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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:

The month of September opened with the preparations for the visit of newly-elected DPP chairwoman Tsai Ing-wen. We were able to get her appointments with several key members of Congress. FAPA also sponsored a dinner party in honor of Dr. Tsai, during which she spoke with passion that DDP will rise again after defeats in the previous elections because of the support of Taiwan people. We also discussed with her about future cooperation between DDP and FAPA in areas of training and promoting Taiwanese cause in the US.

The headquarters also arranged for and accompanied with former Taiwan Presidential Advisor Koo Kwang-ming meetings with several Taiwan policy experts during his stay in DC from September 23 to 26.

The major policy issue that was still before us in September was whether there is a freeze on arms sales to Taiwan. But in spite of many inquiries there was still no news by the end of the month: on September 26th – the last formal day of the Congressional session -- the State Department indicated that "the interagency review was still ongoing."

Another issue which we started working on in September was "Taiwan" in

US passports, certificates of naturalization and birth. Several FAPA members had experienced problems with this, with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and State Department putting "China" or even "PRC" as place of birth instead of "Taiwan". We had a meeting with the Ombudsman Office of the Department of Homeland Security and the Taiwan Desk at the State Department discussing a number of cases which had come to our attention. They did take immediate action and asked us to inform them of further cases coming to our attention.

Additionally, we facilitated contacts of leaders in the Taiwanese American community with the foreign policy advisors in the campaign of presidential candidate, Barack Obama, which had originally been scheduled in July, but later postponed until September.

We also published two articles in the Taipei Times, one on the Ma Administration's meaningless approach to UN "participation" (published on September 4th) and one on the parallel made with the situation between Georgia and Russia (published early October). Furthermore, we did several editorials for the Pacific Times.

*– Executive Director*

## I Capitol Hill Update

### *Arms Sales:*

On September 24, 2008, a Resolution requiring the sales of defensive arms articles to Taiwan was introduced in the House by Congressman Tom Tancredo (R-CO). The Resolution refers to section 3(a) of the Taiwan Relations Act, and states:

*"... the defense articles and defense services described in subsection (b) shall be transferred on a sales basis to Taiwan as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act."*

In the subsequent section it refers to the following specific defense items:

*"... diesel electric submarines or relevant designs, Mark-48 ASW torpedoes, Harpoon submarine-launched anti-ship cruise missiles, PAC-3 missile defense systems, Paladin self-propelled howitzers, Apache helicopters, mine-sweeping helicopters, and 66 F-16 C/D fighter planes that were requested by the Government of Taiwan in August 2007."*

Additionally, on September 26, the House passed **HR 6646** "To require the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to provide detailed briefings to Congress on any recent discussions conducted between United States Government and the Government of Taiwan and any potential transfer of defense articles or defense services to the Government of Taiwan." It passed unanimously by voice vote and had 14 sponsors at the time of passage.

### *The State Department Cable:*

Since 1979, the U.S. State Department has sent an annual unclassified memo to all its overseas missions presenting its diplomats with technical hints and tips on how to participate in the celebration.

But suddenly, in 2007 the cable ballooned from a 3911 characters memo into a memo of 7885 characters - i.e. double its size. Reason?

In the 2007 (and 2008 version) there suddenly appears:

- An extensive section on the "One China" policy
- A section stating that Taiwan is not a sovereign, independent country
- A section stating that the US does not support Taiwan's membership in international organizations "that require statehood."

In a letter dated September 28, 2008, in response to the cable issued by the State, co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus Reps. Shelley Berkley (D-NV) and Steve Chabot (R-OH) together with 6 other Representatives urged the State Department to strike the pro-China political references from the cable that the State Department sends annually to all its overseas missions and embassies prior to the annual celebration of "Double Ten."

The Members of Congress write: "[W]hen we compared the 2007/2008 version of the cable with the version of 2006 and before that, we were disturbed by all the added political language, detrimental to democratic Taiwan, which crept into this memo."

They continue: "*We realize that for the past decade or so the People's Republic of China has been pushing the United States for a codification of these issues. It is unacceptable to include such significant policy declarations - ones so detrimental to a U.S. ally - in a technical memo. We respectfully request a full explanation as to why the annual memo was altered so significantly and what the implications are for U.S. policy.*"

### The Status of Congressional Resolutions:

The following is a latest summary of the co-sponsorship of Congressional resolutions of our interest. Please note that HR6646 was unanimously passed by the House and referred to Senate Committee.

| 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  | 42                    |
| HCR250     | Supporting Taiwan's membership in international organizations such as UN                      | 44                    |
| HCR73      | U.S. should resume diplomatic relations with Taiwan   | 22                    |
| HR1390     | Senate confirmation of AIT Director   | 26                    |
| SCR48      | High level visit to the U.S. by officials of Taiwan   | 9                     |
| SCR60      | Free Trade Agreement between U.S. and Taiwan  | 5                     |
| HR6646     | Briefing to Congress on arms transfer to Taiwan   | Passed by the House   |
| HR7059     | Arms sales to Taiwan  | 1                     |

## II FAPA Affairs

- **FAPA Annual Membership Dues:**

As of September 30, there are still 459 members who have not paid their dues yet. We urge our chapter presidents to do their utmost to invite them back. When Taiwan is facing tremendous challenges both internally and externally, we need more Taiwanese American involvement, not less.

- **Regional Membership Meeting**

The South-West Regional Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 19, from 2 PM to 5PM, in Irvine Atrium Hotel. Please contact

L.A., Orange Country, and San Diego chapter presidents for details. We sincerely invite all members in the region to participate.

- **FAPA Regional Boards Election:**

According to FAPA Bylaws, September and October are the months for FAPA chapters to conduct elections to elect their new officers. Additionally, 14 chapters with over 60 active members are eligible for electing one more regional board member each. Please consult the Summer Issue of FAPA Newsletter for details.

- **Recent FAPA Staff Speech:**

This month FAPA President and staff members have visited several chapters: President Yang was invited to speak at the NATMA annual meeting in New Jersey on September 6 and FAPA Sacramento Chapter on September 13; Wen-yen attended Las Vegas Chapter meeting on August 26; Coen and Iris were invited to speak in Toronto and Chicago on September 20 and 27 respectively. DPP representative in DC Mike Fonte was also invited to speak at Georgia Chapter meeting on September 28.

- **The Coming Speech Tour:**

FAPA HQ has invited Mr. Cheng Hong-yi, the most popular talk show host in Taiwan, to tour the US and raise funds for FAPA. Mr.

Cheng will be in the US from October 31 to November 6. His speech tour schedule is as follows:

October 31: New York City  
 November 1: Washington, DC  
 November 2: Houston  
 November 3: Seattle  
 November 5: Los Angeles

Please go to [www.fapa.org](http://www.fapa.org) for details.

- **Chapter Donations to the Headquarters.**

In response to President Yang's call for help, many chapters have graciously decided to return 30% reimbursement of membership dues and to conduct fundraising activities for the HQ to help ease FAPA current financial situation. The list of those chapters is shown in this table. We thank you all.

| Chapter      | Chapter Pledge    | Donation Received from Chapter | Conducting Fundraising | Waive 30% of Membership Reimbursement | Total Contributed from Chapter |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CA-N         | \$5,000.00        |                                | YES                    |                                       | -                              |
| CA-SAC       | 200 Shirts        |                                | \$2,000                | \$1,492.50                            | <b>\$3,492.50</b>              |
| CA-SD        |                   | \$500.00                       |                        | \$441.00                              | <b>\$941.00</b>                |
| DC           |                   | \$1,000.00                     |                        | \$1,030.50                            | <b>\$2,030.50</b>              |
| DE           |                   |                                | \$1,000.00             | \$240.00                              | <b>\$1,240.00</b>              |
| FL-S         |                   |                                |                        | \$534.00                              | <b>\$534.00</b>                |
| FL-TAMPA     |                   |                                |                        | \$300.00                              | <b>\$300.00</b>                |
| GA           |                   |                                | YES                    | \$699.00                              | <b>\$699.00</b>                |
| HI           |                   |                                |                        | \$603.00                              | <b>\$603.00</b>                |
| IL           |                   |                                | YES                    |                                       | -                              |
| KS           |                   | \$1,500.00                     |                        | \$558.00                              | <b>\$2,058.00</b>              |
| LA           |                   |                                |                        | \$309.00                              | <b>\$309.00</b>                |
| MA           |                   |                                | \$5,170.00             | \$993.00                              | <b>\$6,163.00</b>              |
| MI           |                   | \$600.00                       |                        | \$430.50                              | <b>\$1,030.50</b>              |
| MO           |                   |                                | YES                    | \$438.00                              | <b>\$438.00</b>                |
| NC           |                   |                                |                        | \$610.50                              | <b>\$610.50</b>                |
| NJ           |                   | \$500.00                       | \$500.00               |                                       | <b>\$1,000.00</b>              |
| OK           |                   | \$302.44                       |                        |                                       | <b>\$302.44</b>                |
| OR-SWWA      |                   | \$1,000.00                     |                        |                                       | <b>\$1,000.00</b>              |
| WA           |                   | \$3,000.00                     |                        | \$453.00                              | <b>\$3,453.00</b>              |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>\$5,000.00</b> | <b>\$8,402.44</b>              | <b>\$8,670.00</b>      | <b>\$9,132.00</b>                     | <b>\$26,204.44</b>             |