

## Cross-Party Group on Taiwan Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Date: 6:00pm, 05.06.2019

Venue: Q1.03, The Scottish Parliament

### Action Point

#### Annual General Meeting (AGM):

- Margaret Mitchell MSP chaired the AGM and welcomed the members and friends of the CPG on Taiwan to the meeting. Margaret Mitchell MSP noted that Co-Conveners James Dornan MSP, Rhoda Grant MSP and herself are willing to stand again as the Office Bearers (Co-Conveners) of the CPG on Taiwan if there is no objection. It was unanimously agreed that Margaret Mitchell MSP, Rhoda Grant MSP and James Dornan MSP will continue to be the Co-conveners of the CPG on Taiwan and that Blanca Kao will continue to be the Secretary of the group.
- Mindy Chang, Assistant Director of the Taipei Representative Office (TRO) in Edinburgh, provided a brief review of the CPG meetings held in 2018/2019. She noted that three CPG on Taiwan meetings had been held in 2018 with presentations on 'Circular Economy in Taiwan', Tea tasting and the formal establishment of Taiwanese Scholars Association of Scotland (TSAS). In 2019, 3 CPG on Taiwan meetings have been held thus far, including presentations on 'Scotland Taiwan Chamber of Commerce (STCC)', 'Scotland Taiwanese Association (STA)', and 'the contribution of Dr James Laidlaw Maxwell Senior and Dr James Laidlaw Maxwell Junior to Taiwan'. The Assistant Director remarked that the CPG on Taiwan has established a firm foundation for cooperation between Taiwan and Scotland and that she is very pleased to have Susan Pacitti to speak to everyone about the cultural cooperation between Taiwan and Scotland in this meeting. For the next CPG on Taiwan meeting in September, the Assistant Director noted that we will have the honour to have Prof. Ava Hsueh, former Director of National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, to come to Edinburgh to speak to us about the important exhibitions in the museum and the important development of Taiwanese contemporary art in the context of globalisation.
- Margaret Mitchell MSP introduced the guest speaker, Susan Pacitti – Publishing, Commissioning and Licensing Manager of Glasgow Museums, to the audience. She noted that the annual Creative Expo Taiwan has been showcasing Taiwan's culture and creativity since 2010. This year the Creative Expo Taiwan 2019 has adopted the theme of 'Culture on the Move' to bring together culture and time by connecting historical spaces to create a 'Cultural Corridor', and Susan was invited to attend the Creative Expo Taiwan and will share with us her visit to the Creative Expo.

#### Guest Presentation:

- Susan Pacitti noted that she was very excited about the opportunity to go back to Taiwan again and attend the Creative Expo. Prior to Susan's visit to the Creative Expo in April, Susan had previously lived in Taiwan for five years with her parents who were Church of Scotland missionaries. Before sharing with everyone her visit to the Creative Expo, Susan provided an introduction to Glasgow Museums and collections. Susan noted that the mission statement of Glasgow Museums is 'Connecting people, objects and place' and that she could see that being a recurrent theme everywhere in Taiwan, and indeed in museums, communities and cultural institutions across the world. Susan noted that Glasgow Museums belong to Glasgow City Council and are a branch of Glasgow Life, a trading name for Culture and Sport Glasgow. She noted that Glasgow Museums have huge collections and house over five million objects splitting across museums in the City. Glasgow Museums' collections are recognised as 'one of the greatest civic collections in Europe' by Neil MacGregor, the former Director of British Museum. In addition, Glasgow Museums' collections are also recognised by the Scottish Government as of National Significance and are the largest civic Museums Service in the UK outwith London. Glasgow Museums are Glasgow City's best-known tourist attractions and are open all year round. Glasgow Museums Service is also fully accredited, which means the Museums Service is governed by legislation and it provides account of what it does to ensure Glasgow Museums are run ethically and responsibly.

- On the subject of her visit to the Creative Expo Taiwan, Susan remarked that the Expo was incredibly well-organised. The Expo was organised by the Ministry of Culture. It ran across 12 days in five locations spread across the city showcasing Taiwan's crafts, design, history, lifestyle, performing arts and the latest cultural and design trends. Susan shared with everyone the performing arts, museums and places that she has seen and been in Taiwan, and noted that she really enjoyed her visit to Taiwan.

#### **Attendance**

1. Margaret Mitchell MSP (Co-Convener, Chair)
2. Rhoda Grant MSP (Co-Convener)
3. Alexander Griffiths
4. Kate Fry
5. Mindy Chia-Min Chang (Assistant Director, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
6. Susie Cheng (Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
7. Blanca Kao (Secretary, CPG on Taiwan)
8. Susan Pacitti (Guest Speaker)
9. Sheng-Feng Huang
10. Thomas Tan
11. David Birrell
12. Yupin Chung
13. Helen Robertson
14. Philip Chan
15. Chih-Jen Lin
16. Can Chi

#### **Apologies:**

1. James Dornan MSP (Co-Convener)
2. Elaine Smith
3. Jason C.C. Lien (Director General, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
4. Daniel Wei-Ting Hu (Assistant Director, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)