

# CPG on Taiwan

## Initial Meeting Minutes

### Meeting Details

**Co-Chairs:**

James Dornan MSP and Rhoda Grant MSP

**Date:** Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2021**Time:** 6:00pm**Location:** Virtual Meeting

### Meeting Notes

**Apologies**

- Ian Irvin

**Welcome Remarks**

- James Dornan MSP and Rhoda Grant MSP co-chaired the meeting and warmly welcomed members and friends of the CPG on Taiwan group to the meeting.
- James Dornan MSP also commented on his previous participation in the CPG on Taiwan and the role of the CPG in building the relationship between Scotland and Taiwan.

**Office bearer Election**

- Co-convenors:
  - James Dornan MSP, Rhoda Grant MSP, and Jamie Greene MSP were nominated and agreed as co-conveners of the CPG on Taiwan by the group.
- Secretary:
  - Danielle Thomson was nominated and agreed as secretary of the CPG on Taiwan.

**Purpose of the group**

- Purpose of the group confirmed by James Dornan MSP and members of the CPG- *“To Facilitate the political, cultural, educational and economic links between Taiwan and Scotland”*.
- Jason Lien, Director-General of the Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh, agreed with James that the CPG on Taiwan has been serving as an important platform to successfully strengthen political, economic, cultural, and educational links between Taiwan and Scotland during past years.
- He also proposed the purpose of the Group as to facilitate meetings and contacts between parliamentarians of two countries and to improve relations on various topics to see where can be further strengthened to the mutual benefits.

**COP26 and Taiwan events**

- Jason Lien noted that in the upcoming COP26, Taiwan will continue to participate under the category of nongovernmental organization observer due to political factors. He commented that Taiwan is firmly committed to combating climate change and that for the past 4 years, renewable energy installation increased more than 100% in Taiwan, particularly with both solar and offshore wind power capacity with the largest offshore wind farm under construction in Asia Pacific Region, the Formosa 1.
- Jamie Greene MSP proposed putting together a schedule of upcoming events in the COP26 fringe relating to Taiwan, which may be of interest to members and friends of the CPG.

**Ideas and topics of interest**

- Rhoda Grant MSP proposed a potential topic of interest for discussion being Taiwan’s role in the WHO and COP in terms of participation and access, and commented on the importance of having

Taiwan's voice heard internationally, especially regarding health, given Taiwan's experience in managing Covid-19.

- James Dornan MSP suggested meeting discussion to be a rundown of how COP26 went for Taiwan and the plans moving forward. Rhoda Grant MSP also commented on Taiwan's role in the renewable industry and would be interested in learning about current progress. Jamie Greene MSP proposed a topic of interest to discuss how Taiwan has dealt with the pandemic and the lessons learned from the experience. He also suggested a potential for a monthly news round-up of any updates of interest in Taiwan.
- Jason Lien proposed discussion topics to include visit exchange, trade, economic and investment, cultural, climate change and green energy, educational, science and tourism cooperation.
- Martin Bell proposed a potential topic of interest to be Taiwan as a market for Scotch Whisky and small companies; Ian Irvin proposed via email the topic of the recognition, by the British Government, of Taiwan; A group member suggested a topic of discussion Taiwan's international participation.

#### **Next meeting**

- Date to be confirmed.

#### **Attendance**

1. James Dornan MSP (Co-convener, Co-chair)
2. Rhoda Grant MSP (Co-convener, Co-chair)
3. Jamie Greene MSP (Co-convener)
4. Sarah Boyack MSP
5. Kate Fry
6. Isabella Gabrovsky
7. Jason C.C. Lien (Director General, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
8. Mindy Chang
9. Alfie Lin
10. Danielle Thomson (Secretary, CPG on Taiwan)
11. Martin Bell
12. Philip Chan
13. Dr Chih-Jen Lin
14. Sandy Sneddon
15. Dr Thomas Tan