

General Meeting, Cross Party Group on Taiwan
(4th March 2014, 6pm in Committee Room 4, the Scottish Parliament)

1. The incumbent secretary, Mr Kuan-wen Lin, has accomplished his PhD programme and is about to leave Edinburgh. CPG on Taiwan has nominated Mr Hsinyen Lai, PhD student in Politics in Edinburgh University, to take over Kuan-wen's job.
2. Presentation Ed Payne, Head of Strategy, Scottish Development International gave a presentation to the Group, this is summarised below:
 - (1) Scottish Development International (SDI) is the trade and investment arm of: the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, and Highlands and Islands Enterprise;
 - (2) SDI provides professional expert international support to Scottish businesses wishing to trade internationally and inward investors wishing to invest in Scotland;
 - (3) For Scottish businesses we support them to compete globally by helping them develop a planned approach, understand the market opportunities & then support them access these international markets. We have an overseas network of offices in key geographies to support this. Over the longer term we work to improve their competitiveness so they can further expand into new markets and grow overseas sales;
 - (4) For attracting foreign investment SDI has a world class sales and marketing approach focused on promoting the competitive advantage that Scotland has to offer in our globally competitive sectors. Scotland has maintained its position as the 2nd in the UK for attracting investment projects;
 - (5) Taiwan is an important market at SDI has an office in Taipei, Reggie Wu is the SDI Manager in Taipei;
 - (6) Exports to Taiwan in 2012 where £250m an increase of 29% in the last five years;
 - (7) The main exports are food and drink (nearly £200m), other exports include electronics, other manufactured products;
 - (8) SDI's focus is on food and drink, energy, technology, textiles and life sciences;
 - (9) In 2012/13 SDI assisted 34 companies with an interested in Taiwan, this year assisted companies were already over 40;
 - (10) Recent events included:
 - Whisky Live Taipei 2013 Aug.31- Sept.1
 - Royal & Ancient Golf Charity with the British Chamber Oct.4
 - MSP Delegation visitor for National Day, Oct. 9 – 15

- F&D Specialist Visit to Market, Oct. 14 – 17
 - St. Andrews Ball with the British Chamber Nov. 23
 - The Royal Burgh of Stirling Pipe Band performance in Taichung (28 Nov – 2 Dec)
 - Scottish Oyster (Loch Fyne), weekend at the Shangri-La Taipei Hotel (Feb 22-23)
4. An update on the cross-strait relations in Taiwan delivered by Jen-Chung Su, Director General, Taipei Representative Office in the UK, Edinburgh Office.
- (1) On 11 February 2014 , the Minister, Wang Yu-chi, in charge of Mainland affairs met with mainland China’s Minister in charge of Taiwan Affairs Zhang Zhijun in mainland city of Nanjing. In the meeting, they addressed each other by their official title. In the past, to avoid direct government contact, both side use quasi-official organizations to carry out cross-strait interaction. We have Strait Exchange Foundations, they use Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits.
- (2) The cross-strait relation has improved in political and economic affairs. Since 2008 President Ma’s policy of viable diplomacy improved cross-strait tie. 21 agreements in area such as trade, culture, crime fighting and direct flights signed in the past five years. Now, it is over 118 direct flights across straits. The number of visitors from Mainland china reached 2.84 million last year. Additionally, students from mainland China reached 25,000 last year. Mainland China is Taiwan major trade and investment partner.
- (3) Result of the meeting
- agreed to create mechanism to handle major issues in cross-strait relations;
 - Brought up the possibility of a meeting Between our President Ma Ying-jeou and Mainland Chinese leader Xi Jinping;
 - Minister Zhang Zhijun is to visit Taiwan in the near future;
 - To improve medical coverage for Taiwan students study in Mainland China and vice versa.
- (4) The rapprochement toward Mainland China is to improve the people’s life of Taiwan:
- Taiwan economic growth depends on external trade, investment, and consumption;
 - In 2010, Taiwan signed the Cross-Straits Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA); in 2011, bilateral investment agreements with Japan. Taiwan also signed an economic cooperation agreement with New Zealand and signed an economic partnership agreement with Singapore last year;
 - Since Taiwan has signed very few free trade agreements (FTAs) with major economic entity, Taiwan’s economy is in danger of becoming marginalized.

- (5) How to deal with the danger of Taiwan's Economic marginalization?
- To launch free economic pilot zone in Taiwan, to promote Taiwan's further liberalization and internationalization;
 - In 2013, Taiwan resumed talks with the US on the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement;
 - Working to conclude economic cooperation agreements with the ASEAN and the EU;
 - Seeking membership in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP);
- (6) Top priority mission of this office:
- To promote trade between Scotland and Taiwan;
 - To encourage investment to Taiwan;
 - To felicitate the signing of ECA with EU;
 - To work more closely with Scottish Parliament and Government;
 - To serve our people in Scotland;
- (7) A new flash point: East China Sea issue
- Taiwan Strait is no longer a tense flashpoint.
 - A rekindled disputes by Japanese's "nationalized" the Diaoyutai Islands.
 - Follow by the introduction of Mainland China's ADIZ escalated the tension.
 - President Ma call for East China Sea Code of Conduct.
- (8) Some tentative culture & economic exchange activities this year:
- 2-13/June: Taiwan female photographer's photo exhibition at Edinburgh University.
 - 11-12/June: Edinburgh film festival-Taiwan Spotlights Project.
 - 6-20/June: Orchid Exhibition at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
 - 18-27/July: Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival
 - 1-10/August: Two performance groups sent by Council of Indigenous Peoples to participate the Fringe.
 - August: Five performance groups to join the Fringe.
 - 19-21/August: An international prestigious Taiwan female dancer Fang-yi Sheu to perform at EIF (gnosis)
 - 24/October-2/November: Scottish International Storytelling Festival.
5. Director General Su will address a topic on tourism industry in Taiwan on next CPG meeting on June 3rd.

Attendance Figure: 18

MSP Attendance Figure: 6