

Summarized Results of Public Opinion Survey
(December 21 to 23, 2007)
"The Public's View on Current Cross-Strait Relations"

■ Regarding China's attempts at pressuring Taiwan through the United States with a view to opposing Taiwan's holding of a referendum on joining the United Nations, 77.8 percent of the public express that they will not disapprove of holding the referendum because of the US's opposition.

■ 66.8 percent of the public believe that the Chinese authorities are unfriendly to the Taiwanese government, and 50.6 percent of the public believe the Chinese authorities are unfriendly to the Taiwanese people.

■ On the issue of prioritization of developing diplomatic and cross-strait relations, 68.3 percent of those interviewed agree that the government should continue to develop diplomatic relations with other countries even if doing so will cause tensions in cross-strait relations.

■ The vast majority of the public (86.5 percent) still advocate maintaining the status quo defined in a broader sense (including "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later," "maintaining the status quo and unification later," "maintaining the status quo and independence later", and "maintaining the status quo indefinitely"). The results are consistent with the trends shown in previous surveys.

I. Survey Background and Methods

The MAC commissioned Berke Marketing Research Ltd. to conduct a telephone survey of adults aged 20 and over in the Taiwan Area from December 21 to 23, 2007. A total of 1,067 effective samples were collected, with a sampling error of about 3 percent based on a 95 percent confidence level.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on the referendum on Taiwan's bid to join the United Nations

Regarding China's attempts at pressuring Taiwan through the United States with a view to opposing Taiwan's holding of a referendum on joining the United Nations,

77.8 percent of the public express that they will not disapprove of holding the referendum because of the US's opposition.

(2) Views on direct cross-strait transportation links

On the issue of direct cross-strait transportation links, 77.4 percent of the public believe such links should be "opened conditionally," while 16.5 percent believe they should be "opened unconditionally."

(3) Views on China-bound investments by Taiwanese businesspeople

Regarding restrictions imposed by the government on China-bound investments by Taiwanese businesspeople, 44.3 percent of the public believe such limits should be "slightly tightened," while 37.7 percent believe they should be "slightly eased" and 11.5 percent believe in "maintaining the status quo."

(4) Public perception of China's hostility toward Taiwan

66.8 percent of the public believe that the Chinese authorities are unfriendly to the Taiwanese government (including 21.4 percent responding "extremely unfriendly" and 45.4 percent responding "unfriendly"). Moreover, 50.6 percent of the public believe the Chinese authorities are unfriendly to the Taiwanese people (including 12.9 percent responding "extremely unfriendly" and 37.7 percent responding "unfriendly").

(5) Views on prioritization of diplomatic and cross-strait relations

On the issue of prioritization of developing diplomatic and cross-strait relations, 32.8 percent believe that it is "more important to develop relations between Taiwan and China," which is equal to the percentage (32.8 percent) of those believing it is "more important to develop relations with other countries." The proportion of people believing the two are of "equal importance" is 30.8 percent. Furthermore, when asked if the development of diplomatic relations will cause tensions in cross-strait relations, 68.3 percent of the public agree that the government should continue to develop diplomatic relations with other countries.

(6) Views on cross-strait exchanges

Regarding the pace of the government's opening up of cross-strait civilian exchanges, 40.7 percent of the public believe the pace is "just right," 32.2 percent believe it is "too slow," and 18.6 percent believe it is "too fast."

(7) Views on unification vs. independence

The vast majority of the public (86.5 percent) still advocate maintaining the status quo defined in a broader sense (including "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later," "maintaining the status quo and unification later," "maintaining the status quo and independence later", and "maintaining the status quo indefinitely"). Of the six possible positions on this issue, the largest number (44.9 percent) support "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later," while 20.6 percent support "maintaining the status quo indefinitely." Furthermore, the proportion of people leaning toward independence (19.1 percent, including 7.3 percent for "independence as soon as possible" and 11.8 percent for "maintaining the status quo and independence later") is greater than the proportion leaning toward unification (12.4 percent, including 3.2 percent for "unification as soon as possible" and 9.2 percent for "maintaining the status quo and unification later").

(8) Views on China's "one country, two systems" formula

Regarding China's stance on developing cross-strait relations under the "one country, two systems" formula, 71.2 percent of the public disapprove, while only 17.6 percent of the public agree.

Questionnaire and Percentage Distribution

Survey date: December 12 to 23, 2007

Number of effective samples: 1,067

Sampling error: \pm 3 percent

Survey conducted by: Berke Marketing Research Ltd.

"The Public's View on Current Cross-Strait Relations" Public Opinion Survey

1. Do you believe that the Chinese government's attitude toward the Taiwanese government is friendly (good) or unfriendly (bad)?

- 1.3% 1. Extremely friendly
- 21.6% 2. Friendly 22.9% Friendly
- 45.4% 3. Unfriendly 66.8% Unfriendly
- 21.4% 4. Extremely unfriendly
- 10.3% 5. Don't know / No opinion

2. Do you believe that the Chinese government's attitude toward the Taiwanese people is friendly (good) or unfriendly (bad)?

- 2.7% 1. Extremely friendly
- 37.5% 2. Friendly 40.2% Friendly
- 37.7% 3. Unfriendly 50.6% Unfriendly
- 12.9% 4. Extremely unfriendly
- 9.2% 5. Don't know / No opinion

3. Regarding the development of cross-strait relations, China has proposed a "one country, two systems" formula that treats Taiwan as a local government, would place Taiwan under Chinese governance, and would mean that the government of the Republic of China would no longer exist. Do you agree or disagree with China's "one country, two systems" formula?

- 4.1% 1. Strongly agree
- 13.5% 2. Agree 17.6% Agree
- 37.1% 3. Disagree 71.2% Disagree
- 34.1% 4. Strongly disagree
- 11.2% 5. Don't know / No opinion

4. Over the past several years, the government has been gradually opening up exchanges between Taiwan and China. Do you feel that the pace of current cross-strait civilian exchanges is too fast, too slow or just right?

- 18.6% 1. Too fast
- 32.2% 2. Too slow
- 40.7% 3. Just right
- 8.5% 4. Don't know / No opinion

5. Some people believe that developing relations between Taiwan and China is more important, and some people believe developing relations between Taiwan and other countries is more important. Which do you feel is more important?

- 32.8% 1. Developing relations between Taiwan and China
- 32.8% 2. Developing relations between Taiwan and other countries
- 30.8% 3. Equal importance
- 3.6% 4. Don't know / No opinion

6. If the development of diplomatic relations causes tensions in cross-strait relations, do you agree or disagree that diplomatic relations should continue to be developed?

- 19.7% 1. Strongly agree
- 48.6% 2. Agree 68.3% Agree
- 19.6% 3. Disagree 25.2% Disagree
- 5.6% 4. Strongly disagree
- 6.5% 5. Don't know / No opinion

7. Regarding restrictions imposed by the government on China-bound investments by Taiwanese businesspeople, some people believe that the government should slightly tighten such restrictions, and some people believe the restrictions should be slightly eased. Do you believe the restrictions should be slightly tightened or slightly eased?

- 44.3% 1. Slightly tightened
- 37.7% 2. Slightly eased
- 11.5% 3. Maintain the status quo
- 6.5% 4. Don't know / No opinion

8. Currently in society, some people say that Taiwan should unconditionally open up direct transportation links with China in the current phase. However, there are also some people who believe such links should be opened conditionally (for example based on conditions of national security, dignity and parity). Do you believe that the government should open direct transportation links unconditionally or conditionally?

- 77.4% 1. Conditionally open transportation links
- 16.5% 2. Unconditionally open transportation links
- 2.5% 3. Do not open transportation links
- 3.6% 4. Don't know / No opinion

9. Regarding relations between Taiwan and China, there are the following different views: 1. Unification as soon as possible; 2. Independence as soon as possible; 3. Maintaining the status quo and unification later; 4. Maintaining the status quo and independence later; 5. Maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later; and 6. Maintaining the status quo indefinitely. Which of these positions do you lean toward?

- 3.2% 1. Unification as soon as possible
- 7.3% 2. Independence as soon as possible
- 9.2% 3. Maintaining the status quo and unification later
- 11.8% 4. Maintaining the status quo and independence later
- 44.9% 5. Maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence
or unification later
- 20.6% 6. Maintaining the status quo indefinitely
- 3.0% 7. Don't know / No opinion

10. China is pressuring Taiwan through the United States with a view to opposing Taiwan's holding of a referendum on joining the United Nations. Do you disapprove of holding the referendum because of the US's opposition?

- 14.2% 1. Yes

77.8% 2. No

8.0% 3. Don't know / No opinion