ACROSS THE TAIWAN STRAIT
Both Taiwan and the Mainland share a common history, language, and cultural heritage. Personnel exchanges and trade and investments across the strait are abundant.
Taiwan and the Mainland could be closer to each other.
Yet the political systems, social conditions, lifestyles, and values developed over the years are strikingly different.
Both sides of the strait have different views on sensitive political issues thus affecting the normalization of cross-Strait relations.
The Mainland authority has never relinquished its military threats, deploying 400 to 500 missiles along southeastern coastal areas in the Mainland, and the number is increasing every year; they are the biggest threat to Taiwan's security and regional stability.
The Mainland has continued to obstruct Taiwan's participation in international organizations. During the WHO Global Conference on SARS in Kuala Lumpur, a Mainland official commented: "Nobody cares about you!" showing indifference toward the feelings of the Taiwan people.
The Mainland’s two-handed strategy has led to potential crisis and problems as cross-Strait exchanges increase.
Improving cross-Strait relations requires willingness from both parties. Further, positive interaction should be carried out based on democracy and parity.
To prevent disorder in cross-Strait exchanges, reduce potential risk and impacts,
we have to establish management and protective mechanisms.
This is the challenge we must face.
The “Act Governing Relations between Peoples of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area” regulates cross-Strait relations and civilian exchanges. The MAC foresaw developments in cross-Strait exchanges, and proposed amendments to the Act to enable the Act to keep pace with current developments.
Whether it is to promote tourism, to enhance cross-Strait financial exchanges, or to implement cross-Strait direct transportation, policy implementation requires concerted efforts from both sides.
The implementation of “One Country, Two Systems” in Hong Kong has caused economic slowdown, undermined human rights, and furthered the deterioration of freedom. It breached the promise of keeping Hong Kong “unchanged for 50 years.”
Maintaining the status quo is the majority view of the people. The future development of cross-Strait relations have many options. It is necessary to respect the freedom of choice of the Taiwan people.
Dialogues and negotiations help narrow the gap between Taiwan and the Mainland. We propose to discard precondition, and communicate our ideas on any issues based on parity and with respect for government authority.
“Maintaining the spirit of goodwill, proactive cooperation, and permanent peace” have always been our policy objectives. It is hoped that both sides can establish a framework for peace and stability to create new possibilities in cross-Strait relations.
Easing tension across the strait and peaceful resolution of disputes are not only the expectations of the international community, but also most consistent with the mutual interests of Taiwan and the Mainland.
As a member of the international community, the Mainland should follow international trend, be more democratic and transparent in implementing its policies.
We hope the Mainland can adopt new thinking and new approach in managing cross-Strait political differences and issues pragmatically.
With goodwill and sincerity,
with confidence and action,
as long as the window of opportunity
is not closed,
better cross-Strait relations will
eventually be realized.
Both sides can take it easy, drink tea and chat. They can likewise coexist and work toward a win-win situation.
We hope that in the future both sides of the strait can become closer to each other without worry.
Taiwan is located close to the Mainland; trade and personnel exchanges are frequent. The two sides are ruled by two governments with neither subordinate to the other. Political and military confrontations have resulted in a delicate cross-Strait relationship.

This book is written in the spirit of “goodwill, cooperation, and peace.” It uses detailed pictures and plain words to explain the current cross-Strait relations and the Government’s basic position and policy. At the same time, it highlights the key cross-Strait issues and the expectations of the international community.

Let us think calmly and use our wisdom to find a way that is consistent with the times and mutually beneficial to both sides of the Strait.