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# FAPA UPDATE



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*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world.*

*Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has!"*

*~ Margaret Mead*

*"The world is run by those who show up."*

*~ Unknown*

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## TO FAPA Members:

Ma Ying-jeou was officially inaugurated as the 12<sup>th</sup> President of the "Republic of China" on May 20, marking a return of the KMT to power after eight years of DPP rule. In a democracy, the shifting of political power would be perceived as a normal, democratic process reflecting the voters' wishes to change government and its policies, and would not elicit much concern.

However, Taiwan is not a normal country but a country divided on the view of its future. Ma and his KMT party take the position that the future of Taiwan depends on a close relationship, perhaps ultimate unification, with China. Ma's policy starts with direct charter flights, the Three Links, enhancing Chinese tourism, cultural exchange etc. leading to the signing of a "peace agreement" with China.

We at FAPA are deeply concerned about the implications of Ma's policies. We are worried that close economic and cultural ties with China may lead to political integration, undermining Taiwan's hard earned democracy and its national identity. We are worried that Ma's tilt toward China may thwart arms purchases from the US and weaken Taiwan's defense.

Ma's policy, furthermore, may encourage those countries that have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan to reevaluate their relations with China, further reducing Taiwan's international space. There are many other uncertainties and worries about Taiwan's future under Ma's administration.

FAPA now faces a completely different political landscape in Taiwan. The dreadful KMT is now back in power taking Taiwan down to a direction that is inconsistent with our mission and goals.

Many of you, including us at headquarters, ask the same question of what should we do in face of this new challenge.

In this past month, the staff has compiled Ma's past policy statement and speeches to further understand his policy goals. We also solicited your suggestions and talked to a group of our friends seeking their views and advice. Our expert friends include: Steve Yates, John Tkacik, Rick Fisher, Jerome Keating, June Teufel Dreyer, Nat Bellocchi, Richard Bush, Gordon Chang, Ross Terrill, and others. FAPA headquarters will put all inputs, yours and our friends', together and propose a course of action to the Standing Committee for consideration in the coming meeting in Seattle in June.

We are down but not out by the election debacle. Please remember: there are 42% of Taiwan voters who disagree with Ma's policy and they do not have sufficient representation in Taiwan's government. Their views need to be heard in the US, and FAPA should continue playing a crucial role in speaking up for them. Therefore, let's roll up our sleeves, re-group, set our priority, and march on!

*– Executive Director*

## I Capitol Hill Update

There is little change this month in the status of pending resolutions. The following is a summary of the status of the Congressional resolutions of our interest:

Resolution	About	Number of Co-sponsors
HCR136	High level visit to the U.S. by Taiwan officials	Passed by the House
HR677	Arms sale to Taiwan	Passed by the House
HCR278	Supporting Taiwan's 4 <sup>th</sup> direct and democratic presidential election in March 2008	Passed by the House
HCR137	Free Trade Agreement between U.S. and Taiwan	35
HCR250	Supporting Taiwan's membership in international organizations such as UN	41
HCR73	U.S. should resume diplomatic relations with Taiwan	11
HR1390	Senate confirmation of AIT Director	21
SCR48	High level visit to the U.S. by officials of Taiwan	9
SCR60	Free Trade Agreement between U.S. and Taiwan	4

- ***Congress expresses support for Taiwan into the WHO***

In spite of earlier efforts by Members of Congress in support of Taiwan's inclusion in the international health forum, the annual World Health Assembly in Geneva on May 19 decided not to debate new WHO membership applications. As a result, Taiwan's bid to be seated in the WHA was effectively killed.

Before the Geneva meeting, Reps. Howard Berman and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in a letter to Secretary Rice dated May 8 wrote: "*We believe it is imperative that you renew our government's commitment to assist Taiwan in its effort to secure observer status at the upcoming meeting of the WHA. We also urge you and our representatives to the WHO to protest the 2005 MOU between the WHO and the PRC and the potential negative consequences it has for global public health. Such arrangements threaten the people of Taiwan, the international community, and U.S. interests.*" The letter was co-signed by the four co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus Reps. Steve Chabot, Shelley Berkley, Dana Rohrabacher and Robert Wexler.

In 2005 the WHO and the PRC signed a memorandum of understanding that established specific procedures for the handling of health information between the WHO and Taiwan, where the WHO needs to consult with the PRC first before it can send any medical information or assistance to Taiwan, giving the PRC the authority to decide which information and assistance is passed on to Taiwan's health authorities. The US and other member states have lodged protests against the MOU stating it violates the basic principles for which the WHO stands.

Also, on May 9, the two co-chairs of the Senate Taiwan Caucus, Senators Tim Johnson and James Inhofe, wrote a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, detailing how Taiwan's position vis-à-vis the WHO has deteriorated since the signing of the 2005 MOU between the PRC and the WHO, referring to Taiwan's exclusion as an "*unacceptable situation.*" The two Senators urged the Administration to renew US efforts to help secure a direct relationship for Taiwan with the WHO, "*most immediately through the granting of observer status for Taiwan at the upcoming meeting of the WHA.*"

### • *Medals Awarded*

During the days prior to Taiwan's May 20 Inauguration Day, several Members of the U.S. Congress received one of Taiwan's most prestigious honors from outgoing president Chen Shui-bian, the "Order of the Brilliant Star with Grand Cordon."

Recipients were: CTC co-chairs Steve Chabot, Shelley Berkley, Dana Rohrabacher and Robert Wexler, STC co-chairs Tim Johnson and James Inhofe, and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Senator Sherrod Brown.



Senator Sherrod Brown received the "Brilliant Star" award presented by TECRO Representative, Joseph Wu, on behalf of President Chen Shui-bian. (Front row from right: Gerrit van der Wees, Wen-yen Chen, Joseph Wu, Sen. Brown, Iris Ho)

## II FAPA Affairs

• **FAPA Annual Membership Due:** The deadline for paying membership dues is June 30. As of today, May 30, there are still 1782 (57%) members who have not submitted their annual membership fees yet. The membership is the foundation of FAPA organization. FAPA can not function without your support. Please contact your local chapter president and pay your dues by **June 30** and, of course, any contribution to FAPA would be greatly appreciated.

• **YPG:** FAPA's Young Professional Group not only set up a new website recently, issue a newsletter and fired off misc. letters to the editor (to name but a few of their activities), they are currently in the midst of planning the YPG annual summer conference to be held in Washington DC during the weekend of July 18-21 ([www.fapa.org/taiwanactiondays](http://www.fapa.org/taiwanactiondays)).

This time around though, **the younger generation is extending an invitation to the older generation** to join in their activities.

I hereby encourage the older generation (OPG) to register for this weekend-long conference which has exciting speakers, workshops, social activities etc. and which will be followed by the traditional lobbying Monday on Capitol Hill where we will team up the old with the young.

So, come and join the coming FAPA YPG conference in July. I promise you it will be a wonderful experience for all of us. For more information, please contact Ms. CJ Wang at FAPA headquarters.

• **Rally at the Pacific Health Summit in Seattle:** The 2008 Pacific Health Summit will open its annual meeting in Seattle, Washington, on June 17 which will be attended by the WHO Secretary General, Health Ministers of countries in the region, and prominent health professionals. Initiated by FAPA local chapter president Becky Lee, FAPA and other Taiwanese American organizations are planning to hold a "WHO for Taiwan" rally to call for inclusion of Taiwan into the World

Health Organization. The rally will be held at the Seattle Convention Center from 10 A.M. to noon. If you live in the area, please join us. For detailed information, please call Ms. C.J. Wang at headquarters.

- **Regional Membership Meeting (Seattle):** Taking advantage of the coming Standing Committee meeting in Seattle in June, the headquarters is organizing a regional conference inviting all members in the area to attend. The purpose of the conference, in addition to the usual FAPA business, is to provide an opportunity for our members to know each other, to share advocacy experience, and to exchange ideas of future FAPA work. Please join us.
- **Regional Membership Meeting (Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego, CA):** The headquarters is also planning to hold another regional meeting on the West Coast on October 19. Details will be announced in due time. Please mark your calendar.