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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

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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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

To FAPA Members	1
Capitol Hill Update	2
FAPA Affairs	4

TO FAPA Members:

This month we at the headquarters have seen a flurry of activities: YPG/OPG weekend workshop, letters from Members of Congress to Bush Administration on issues of arms sales and WHO; letters from our community to President Bush and the President of IOC on issues of arms sale and the use of the name of Taiwan in Olympic Games. Among those activities, we are most gratified to see the success of YPG/OPG weekend workshop which attracted the largest group of attendees ever (74). This workshop is also the first time that our young generation worked together with the still-young old generation. The chemistry works very well, and the feedbacks are just heart warming. It is obvious that there is no such thing as generation gap when it comes to Taiwan. They all share the same idealism, passion, and enthusiasm. I am particularly impressed by the questions our young people raised during the presentations given by our guest speakers. These questions reflect clearly their deep understanding of issues and their knowledge. It is also interesting to note that as a result of our urging, some members of YPG agreed to join FAPA as regular members.

Hopefully, with the injection of young blood, we can lessen the gray-ing problem of FAPA organization.

The arms sale issues is still in the state of uncertainty. Although the Bush Administration has denied that there has ever been a freeze on the arms sales, the Bush Administration has not submitted the sales to the Congress for approval. It has been reported that perhaps after the Olympic Games, President Bush might finally act on those requests. The KMT government should be the one to blame for the arms sale fiasco, for they first repeatedly blocked the arms budget and then sent signal to the US asking not to act on the sales in order not to disrupt the on going cross strait negotiation. We, of course, are very concerned and urged Members of Congress to remind the administration of Taiwan Relations Act. Any delay or freeze of arms sale is not consistent with the letter and spirit of TRA. The details of our effort are reported in this Update.

Wish you all have a wonderful summer.

– Executive Director

I Capitol Hill Update

Because of the recent YPG advocacy activity, the number of co-sponsors of various resolutions this month, notably, the HCR 137, HCR250, and HR 1390 has increased. The following is a latest summary of the co-sponsorship of 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 th 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	15
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	6

Senate Taiwan Caucus Activities

In July we continued our activities on the major issue before us: whether there is a freeze on arms sales to Taiwan. We were in frequent contact with senate offices and with the State Department on this issue. It is expected that the Administration will take a decision at the end of August or beginning of September when Congress comes back from the summer recess.

The next issue we worked on was getting Taiwan into the Visa Waiver Program. Under Representative Joseph Wu we have worked closely with TE-CRO on this issue. We are looking for continuing support from key members in Congress, such as Senator Voinovich of Ohio. We also obtained from the State Department the regulations governing the use of the name "Taiwan" in passports and certificates of birth.

We continued our communications to others regarding the new political landscape in Taiwan and the dangers of the policies of the Ma Administration's policies: in July we were able to give a presentation to foreign embassies on this issue, which was well received.

We also facilitated contacts of leaders in the Taiwanese community with the campaigns of the two presidential candidates, Mr. McCain and Obama.

We also published an article in the Taipei Times, criticizing the Ma Administration for not working towards an internal consensus in Taiwan on China policies before rushing headlong into his overtures to China (Taipei Times, July 9th 2008).

- **Senators criticize secret China-WHO M.O.U. and Bush administration's lack of initiative in bringing Taiwan into the WHO.**

In a letter to President Bush dated July 31, 2008, 4 Senators led by Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) express disappointment about the World Health Assembly's (WHA) decision last May to again exclude Taiwan from participating in the annual weeklong meeting in Geneva and urge President Bush to seek inclusion of the 23 million people in the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Senators conclude: "*As global health threats emerge, the public health of our nation increasingly depends on cooperation and communication between every nation. It is in America's best interest to ensure that Taiwan is a member of the WHO.*"

List of signatories: Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Joe Lieberman (I-CT), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), David Vitter (R-LA).

House Taiwan Caucus Activity

- **Twenty-five (25) members of the House Representatives urge President Bush to move forward with arms sales to Taiwan – call arms freeze “violation of spirit of TRA”**

In a letter dated July 31, 2008, co-chairs of the House Congressional Taiwan Caucus Reps. Shelley Berkley (D-NV) and Steve Chabot (R-OH) together with 23 other Members of the House of Representatives (11 Republicans and 12 Democrats) urged President Bush to move forward with arms sales to Taiwan in light of recent reports in the press that the Administration is putting a freeze on US arms sales to Taiwan.

The Members conclude: *"Taiwan has a right to be "secure," and that can only be guaranteed by an unambiguous and non-negotiable commitment from the United States to provide Taiwan with weapons systems consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act."*

List of signatories: Reps. Shelley Berkley (D-NV), Steve Chabot (R-OH), Gene Green (D-TX), Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Elliot Engel (D-NY), Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI), Michael McNulty (D-NY), Tom Tancredo (R-CO), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Dan Burton (R-IN), Robert Andrews (D-NJ), Mark Souder (R-IN), Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Barney Frank (D-MA), Doug Lamborn (R-CO), Steve Rothman (D-NJ), John Culberson (R-TX), G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), Joe Barton (R-TX), Donna Christensen (D-VI), Scott Garrett (R-NJ), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), David Wu (D-OR) Dennis Cardoza (D-CA)

- To clarify the arms sale issue, the ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) introduced H.R.6646 on July 29 requiring the Secretary of State 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.

- **Twenty-two (22) Taiwanese American organizations urge President Bush to lift Taiwan arms freeze.**

In letter to President George Bush dated August 2, 2008, the leaders of 22 Taiwanese Americans urge President Bush, on the eve of his departure to Beijing where Bush will attend the Olympic Games, to reaffirm U.S. commitment to Taiwan and, specifically, to lift the Taiwan arms freeze.

The organizations write: *"We appeal to you to reaffirm America's support for a free and democratic Taiwan. Specifically, we urge you to unfreeze the \$11 billion worth of arms sales to Taiwan, including the sixty-six advanced F-16 fighter jets."*

- **Twenty-two (22) Taiwanese American organizations urge IOC President to use “Taiwan” during Beijing Olympic games instead of “Chinese Taipei.”**

In a letter dated August 1 to Mr. Jacques Rogge, the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the heads of 21 Taiwanese American organizations urge Mr. Rogge to accord Taiwan during the Beijing held Olympic Games the name it deserves: "Taiwan."

The letter was triggered by recent discussions in Beijing about whether the title of the Taiwanese Olympic team should be changed from "Chinese Taipei" to Zhongguo Taipei or "China Taipei." This would lend further credence to China's irrational and unrealistic claims over Taiwan.

The organizations conclude: *"To ensure that the Olympic motto "Citius, Altius, Fortius" encourages fair athletic competition rather than sinister Chinese maneuver to annex Taiwan, we urge you to accord the island nation the name it deserves. That name is TAIWAN."*

II FAPA Affairs

- **FAPA Annual Membership Due:** As of July 31, there are still 532 members who have not paid their dues yet. If you have not done so, please contact your chapter president to show your support of FAPA and its work on Taiwan.
- **Advocacy Workshop: YPG/OPG July weekend a resounding success.**
During the extended weekend of July 19/20/21, the largest group of YPG/OPG members ever (74!) landed on Washington DC for three days of talking, walking and learning about Taiwan and Taiwan related issues. After the packed meeting on Saturday and Sunday, 50 of the group put what they had learned over the weekend into practice and spent a day on Capitol Hill talking to their Members of Congress about issues of concern to Taiwanese Americans and to the people of Taiwan, seeking Congressional



YPGers teamed up visiting Sen. Edward Kennedy's (D-MA) office.

support for Taiwan. It was a great success. For example, Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) immediately issued an Extension of Remarks supporting Taiwan's WHO participa-

tion, a mere four days after us having met with the office. Shortly thereafter Rep. Frank also co-signed a letter to President Bush (See: above) urging the Administration to lift the arms freeze on Taiwan.

We were told that ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Senator Richard Lugar's (R-IN) chief foreign policy advisor happened to be talking about Taiwan to a friend of his (a friend we know) and praised FAPA wholeheartedly - about the passion and professionalism of our advocacy visits and of our Talking Points.

Finally, Congressman McCotter's legislative director turned out to have such a good memory that he remembered having met Cassie's dad a year ago on a similar YPG Monday.

- **Embassy Briefing:** A briefing held at the office of European Union in D.C. on current Taiwan political development was presented by Gerrit. Political officers from embassies of Slovenia, Poland, German, and EU attended. Officers from Japan and South Korea were unable to attend at the last minutes because of other urgent matters. The presentation was well received, and the attendees also discussed the possibility of making it a regular event and inviting more countries to attend including Russia.
- **Rally protesting Chinese violation of Tibetan human rights on the eve of Olympic Games.** Iris is helping Tibetan coordinate a rally in DC on August 7th to protest Chinese brutal suppression of Tibetan's rights to their homeland. Our members in Chicago and Wisconsin are also planning to join the Tibetan march in their area.

- **Chia-jung moderated a panel discussion by visiting DDP legislators in D.C.** A Taiwan legislative delegation including Shiing Jer Twu, Trong Chai, Chieh-Ju Chen, and Chen Ing attended a panel discussion hosted by D.C. chapter to discuss the current political situation in Taiwan with our members. The former head of the Interior Department Su Chia-chun was also present to join the discussion.



左起總部人員王巧蓉、立委陳瑩、涂醒哲、陳節如、前農委會主委蘇嘉全



蔡同榮立委與總部執行長陳文彥

- **Regional Membership Meeting** (Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego, CA): The headquarters is also planning to hold another regional meeting in the West Coast on October 19. The details will be announced in due time. Please mark your calendar.