



FAPA News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear FAPA family and friends,

As 2023 comes to an end, I am honored to report to you on the recent progress of FAPA HQ. This will be my last letter as my four-year term as FAPA president comes to an end.

This fall, I had the privilege of visiting five local chapters and held a fruitful in-person meeting with the Standing Committee in Chicago, exchanging opinions on many issues. Additionally, FAPA HQ's staff delivered speeches at some chapter meetings. The feedback was positive, with discussions focusing on the advancement and advocacy of Taiwan-related bills, and incorporating valuable suggestions from our members to continuously improve FAPA.

In mid-September, I participated in the joint annual meeting of the World Federation of Taiwanese Associations (WFTA) and the European Federation of Taiwanese Associations (EFTA) in Vilnius, Lithuania as the president of FAPA. We spoke on behalf of the Taiwanese community worldwide, expressing the strong unity of the Taiwanese people.

The three-day National Advocacy Conference (NAC) was held in Washington, D.C., from September 30 to October 2, with about one hundred FAPA members in attendance. Participants collectively strategized on congressional advocacy and applied what they learned the next Monday through grassroots advocacy on Capitol Hill, promoting pro-Taiwan bills. We were honored to have Taiwan Ambassador to the U.S., Bi-khim Hsiao, attend the NAC banquet, where she presented the "Order of Brilliant Star with Special Grand Cordon" to Coen Blaauw on behalf of Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen. This recognition from the Taiwan government is a testament to FAPA's longstanding dedication to U.S.-Taiwan relations, and it belongs to all our members!

In early October, FAPA HQ worked with U.S. Congressman Lance Gooden (R-TX) to introduce a resolution urging the Biden administration to invite Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Summit in November in San Francisco. On behalf of FAPA, I urged various Taiwanese-American organizations to collect petitions from their members to amplify the voice of the Taiwanese-American community.

Furthermore, on October 28, we invited U.S. Congresswoman Michelle Steel (R-CA) to be a guest speaker for FAPA's "The View From Capitol Hill Series" event. It was an outstanding opportunity for us to bring FAPA's issues of concern to the attention of a member of Congress.

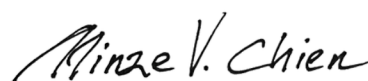
In recent months, there have been significant developments in U.S.-Taiwan relations. In mid-August, Taiwan's Vice President Lai Ching-te of Taiwan transited through New York and San Francisco during his official visit to its diplomatic ally, Paraguay. This U.S. transit was a tangible implementation of the "Taiwan Travel Act" passed in 2018. Later, on August 23, the U.S. government announced the 11th arms sale to Taiwan approved under President Joe Biden, and shortly after, announced an \$80 million military aid package through the "Foreign Military Financing" (FMF) program, typically reserved for sovereign nations. This development is seen as a subtle endorsement of Taiwan's sovereign independence by the Biden administration.

"You are the cornerstone of FAPA's growth and it is your trust and authorization that allowed me to serve with confidence during my four-year term as your president."

In mid-September, the co-chairs of the U.S. Congressional Taiwan Caucus, Congressmen Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Ami Bera (D-CA), and Andy Barr (R-KY), issued a joint statement supporting Taiwan's participation in the United Nations and other international organizations. The co-chairs reiterated the content of the "Taiwan International Solidarity Act" (H.R. 1176), emphasizing that the UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 "did not address the issue of representation of Taiwan and its people in the United Nations or any related organizations." They also opposed using the resolution as a justification for denying Taiwan's participation on the world stage.

In recent years, each session of Congress has seen several pro-Taiwan bills introduced, sparking discussions on Capitol Hill. While not every bill may successfully pass, progress is being made step by step. It is undeniable that the level of interest in Taiwan-related issues and U.S.-Taiwan relations has reached new heights since the break of diplomatic ties with Taiwan. In this period, FAPA should examine all resources and strategies, adjust our focus as needed, and move forward boldly at the opportune moment. I believe the ultimate goal of FAPA is within sight.

Finally, I want to express special thanks to each and every member for your hard work and enthusiastic participation. You are the cornerstone of FAPA's growth and it is your trust and authorization that allowed me to serve with confidence during my four-year term as your president. I am deeply grateful and firmly believe that with everyone's contributions, FAPA will continue to thrive and make even greater contributions to promoting U.S.-Taiwan relations. I wish the new FAPA President a prosperous and successful term. Thank you all for your hard work! See you soon!



FAPA National President

會長的話

敬愛的FAPA會員與朋友們，大家好：

隨著2023年末將至，很榮幸再次向大家報告總部近期的工作進展，這也是我承擔FAPA四年會長職責的最後一封信。

這個秋季，我共訪問了五個分會，並與Standing Committee在芝加哥舉辦了一場豐碩的實體會議，交流各項會務意見。此外，FAPA總部員工也在多場分會會議上進行演講。整體而言，會議演講的反饋良好，討論多著墨於台美相關法案之推進與倡議策略，並吸取會員們的寶貴建議，讓FAPA能不斷修正精進，戮力前行。

在9月中，我有幸以FAPA會長的身分，前往立陶宛首都維爾紐斯，參加世界台灣同鄉會（WFTA）和歐洲台灣協會（EFTA）的聯合年會。我們在會議中向全世界發聲，傳達台灣人團結強大的聲音。

為期三天的FAPA「國會倡議大會」（NAC）於9月30日至10月2日在華府盛大舉行，約一百位FAPA會員共襄盛舉。在會議中，與會者共同研究國會倡議策略，並在隨後的星期一實際應用所學，在國會山莊進行草根倡議，推動友台法案。我們很榮幸邀請到台灣駐美大使蕭美琴親臨NAC晚宴，並代表台灣總統蔡英文頒授「大綬景星勳章」予昆布勞（Coen Blaauw）。這也是台灣政府對於FAPA長期耕耘台美關係的肯定，榮耀歸與全體會員！

10月初，FAPA總部和美國聯邦眾議員古登（Lance Gooden, R-TX）攜手合作，提出一項決議案，呼籲拜登政府邀請台灣總統蔡英文出席今年11月在舊金山舉行的「亞太經濟合作會議」（APEC）領袖峰會。對此，我代表FAPA，敦促各台美人組織請求向其會員們收集請願信，藉此壯大台美人的訴求。

此外，10月28日，我們邀請到美國聯邦眾議員朴銀珠（Michelle Steel, R-CA）擔任FAPA「國會山莊觀點系列」（The View From Capitol Hill Series）講座來賓。對我們來說，這是個絕佳機會，能讓國會議員更加了解FAPA所關注的議題。

近幾個月以來，台美關係也多有突破。8月中，台灣副總統賴清德在出訪友邦巴拉圭的途中，過境美國紐約和舊金山，此次停留亦是2018年《台灣旅行法》（Taiwan Travel Act）的確切落實。隨後在8月23日，美國政府宣布批准自總統拜登（Joe Biden）就任以來的第11次對台軍售。數日後，美國首度宣布將透過通常保留於援助主權獨立國家的「外國軍事融資」（Foreign Military Financing, FMF）計畫，提供台灣8000萬美元之軍援。此一進展，更被解讀為拜登政府借此暗挺台灣主權獨立之地位。

「您是FAPA成長茁壯的基石。正是大家的信任與授權，才能讓我在過去四年會長任期，毫無顧忌勇於任事，心中萬分感謝。」



9月中，美國聯邦眾議院「國會台灣連線」共同主席康諾里（Gerry Connolly, D-VA）、迪馬里（Mario Diaz-Balart, R-FL）、貝拉（Ami Bera, D-CA）與巴爾（Andy Barr, R-KY）發表共同聲明，堅定支持台灣參與聯合國及其他國際組織。四位共同主席並援引《台灣國際團結法案》（Taiwan International Solidarity Act），重申聯合國大會第2758號決議「並未解決台灣及其人民在聯合國或任何相關組織中的代表權問題」，並反對以此聯大決議當成禁止台灣參與國際社會的依據。

近年來，美國國會的任一會期，總有多項友台法案在國會山莊吸睛登場並引發討論；雖非每案都能闖關成功，但逐步推動終有進展。無疑地，台灣議題與台美關係之熱絡程度，已然達到美台斷交以來的新高度。值此關鍵時刻，FAPA更應檢視一切資源與策略，適時調整工作重點，抓準時機、勇往直前。我堅信，要實現FAPA之終極目標，已見曙光。

最後，我要特別感謝每一位會員的辛勤付出和熱忱參與。。我深信，因為大家的付出，FAPA必將繼續蓬勃發展，為促進台美關係做出更多貢獻。

我也要藉此機會，祝福FAPA新任會長推展會務順利，蒸蒸日上。感謝大家勞心勞力！我們後會有期！

Minze V. Chien

FAPA總會長
簡明子 謹上



Photo by Caleb Fisher on Unsplash

CAPITOL WATCH

News from The Hill & Beyond

SIX REPRESENTATIVES URGE VP HARRIS TO MEET WITH TAIWAN VP LAI CHING-TE DURING AUGUST U.S. TRANSIT

On July 26, six members of Congress signed a letter calling on Vice President Kamala Harris to meet with Taiwan Vice President Lai Ching-te during his transit stops through the U.S. last August. Lai was transiting through the U.S. on his way to visit diplomatic ally Paraguay.

Representatives led by Tom Tiffany composed a letter calling on Harris to meet with Lai when he transits in the U.S. They pointed out that as a senator in 2018, Harris voted in favor of the Taiwan Travel Act, which makes it U.S. policy to encourage high-ranking White House officials to travel to Taiwan and meet with their Taiwanese counterparts.

PRESIDENT BIDEN SIGNS LAW APPROVING FIRST PART OF U.S.-TAIWAN TRADE PACT

On August 7, President Joe Biden signed into law the “United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade First Agreement Implementation Act,” which approved

the first agreement of a bilateral trade initiative between the U.S. and Taiwan.

After a year of negotiations, the U.S. and Taiwan signed the “first agreement” under the trade initiative on June 1, seeking to facilitate bilateral trade and investment flows by streamlining customs and border procedures, setting standards for “good regulatory practices” and “services domestic regulation,” and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises.

TAIWANESE AMERICANS WELCOME TAIWAN VP LAI CHING-TE TO THE U.S.

Publishing a full-page color ad in Section A of the Washington Times on August 11, several Taiwanese American “Friends of Lai” groups welcomed Taiwan Vice President Lai Ching-te to the United States.

Lai arrived in New York on August 12, transiting in the city on his way to South America. He stopped over in San Francisco on August 16 and 17 on his way back to Taipei.

U.S. ANNOUNCES FIRST-EVER FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING (FMF) ASSISTANCE TO TAIWAN

The Biden administration approved the first-ever transfer of U.S. military assistance to Taiwan under the U.S. State Department’s “Foreign Military Financing” (FMF) program, which is typically reserved for assistance to sovereign, independent states.

A U.S. State Department spokesperson, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: “On August 29, 2023, the Administration notified Congress of its intent to provide Taiwan with \$80 million in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) assistance.”

25 REPRESENTATIVES CALL UPON SECRETARY BLINKEN TO INVITE PRESIDENT TSAI TO NOVEMBER APEC SUMMIT IN SAN FRANCISCO

Rep. Lance Gooden (R-TX) and 24 co-signatories, in a second letter to Secretary Antony Blinken dated September 19, renewed his call for the Biden administration to extend a formal invitation to President Tsai to participate in the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' summit in San Francisco.

This letter was co-signed by 24 Republican members of Congress: Michael McCaul (TX), Gus Bilirakis (FL), Tom Tiffany (WI), Andy Ogles (TN), Bill Johnson (OH), Jake Ellzey (TX), Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA), Scott DesJarlais (TN), Russell Fry (SC), John Rose (TN), Burgess Owens (UT), Michael Guest (MS), Keith Self (TX), George Santos (NY), Ralph Norman (SC), Chris Smith (NJ), Brian Babin (TX), Jake LaTurner (KS), Guy Reschenthaler (PA), Cory Mills (FL), Dan Newhouse (WA), John Duarte (CA), Earl L. "Buddy" Carter (GA), and Larry Bucshon (IN).

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES OGLES AND WEBER CALL UPON ELON MUSK TO "REEVALUATE HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE TAIWANESE NATION"

In a letter to Elon Musk dated September 20, U.S. Representatives Andy Ogles (R-TN) and Randy Weber (R-TX) concluded:

"Mr. Musk, Taiwan is not part of the PRC and its free will certainly isn't for sale. There is little credible basis for a statement that somehow ties Taiwan to Chinese rule, and certainly no basis for tying Taiwan to CCP rule. They are their own country now, with a robust, representative democracy and one of the top performing economies in the entire world. They've long since embraced a "Taiwanese" identity and a desire to fully engage with fellow countries in all types of international fora. Instead of dismissing these aspirations – which are based on a history of decidedly not being an integral part of China – I would urge you to re-evaluate your own understanding of the Taiwanese nation."

SENATORS BLACKBURN AND MARKEY PUSH FOR MANDARIN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS WITH TAIWAN OVER CHINA

On September 26, U.S. Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Ed Markey (D-MA) introduced a resolution (S.Res.363) urging U.S. colleges and universities to support the U.S.-Taiwan Education Initiative and collaborate with Taiwan to create Mandarin-language education programs as an alternative to China's propaganda-fueled Confucius Institutes.

The number of Confucius Institutes, which teach Chinese language and culture to U.S. university students, has dropped from more than 100 in 2017 to just seven in early 2023, a report published by Axios said on September 25.

The bipartisan resolution calls on U.S. institutions of higher learning to support the U.S.-Taiwan Education Initiative by creating Taiwanese-run language programs in favor of language programs run by the Chinese government, the report said.

GROUNDBREAKING TIFFANY AMENDMENTS ON TRANSIT STOPS AND COMMUNICATION PASS THE HOUSE

On September 28, the U.S. House approved two amendments authored by Congressman Tom Tiffany (R-WI) to the Department of State Appropriations Act. Both measures would sweep away administrative barriers to U.S.-Taiwan cooperation.

The first amendment by Rep. Tiffany would end the State Department policy of relegating Taiwan's elected leaders to short U.S. transits in cities that are often far away from Washington, D.C. The second amendment would remove unnecessary and counter-productive limits on communication and cooperation with Taiwanese officials imposed by the State Department through a 2021 memo.

"Mr. Chairman, why do we allow the State Department – through a bureaucratic memo – to impose these unnecessary and counter-productive limits on communication and cooperation with Taiwan?"

"We don't have rules like this in place for the totalitarian rulers of Cuba or Russia... Both of whom operate embassies just a few miles away from where we are standing right now."

15 REPRESENTATIVES INTRODUCE LEGISLATION CALLING UPON BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO INVITE PRESIDENT TSAI TO NOVEMBER APEC SUMMIT IN SAN FRANCISCO

On October 3, Rep. Lance Gooden (R-TX) introduced HCR71 demanding President Biden to extend an invitation to Taiwan's president to attend this year's APEC forum on an equal footing with leaders of other APEC member states.

Co-sponsors include Bill Johnson (R-OH), Tom Tiffany (R-WI), George Santos (R-NY), Burgess Owens (R-UT), Rudy Yakym (R-IN), Andy Ogles (R-TN), Randy Weber (R-TX), Carlos Gimenez (R-FL), Keith Self (R-TX), Russell Fry (R-FL), Pat Fallon (R-TX), Ronny Jackson (R-TX), Maria Elvira Salazar (R-FL), and Andy Biggs (R-AZ).

FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UN: TAIWAN IS ITS OWN COUNTRY - CALLS FOR U.S.-TAIWAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND STRATEGIC CLARITY

On October 11, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Kelly Craft said Taiwan "is its own country," while calling on Washington to discard its long-standing "strategic ambiguity" on Taipei and make clear to Beijing that the U.S. will come to Taiwan's defense should Beijing invade.

Craft, who served as the 30th U.S. Permanent Representative to the U.N. from 2019 to 2021 during the Donald Trump administration, made the remarks at a Taipei international conference.

"Taiwan is its own country. Its citizens have their own destiny. It is not for the narrow throat of a communist dictatorship to think or claim otherwise," she said during the luncheon that was part of the government-funded 2023 Yushan Forum.

During her time as U.S. top envoy to U.N., Craft said she had worked "tirelessly every day to fight systemic discrimination against Taiwan and to help raise Taiwan's profile in the corrupt United Nations system."

"I did this as a matter of U.S. policy. I did this as a matter of principle. But I also did it as a matter of friendship."

TAIWAN PRESIDENT TSAI ING-WEN PRAISES "SIX ASSURANCES"

President Tsai Ing-wen on October 24 praised the "Six Assurances" former U.S. President Ronald Reagan made to Taiwan in 1982, saying that the framework has since become a "key foundation" for the development of Taiwan-U.S. relations.

Tsai said: "President Reagan's Six Assurances are still a key foundation for the development of Taiwan-U.S. relations. They are also a cornerstone for maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

Together with the TRA, and the three U.S.-China Joint Communiques, the three are guidelines for Washington in dealing with its unofficial relationship with Taipei.

FAPA President Minze Chien reacts: "In 2016 the House and the Senate passed legislation stating that the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) and the Six Assurances (Six A's) are the cornerstones of U.S.-Taiwan relations. We have always believed that the Three Communiques with the vilified One China Policy in it should be erased from the U.S. political consciousness. The official U.S. policy is now that the TRA, Six A's and the Three Communiques are the cornerstones of U.S.-Taiwan relations. Next step is to take the Three Communiques out of that equation. Stay tuned..."

FAPA PRESIDENT MINZE CHIEN

in Taipei Times



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the Taipei Times

WHAT US SHOULD DO ABOUT TAIWAN

Thursday, October 26, 2023

After a recent visit to Beijing, Stanford University political scientist Oriana Skylar Mastro wrote an op-ed in the New York Times on Monday last week, titled “This is what America is getting wrong about China and Taiwan.”

Unfortunately, her article wrongly advised the US to conclude a new (fourth) communique with the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and acquiesce to China’s ambitions to annex Taiwan (under the guise of “peaceful unification”) to avoid a war with China.

A few days later, while speaking at Washington think tanks, former president Ma Ying-jeou (馬英九) cited Mastro’s op-ed, and called upon the US to remain neutral on the Taiwan question and stop “weaponizing” Taiwan.

He also urged the US to encourage the Taiwanese government to resume “peaceful dialogue” with Beijing based on the so-called “1992 consensus.”

Nonetheless, as Vice President William Lai (賴清德) recently said, accepting the “1992 consensus,” with its “one China” principle, would be equivalent to giving up Taiwan’s sovereignty, and losing freedom and democracy.

It should be clear that China’s so-called “peaceful unification” with Taiwan under Beijing’s “one country, two systems” formula is an empty promise, a red herring and a complete lie. The PRC government has proven untrustworthy. Look at East Turkestan — known to China as Xinjiang — Tibet and Hong Kong.

More importantly, the overwhelming majority of Taiwanese want to keep Taiwan free as a sovereign and independent country. They have no interest in making democratic Taiwan part of communist China. Mastro also repeated the myth that the three US-PRC joint communiqués had helped the US avoid a war with China over Taiwan.

What are really crucial in preventing the PRC from invading Taiwan are the US’ commitment under the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances, along with US arms sales and military assistance to Taiwan.



In 1972, when the US still maintained diplomatic ties with Taiwan, then-US president Richard Nixon and US secretary of state William Rogers visited communist China, and concluded the Shanghai Communiqué to pave the way for normalization of relations with the authoritarian PRC.

After establishing US-PRC diplomatic ties in 1979, Washington created self-imposed restrictions on high-level exchanges with Taiwan. However, with the Taiwan Travel Act signed into US law in 2018, all those restrictions on high-level visits from and to Taiwan have effectively been lifted.

Now, other than conceding to China's isolation of Taiwan, one cannot think of any other reason why US President Joe Biden and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken — and their predecessors — would refrain from visiting Taiwan and signing a joint communiqué to reaffirm the US' commitment to Taiwan and begin the process of normalizing relations with the democratic nation.

Since Biden took office in 2021, Washington has closely watched China's increasing aggression against Taiwan. The US has issued joint communiqués and statements with its G7 partners and other allies to reiterate their commitments to maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

However, oddly and sadly, none of these communiqués and statements involved Taiwan.

China has built up its military for decades, threatening peace and changing the “status quo” in the Taiwan Strait. It is therefore more crucial and urgent than ever for the US and its allies to stand up to China's continued bullying and diplomatic isolation of Taiwan, and openly challenge Beijing's “one China” principle that unrealistically claims Taiwan as an integral part of China.

Taiwan has long possessed all the qualifications of statehood under international law. It has existed as a sovereign and independent state for decades, and deserves full membership in international organizations and formal recognition by all other states.

“TODAY, THE US MAINTAINS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ALMOST EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, EXCEPT FOR NORTH KOREA, IRAN, BHUTAN AND TAIWAN. AS A FULL-FLEDGED DEMOCRATIC AND FREE COUNTRY THAT RESPECTS HUMAN RIGHTS, TAIWAN DOES NOT BELONG ON THAT SHORT LIST OF NATIONS THAT DO NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH THE US.”

Dr. Minze Chien in *Taipei Times*

Last month, the US announced its recognition of and new diplomatic ties with two Pacific island nations, the Cook Islands and Niue, as part of its push to counter growing Chinese influence in the region.

Today, the US maintains diplomatic relations with almost every country in the world, except for North Korea, Iran, Bhutan and Taiwan. As a full-fledged democratic and free country that respects human rights, Taiwan does not belong on that short list of nations that do not have diplomatic ties with the US.

In 1954, then-US president Dwight Eisenhower, signed a mutual defense treaty with Taiwan, formally committing to defend Taiwan militarily to contain communist China after the Korean War. Eisenhower also visited Taiwan in 1960, making him the first and only sitting US president to do so in history.

The US maintained diplomatic relations and a mutual defense treaty with Taiwan until 1979 and 1980 respectively, showing clearly that the US' formal and robust military ties with Taiwan could effectively deter Beijing rather than leading to China's full invasion of Taiwan.

The only real reason the PRC has not invaded Taiwan is that China has not yet built the capability and does not have the confidence to make a successful conquest, especially when Beijing believes that US troops would intervene and help defend Taiwan.

"TO MORE EFFECTIVELY DETER CHINA'S FORCIBLE ANNEXATION OF TAIWAN, THE US, AS THE LEADING DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY, SHOULD DIPLOMATICALLY RECOGNIZE TAIWAN'S TRUE 'STATUS QUO' AS AN INDEPENDENT, SOVEREIGN COUNTRY AND ADOPT A POLICY OF 'STRATEGIC CLARITY' ON TAIWAN."

Dr. Minze Chien in *Taipei Times*

Instead of concluding another confusing communique with communist China, the US president or the secretary of state should visit and conclude a joint communique or a statement with Taiwan to support Taiwanese's right to self-determination, make it clear that Taiwan is not part of China, and pledge that US forces would defend the nation from a Chinese attack.

Washington should not let Beijing dictate US policy toward Taiwan. Avoiding diplomatic recognition of Taiwan to appease the PRC would only encourage more Chinese bullying and aggression.

To more effectively deter China's forcible annexation of Taiwan, the US, as the leading democratic country, should diplomatically recognize Taiwan's true "status quo" as an independent, sovereign country and adopt a policy of "strategic clarity" on Taiwan.

Doing so is in Washington's interest, both for geostrategic reasons as well as to maintain US leadership in the world and contain rising authoritarianism.

This article was originally published in the Taipei Times. To read the original article, please scan the QR code to the right:



SR. POLICY FELLOW CHIH-JUNG HUANG

in Taipei Times

TAIWAN'S HISTORY AND STATUS

Taiwan has never been a part of China

Tuesday, November 28, 2023



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On Nov. 15, US President Joe Biden reiterated the US' commitment to maintaining cross-strait peace and the "status quo" during a meeting with Chinese dictator Xi Jinping (習近平) on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in San Francisco, California.

However, Biden refrained from making clear to Xi what Taiwan's "status quo" exactly is (as the US defines it).

It is not the first time Taiwan's legal status has become an issue of contention.

In September, Tesla CEO Elon Musk caused a media storm after he referred to Taiwan as "an integral part of China" during an interview. This ignorance about Taiwan's history and status came after his suggestion in October last year to make Taiwan a "special administrative zone" of China, similar to that of Hong Kong.

Musk's comments on Taiwan are in line with the propaganda of the People's Republic of China (PRC), which continues to threaten to annex Taiwan by force, and to promote its "one China principle" internationally to suppress Taiwan's international recognition and participation.

To correct some popular misunderstandings and to more effectively counter the PRC's disinformation on Taiwan's history and status, this article argues that: (1) Historically speaking, Taiwan has never been a part of "China"; and (2) legally speaking, both the Republic of China (ROC; 1912–1949) and the People's Republic of China (PRC; 1949–present) have never acquired territorial sovereignty over Taiwan.

The PRC government has no right to represent Taiwan, and only Taiwan's democratically elected government can represent the 23 million Taiwanese people in the international arena. It has been long overdue for the free world to stand up together and counter China's increasing bullying and aggression against Taiwan.

TAIWAN UP TO 1895: FROM INDIGENOUS ISLAND TO CONQUERED COLONY

Contrary to the PRC's claim that "Taiwan has belonged to China since ancient times," Taiwan's indigenous peoples have inhabited the island for at least six thousand years, with various political entities exercising control over parts of it until colonial powers conquered increasingly large portions of Taiwan beginning in the 17th century.

The pre-modern Han Chinese empires knew very little about Taiwan, and had long regarded Taiwan as a "savage" island "beyond the seas." That is why when the Dutch temporarily occupied the Penghu Islands (ie, the Pescadores) in 1622, an official of the Chinese Ming Empire (1368–1662) asked the Dutch forces to withdraw from Penghu and move to Taiwan, showing clearly that the Chinese then considered Taiwan to be a remote island outside the Chinese civilization and domain.

Dutch Formosa (1624–1662) in southwestern Taiwan and Spanish Formosa (1626–1642) in northern Taiwan were the first colonial endeavors that exercised control over some parts of the island. The Dutch promoted agriculture in Taiwan and encouraged Han Chinese peasants to move from coastal China to the island.

In 1662, former Ming loyalist general Koxinga, also known as Cheng Cheng-kung (鄭成功), ended Dutch rule of Taiwan. He established a new independent kingdom in Taiwan, known as the Tungning Kingdom (1662–1683) or the Kingdom of Formosa, which ruled parts of the island until it was conquered in 1683 by the Manchu Qing empire.

The Manchu Qing Empire (1616–1912) was in essence a "non-Chinese" empire that was originally founded in what would later be known as "Manchuria," outside of China. When the Manchus captured the Ming's principal capital at Beijing in 1644, the Qing Empire had already existed outside China for 28 years, starting in 1616. It was not until 1681 that the Manchu Qing conquered all of China (ie, China Proper).

The Manchu Qing Empire conquered the Tungning Kingdom in 1683, and officially annexed the former Tungning territory in 1684. The Qing later expanded its colonial rule over western Taiwan, but that did not make Taiwan a part of "China." Just as the British Empire had colonized India and Sri Lanka at the same time, doing so did not make Sri Lanka a part of "India."

The number of Han Chinese settlers in Taiwan was still very small at the beginning of the 17th century, but steadily increased during the Dutch, Tungning and Qing periods for over 200 years, creating a primarily Han society in western Taiwan.

Nevertheless, at least until the 1870s, the Qing Empire still regarded most of central and eastern Taiwan as the "savage territory" of the Taiwanese "raw barbarians" outside the Qing domains. Moreover, despite the Manchu Qing designating western Taiwan as administratively a prefecture of Fujian Province in 1684, and created Taiwan Province in 1885, Taiwan continued to be perceived as a remote and often "rebellious" island, instead of an integral part of the Chinese "inner lands" or China Proper.

Having been defeated by the Japanese, the Manchu Qing Empire signed the Peace Treaty of Shimonoseki with the Japanese Empire on April 17, 1895, and agreed to cede the island of Formosa (Taiwan) and the Pescadores (Penghu) "in perpetuity and full sovereignty" to Japan. On May 25, 1895, the political elites and local gentry in Taiwan established the Democratic Republic of Taiwan (also known as the Republic of Formosa). However, lacking competent leaders and international support, the short-lived republic was destroyed by Japanese troops in October 1895. Thereafter, Taiwan remained under Japanese colonial rule for 50 years until 1945.

MODERN CHINA'S EARLY SUPPORT OF TAIWAN INDEPENDENCE

Seeking to overthrow the Manchus' alien rule over China, the Han Chinese revolutionaries officially established the Republic of China (ROC; 1912–1949) on Jan. 1, 1912, in the 14 seceding provinces in China Proper that had proclaimed independence in late 1911. That was followed by the end of the Manchu Qing Empire on Feb. 12, 1912, and the annexation of the former Qing Empire's remaining territories by the ROC in March 1912.

Since Taiwan had already been legally ceded by the Qing to Japan in 1895, it was impossible for the newly-established ROC to claim and inherit territorial sovereignty over Taiwan as a successor to the Qing Empire.

Until 1942, the ROC government and the Chinese people had generally considered and recognized that Taiwan was a Japanese colony and outside of modern China's national territory. Both the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) even initially supported Taiwan independence.

In 1926, a declaration from the KMT's Second National Party Congress commented on Taiwan's "national revolution," along with those in Korea, Vietnam and the Philippines, expressing the KMT's support for independence for the Taiwanese nationality.

In 1938, during a speech to the KMT's Provisional Party Congress, Chiang Kai-shek (蔣介石) said: "We must enable the brethren in Korea and Taiwan to restore their independence and freedom so as to solidify the national defense of the Republic of China, and to establish peace in East Asia."

In a 1936 interview with American journalist Edgar Snow, Mao Zedong (毛澤東) stated: "If the Koreans wish to break away from the chains of Japanese imperialism, we will extend them our enthusiastic help in their struggle for independence. The same thing applies to Formosa [Taiwan]."

In an essay published in 1941, then-Chinese premier Zhou Enlai (周恩來) restated a well-established CCP position and wrote that: "We should sympathize with independence-liberation movements of other nation-states. We will ... assist the anti-Japanese movements of Korea or Taiwan."

Until the early 1940s, the ROC government and modern Chinese had never regarded and claimed Taiwan as "an integral part of China." Instead, before 1942, the KMT and the CCP elites were generally indifferent to Taiwan and categorized Taiwanese and Chinese as distinct nationalities. Whenever they did mention Taiwan, it was always coupled with Korea, and they encouraged the Taiwanese and the Koreans to seek their own independence from Japanese imperialism.

THE 1945 "RETROCESSION OF TAIWAN" TO CHINA WAS ILLEGAL AND INVALID

Sometime in 1942, the ROC government and Chinese elites suddenly reimagined and expanded their "mental map of China" and began to claim that Taiwan should be "returned to China." This was only because the defeat of Japan suddenly became possible after the US had declared war on Japan in December 1941.

The Cairo Declaration of 1943, and the Potsdam Proclamation of 1945 were merely "non-legally binding" wartime "statements of intention," which expressed or reaffirmed, in part, the major Allied Powers' "intention" that "Formosa [Taiwan], and the Pescadores [Penghu], be restored to the Republic of China" that, however, could not (and did not) make a cession of Taiwan from Japan to the ROC.

On Oct. 25, 1945, the ROC forces began to militarily occupy Taiwan at the direction of the “General Order No. 1,” issued by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers, General Douglas MacArthur. However, right after Japanese forces in Taiwan surrendered, the ROC immediately and unilaterally proclaimed that Taiwan was “restored” and became a province of “China.”

Nonetheless, the ROC should not and could not convert its military occupation of Taiwan into what it called the “Retrocession of Taiwan,” which was a blatant violation of international law, because: (1) The law of belligerent occupation had long held that territorial sovereignty would not be transferred by military occupation; and (2) the ROC’s unilateral and forcible annexation of Taiwan would violate the Declaration by the United Nations of 1942 (hereinafter, the UN Declaration) and the Charter of the United Nations of 1945 (hereinafter, the UN Charter), both of which incorporated the principles of “self-determination” and “no territorial aggrandizement by force” (or prohibition of aggression and conquest).

The ROC’s military occupation of Taiwan did not constitute a transfer of sovereignty over Taiwan from Japan to China, and the so-called “Retrocession of Taiwan” to the ROC was illegal and should not be recognized by any other States and international organizations.

Under the ROC’s military occupation, Taiwan remained de jure a Japanese territory, normally pending a peace treaty to finalize Taiwan’s post-WWII status, which, according to the UN Declaration and the UN Charter, should accord with the freely expressed wish of Taiwanese.

NEITHER THE SAN FRANCISCO PEACE TREATY, NOR UNGA RESOLUTION 2758 MADE OR RECOGNIZED TAIWAN AS A PART OF CHINA

Following the founding of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) on Oct. 1, 1949, the end of the ROC government in China on Dec. 8, 1949, and the establishment of the so-called “ROC” government in Taipei, Taiwan on Dec. 9, 1949, the status of Taiwan became a more complicated international political and legal issue.

The Treaty of Peace with Japan (also known as the San Francisco Peace Treaty, or the Treaty of San Francisco) was signed between 48 Allied Powers and Japan on Sept. 8, 1951, and entered into force on April 28, 1952. Neither the “ROC” on Taiwan nor the PRC was a party to this treaty.

Article 2(b) of the treaty simply stated that “Japan renounces all right, title and claim to Formosa and the Pescadores.” The treaty intentionally did not transfer sovereignty over Taiwan to China, nor did it provide any other settlement for the status of Taiwan. The PRC, therefore, refused to recognize the Treaty of San Francisco, asserting that the treaty was illegal and invalid.

Subsequently, the position that Taiwan’s legal status remained “undetermined” was commonly shared by many countries such as the US and the UK, and the international community, at least in the immediate years after 1952.

On Oct. 25, 1971, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 2758 was passed to resolve the issue of “China’s representation” in the UN. The resolution recognized the representatives of the PRC government as “the only lawful representatives of China” to the UN.

UNGA Resolution 2758, however, said nothing about Taiwan being “an integral part of China,” nor did it give the PRC government the right to represent the people of Taiwan. It did not address the issue of “Taiwan’s representation” in the UN system, and did not touch upon the question of Taiwan’s sovereignty. In fact, it did not even include the word “Taiwan.”

At that time, the PRC knew clearly that UNGA Resolution 2758 did not contain the wordings it wanted to claim Taiwan, and was worried that Taiwan's status would be left undetermined in the UN. For example, just a few days before the passing of the resolution, on Oct. 21, 1971 in Beijing, then-PRC premier Zhou Enlai told then-assistant to the US President for National Security Affairs Dr. Henry Kissinger that: "In that [Albanian draft] resolution it is not possible to put in a clause concerning the status of Taiwan, and if it is passed, the status of Taiwan is not yet decided."

Earlier, on Aug. 21, 1971, the PRC even issued a statement expressing its unwillingness to join the UN if "a situation of 'two Chinas,' 'one China, one Taiwan,' or 'the status of Taiwan remaining to be determined,' or any other similar situation occur in the UN." However, given that the PRC was not as internationally influential as it is today, it did not reject the UN resolution when it passed. Instead, the PRC took over the UN seat from the ROC on Taiwan.

It was only some time later that the PRC began to distort the meaning of UNGA Resolution 2758, misrepresenting the resolution to promote its "one China principle" and its claim of sovereignty over Taiwan, and to suppress Taiwan's international recognition and participation.

THE FREE WORLD SHOULD COUNTER CHINA'S FABRICATED CLAIM TO TAIWAN'S SOVEREIGNTY

History and international law clearly show that Taiwan has never been an integral part of China, and also that since its founding in 1949, the PRC has never acquired sovereignty over Taiwan by any treaty or UN resolution, nor has it ever ruled Taiwan for a single day.

Despite the CCP not regarding Taiwan as a part of China's national territory until 1942, and even supporting Taiwan independence, and despite the PRC in 1971 worrying that UNGA Resolution 2758 would leave Taiwan's status undetermined in the UN, the PRC went on to fabricate its historical and sovereignty claims over Taiwan regardless. Those claims are simply lies.

Unfortunately, along with its growing economic power and global influence, the PRC has highly succeeded in altering and manipulating the language used by other countries, international organizations (such as the UN), and private companies and individuals (such as Elon Musk) when referring to Taiwan's status. Now, many of them, including internal UN references, no longer refer to Taiwan as just "Taiwan," but rather "Taiwan, Province of China" or "Taiwan, China."

To counter the PRC's efforts to "internationalize" and "institutionalize" its "one China principle" and its fabricated claims over Taiwan, the free world should make it very clear that Taiwan is not a part of China, and support Taiwan's right to self-determination and participation in international organizations. This past July, the US House of Representatives unanimously passed the Taiwan International Solidarity Act, which aims to counter China's claims over Taiwan and its efforts to exclude Taiwan from participating in international organizations. The bill, in part, clarifies that UNGA Resolution 2758 did not address the issues of Taiwan's international representation and territorial sovereignty. Hopefully, this bill might soon pass the US Senate and become law.

One month later, the UK House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee issued a new report in which it expressed its firm support for Taiwanese's right to self-determination, and stated that "Taiwan is already an independent country."

"Taiwan possesses all the qualifications of statehood, including a permanent population, a defined territory, government, and the capacity to enter into relations with other states — it is only lacking greater international recognition," the report said.

Since China has accelerated its military buildup and disinformation campaigns in preparation for a conquest of Taiwan, it is now more important and urgent than ever for the US and its allies to stand up to the PRC's coercive diplomacy and reject Beijing's complete lies about Taiwan's history and status. Without a doubt, the most direct and effective way to challenge the PRC's "one China principle" and counter its fabricated claim over Taiwan's sovereignty is to officially recognize and establish diplomatic relations with democratic Taiwan, and support Taiwan's full membership in the UN and all other international organizations.

The US, as the leading democratic country, should have the courage and determination to lead the free world to diplomatically recognize Taiwan as an independent, sovereign country. It is not only the right thing to do. It is long overdue.

This article was originally published in the Taipei Times. To read the original article, please scan the QR code to the right:



HUGELY SUCCESSFUL

National Advocacy Conference

The National Advocacy Conference is one of FAPA's annual flagship programs. This year, it was held between September 30 and October 2.



The 2023 National Advocacy Conference (NAC), one of FAPA's annual flagship programs, was held between September 30 and October 2 at the Residence Inn by Marriott Arlington Capital View, Virginia, this year.

We had over ninety participants, a record-high number, many of whom were young professionals and college students. It was a young and vibrant cohort who were eager to learn about congressional advocacy.

Through expert panels and presentations, we educated our members on the foundations of advocacy, the legislative process in Congress, and current trends in U.S.-Taiwan relations.

On Monday (October 2), all participants traveled to Capitol Hill, where they fanned out to visit as many House and Senate offices as possible to educate their elected officials about why we and the people of Taiwan want to keep Taiwan free.



This year's NAC guest speakers included Dr. Yeh Yao-yuan from the University of St. Thomas in Texas and Dr. Ding Hung-bing from the Loyola University in Maryland.

On Saturday evening (September 30), we held a banquet for our members where long-time FAPA/FAPR staffer Coen Blaauw was awarded the "Order of the Brilliant Star with Grand Cordon" by Taiwan Ambassador to the U.S. Bi-khim Hsiao on behalf of Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen.

During his remarks, Blaauw stated that he was "honored, humbled, and happy" to receive this award from Taiwan's government in recognition of his 35-year-long career with FAPA. He added that the award was not just for him but that it was in recognition of all the work that all FAPA members put in day after day and year after year, seeking to make their beloved Taiwan a more normal and fully independent country.



He concluded his brief remarks by emphasizing that "Let's never forget that it is an honor for us to do this work for Taiwan year after year – a country that is 10,000 miles away," and that he expressed the hope that we put our small differences and grievances aside and instead focus on how we can make our collective dream of Taiwan independence a reality.

Lastly, he quoted former Congressman Steve Solarz, who would always end his speech remarks with "Taiwan Minzu Banzway" (Long Live Taiwan's Democracy)! Then Blaauw added: "And as we say at FAPA: WE ARE FAPA! WE ARE FAPA! WE ARE FAPA!"

HQ Activities

FAPA CAFÉ



FAPA Café was launched in 2023 as a community-building activity. We invite speakers to our Washington, D.C., headquarters to discuss issues related to Taiwanese and Taiwanese American history, culture, soft power, and career experiences. As Washington becomes laser-focused on defense-related issues about Taiwan, FAPA Café is an attempt to introduce different ideas to discussions about Taiwan. Through cultural and other non-political issues, FAPA Café seeks to educate the D.C. policy circle to “real Taiwanese” and “real Taiwanese American” experiences.



JULY



On July 27, we invited Taiwanese American trombonist and entrepreneur, Peter Lin, to talk about how he navigates arts entrepreneurship as a Taiwanese American. The event was organized by our former intern, Sophia Chang! You can purchase Peter's music through the website 'peterlin.bandcamp.com'.

NOVEMBER



On November 9, we invited Wendy Lin and Dr. Chiu Chen-Yu to talk about Taiwan's role in global health and development. Wendy discussed her experiences working as a Global Health Consultant, while Dr. Chiu discussed his experiences working as CEO of the “Taiwan-Reyhanli Centre” for refugees in Turkey.



CHAPTER *Activities*



CALIFORNIA-LOS ANGELES

Chapter President Tony Lee 李賢群

07/29/23

Los Angeles Chapter President Tony Lee, Vice President Ken Wu, and former national president Peter Chen had a good discussion with Rep. Young Kim at a private gathering.

Congresswoman Young Kim is a Republican and a member of the Taiwan Caucus of the U.S. Congress. She is very supportive of Taiwan and fully supports the Taiwan-U.S. Free Trade Agreement in the U.S. Congress. During COVID-19, when there was a shortage of vaccines in Taiwan, she assisted in obtaining vaccines for Taiwan.

Kim supports the BTA between Taiwan and the US and is working on a bill to eliminate double taxation. Kim discussed her trip to Taiwan and the urgent need Taiwan has to boost its national defenses with American weapons. Kim also expressed her concerns about the stability of the Indo-Pacific regional and Chinese threats.



08/12/23



FAPA-LA Chapter held a member gathering at Don Knabe community regional park in the City of Cerritos in Los Angeles County. FAPA-LA invited Congresswoman Michelle Steel, a member of the U.S. Congress from the 45th district of California.

Michelle Steel talked about the U.S.-Taiwan relationship. She said that for the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region, the U.S. government strongly supports strengthening and improving Taiwan's own defense capabilities. The U.S. government will also ensure that the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea international waters can sail freely without interference from China. Steel places stronger U.S.-Taiwan relations near the top of her legislative priorities, and she appreciates our feedback.

CALIFORNIA-ORANGE COUNTY

Chapter President Harrison Cheng 鄭學成

美西夏令會，七月第一個週末在 Phoenix, Arizona 舉行，天氣非常炎熱，晚上溫度仍在 100F。橙縣 FAPA 有許多人前往參加。東岸許多台美人因嚮往 Arizona 美景及台積電新廠，遠道而來。台灣也有多人參與，包括幾個選舉宣傳隊伍，如 林靜儀，苗博雅，洪慈庸，陳乃瑜，卓冠庭，山田摩衣 等。當然也少不了重量級講員。現任台灣金控董事長的沈榮津，任經濟部長時，成立口罩國家隊，為台灣的口罩供應鋪出了一條令人驚嘆的大道，立下大功。他在經濟部任職多年，所以在演講中為大家提供許多台灣經濟發展的過去資料，以及未來的藍圖



陳時中部長也前來參加，並詳細介紹 COVID-19 期中所遇到的多種挑戰。他在防疫中心的卓越表現，卻在 2022 年的選舉期間，被對手無理的抹黑，令大家很不捨。也許陳部長是打了一個犧牲打，讓在野黨八年的怨氣洩出，而導致總統選舉的勝算提升。

同時，陳時奮教授（即大家熟悉的翁達瑞）也對 2022 年綠營所遭遇的失敗原因，做了精闢的分析。對於那次選舉的結果，他也是感到很意外，所以仔細去思考了解。李喜明上將是前參謀總長，2019年退役。在2017年，他擔任參謀總長後依據「創新與不對稱作戰」概念，發展出臺灣的「整體防衛構想」，務實擘劃臺灣未來的國防藍圖。退役後親筆著作「臺灣的勝算：以小制大的不對稱戰略，全臺灣人都應了解的整體防衛構想」，繼續推進這個理念。他的書已經是台灣今年的暢銷書。他的演講也引起很大的關注及討論。



FLORIDA-SOUTH

Chapter President Min-Long Young 楊明倫

台灣人公共事務會 (FAPA)南佛州分會感謝歷任分會長及成員為台灣無私的奉獻，與總部合作與南佛州國會議員互動，推動各項立法。歷年來 South Florida Chapter 獲得總部頒發的獎牌九面如下：1996，1997，2002，2005，2010，2011，2015，2016，2018。2023年六月選出新會長楊明倫醫師（過去也當過FAPA美東南區理事）。七月成立南佛州FAPA分會Line Group。八月26日邀請總會會長簡明子博士前來Ft Lauderdale 演講。講題「華府觀察：最近與台灣息息相關的立法」。多謝簡會長一個半小時多的精彩演講，讓我們了解FAPA如何在重重困難中一步一腳印為了台灣的將來找出一條活路。當天有30人參加，其中有六位在會後報名加入FAPA成為新血。



FAPA National President Dr. Minze Chien
with FL-S Chapter members

MISSOURI

Chapter President Albert Kuo 郭勝義

We held the first monthly lunch gathering on April 4 since COVID-19 obstructed our in-person activities. On June 10, we had a farewell gathering, in conjunction with TAA-STL, to send off Harper Chen to FAPA Headquarters. Harper just earned her JSD from Washington University in STL in July and is licensed to practice laws in NY; she is now a full-time associate policy director with FAPA. The FAPA 2023 speech tour came to STL on June 27; it was a joint event with TAA-STL. We are fortunate that Prof Fan barely made it to STL in spite of tight airline schedules.

06/10/23



Gathering to send off Harper Chen

06/27/23



Gathering for 2023 FAPA Speech Tour

NEW JERSEY

Chapter President Su-mei Kao 林素梅

A team from NJ, along with the South Jersey and Delaware chapters, went to D.C. for the national advocacy conference during the last weekend of September. A wonderful collaboration among the three chapters in the lead-up to the congressional visit. We visited a total of 6 congressional offices and dropped off our issues of concern at all relevant offices.



We were thrilled to partner with Rutgers Taiwan Study Association on October 7 for the screening of “Panay,” a movie based on a true story and documentary.

The event drew more than 70 people, half of whom were non-FAPA members. Su-Mei Kao gave a summarized presentation on what FAPA has accomplished since its inception and the work that FAPA currently focuses on. Some informative Q&A ensued.



We also elected a new chapter president and two regional board members, Nick Chen, Leo Lee, and Su-Mei Kao, respectively.

NEW YORK-HUDSON

Chapter President Chi-Lin (Mike) O'Young 歐陽吉林

09/23/23

Chapter Meeting at East Fishkill Community Library, Hopewell Junction



The meeting was held in a hybrid setup. Due to the bad weather, many members canceled or attended it online. Dr. 吳欣岱 was invited to give a virtual speech titled “新一代的台灣共同體，我想要給孩子什麼樣的未來?”

Coen Blaauw presented virtually on the state of FAPA, and Chi-Lin O'Young reviewed the chapter activities of the past year. Dr. Ray Hsu presented virtually his trip report on 烏克蘭義診團, and Paulen Wang presented her trip report on 立陶宛世台會. Two new members, Taili and Ken, were recruited and introduced to the chapter online.

09/30/23 - 10/02/23

National Advocacy Conference

The annual conference was held in D.C. The NY-1 Team had six members, and the NY-2 Team had four members who attended. On Monday, October 2, the NY-1 Team finished seven office meetings, including two Senators: Schumer (Majority Leader, D-NY) and Gillibrand (D-NY), and five Representatives: Lawler (R-NY 17), Ryan (D-NY 18), Molinaro (R-NY 19), Langworthy (R-NY 23), and Morelle (D-NY 25). Issues of concern to Taiwanese Americans include “Taiwan Representative Office Act S.1513/H.R.3171”, “U.S.-Taiwan Diplomatic Relations H.Con.Res. 10”, “Inviting President Tsai to attend the APEC 2023 Summit in San Francisco”, and “Entry to the United Nations Premises for Taiwanese Visitors” were presented and discussed with the congressional aides to ask for co-sponsorships.

The team was warmly welcomed by the congressional aides. We had a common observation that supporting Taiwan to defend the PRC's invasion is a bipartisan consensus in the U.S. Congress. We had very successful and productive meetings. During the meetings, we were pleased to hear from the aides of fresh Congressmen Molinaro (R-NY 19) and Langworthy (R-NY 23) about their recent joining of the House Taiwan Caucus.



NY-1&2 team members visited the US Capitol: Rita, Mu-Hua, Chi-An, Mike, Kelly, Jenny, David, ChingJen (Left to Right)

10/27/23

A Message from the Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer

The Chapter President received an email dated October 27 from Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) to express his strong support for Taiwan. Besides concerns about the National Associations for China's Peaceful Unification (NACPU) 中國和平統一促進會 (簡稱統促會、和統會) and the passing of S.2226 FY24 NADD plus provisions, he promised to continue to monitor the progress of these provisions and make critical down payments to fund the bill.

After our 10/2 visit, Schumer led a bipartisan Senate delegation to visit the PRC on 10/6. At the press conference held at the Beijing US Embassy on 10/9, he delivered a firm message to the PRC to demand fair competition without cheating. We sent a letter to express our gratitude for his support on 10/31.

OHIO-CENTRAL

Chapter President Nancy Ho 何玉時

09/16/23

Moon Festival Event with TAA Columbus

Collaborated with TAA Columbus at the Moon Festival event hosted by Taiwan Center for Mandarin Learning/Columbus Chinese Academy to reach out to the community for them to get to know our organization. New members Derek and Yen Chen joined me along with Tinging Okajima for the mission. There were about 100 people attended. A couple of young friends expressed interests in learning more about FAPA. (Three of them sign up to join FAPA later during the chapter annual meeting in October.)



Community Outreach at TMLC/CCA

09/30/23-10/02/23

National Advocacy Conference

Nancy Ho attended the 2023 NAC, teaming up with OH-N and OH-S visited close to ten congressional representatives' offices to meet with their aides. Harper Chen also accompanied all of the Ohio chapters for the tasks in the morning which was much appreciated!



With Troy Balderson's Aide and OH-S

10/07/23

Signed and distributed petitions for the H.Con.Res.71 calling upon the Biden Administration to invite Taiwan President Tsai to the November 2023 APEC summit in San Francisco to all of the communities I am associated with across different platforms.



Ohio chapters (C, N, S) with Bill Johnson's Aide

10/29/23

Annual Chapter Meeting

The annual chapter meeting was held at Tinging Okajima's home. 25 people attended, including 11 guests (including 3 kids) and 3 recently joined new members. Among 11 guests, 3 submitted the membership application forms to join FAPA.



FAPA OH-C Annual meeting with 25 attendees

OREGON-SWWA

Chapter President Sylvia Lin 林曉瑤

We are pleased to provide you with the latest updates on our recent participation in the FAPA National Advocacy Conference held in Washington, D.C. from September 30 to October 2. Our chapter was well-represented by Chapter President Sylvia Lin, along with Board Members Cherry Chi and Albert Chen. In addition, we were honored to have Judy Chen, President of the Seattle Taiwanese Association, join our delegation.

On October 2nd, we embarked on visits to a total of 11 congressional offices of Oregon and Washington. Our interactions with these offices focused on emphasizing the critical importance of their continued support for Taiwan's peace, democracy, freedom, and related legislative matters. In cases where face-to-face meetings were not possible, we ensured the delivery of our materials, and followed up with virtual meetings when it's possible.



We are delighted to report that our meetings proceeded smoothly, with each congressional office expressing a strong commitment to Taiwan. The support for Taiwan remains a consensus shared by both major U.S. political parties.

In terms of exciting news, we are thrilled to share that shortly after our meetings, Oregon's newly elected Congresswoman Andrea Salinas decided to join the Taiwan Caucus!

We extend our special thanks to Albert, Cherry, Judy, and Sylvia for their dedication and tireless efforts in representing FAPA during this important event. Our gratitude also goes out to all our members and friends for your unwavering support and active involvement in FAPA.

Together, we will persist in advocating for Taiwan and labor towards a brighter future!

2023 FAPA Board Meeting

Photo by [Alejandro Barba](#) on [Unsplash](#)

This year, FAPA's annual Board meeting was held in Washington, D.C., on December 8 to December 10, 2023.

Yes, the young Taiwanese American generation is amply presented in the FAPA Board, but we are proud to see four “over eighty” long-time FAPA leaders attending with their passion for Taiwan Independence intact and as strong as it was in 1982.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON ELECTION OF A NEW FAPA PRESIDENT AND A NEW VICE-PRESIDENT

We say goodbye and thank wholeheartedly the outgoing leadership team for their wonderful service at the helm of FAPA of 4 year-long President Minze Chien (DC) and 2 year-long Vice-President Mary Yang (TX-S), and we excitedly welcome and congratulate newly elected President Su-mei Kao (NJ-N) and Vice-President Chia-chun Chung (MA)!

DURING THE SUNDAY SESSION, DECISIONS RELATED TO FAPA'S POLICY WORK, STRUCTURE AND ITS FUTURE WERE MADE

Some quick highlights - A Motion to Amend the By-Laws and Operational Guidelines: Introducing the FAPA-50 Option for Individual Permanent Membership was passed.



Four “over eighty” long-time FAPA leaders: Chen Hsu (MD), Powen Wang (PA-E), John Hsieh (TX-N) and Ming-chi Wu (CA-SD) (Left to Right)



Mary Yang (TX-S), Minze Chien (DC), Su-mei Kao (NJ), Chia-Chun Chung (MA) (Left to Right)

A BANQUET CELEBRATING FAPA FRIENDSHIPS WITH LIKE-MINDED PARTNERS

During the Saturday night banquet, we were impressed by speaker Ben Lewis, an independent defense analyst focusing on Taiwan and the People's Liberation Army.

We were also excited to see Minister Counsellor Liana Vazbiene from the Lithuanian Embassy at the head table, who enabled us to even further strengthen relations between Taiwan and the Baltic country.

During the banquet, many FAPA chapters received plaques and awards for their outstanding work the past year. FAPA's Los Angeles chapter received the "Chapter of the Year" award!

After a Sunday afternoon advocacy workshop led by staffers Jenny Li and Harper Chen, several Board members took to Capitol Hill on Monday to talk to their elected officials about Taiwan and why it is critical to Keep Taiwan Free and out of China's hands.



Independent analyst, Ben Lewis, speaks at the FAPA Board Meeting banquet



Gerrit van der Wees reflects on the WFTA Conference in Lithuania



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU AGAIN NEXT YEAR!**



Farewell Message from Dr. Minze Chien

Dear FAPA Brothers and Sisters in Arms:

“Partir, c’est mourir un peu,” the famous French saying goes. (“Leaving is dying a bit...”) I can identify with that. After four years at the helm of our beloved organization it is now time to say goodbye.

When Mike Kuo’s term as president had ended at the end of 2019 and when he asked me to take the reins of FAPA, I hesitated a bit. After all, I had a full time job and yes, my education lay in the field of science but not political science! But I felt that my passion for Taiwan and for Taiwan Independence and my long-time involvement in Taiwanese American organizations was my most important asset and would make up for these shortcomings.

Yes, I had been involved in NATPA, TAA, and had been a FAPA standing committee member. AND I was local, living right outside Washington DC in Potomac, Maryland.

I was also aware that with the help of Headquarters staff, Vice Presidents Anny Hsiao and Mary Yang and of all of you FAPA members and supporters, all of us together would be able to carry FAPA for the next 2 or 4 years.

So, I took up this once-in-a-lifetime challenge.

It was a busy time, but a great ride, I have to say. When Covid was added to the mix in early 2020, this ride became pretty wild.

“What were your favorite events during your term as President,” you ask? “FAPA’s events that made all of us feel part of one big FAPA family,” I would say.

Indeed, as luck would have it, FAPA's 40th anniversary fell right in the middle of my second term. First we held a virtual celebration in the summer of 2022. Then we held a grand banquet in Washington D.C. in September 2022, and one in Taipei in May 2023. We also held annual National Advocacy Conferences, and Emerging Leaders Workshops, which –we believe- get better and more popular each year.

But let's look forward.

I am thrilled to see that during our annual Board Meeting the first weekend of December 2023, the FAPA Board elected the first female FAPA President ever: Su-mei Kao from New Jersey – with Chia-chun Chung from Massachusetts as Vice President.

I heartily congratulate them, and I ask that you give them the same generous support you have given me during the past four years.

At the end of his career, General Douglas McArthur said: “Old soldiers never die, they just fade away.”

I will try to fade away a bit as well, gradually moving to the background. But rest assured that my heart will always be with Taiwan, and that my passion for Taiwan independence will never waver.

A final thank you to all of you, and never forget: “WE ARE FAPA!”



Ming V. Chien
FAPA National President



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING FAPA!

Dear FAPA family and FAPA friends:

In this holiday season, let me start by thanking all of you for helping and supporting our beloved FAPA. This is my fourth and last year as FAPA National President. And yes, it is a huge honor having served as President, but with that honor comes the burden to humbly request that you donate to FAPA.

We at FAPA strongly believe that if it were not for the U.S.' continued commitment and arms sales to Taiwan, Taiwan would have been long ago forcibly annexed by China. It is therefore of utmost importance that Washington's support for Taiwan remains as robust and steady as it has been over the past decades.

I also believe that with everyone's effort, Taiwan can one day achieve truly full Taiwan Independence and become a completely normal sovereign independent country.

I would therefore like to encourage you to kindly donate to and effectively participate in FAPA — your donation will be the key to FAPA's continued efforts to strengthen and advance our various important projects.

Finally, I wish you and your family good health, happiness, and prosperity. I thank you for your continued support of FAPA. WE ARE FAPA!

Minze V. Chien
FAPA National President

SUPPORT AND DONATE NOW!

Online at <https://fapa.org/support-fapa-today/>

Check payable to FAPA
(552 7th St. SE, Washington DC 20003)

FAPA Tax ID: 11-2615291



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Note: If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a direct, tax-free "qualified charitable distribution" (QCD) of up to \$100,000 per year to a qualified charity such as FAPA, without paying any taxes on the QCD, even if you do not itemize deduction. Kindly contact your financial agent to transfer the fund directly to a qualified charity like FAPA.



感謝您對 FAPA 的付出與支持！

親愛的FAPA兄弟姐妹與朋友們：

時間過得很快，轉眼間已經到12月了。我要感謝大家對FAPA的持續付出與支持。今年是我擔任FAPA總會長的第四年，也是最後一年。

我非常榮幸能擔當此重任；而伴隨這份榮譽的，是誠懇向您邀請捐助FAPA的責任。

我們FAPA堅信，若無美國持續的對台承諾與軍售，臺灣早被中國所武力吞併了。也因此，繼續維持華府幾十年來對台灣的強大穩定支持，實乃至關重要。

我也相信，在我們大家的協助與推動下，台灣終有一天能夠實現真正完整的台灣獨立，成為一個完全正常的主權獨立國家。

在這裡，我想再次懇請大家踴躍捐助並積極參與FAPA活動 —— 您的捐款將是FAPA繼續強化並推展我們各項專案的關鍵。

最後，祝您闔家身體健康，幸福美滿，萬事順心。感謝您對FAPA的持續支持！
We are FAPA!

FAPA總會長 簡明子 謹上

支持並捐款！

網路捐款於 <https://fapa.org/support-fapa-today/>

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立即掃描！



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