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# FAPA UPDATE



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## From the Executive Director

Dear FAPA Member:

Just in 40 days since Ma was inaugurated as the president of Taiwan, there are already many bad economic signs. The economic issue was supposed to be Ma's winning point. But, now stock prices plummeted to about 7500 points since May 20, the worst performance among Asian countries except China. Commodity prices are soaring, inflation is rampant, people are suffering, and voter discontent is brewing. As a result, Ma's performance rating has dropped to between 30% and 50%. Even his own party legislators are beginning to question the competence of Ma's administration. Attempting to solve the serious economic problems, Ma's administration has proposed a rescue package by placing Taiwan's economic future in the hands of Communist China: An opening to a large influx of Chinese tourists, weekend charter flights, currency exchange, direct Chinese investment, and others. This rapid economic integration with China has raised many questions and worries.

On the diplomatic and security front, Ma administration's policy, if there is any, is to place Taiwan's international

space and security at the mercy of Chinese goodwill in spite of Chinese belligerent positions on the issue of WHO and One China Principle. China so far has not yielded even an inch in response to Ma's appeasement.

Ma's policy has already created many difficulties for us and hindered our effort to help Taiwan join the WHO and strengthen Taiwan security. Case in point: To appease the Communist China, Ma's administration has been less than enthusiastic in procuring F16 C/D. In a recent hearing held by the House Arms Services Committee, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs Mr. Shinn, in response to Rep. Courtney's question of recent decision to put sales on hold, replied by saying that, "Actually, I don't believe that we made a decision to put things in abeyance. This was -- this was driven, as far as I understand, by Taiwanese domestic politics."

According to reports from US sources, it was Su Chi, Secretary General of Taiwan's National Security Council, who advised the US to delay the sales of F16 in order not to disturb the "friendly" atmosphere now

*"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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developing between Taiwan and China. China, on the other hand, is taking the advantage of Ma's weakness by actively lobbying the US against **ANY** arms sales to Taiwan. China convincingly pointed out that China and Ma government have developed a good relation and, therefore, US should not sell arms to Taiwan to disrupt this improved relations. Additionally, when we visited congressional offices to talk about the sales of F16 the question was always raised in regards to Ma administration's interest in procuring the arms.

Ma's actions have undermined our ability on the Hill to urge the US to expedite the sales of F16. It is hard to persuade members of Congress to support the sales when Ma's government does not think it is necessary and urgent. The only argument that we can present is based on the Taiwan Relations Act and the recent Pentagon Report which clearly states that the military balance is now tilted in favor of China. And it is in the US national interest to strengthen Taiwan's defense capability in order to maintain peace and stability in that region.

We are facing a very difficult situation. We are facing a Taiwan government, unlike the previous one, that does not care much about Taiwan's international space and security, and places Taiwan's future in the hands of the Communist China. We are also facing a growing Chinese power that has relentlessly attempted to squeeze Taiwan out of existence by claiming Taiwan as a province of China.

We must let the people of Taiwan know and realize the dangerous path the Ma's administration is taking before it is too late.

It is about time for the people of Taiwan to wake up and smell the coffee. We at FAPA in this critical situation should redouble our efforts to let our voice be heard, and help safeguard Taiwan's security and future as a free and democratic nation.

– *Wen-yen Chen*

## I Capitol Hill Update

There are a few changes in co-sponsorship of various resolutions this month, notably, the HCR 137, HCR250, and HR 1390. The following is a 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 <sup>th</sup> direct and democratic presidential election in March 2008	Passed by the House
HCR137	Free Trade Agreement between U.S. and Taiwan	37
HCR250	Supporting Taiwan's membership in international organizations such as UN	43
HCR73	U.S. should resume diplomatic relations with Taiwan	12
HR1390	Senate confirmation of AIT Director	23
SCR48	High level visit to the U.S. by officials of Taiwan	9
SCR60	Free Trade Agreement between U.S. and Taiwan	4

## SENATE TAIWAN CAUCUS ACTIVITIES

Up to the end of June, we had held 35 meetings with Senate aides. In the period January to March these were primarily to discuss the prospects for the elections and to gain support for a Senate letter to the Bush Administration to refrain from criticizing the UN referendum. This effort culminated in a letter by the Senate Taiwan Caucus on February 29<sup>th</sup>.

After the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Presidential elections, the meetings were focused on explaining our side of the story in the elections, and to urge Senators to be on guard against precipitous moves by the new Ma Administration. In each of these meetings we also questioned the "One China" policy, and urged support for Taiwan's membership in international organizations. These efforts culminated in an invitation by the Senate Taiwan Caucus to FAPA to give a briefing on Taiwan's new political landscape and its implications for US policy. This presentation was given by Gerrit and held at the Capitol Building on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

These discussions and contacts were very valuable in mid-June, when press reports indicated that the US had "frozen" arms sales to Taiwan at the behest of the Ma Administration. We immediately alerted a number of key senate offices.

- ***F16 C/D Sale***

On the basis of our signals several key senators asked the Administration for an urgent explanation of the situation, and the Senate Taiwan Caucus addressed a letter to the Administration, stating: *"Recently, we have been aware of a possible freeze on all foreign military sales to Taiwan. We believe that a freeze on foreign military sales to Taiwan violates the spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act. We have made attempts to clarify the status of these requests but to no avail. We request a briefing on the status of these sales from all appropriate agencies, and urge the Administration to expeditiously execute consideration of these requests."* We were told that about 10 senators have signed on to this letter.

- ***WHO***

Another effort we are working on is to express Congressional disappointment that the Bush Administration was not more forceful in its support of Taiwan into the WHO. At present, Senator Sherrod Brown is circulating a letter to the Administration, which concludes: *"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 full member of the WHO."* Senator Brown is seeking other senators to co-sign the letter.



## HOUSE TAIWAN CAUCUS ACTIVITIES

- ***Congress Expresses support for WHO for Taiwan***

On May 22, Rep. Dennis Moore (D-KS) inserted an Extension of Remarks into the Congressional Record in support of "Taiwan's proposed membership in the World Health Organization, WHO."

The Congressman stated that "In today's global community, health is a shared responsibility, as the whole world is vulnerable to transnational diseases. Given the tremendous volume of international travel and global trade, the transmission of communicable diseases between borders has been heightened. This reality necessitates both

global collaboration and a global response to prevent and control the spread of these diseases."

He added that "*Currently, there are over 190 participants in the WHO. Taiwan is not one of them, however, which means that the 23 million citizens of Taiwan do not have access to the critical health service and information the WHO provides.*"

And concluded "*Taiwan's membership in the WHO is not only in the interest of the people of Taiwan, it is in the interest of the international community and the WHO itself: as the WHO stands to benefit significantly from the financial and technological contributions that Taiwan has to offer.*"

We are working with other Members of Congress urging them to support Taiwan's membership in the WHO and expressing dismay about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the WHO has concluded with China stipulating that any information the WHO sends to its members first needs to be approved by China. In other words, China decides which information Taiwan receives from the WHO.

Also, in light of the alleged freeze of arms sales by the United States vis-a-vis Taiwan, the co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus are currently finalizing a letter to President Bush af-

firming that any freeze contradicts US obligations to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act ("The Law of the Land") and urging the President not to interrupt the US's decades old policy of selling arms to Taiwan.

During the first week of July Congress will take the week off for its July 4 weeklong recess. HQ will take advantage of the relative quietude on Capitol Hill and we have therefore set up appointments with the following Congressional offices. If you recognize your Member of Congress in the list and if you want to take this opportunity to reach out to your Member of Congress in the district yourself, feel free to contact Iris or Coen to coordinate.

Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Scott Garrett (R-NJ), John Campbell (R-CA), Scott Garrett (R-NJ), Gene Green (D-TX), Susan Davis (D-CA), Dennis Cardoza (D-CA), Mike Honda (D-CA), Cliff Stearns (R-FL), Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Thelma Drake (R-VA), Phil English (R-PA), Danny Davis (D-IL), Ed Royce (R-CA), Roy Blunt (R-MO), Robert Wexler (D-FL), Dan Boren (D-OK), Rob Bishop (R-UT), Adam Putnam (R-FL), Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Virgil Goode (R-VA), Alcee Hastings (D-FL), Joe Barton (R-TX)

## II FAPA Affairs

- FAPA Annual Membership Due:** The deadline for paying membership due is June 30. As of today, June 28, there are still 1335 (43.93%) members who have not submitted their annual membership fees yet. The membership is the foundation of FAPA organization. The FAPA can not function without your support. I understand that some chapter presidents are still working diligently to collect dues. If you have not done so, please contact your local chapter president and pay your due and, of course, any amount of contribution to FAPA would also be greatly appreciated.
- YPG Conference:** YPG annual summer conference will be held in Washington DC during the weekend of July 18-21. We have over 70 participants registered for the annual "Advocacy for Taiwan" weekend (7/18 ~ 7/21). It is a great mix of FAPA Young Professional Group members with the "not so young yet young at heart" FAPA members. Three quarters of the participants are second

generation Taiwanese Americans. Participants will immerse in a weekend of workshops focusing on the US-Taiwan-China relationship and basic grassroots advocacy skills. The Monday following the weekend conference, participants will visit their elected officials' offices on Capitol Hill to seek their support for Taiwan. Speakers to the conferences include Steve Yates, former foreign policy advisor to Vice President Cheney; Shirley Kan, Congressional Research Services; Mike Fonte, DPP liaison to the United States; representatives from U.S. presidential campaigns; Richard Bush of the Brookings Institution; Jay Lin, Washington correspondent for Central News Agency; and Nadia Tsao, Washington Correspondent for the Liberty Times.

- Rally at the Pacific Health Summit in Seattle:** The 2008 Pacific Health Summit opened its annual meeting in Seattle, Washington, on June 17 in which WHO Secretary General, Health Minister of countries in the region, and prominent health professionals attended. Organized by the FAPA local chapter president Becky Lee, assisted by C.J. Wang, FAPA and other Taiwanese American organizations held a "WHO for Taiwan" rally at the conference site to call for an inclusion of Taiwan into the World Health Organization. The rally went very well and there were about 70 veterans of FAPA and Taiwanese activists participated in the rally from 9:00 A.M. to noon on June 17.

- Regional Membership Meeting in Seattle:** Taking advantage of the Standing Committee meeting in Seattle, the headquarters organized a regional conference inviting all members of FAPA and other Taiwanese community organizations in the area to attend. There were about 150 members attended the conference.



Seattle Chapter President, Becky Lee

Some of them came from Portland, Oregon; some came as far as Vancouver, Canada. During the meeting, President Yang presented new direction of FAPA after Taiwan election and called for unity for all Taiwanese organizations to work for



Above: Taiwanese Canadians at the FAPA Regional Conference



Left: Taiwanese from US Northwest region & Canada protesting outside the Pacific Health Summit

common goals. The Executive Director also presented tips of advocacy followed by lively discussions of issues interested to members.

- **Internal work meeting of the Asian Democracy Alliance (ADA):** Iris attended the meeting at the Capitol Building. Attendants also included Thubten Namgyal Judhon, former Prime Minister of Tibetan Government in Exile, Pema Khangtetsang, former Security Minister of Tibetan government in Exile, Wei Jensheng and Ciping Huang of Overseas Chinese Democracy Foundation, Jamyang Norbu of Rangzen Alliance; Temtsiltu Shobtsood, Chairman, Inner Mongolian People's Party, Germany, Sidhagirougi and Mustafa Rouzi (husband and son of Rebiya Kadeer), Uyghur American Association, Sonam Wangdu, Chairman of U.S.-Tibet Committee, Tsering Palden, President of Regional Tibetan Youth Congress; Lobsang Chopell; Doma Norbu and Karma Namgyal, President of Dokham Chushi Gangdruk, Sen Nieh of Falung Gong (Iris also was asked to represent the Vietnamese human rights organization.)

The meeting was called for and organized by the Tibetan groups to discuss about how to revive the alliance that has been dormant since its formation two years ago. Several member organizations, including FAPA, the Mongolian and the Vietnamese would like to see more action and activities by the alliance. The Mongolian representative mentioned that when he was in Japan, people were very impressed by the formation of the "Asian Democracy Alliance." Iris suggested that while we have no funding, a lot of activities/actions do not require money. For example, issuing joint statements or press releases will be a good start.

The consensus from two years ago was that the alliance does not interfere with each individual organization's mission and work. The alliance advocates for the general principle of human rights, democracy and freedom.

Iris also attended 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chushi Gangdruk in New York to commemorate the Tibetan uprising of 1957. Chushi Gangdruk is the first Tibetan organization that was established inside Tibet shortly after the Chinese invasion. They were the organization that was supplied arms and trained by the CIA to fight against the Chinese.

- **Vietnam Human Rights Day:** On May 8, Iris attended the commemoration of the 14th anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day in the U.S Congress. She along Congressmen Frank n Frank Wolf, Chris Smith, Dana Rohrabacher and Tom Davis, and Taiwan's representative to the U.S. Joseph Wu spoke and expressed their support for human rights in Vietnam.
- **MD Chapter Meeting:** C.J. was invited to attend the first MD Chapter meeting after the re-organization. She delivered a speech on the future direction of FAPA after the March election. Members expressed interests in Taiwan College Campus Speech tour and the coming YPG convention/workshop. To meet the financial difficulty of FAPA after election, one member recommended a new banking plan from Suntrust Bank that may benefit FAPA. The plan requires you to open an account from Suntrust Bank and activate your debit card. Suntrust will donate \$100 to any 501 non-profit origination you designate. If you live in the area serviced by the Suntrust Bank, you may consider this plan to help FAPA's financial situation.
- **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.