

Cross-Party Group on Taiwan Meeting

Date: 6:00pm, 27.03.2019

Venue: Committee Room 5, The Scottish Parliament

Key Points

- The Co-Convenor, James Dornan MSP, chaired the meeting and warmly welcomed the members and friends of the CPG on Taiwan to the meeting. The previous meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the members of the CPG on Taiwan.

Update on CPG on Taiwan's Recent Developments:

- The Director General of the Taipei Representative Office (TRO) in Edinburgh, Jason C.C. Lien, provided an introduction of the contribution that both Dr Maxwell Senior and Dr Maxwell Junior made in Taiwan 150 years ago. He noted that today, Taiwan would like to carry the torch of realising WHO's vision of health as a human right.
- Dr Maxwell Senior, one of the pioneering Scottish missionaries (the first Scotsman to have come to Taiwan), was the first to introduce modern hospital and medicine to Formosa (the former name of Taiwan). He landed in Takao (former name of Kaohsiung) in 1865, and began his medical and evangelistic work in Tainan. He opened the first western-style hospital, Sin-Lau Hospital (新樓醫院), which is still in operation today and has also been expanded. Not only did Dr Maxwell Senior provide medical treatment to the local people, which included Taiwan's indigenous people, he also united them spiritually. Both Dr Maxwell Senior and his son (Dr Maxwell Junior) were devoted in medical mission work in southern Taiwan, which had opened a path of care and study that many foreign missionaries have then followed.
- Today, Taiwan is renowned for its success in achieving universal health coverage (the Taiwanese model of NHS). Taiwan has also managed to eradicate several deadly tropical diseases, e.g. malaria, and more importantly, Taiwan has transformed itself from a recipient of foreign aid to a provider of international humanitarian assistance. Taiwan has trained thousands of medical professionals and doctors from around the world in medical technologies and microsurgeries and held numerous workshops to strengthen the capacity to diagnose and prevent Zika, dengue fever, and MERS in the Asia Pacific region.
- Taiwan's experience has actively helped many people in need just like the role Dr Maxwell Senior played 150 years ago. However, Taiwan was not invited to attend the WHA in 2017 and 2018 and it is unclear if Taiwan will be invited this year. Despite the fact that Taiwan only has limited access to participate in WHA meetings, during the Ebola virus outbreak, Taiwan donated more than \$1 million USD to WHO to help fight the outbreak. Taiwan is determined to participate in international medical corporation and will continue to do what it can do to support the international community.

Guest Presentation:

- James Dornan MSP remarked that he is very excited about the presentation, especially it is related to one of the Scotsmen who have made a difference to the world and thanked the guest speakers for coming along to the meeting to share their recent experience of visiting Taiwan with everyone.
- Hilarie Burnett shared with everyone her journey from Highland Perthshire to Taiwan with her husband Peter Hounam. She began by noting that her mother was born in the hospital her great grandfather (Dr Maxwell Senior) built in Taiwan. Her family were offered a lot of help despite the language barrier. Hilarie and Peter also visited Sin-Lau Hospital (新樓醫院) and one of the many Presbyterian Churches Dr Maxwell Senior established. The following were what Hilarie had realised concerning the contribution that her great-grandfather had made in Taiwan 150 years ago. Hilarie noted that her great-grandfather introduced Western medicine to Taiwan; started the first hospital and built the first elevator for patients; trained local people in medicine and pharmacology; brought in the Christian Presbyterian faith; Romanised the local language and taught its use; then translated the New Testament and published it in his new script; and also introduced the first printing press from Arbroath. Hilarie and Peter also visited many places in Taiwan, e.g. the National Palace Museum, Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, the Taroko

National Park, Kenting, Alishan, etc. Hilarie noted that it was easy to travel around Taiwan even though the people they encountered were unable to speak much English.

- James Dornan MSP remarked that how the difference Scotsmen have made to the world could sometimes go unrecognised back home and suggested that perhaps there is something that the Scottish Government can do to honour the contribution that Dr Maxwell Senior had made abroad.

Attendance:

- James Dornan MSP (Co-Convener, Chair)
- Rhoda Grant MSP (Co-Convener)
- Alison Harris MSP
- Sean Ferguson
- Alexander Griffiths
- Jason C.C. Lien (Director General, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
- Mindy Chia-Min Chang (Assistant Director, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
- Daniel Wei-Ting Hu (Assistant Director, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
- Blanca Kao (Secretary, CPG on Taiwan)
- Mr. Peter Hounam
- Mrs. Hilarie Burnett
- Rosemary Ellison
- Hsien-Lin Ro
- Philip Chan
- Shao-Hsuan Liu
- Chu-Wei Kuo
- Victor Wei
- Thomas Tan
- Jenny Chen
- Tze-chun Hsiao-Maxwell
- Ariel Liu