

Cross-Party Group on Taiwan Meeting

Date: 6:00pm, 25/09/2019

Venue: Q1.03, The Scottish Parliament

Apologies: Margaret Mitchell MSP, James Dornan MSP, Liam McArthur MSP

- The Co-Convener, Rhoda Grant MSP, chaired the meeting and welcomed the members and friends of the CPG on Taiwan to the meeting.

Update on Taiwan's Recent Developments:

- The Director General of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Edinburgh, Jason C.C. Lien, provided an update on the recent state of affairs in Taiwan. He thanked the friends and colleagues in the Scottish Parliament for their continuous support and warm friendship. Thanks to this continuous support and friendship, the Scottish Parliament has proposed and passed four motions, covering topics around the importance of safeguarding the independent identity, democracy and human rights in Taiwan, Taiwan's constructive participation in WHA, and Taiwan's recent achievement on passing same sex marriage bill.
- The Director General noted that Taiwan was a founding member of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). However, Taiwan was excluded from ICAO following its withdrawal from the UN in 1971. The government and the 23 million people of Taiwan have since been unable to participate in ICAO meetings, activities and mechanisms, and to safeguard our civil aviation development rights and welfare. Taiwan's Taoyuan International Airport ranked 10th and 6th in the world in 2017 in terms of international passenger and cargo volume. Taiwan undoubtedly occupies a key position in both regional and global civil aviation transport and flight control, and yet it is unable to participate in ICAO. As the 40th Assembly meeting took place in Montreal yesterday, the Director General hoped that the Scottish Parliament could take actions to support Taiwan's participation in ICAO and its Assembly sessions as an observer.
- Turning to the situation in Hong Kong, the Director General noted that the recent events in Hong Kong have attracted substantial attention from around the world since June. He remarked that the democratic protests not only made Taiwanese cherish their existing democratic system and way of life more, but also made it clear that "one country, two system" is not viable. We believe the people of Hong Kong also have the right to pursue their own democracy and freedom, and to choose their own lifestyle and political system.
- With the new round of CPG meetings beginning, the Director General noted that he welcomes increased co-operation between Taiwan and Scotland, particularly in cultural affairs. The Director General introduced Dr Ava Hsueh, a cultural promotor as well as the former Director of National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts (NTMoFA) to the audience.

Guest Presentation: "Cultural Promotor: Multiple Art Aspects of National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts"

- Dr Ava Hsueh provided an introduction of NTMoFA and discussed her work as a cultural promotor in her presentation. She noted that in her role as the former Director of NTMoFA, she very much focused on the education and promotion of visual arts. She aimed to organise the most diverse range of themed visual art exhibitions; to foster long-term art exchanges with overseas institutions; to actively participate in major international events; to promote art education; and to provide the public with a pleasing and multi-faceted environment in her former role. Dr Ava Hsueh then moved on to present the iconic exhibitions of the NTMoFA in 2007-2009. She noted that when she took office, she saw the urgent need to connect with the Asian trends and to introduce the uniqueness of Taiwan's visual arts. Consequently, she organised the first Asian Art Biennial with the attempt to increase the awareness of the development of Asian cultures and arts among the Taiwanese public, as well as to ensure that Taiwan would not be left behind when a new world of arts was emerging in Asia. The 2007 Asian Art Biennial "*Have You Eaten Yet?*" exhibition reflected the cultural self-awareness of Asian community amid the far-reaching transformation of the region at large, and the notable characteristics that may distinguish Asian cultures from Western counterpart in the process of social-cultural changes. The 2009 Asian Art Biennial "*Viewpoints & Viewing Points*" exhibition explored how a multiplicity of perspectives have come to inform our contemporary reality, and how such reality, characterised by high

degrees of interactivity, has in turn enriched the cultural perspectives of Asia. Following which, Dr Ava Hsueh touched on the genealogy of the Taiwanese Art, the Asian Art Forum (an academic forum) and the cultivation of cultural citizenship (a volunteering programme). She noted that NTMoFA also collaborates with institutes of higher education in art, and one of the examples is the doctoral programme in Art Creation and Theory at Tainan National University of the Arts, where Dr Ava Hsueh was a faculty member. In addition, NTMoFA passed “The Directions for Museum Volunteer Management” in 1988. During her service at NTMoFA in 2006, over 400 volunteers were recruited. The number had increased to 600 (or higher) in 2018. After years of re-organisation, there are now six units of volunteers including museum guiding, exhibition gallery management, library and information, picture book area, playground for children, and administration assistance. Dr Ava Hsueh concluded that an art museum is a cultural space. It is not just a place where visitors see the content and format of the exhibition and are engraved with such cultural attributes, but also a space where visitors are encouraged to translate the dynamics and significance of the exhibits, and to become cultural interpreters of fluidity.

Attendance:

1. Rhoda Grant MSP (Co-Convener, Chair)
2. Richard Lyle MSP
3. Kate Fry
4. Sean Ferguson
5. Jason C.C. Lien (Director General, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
6. Mindy Chia-Min Chang (Assistant Director, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
7. Daniel Wei-Ting Hu (Assistant Director, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
8. Blanca Kao (Secretary, CPG on Taiwan)
9. Prof. Ava Hsueh (Guest Speaker)
10. Dr Li-Heng Hsu
11. Chia-Ling Yang
12. Jenny Chen
13. Thomas Tan
14. Ian McKee
15. Li-Yen Peng
16. Chi Can
17. Gene Yang
18. Junghee Moon