

Cross-Party Group on Taiwan Meeting

Date: 6:00pm, 27/11/2019

Venue: Q1.03, The Scottish Parliament

Apologies: Margaret Mitchell MSP, Rhoda Grant MSP, Ian McKee

- Richard Lyle MSP welcomed members and friends of the CPG on Taiwan to the meeting, and shared with everyone his experience of visiting Taiwan in October. He noted that he was very pleased with the hospitality he received from Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) during his stay and would like to pass on his thanks to MOFA.
- The previous meeting minutes dated 25th September 2019 has been approved unanimously.

Update on Taiwan's Recent Developments:

- Being aware of the fact that some guests were new to the meeting, Jason C.C. Lien, the Director General of Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh, took a few minutes to introduce the CPG on Taiwan.
- Speaking of Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organisations, which China insists that it must be handled in line with the "One China" principle, Jason reiterated that Taiwan has never and will never capitulate under the pressure from China. Taiwan is willing and able to contribute to the international community as well as to the collective effort to realise 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Jason further noted that the 25th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP25) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will take place in Spain in December, and he has been to the session five times in the past. Faced with the impact of extreme weather events, Taiwan has developed a great deal of relevant expertise, and is willing to share this with the world in terms of environmental governance, disaster prevention and warning, green finance, innovation and technology, etc. With what Taiwan has to offer, Taiwan should be given the opportunity to participate in global mechanisms, negotiations and activities that promote the implementation of the Paris Agreement in just the same way as any other country.
- Jason remarked that he is very pleased to see that Taiwanese youths are getting involved in public affairs and increasingly engaging with social issues through TW-PASE platform. In the past, Taiwanese overseas students had played an important role in the development of Taiwanese democracy, especially during the martial law ruling period. Taiwanese overseas students, e.g. alumni of Edinburgh University, the founding father of DPP (Mr. Hsin-Liang Hsu), etc. were core persons to Taiwan's democratisation. Jason wished Taiwan Public Affairs and Social Engagement Association (TW-PASE) and everyone every success.

Guest Presentation: "Taiwanese Oversea Youth Engagement in Public, Social and Political Affairs"

- The President of Taiwan Public Affairs and Social Engagement Association (TW-PASE), Vivi Lin, gave a presentation that touched on (1) youth engagement; (2) the establishment of TW-PASE; and (3) connecting the world. More specifically, she discussed at length why overseas youth engagement in public, social and political affairs is important and the reasons why TW-PASE was founded. Vivi Lin also provided an introduction to other Taiwanese overseas youth's groups.
- On the importance of youth engagement, Vivi Lin noted that "it is our future, and therefore, we deserve the right to represent our own interests." Furthermore, youth occupies almost half of the world population according to the World Bank, who have a wide range of different perspectives to offer. Additionally, youth engagement can help eliminate the sense of political alienation amongst youths.
- On the reasons why TW-PASE was founded, Vivi Lin noted that she and the founding members felt that there seems to be (1) a lack of safe, respectful and interactive space for youth engagement; (2) a lack of understanding of and attention to East Asian affairs; and (3) an urgent need for initiating a dialogue for youth engagement. Consequently, Vivi Lin and the founding members decided to establish TW-PASE, which provides a safe and respectful space and an active and interactive social forum for everyone. TW-PASE hosts a reading club that empowers everyone, hold seminars on selected topics and serves as a deliberative forum for dialogues and debates on contested issues via a deliberative discussion framework.

- Vivi Lin noted that the mission of TW-PASE is to raise awareness, to encourage social proactivity and to foster discussion on Taiwan's public affairs. In addition, TW-PASE also seeks to increase the visibility of Taiwan in the international community and connect people who care about Taiwan and are willing to support Taiwan together.

Discussion:

- James Dornan MSP and Richard Lyle MSP suggested that TW-PASE could perhaps link up with other youth activist groups in Scotland and organise an event together at the Scottish Parliament. James Dornan MSP noted that he would be happy to provide contact details for this.

Attendance:

1. James Dornan MSP (Co-Convenor, Chair)
2. Richard Lyle MSP
3. Sean Ferguson
4. Kayla Koerting
5. Jason C.C. Lien (Director General, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
6. Mindy Chia-Min Chang (Assistant Director, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
7. Daniel Wei-Ting Hu (Assistant Director, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
8. Blanca Kao (Secretary, CPG on Taiwan)
9. Vivi Lin (Guest Speaker)
10. Danielle Thomson
11. Thomas Tan
12. Chih-Jen Lin
13. Philip Chan
14. Claudia Li
15. Joanne Chang
16. Chiawei Wang
17. Alan Wan
18. Mir Jame
19. Simon Chiu
20. Hsin-Yen Lai