

Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Taiwan Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Date: 5:30pm, 07/06/2018

Venue: Committee Room 6, The Scottish Parliament

Action Point	Action By
<p>Annual General Meeting (AGM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MSP James Dornan, as the Chair of the meeting, provided a brief review of the CPG meetings held in 2017/2018. Following which, the election of office bearers (Co-Conveners) and Secretary took place. It was agreed that MSP James Dornan, MSP Rhoda Grant and MSP Margaret Mitchell will continue to be the Co-Conveners for the CPG on Taiwan, and Ms. Blanca Kao will be the new Secretary of the group. <p>Update on CPG on Taiwan's Recent Developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Director General of the Taipei Representative Office (TRO) in Edinburgh, Jason C.C. Lien, noted that the CPG has been instrumental in facilitating the political, cultural, educational and economic links between Taiwan and Scotland. The presentation on Taiwanese tea trade history and tea tasting in the previous CPG meeting in April was very well received. In addition to that, a motion supporting Taiwan's participation in the 71st World Health Assembly (WHA) has been proposed with the endorsement of many MSPs following the last CPG meeting. The Director General of TRO thanked all the friends from the Scottish Parliament for the support Taiwan has received. The Director General of TRO further noted that during the 71st WHA Plenary Session, 17 diplomatic allies along with six other countries i.e. Canada, Germany, New Zealand, Japan, Australia and the United States, and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta had directly and indirectly expressed their support for Taiwan's participation in the WHA. In order to ensure global public health security, the Director General of TRO noted that Taiwan will continue to collaborate with members of the international community and seek opportunities to take part in relevant international affairs. ▪ The Director General of TRO noted that the links between Taiwanese and Scottish academia have been strong with over 500 Taiwanese students pursuing different levels of education here in the fields of biochemistry, medicine, art and more, and the close collaboration between Taiwan's Ministry of Science and Technology and the Royal Scottish Academy since the sign-off of MOU in 2001. Seminars in various domains, e.g. marine energy, cancer and stem cell studies, electronic materials, information and communication technology, and smart city have been held and fruitful outcomes have been achieved. The Director General welcomes the establishment of 'Taiwanese Scholar Association in Scotland (TSAS)' and believes that the links between Scotland and Taiwan can be broadened and deepened further. <p>Guest Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Thomas C.J. Tan gave a presentation on "Taiwanese Researchers and Academia in Scotland: The Past and the Future". As part of the presentation, Dr Tan discussed the objectives of the formal establishment of 'Taiwanese Scholar Association in Scotland (TSAS)' that he co-chairs with Dr Chih-Jen Lin. With the establishment of TSAS, Dr Tan hopes that TSAS can achieve the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Maintaining a vital research community through regular knowledge exchange activities, e.g. seminars, forums, symposiums, workshops, etc., and with an annual celebration of Taiwan-Scotland research links. (ii) Experience sharing and mentoring (iii) Providing a focal point for bilateral collaborations, e.g. bridging funding opportunities and identify suitable collaborators, etc. ▪ MSP James Dornan welcomed the establishment of TSAS and asked if it would be of interest if the topics of the following CPG meetings to be centred around higher education, bio technology, medicine, technology, etc. All agreed to have a think about the relevant topics for the future meetings. ▪ Dr Simon Chin commented that the establishment of TSAS is timely and much needed considering the likely shortage of future research funding coming from the EU after Brexit. 	

Attendance:

- Rhoda Grant MSP (Co-Convener)
- James Dornan (Co-Convener)
- Richard Sullivan
- Jason C.C. Lien (Director General, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
- Daniel Wei-Ting Hu (Assistant Director, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
- Hsinyen Lai (Secretary, CPG on Taiwan)
- Blanca Kao (new Secretary, CPG on Taiwan)
- Thomas Tan (Guest Speaker)
- Lucy Cheung
- K.C. Cheung
- Hsien-Lin Ro
- Chih-Jen Lin
- Yu-Chieh Cheng
- Simon Chin
- Shun-Neng Hsu