

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

(November 8 to 11, 2015)

- The majority of the people identifies with the government's position on the "1992 Consensus" of "one China with respective interpretations," in which one China means the ROC (60.7%) and identifies with President Ma's full elaboration of "1992 Consensus" contents during the meeting with the Mainland leader (61.6%).
- More than 60% of the public support the meeting between the leaders of the two sides under the principles of "reciprocity, dignity, openness and transparency" and in the capacities of the "Taiwan leader" and the "Mainland leader" (61.6%); feel that the agreement between the two sides to work together to maintain the peaceful status quo in the Taiwan Strait and safeguard the well-being of the people on both sides of the Strait is conducive to the consolidation of peace in the Taiwan Strait (64.6%); and think that institutionalizing and normalizing meetings between the leaders of the two sides is conducive to long-term peace and stability in cross-strait relations (65.9%).
- The vast majority of the public support President Ma's advocacy of "reducing hostility and peacefully handling disputes" (75.5%); more than 80% of the public support President Ma's clear statement that security and dignity are major concerns of the Taiwanese people and appeal for the Mainland to seriously understand this (80.8%). 85% of the public support President Ma's appeal for the Mainland to show mutual respect and acknowledge Taiwanese public opinions on the issues of Taiwan's international space and participation in regional economic integration (85%).
- The overwhelming majority of the public (88.5%) still supports "maintaining the status quo defined in a broad sense," a figure that has remained highly stable. Regarding the current pace of cross-strait exchanges, 41.5% of the public believe it to be "just right", while 25.8% believe it to be "too fast" and 19.5% "too slow."

I. Survey Background and Methods

In order to understand the public's views on issues concerning cross-strait relations, the Mainland Affairs Council (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 November 8 to 11, 2015. A total of 1,077 valid samples were collected, with a sampling error of 2.99% based on a 95% confidence level.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on the government's Mainland policy

The majority of the people identifies with the government's position on the "1992 Consensus" of "one China with respective interpretations," in which one China means the ROC (60.7%) and identifies with President Ma's approach during the meeting with the Mainland leader of fully elaborating the "1992 Consensus" contents and conveying that the ROC definition of "one China" in the "1992 Consensus" of "one China with respective interpretations" differs from that of the Mainland (61.6%).

(2) Overall views on the meeting between the leaders of the two sides

A majority of the public support the meeting between the leaders of the two sides under the principle of "equality and dignity, open and transparent" principle and in the capacities of the "Taiwan leader" and the "Mainland leader" (61.6%), and the approach of not signing any agreements or issuing a joint statement at the meeting (50.9%). Nearly 65% of the public think that the statement by the two sides during the meeting of working together to maintain the peaceful status quo in the Taiwan Strait and safeguard the well-being of the people on both sides of the Strait is conducive to consolidating peace in the Taiwan Strait (64.6%) and feel that the institutionalization and normalization of meetings between the leaders of the two sides would be conducive to long-term peace and stability in cross-strait relations (65.9%).

(3) Views on the positions and statements of President Ma

The vast majority of the public support President Ma's advocacy during the meeting of "reducing hostility and peacefully handling disputes" (75.5%). More than 60% of the public agree with President Ma's proposal of expanding cross-strait exchanges and hope that the Mainland can pragmatically deal with and achieve substantive progress on pending issues between the two sides (such as the establishment of SEF-ARATS reciprocal institutions, Cross-Strait Trade in Goods Agreement, and Mainland tourist transits in Taiwan) (63%). The majority of the public (64.8%) approve President Ma's proposal for a cross-strait hotline be set up between the Minister of the MAC and the Director of the TAO to handle urgent and important issues. On the issue of the Mainland's military deployment against Taiwan, over 80% (80.8%) of the public support President Ma's approach of clearly stating that security and dignity are major concerns of the Taiwanese people and appeal for the Mainland to seriously acknowledge this. Moreover, on the issues of Taiwan's international space and participation in regional economic integration, 85% of the public support President Ma's appeal for the Mainland to uphold an attitude of mutual respect and acknowledge Taiwanese public opinions.

(4) Views on unification or independence

An overwhelming majority of the public (88.5%) still support "maintaining the status quo defined in a broad 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, "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later" enjoys the highest level of support (32.5%), followed by "maintaining the status quo indefinitely" (27.5%).

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

Regarding the current pace of cross-strait exchanges, 41.5% of the public believe it to be "just right", while 25.8% believe it to be "too fast" and 19.5% "too slow."

(6) Public perception on the attitude of the Mainland government toward Taiwan

51.2% of the public believe that the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the ROC government is "unfriendly," higher than the percentage believing it is "friendly" (30.4%). Regarding the Mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the Taiwanese people, 39.6% of the public believe it is friendly, while 46.9% believe it is unfriendly