPP government respects these historical facts, and generally accepts all the cross-Strait accords that have been signed and ratified by the legislature.

After the DPP became the ruling party for the first time in 2000, there were some unexpected setbacks in cross-Strait relations. But during our eight years in power, we still made promoting cross-Strait exchanges and people's well-being our policy goals by pragmatically promoting the development of cross-Strait relations.

The Taiwan government began implementing the Mini-Three-Links in 2001, a historic step toward direct cross-Strait travel and transport. Through pragmatic cross-Strait consultations, the two sides then agreed in 2003 to allow a limited number of one-way, indirect charter flights for Taiwan businesspeople during the Chinese New Year holidays. Beginning in 2005, restrictions were gradually relaxed to allow more frequent, two-way, direct charter flights to more destinations during four holiday seasons observed on both sides of the Taiwan Strait: Tomb-Sweeping Day, Dragon Boat Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival, and Chinese New Year. This established an institutional foundation for more comprehensive, direct cross-Strait travel.

Nevertheless, the stable development of cross-Strait relations remained problematic because the ruling parties on the two sides had no previous contact or interaction, and insufficient mutual understanding.

I've always thought that a national leader must act in the best interests of the people as a whole. To have stable cross-Strait relations, the ruling parties on both sides need to interact, increase mutual understanding, and gradually build trust so they can deal with issues surrounding cross-Strait relations together.

Looking back on the past 30 years of cross-Strait exchanges, although cross-Strait relations are basically stable, we still hope for further improvement. The commitments I made at my inauguration in May of last year were made in good faith, with a strong commitment to continue promoting peaceful and stable cross-Strait relations.

While uncertainties surrounding cross-Strait relations remain, maintaining cross-Strait peace, stability, and development is the highest consensus. Our principles for handling cross-Strait relations have been consistent:"Our goodwill will not change, our commitments will not change, we will not revert to the old path of confrontation, and we will not bow to pressure."

Over the past 30 years, both sides of the Taiwan Strait have

witnessed rapid globalization and enjoyed its benefits together.

Over the past 30 years, development on both sides of the Taiwan Strait and mutual cooperation have allowed Taiwan to become a model for newly industrialized countries and a core global supplier of information and communications products. Those factors have also facilitated mainland China's rapid rise. These changes have given both sides of the Taiwan Strait more important roles and greater influence in the international community.

At this point in the globalization process, failure to move ahead means being left behind. More than ever, the fate of all countries and their people's well-being are tied to regional development and security.

As key stakeholders who play a vital role in the international and regional communities, both sides of the Taiwan Strait should adopt new ways of thinking. Both sides, through their individual and cooperative efforts, should contribute to regional peace and prosperity, globalization's continuous advance and improvement, and a bright future of mutual prosperity.

Over the past 30 years, people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait have witnessed a new chapter in peaceful development. Looking to the future, we should cherish the decision to relax restrictions on cross-Strait family visits thirty years ago, and the subsequent historic changes and achievements. Building on that foundation, both sides should collaborate to think about and plan a vision for the next 30 years of cross-Strait relations.

The ruling party in mainland China recently concluded its National Congress, and its governance has entered a new stage. On May 20 last year, I appealed to the governing parties on both sides of the Taiwan Strait to set aside the baggage of history, and engage in positive dialogue for the benefit of the people on both sides.

The present presents an opportunity for change. So once again, I am appealing to the leaders on both sides of the Taiwan Strait to embrace the harmony and moderation of traditional political wisdom, and seek a breakthrough in cross-Strait relations to create long-term well-being for people on both sides, and eliminate hostility and the fear of war.

And finally, I want to thank our many predecessors for their contributions and efforts to promote cross-Strait exchanges. Those of you here today are leading scholars and experts in cross-Strait exchanges, and witnesses to their historic development. I hope you will all contribute your wisdom, and work together to open a new era in peaceful cross-Strait development.

In closing, let me offer best wishes for a successful symposium. Thank you!

兩岸交流30週年
主辦單位 行政院大陸委員會 Mainland Affairs Council
執行單位
兩岸經貿交流回顧與前瞻國際研討會
Symposium on Cross-Strait Economic and Trade Ties: Past, Present and Future

02 International Symposium on "Cross-Strait Economic and Trade Ties: Past, Present and Future"

2017-11-17

02. International Symposium on "Cross-Strait Economic and Trade Ties: Past, Present and Future"

Date: 2017-11-17 (Speech by Minister Chang Hsiao-yueh)

Chairman Hsu of the Commerce Development Research Institute, Distinguished Scholars and Guests, Good day! Good morning!

I am honored to attend today's symposium and would like to thank the Commerce Development Research Institute for all of its meticulous arrangements. We are joined today by scholars from the United States, Japan, Korea, Singapore and both sides of the Taiwan Strait to discuss the past and future of cross-Strait economic and trade exchanges.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of cross-Strait exchanges. It was in November, 30 years ago, that the government began allowing veterans to make family-related visits to mainland China. This was the start of cross-Strait exchanges and paved the way for subsequent exchanges between the two sides in social, economic, trade, cultural, and educational spheres. Economic and trade relations play a vital role in cross-Strait exchanges. Finding ways to promote a cross-Strait economic and trade relationship that benefits the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait and serves as a stabilizing force for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and in the region is a topic worthy of in-depth discussion.

Through a succession of cross-Strait economic and trade policies, the concepts of opening and "coexistence and co-prosperity" remain unchanged

Over the past 30 years, cross-Strait relations have experienced ups and downs, but economic and trade ties between the two sides have never stopped. Cross-Strait economic and trade policies have evolved over the years, from "no haste, be patient" from 1996 to 2000, "proactive liberalization with effective management" and "proactive management with effective liberalization" from 2001 to 2007, institutionalized negotiations from 2008 to 2015, to "mutually beneficial cooperation and win-win co-existence" since 2016. While the concept of risk management has persisted throughout these periods, the government has not veered from the course of

liberalization, nor has it ever wavered from the ideal and hope for the "coexistence and co-prosperity" of the people on both sides.

The two sides have complementary economic and trade strengths and contribute to each other

In the trend of economic globalization, the two sides have complementary strengths and can cooperate to promote mutual prosperity and development. From a position of no trade across the Taiwan Strait in the past, the two sides have become mutually important trading and production partners. Mainland China is Taiwan's biggest trading partner and largest foreign investment destination. Its abundant production factors and vast market provide space for Taiwanese enterprises to develop, as well as stimulus for Taiwan's economy to grow. Through its investment in mainland China, Taiwan provides capital, technology, and management expertise to help the Mainland transform and upgrade its industries, create jobs, and contribute to mainland China's rapid rise.

Cross-Strait economic and trade ties form an important part of Taiwan's foreign economic development and have reaped gains valued by the government

During the period from 2014 to 2016, the value of cross-Strait trade exceeded US$110 billion annually and more than 9.2 million cross-Strait trips were made each year. From January to September in 2017, the value of cross-Strait trade reached US$99.5 billion, up 18.9% from the same period last year and outpacing the 14.5% gain in overall foreign trade. Related data shows that cross-Strait economic and trade relations remain close and constitute an important link in Taiwan's economic development.

The government cherishes the existing achievements of cross-Strait exchanges, respects the historical fact of the cross-Strait talks in Hong Kong in 1992, and has endeavored to maintain the agreements signed and enacted between the two sides. These agreements cover cross-Strait transportation, trade, investment, financial, and industrial cooperation, as well as exchange security and other dimensions. They lay a foundation to further advance cross-Strait economic and trade exchanges, strengthen the order of such contacts, and provide institutional protection.

The economic strategies of the two sides share ideas in common and could work together

Both sides of the Taiwan Strait face different challenges presented by the constantly changing internal and external economic situation. The report at the CCP 19th National Congress, proposed that the Mainland "apply a new vision of development and develop a modernized economy," deepen supply-side structural reform, accelerate innovation, revitalize rural communities, coordinate regional development, and improve the socialist market economy. It also advanced a new paradigm for fully opening centered on the "Belt and Road" initiative. The government of the Republic of China (ROC), for its part, has focused on industrial

upgrading, overcoming economic stagnation, creating jobs, and endeavoring to resolve the "five shortages" faced by the business community. It has also promoted the 5+2 Major Innovative Industries plan and, under the "New Southbound Policy," actively sought a new place for Taiwan in the international order.

The economic strategies of the two sides share a number of ideas in common. These include: a focus on the people's well-being, emphasis on an innovative, open, and digital economy, and inclusive development. In these areas, the two sides can learn from each other and coordinate development. With win-win thinking, they can expand and deepen cooperation under the principle of mutual benefit and reciprocity.

Attention on the Trump-Xi meeting and APEC development; advocating more inclusive thinking

As for developments in the Asia-Pacific region, US President Donald Trump concluded his visit to Asia and held strategic dialogues on economic and security issues with many country leaders. The Trump-Xi meeting marked a new phase in US-China trade relations and attracted global attention. During the APEC leaders' meeting, the US and Japan advocated a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific region" strategy. Mainland China again raised the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP). The members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) jointly promote the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) after the US's withdrawal. The meeting

highlighted the roles and efforts of various countries in the process of regional cooperation.

As a responsible member of the Asia-Pacific region, Taiwan has called for more inclusive thinking on regional peace, stability and prosperity. Replacing confrontation with negotiation is always the best solution. The Pacific is big enough to accommodate not only the US and mainland China, but all of the APEC members and neighboring countries as well. In the future, Taiwan will continue to strive to participate in multilateral regional economic integration and sign agreements with neighboring countries.

The two sides should seek a new model for interaction through communication and dialogue

Cross-Strait relations remain basically stable at present, though some uncertainties exist. President Tsai has publicly stressed numerous times that the government will not change its goodwill or waiver from its commitments, nor will it revert to the old path of confrontation or bow to pressure. The government has been consistent and firm in its policy of maintaining the status quo of cross-Strait peace and stability.

The two sides of the Taiwan Strait should engage in healthy and normal contact and exchanges. This is a shared wish of the people on both sides. It is also a common expectation of the international community. In the future, the government will continue, on the basis of the accumulated achievements from the past 30 years of cross-Strait exchanges, to show goodwill, flexibility, pragmatism, and rationality and extend both hands in friendship to the other side. It urges both sides to act pragmatically, present new ways of thinking, and work together to find a new model for interaction.

The two sides of the Taiwan Strait are members of the Asia-Pacific region. Both share the goal of maintaining cross-Strait peace and development. It is said that, "Where there's a will, there's a way." Facing new developments in the world and region, we sincerely hope that both sides can exert political wisdom, promptly engage in consultation and dialogue, resolve differences, cooperate, enhance the well-being of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, and contribute to regional peace, prosperity, and development.

In closing, I would like to wish today's seminar the greatest success. Thank you!

兩岸交流30年回顧與前瞻研討會
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03 Symposium on the 30th Anniversary of Cross-Strait Exchanges: Review and Outlook

2017-10-26

03. Symposium on the 30th Anniversary of Cross-Strait Exchanges: Review and Outlook

Date:2017-10-26 (Speech by Minister Chang Hsiao-yueh)

Office of the President Secretary-General Wu, Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) Chairman Tien, Foundation on Asia-Pacific Peace Studies (FAPS) Chairman Hsu, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good day!

I would like to warmly welcome everyone to today's symposium. I would like to especially thank Foundation on Asia-Pacific Peace Studies Chairman Hsu and his team for arranging this symposium. My particular gratitude also goes out to Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) Chairman Tien and his colleagues for arranging the photography exhibition on the first floor.

In 1987, the government began to allow the people of Taiwan to make family-related visits to mainland China. This changed the 38-year-long state of isolation across the Taiwan Strait. It was a small step, but one that has led to great strides today. In the last 30 years, cross-Strait relations have experienced highs and lows, ups and downs. The two sides were once in a state of military confrontation and came to the brink of war. However, they have been willing to put aside their political disputes and pursue exchanges and interactions. We believe that as long as the two sides are willing

to "set aside differences and seek common ground," they can find new opportunities for cross-Strait relations.

The two sides have chosen different political systems and models of development. Yet this has not posed barriers to cross-Strait exchanges. Academic, religious, economic, and cultural exchanges between the two sides have meaningfully enriched each other's social development. Exchanges between government agencies on the two sides have advanced mutual awareness and understanding. Cross-Strait exchanges and interaction represent a natural expression of feelings that span the Taiwan Strait and offer the people the dream of happiness. Moreover, the soft power, innovation, and diversity evident in Taiwan's economy, trade, culture, medical technology, and way of life, constantly create and link together the well-being of the people on both sides, becoming important elements in the peaceful and stable development across the Taiwan Strait. This is a positive asset and a hard-won achievement that the authorities on both sides should cherish.

Former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill once famously said that, "The longer you can look back, the farther you can look forward." Since May 20 last year, cross-Strait relations have faced new challenges and new developments. During this time, the government has held to its position. It has not wavered from its commitment or its goodwill. Nor will it revert to the old path of confrontation or bow to pressure. We will strive to maintain cross-Strait peace and stability and seek further development.

In a moment, you will see highlights from a video commissioned by the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) and produced by National

Geographic Channel. The video, which will be shown in 41 Asia-Pacific countries, illustrates how the protagonists of two storylines realize their dreams through cross-Strait exchanges. Indeed, "the greatness of humanity comes from dreams." We are joined today by many who have played important roles in advancing the development of cross-Strait relations. I would like to express my most sincere respect to them. I believe that, with an open mind and mutual respect, the two sides can embrace the power of optimism, warmth, and hope like the characters in the video, the people of both sides can further realize their dreams, and our friends around the world can see the fruits of cross-Strait exchanges and the beauty of Taiwan.

Cross-Strait relations have undergone numerous stages and processes. Going down the road at times it seems that are reached a dead-end, only to turn the corner and gain new hope. The 19th-century Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard once said: "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." As we look back on the road traveled, we hope that the two sides will not forget their original aspiration. We hope they will cooperate, adhere to the principle of "putting the people first," find new opportunities for cross-Strait cooperation in changing circumstances, jointly consider a new model for cross-Strait interaction, and open a new chapter in the history of cross-Strait exchanges for the next 30 years.

I wish today's symposium the greatest success. Thank you!

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04 Speech by Minister Chang at the Opening Ceremony of the 30th Anniversary of Cross-Strait Exchanges Stamp Exhibition

2017-10-11

04. Speech by Minister Chang at the Opening Ceremony of the 30th Anniversary of Cross-Strait Exchanges Stamp Exhibition

Date: 2017-10-11

Political Deputy Minister of Transportation and Communications and Chunghwa Post Chairperson Wang Kwo-tsai, Chunghwa Post President Chen Shian-juh, Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) Vice Chairman Ko Cheng-heng, Chinese Taipei Philatelic Federation President Chen Yu-an, President Hoo Huei-ching of the China Stamp Society's ROC Chapter, Distinguished Guests, Good morning.

I would like first to thank the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC) and Chunghwa Post for their active and enthusiastic support of activities for the 30th anniversary of cross-Strait exchanges. This year marks the 30th anniversary of cross-Strait exchanges. This stamp exhibition is one of the events planned by the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) to commemorate this important occasion. It is also an excellent way to recount cross-Strait relations. I would like to thank the MOTC and Chunghwa Post for their cooperation, which made this valuable exhibition possible.

Thirty years represent a long time in a person's life. In 30 years, a new-born baby grows to become an adult. Thirty years ago, the government began allowing family-related visits across the Taiwan Strait. The purpose was simply to allow the people of Taiwan to visit relatives in mainland China and to maintain contact through two-way correspondences. Before family visits were allowed in 1987, Taiwan and mainland China were in a cold war period characterized by a confrontational "one or the other" relationship. However, from 1987, the authorities on both sides realized that they needed to meet the people's demand for family contact. Therefore, the first step in opening up cross-Strait exchanges was to allow homecomings by people to visit relatives.

Thirty years ago, neither the authorities nor the people could have possibly imagined that in three decades cross-Strait relations would become so close or that, through cross-Strait economic and trade exchanges, mainland China would become one of Taiwan's most important trading partners. Nor could they have imagined that there would be 330,000 cross-Strait couples in Taiwan,

04. Speech by Minister Chang at the Opening Ceremony of the 30th Anniversary of Cross-Strait Exchanges Stamp Exhibition

330,000 Mainland spouses living in Taiwan, more than 10,000 mainland Chinese students studying in Taiwan, or so many cross-Strait visitors. The past 30 years have brought enormous changes. Consequently, we cannot approach today's cross-Strait issues with the mindset of 30 years ago.

Thirty years ago, there was only an indirect postal service across the Taiwan Strait. In 1988, the Red Cross began arranging an indirect mail service. From 1989, postal units sent letters to mainland China via Hong Kong, Japan, or other areas. Before 1988, there were severe repercussions for sending a letter to mainland China. Today, however, we not only have a convenient postal service, but can even pick up the phone and call mainland China directly. Cross-Strait communication and exchanges made possible the greater convenience and closer contact enjoyed by the people of the two sides today.

In her National Day Address this year, President Tsai Ing-wen specifically stated that, in cross-Strait matters, our commitment will not change and our goodwill will not change. It is right that the two sides should have closer exchanges; and that they should communicate, meet, and engage in exchanges based on reciprocity and fairness. This is crucial to the positive development of cross-Strait relations. Over the years, the relationship across the Taiwan Strait has undergone many stages and processes. I believe that everyone shares a heartfelt hope that cross-Strait relations can develop towards positive and active exchanges in the future. I would like here to especially thank the MOTC for its ongoing promotion of cross-Strait postal exchanges.

Today's exhibition presents an exquisite selection of rare stamps dating from the Qing dynasty to the present. I wish the exhibition, and you all, the greatest success. Thank you!

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週年

05 Opening Remarks for Symposium on the Mini-Three-Links: Review and Outlook-30th Anniversary of Cross-Strait Exchanges

2017-09-30

05. Opening remarks for Symposium on the Mini-Three-Links: Review and Outlook-30th Anniversary of Cross-Strait Exchanges

Date: 2017-09-30

Minister without Portfolio Chang Jing-sen, Deputy Magistrate of Kinmen County Wu Cherng-dean, Lienchiang County Magistrate Liu Cheng-ying, Representative of Penghu County Magistrate—Executive Officer Hung Tung-lin, Legislator Yang Cheng-wu, Legislator Chen Hsueh-sheng, Control Yuan Member Liu Te-hsun, distinguished experts of the cross-Strait Mini- -Three-Links, scholars, and government representatives, good day.

Welcome, everyone, to today's symposium. Among our distinguished participants today are representatives from the Kinmen, Lienchiang, and Penghu county governments, other relevant competent authorities, and the business and academic sectors. We also have the special honor to be joined by several of our predecessors and colleagues whose dedicated efforts gave birth to the Mini-Three-Links. Your presence adds to both the honor and meaning of this symposium. Thank you for coming.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of cross-Strait exchanges. Over these past three decades, the Mini-Three-Links have grown from nothing to become a dynamic channel for cross-Strait contact

and play a major role in advancing cross-Strait relations. The Minister of the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) at that time, our current president Tsai Ing-wen, promoted the opening of the Mini-Three-Links policy to develop cross-Strait relations and care for the welfare of the people in the outlying island areas of Kinmen, Matsu, and Penghu. This policy would usher in a new phase of cross-Strait relations and development in Kinmen, Matsu, and Penghu. The Mini-Three-Links will turn 17 this year. During that time, nearly 17.3 million personnel exchanges and over 124,000 voyages have been made via the Mini-Three-Links. The development and prosperity of Kinmen, Matsu and Penghu during this period are also well recognized.

The MAC is holding this symposium to jointly review the history of the Mini-Three-Links, as well as to witness the changes brought to Kinmen, Matsu, and Penghu through the achievements of the Mini-Three-Links. As we look at the evolution of the Mini-Three-Links, we will also explore ways to build on the existing foundation so that the Mini-Three-Links can bring more development opportunities to Kinmen, Matsu, and Penghu. We also hope, through the initial trial and implementation of the Mini-Three-Links, to consider possible opportunities to breakthrough the

current framework and limits in cross-Strait relations, and continue to move forward. The MAC is now reviewing Regulations Governing the Trial Operation of Transportation Links Between Kinmen/Matsu/Penghu and the Mainland Area. I hope that you can offer your valuable advice as an important reference for the deliberation of related laws and policies.

Since May 20 last year, cross-Strait relations have undergone changes and faced challenges. Nevertheless, the government

attaches great importance to the pragmatic promotion of cross-Strait policies. It has repeatedly stressed that it will conduct cross-Strait affairs and maintain the peaceful and stable development of cross-Strait relations based on the existing historical facts and political foundation, and in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of China, the Act Governing Relations Between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area, and other relevant legislation. It has also shown goodwill and flexibility to the other side. The Republic of China is a sovereign state. Our cross-Strait policy of maintaining the status quo has been consistent and firm.

We are committed to shouldering the important responsibility to maintain peace across the Taiwan Strait and regional security. With regard to changes in the international situation, we will also closely watch US President Donald Trump's visit to mainland China. North Korea and US-China economic and trade relations both have a major impact on peace, stability, and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Moreover, mainland China will soon hold its 19th Party Congress. We will also closely watch the new administration's future policy and direction toward cross-Strait relations.

Over the past 30 years, the cross-Strait relationship has been influenced by Taiwan's thriving democracy and the people's insistence on freedom and democracy. We hope for the positive, progressive, and active development of cross-Strait relations. It will take the combined efforts of both sides. Sometimes, many things happen in a single thought. I hope that the other side can view our goodwill in a higher context and with a broader perspective and work together with us for the benefit of the people on both sides. During the Cold War period, Kinmen and Matsu stood at the frontline of the conflict. As the vanguard in the first trial and first implementation of the Mini-Three-Links, they are now on the frontline of peace. We hope that today's symposium can help to set a course for peaceful and stable development across the Taiwan Strait. I wish today's symposium the utmost success.

研討會
兩岸交流30年研討會
民國106年5月5日（五）
國立政治大學國際關係研究中心國際會議廳
台北市文山區萬壽路64號

06 Symposium on the 30th Anniversary of Cross-Strait Exchanges Key Points of Opening Remarks by Deputy Minister Lin Cheng-yi

2017-05-05

06. Symposium on the 30th Anniversary of Cross-Strait Exchanges

Key Points of Opening Remarks by Deputy Minister Lin Cheng-yi

Date: 2017-05-05

National Chengchi University (NCCU) President Edward Chow, Director Ding Shuh-fan of the NCCU Institute of International Relations, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning!

It is a great honor to be invited to attend the "Symposium on the 30th Anniversary of Cross-Strait Exchanges" held by the Institute of International Relations at National Chengchi University. This symposium has particular significance as it coincides with the 30th anniversary of the opening of cross-Strait exchanges in 1987. That year, the government lifted restrictions on family-related visits to mainland China. Then with Taiwanese business investment and emissaries, through the Hong Kong meeting, Koo-Wang Talks, Qiandao Lake Incident (1994), Taiwan Strait missile crisis, Koo-Wang Meetings, special state-to-state relationship, the first change of governing political party in Taiwan, the Mini-Three-Links, Integration Theory, one country on each side, defensive referendum, Macao model, Three Links, signing of 23 agreements, summit meeting between Ma Ying-jeou and Xi Jinping, and the Mainland tour group bus fire incident. From closed door meetings at the highest level to private sector contact and exchanges at the grassroots level, ties between the two sides have been characterized by both structural cooperation and strained relations. In recent years, more than eight million visits have made across the Taiwan Strait, though the direction of these visits has been lopsided. In the process of interaction between the two sides, Taiwan entrepreneurs' participation have witnessed the economic boom of the southeast coast of mainland China. Next, I will provide some background on the government's cross-Strait policy in the current stage.

1. **The achievements and process of the past 30 years of cross-Strait exchanges have been invaluable.** They are also the greatest assets in the development of relations between the two sides. Cross-Strait relations have advanced at different paces

under Kuomintang (KMT) and Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) administrations. Yet the respective national interests as perceived by each party cannot be ignored in the pace of relations, nor can we overlook normative review in the course of expansionary reach. Mainland China has unilaterally suspended institutionalized cross-Strait negotiations. Yet we remain committed to promoting the orderly development of cross-Strait relations and maintaining the mechanisms for cross-Strait exchanges and communication.

2. **The government has shown its determination and taken action to fulfill the responsibility to maintain**

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peace in the Taiwan Strait. In her inaugural address on May 20 last year, President Tsai stated that the government would handle cross-Strait affairs in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of China (ROC), the Act Governing Relations between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area, and other relevant legislation. She also has repeatedly emphasized that the peaceful and stable development of cross-Strait relations will be firmly maintained on the basis of respect for the historical facts of the 1992 talks in Hong Kong and the existing political foundation. Over the past year, we have kept our commitment to maintain the status quo and avoid provocation. The government will liaise more proactively with the Mainland on important and urgent matters pertaining to the rights and interests of the people, international participation, and other regards, as well as promote the continued operation of cross-Strait agreements.

3. **Both sides should engage in communication and dialogue to avoid misunderstanding and misjudgment as they face the recent new developments in the region and across the Taiwan Strait.** Dialogue and communication are crucial to maintain peace and stability and to build mutual trust in cross-Strait relations. Over the past year, mainland China has not responded to our goodwill. Rather it has repeatedly insisted on the "1992 Consensus" that "both sides are part of one China" as the political foundation for cross-Strait interaction and curtailed the operation of mechanisms for cross-Strait interaction and consultations. Internationally, it has stepped up proclamations on the "one China principle" and obstructed Taiwan's international participation. Facing recent changes in the region and across the Taiwan Strait, we believe that mutual understanding and respect and communication and dialogue without preconditions are the keys to solving problems and building mutual trust.

4. **Normal cross-Strait exchanges should not be obstructed by political preconditions.** The rights and well-being of the people are the core to exchanges and cooperation between the two sides. The development of cross-Strait relations has revealed both similarities between the two sides, as well as differences in ways of life, systems, and values that need to be jointly faced. This is why "setting aside differences to seek common ground" has become a catchphrase of the ROC government. The government has a positive view of cross-Strait exchanges and interaction in various fields. It welcomes Mainland tourists to visit Taiwan, cares for study and life of Mainland students and spouses in Taiwan, and is building a friendly and safe environment for cross-Strait exchanges. Moreover, we hope that mainland China will promptly make public the facts and details in the high-profile case of Li Ming-che, announce the place where

Li Ming-che is detained, and consent to family visits to prevent this matter from becoming an obstacle to the development of cross-Strait relations. We are not afraid of thorny issues between the two sides. We only fear losing the space to pragmatically and duly resolve issues due to barriers from preconceptions.

5. **Taiwan's international participation is conducive to the progress of cross-Strait relations.** The government will continue to seek to participate in the World Health Assembly (WHA) and international medical activities. The government places great importance on the upcoming WHA. Over the past eight years, Taiwan has earned the support and affirmation of the vast majority of countries for its professional participation and contribution to the WHA. A key index in the next stage of cross-Strait relations will be whether Taiwan is able to participate in the WHA. We believe that medical care has no boundaries. Participation in the WHA concerns the health rights and interests of the people of Taiwan and should not be withheld for any reason. The other side needs to carefully handle this case to avoid harming cross-Strait relations.

The 30th anniversary of cross-Strait exchanges is a worthy time to look back and consider the road ahead. President Tsai recently stated in a recent interview that both sides should jointly face a "new situation" in the Asia Pacific and a "new answer sheet" as well as a "new model" in cross-Strait relations. The cross-Strait relationship is an interactive process: it cannot be dominated by one side alone. We hope that, in the handling of cross-Strait relations, mainland China can think outside the box; that more positive development can be possible; and that both sides can jointly consider a structural cooperative relationship. We also hope that the two sides can replace malicious language and crude fist-shaking with courage, wisdom, and innovative thinking and embark on a positive interaction in cross-Strait relations with sustained patience for the next 30 years.

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