

A Conference on the Relationship between China and Taiwan Concluded with Positive Results

An international conference on the topic of “The Development of a New Trend in the Relationship between Taiwan and China” was held between December 14 and 15 in Shanghai. Given the fact that many conferees are experts on the related issue, and also because it was the first meeting following the new Legislative Yuan election in Taiwan, the conference has attracted a great deal of attention from the media.

Many representatives were prestigious think-tank leaders. For instance, We have Chang Nian-tse, Director, Institute of Taiwan Affairs, Shanghai Social and Science Academy; Mr. Yen An-ling, Deputy Director, ditto, and Mr. Yang Chie-mian, Deputy Director, Shanghai Institute of International Problems and Relationships. And on Taiwan side, the delegation was led by Dr. Wei Wou, Dean, College of International Affairs, with Dr. Chang Ching-yu, former Director, Council for Mainland Affairs and Tamkang Chair Professor, Dr. Lu Yi-cheng, a veteran diplomat.

In the 2-day meeting, scholars from both sides of the Taiwan Strait have covered the following 4 topics: 1) The International Situation Change vs. the Relationship between China and Taiwan; 2) The Impact of the Political Change within Taiwan vs. the Relationship between China and Taiwan; 3) WTO' s Impact upon the Relationship between China and Taiwan and 4) The Trade and Commerce Interflow vs. the Relationship between China and Taiwan.

Among the papers, two are considered to be perspicacious. They include a paper, “From the Post-Chiang Ching-kuo Period to the Post-Lee Teng-hui

Period: A Study of the Qualitative Change in the Relationship between China and Taiwan” by Dr. Lin Yao-fu and another paper by Dr. Chen Yea-hong, former President of TKU, “Under the New Political Structure: A New Look at the Prospect and Trend of the Relationship between China and Taiwan.”

Dr. Wei told the reporter of Tamkang e-Times that the fluctuations of DPP (the Green frontline) and KMT (the Blue frontline) have caused much concern over the scholars in China. Hence the Beijing regime will continue to exercise their “wait and see” policy toward the A-bian regime. But, to avoid getting stranded in the quagmire of isolation, the Beijing government will not shun the opportunity of getting in touch with the moderate members in DPP.

Another 4 issues that have received equally prominent attention from the attending conferees are: 1) “The Controversy of the One-China Issue” , “When will Both Sides Resume Their Bilateral Talk?” 3) “The Future Development of DPP Government” and “The Possibility of Holding a Plebiscite in Taiwan” .

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