

Minutes for the Meeting and AGM of the Cross Party Group on Taiwan

10th February 2016, Committee Room 3, Scottish Parliament

Attendees

Colin Keir MSP (*Co-convener*)

Margaret Mitchell MSP (*Co-convener*)

Jane Hsu (*Director General, Taipei Representative Office in the UK, Edinburgh Office*)

Selena Chih-Han Chang (*Assistant Director, Taipei Representative Office in the UK, Edinburgh Office*)

Aurora Maisie Tsai (*Assistant Director, Taipei Representative Office in the UK, Edinburgh Office*)

Hsinyen Lai (*Secretary*)

Philip Chan

Boyuan Chang

Susie Cheng

Simon Chiu

Miaochen Gray

Simon Hang

Jing He

Fiona Huang

Lucas Kao

Douglas Kinloch Anderson OBE

Michael Kong

Gary Li

William Loughridge

May Lvsy

Fox Lu

Emma McKenzie

Shahjahan Mir Esq

Alan Salonika

Karen Sim

Merlin Su

Thomas Tan

Chia-Lung Wu

Jenhao Wu

1. Welcome by the co-conveners

Both co-conveners welcomed attendees. Colin Keir MSP explained that this would be the final CPG on Taiwan of the current parliamentary session and the agenda for the current meeting. Minutes to the previous meeting were agreed.

2. AGM

Mr Keir explained the requirement to hold the AGM. It was proposed that the status quo would remain and members agreed to this. Subsequently co-conveners and secretary remain unchanged. Mr Keir explained that this will be subject to future change if the group is re-convened after the Scottish Parliament elections, as he for one is standing down at dissolution.

3. Condolences expressed for the Taiwan Earthquake

Mr Keir expresses his condolences for the tragedy in Taiwan due to the earthquake on 6th of February. This is agreed by all members. Thanks are expressed by the Taipei Representative Office for these remarks.

4. Introduction of the new Director General

Mr Keir on behalf of the CPG on Taiwan introduces and welcomes the new general director of Taipei Representative Office in the UK, Edinburgh Office, Ms Jane Hsu to join her first session of the CPG meeting.

Following Mr Keir's opening remarks and introduction, Ms Hsu then gives her presentation on an update on the political development and cross-strait relations following Taiwanese presidential election.

She firstly gives a brief introduction of Taiwan's new president, Dr Ing-Wen Tsai, and then outlines the future policy priorities of Tsai's administration toward the field of economic and domestic reform. As for cross-strait relations, Director General Hsu says, 'In [Tsai's] post-election speech, Tsai pledged that her administration will build a consistent, predictable, and sustainable cross-strait relationship (based on constitutional order, the results of cross-strait negotiations, interactions and exchanges which are in line with the democratic principles and the will of Taiwanese people. The essence of her message is the maintenance of status quo.' Tsai's cross-strait policy also resonates to her overall foreign policy principle on the basis of 'stability, consistency and forward looking.'

Margaret Mitchell MSP then discussed Ms Hsu's briefing and also welcomed her to the CPG. Ms Mitchell made her apologies as she had to leave early due to other engagements.

Ms Hsu then took questions from members of the CPG on the current political situation in Taiwan

and the current relationship between Taiwan and Scotland.

5. Presentation by Jing He of Ours Travel on tourism between Scotland and Taiwan

Ms Jing He, manager of Ours Travel, gave a presentation on two tourism initiatives she is currently promoting.

She firstly gave a presentation on 'Promoting Whisky Tasting Tourism'. Ms He outlined a new tour project she is launching aimed at the Taiwanese luxury tourist market. She explained that there is a significant and growing market for Scotch Whisky in Taiwan, and that her tour aimed to tap into this. The tour would involve a tour round Scotland visiting a number of distilleries whilst staying in high-end hotels, sampling Scottish cuisine and taking in the Scottish scenery and culture.

She also gave a presentation on the 'Youth Mobility Scheme'. This is a scheme which aims to promote Taiwan for working holidays to young people in the UK. She explained that Taiwan has a large amount to offer Scottish tourists and that she believed this market would expand.

Mr Keir seconded this, and agreed that Taiwan has a wealth of attractions and makes a fantastic tourist destination.

An open discussion was then had on this around the subject of tourism links between Scotland and Taiwan.

6. Any other business

An opportunity was given to raise any other relevant matters not so far covered.

Mr Keir expressed his gratitude to all members of CPG on Taiwan and friends who have been supporting this group and wished the group continuing success in the new parliamentary term.

General Director Hsu thanked Colin for chairing this group for the past few years and praised him for creating lots of possibilities to strengthen the communication between Taiwan and Scotland. Members seconded this and gave Mr Keir a round of applause.

7. Closing

Mr Keir concluded the meeting and thanked members for their attendance.