

Ma Ying-jeou should take new steps in cross-Straits policy

Taiwanese leader Ma Ying-jeou, who successfully won his re-election in the island's "presidential" election in January, kicked off his second term yesterday. In his inauguration speech, besides elaborating on how to improve Taiwan's competitiveness, Ma stressed the need to maintain the **status quo** over the Taiwan Strait of "no reunification, no independence and no war" to promote peaceful development on the basis of the 1992 Consensus. Four years ago, Ma created a new cross-Straits situation, starting from this point and principle. Now with his reiteration of this adopted line, it seems cross-Straits relations will move forward steadily over the next four years.

In recent years, some very desirable changes have taken place in cross-Taiwan-Straits relations. When he came to power four years ago, Ma began to stabilise relations in the direction of peaceful development by **adhering to** the 1992 Consensus on the "one China" concept. This enabled the Mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) and Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) to resume cross-Straits talks on people-to-people affairs after a nine-year hiatus. This has resulted in ARATS and SEF signing 16 important agreements up to now. In particular, the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) signed by both sides paved the way for economic integration between the two sides across the Taiwan Strait, **opening up** new prospects for common development and prosperity of the two economies. The two sides have also established the "three grand direct links" (of trade, communication and mail), which had been obstructed again and again during the tenure of Chen Shui-bian. Last year some 7.1 million people travelled across the Strait. On average, there are now nearly 100 direct flights daily across the Taiwan Straits. The two sides have also entered a new stage of "mass exchange, close cooperation and grand development". To upgrade cross-Straits relations in future, there will need to be a new driving force and Fresh energy.

No doubt it was a wise move for Ma Ying-jeou to reiterate his adherence to the 1992 Consensus. For this is the most fundamental prerequisite for promoting cross-Straits exchange and cooperation. But as cross-Straits negotiations gradually move into the "deep-water zone", if the two sides fail to further consolidate political mutual trust, development of cross-Straits relations can hardly be deepened. Although development of cross-Straits relations in the next four years will still focus on trade and economic exchanges, some sensitive issues inevitably will be touched upon. Ma mentioned in his inauguration speech Taiwan's hope to expand its participation in international organisations. Hence, improving political mutual trust is meant to develop a clearer common understanding on such matters of principle as recognizing both sides belonging to one China and safeguarding this one China framework, so as to consistently create more favourable conditions and improve the environment for dealing with new issues and problems **popping up** in cross-Straits ties in various domains.

In the past four years the two sides have been holding vigorous exchanges in trade, economy, culture, education, communications and judiciary. But behind the **hustle and bustle** of such exchanges, attention should be given to their quality. Taiwan opened itself up to investment by Mainland capital as early as in 2009, but little progress has been seen in this regard. By comparison, Mainland investment in Taiwan now is only equal to 1% of Taiwanese investment in the Mainland which is over US\$10 billion. A major reason is because authorities concerned in Taiwan have set too high thresholds for Mainland investments. In addition, the number of Mainland students going to

study in Taiwan has remained limited due to Taiwan's restrictions such as no scholarship for Mainland students and the ban on them taking jobs in Taiwan after graduation. Moreover, the Pingtan Comprehensive Experimental Zone in Fujian could be said to be an experimental ground for local cooperation between the Mainland and Taiwan and a new vehicle to promote peaceful development across the Strait. But Taiwanese authorities have threatened to punish any Taiwanese citizen who would take up a public job in Pingtan. It seems Taiwanese authorities must abolish out-dated laws and regulations to remove blockages in cross-Straits exchanges. Only in this way can cross-Straits relations keep progressing with ease.

In his first-term inauguration speech, Ma had promised to conduct negotiations with the Mainland on a peace treaty. But he made no mention of this in his second-term inauguration speech. It is true that cross-Straits talks follow the principles of "economic affairs preceding political issues" and "easy problems preceding difficult ones", but this does not mean that sensitive political and military topics should never be touched upon. As a saying goes "a journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step", if no new step is ever to be taken, no new plan is ever going to be drafted, then what has been achieved in cross-Straits exchanges can hardly be consolidated and carried forward.

Ma Ying-jeou's inauguration speech focused more on how to deal with the island's domestic economic affairs. This is because his dealing with "internal affairs" recently has aroused controversy inside the island. But the development of cross-Straits relations equally concern Taiwan's future economic construction and social prosperity. Ma should not feel content with what he has achieved in promoting cross-Straits relations over the past four years. At present, cross-Straits relations are at their best status in 60 years. The two sides must grab the opportunity to strive to promote the peaceful development of their relations toward the bright road of peaceful reunification.

21 May 2012

WORDS AND USAGE

- ① **Status quo** (noun) – The existing condition or state of affairs (from Latin term "statu quo" – literally meaning "the state in which". (現狀)
Examples: 1.They have no wish for any change in the status quo. 2.By 492 votes to 391, the federation voted to maintain the status quo.
- ② **Adhere to sth** (phrasal verb) – To stick to something; to follow or "stick to" a particular course of action, plan, or set of beliefs. (黏附，堅持，遵循)
Examples: 1.The stamp won't adhere to the envelope. 2.They failed to adhere to our agreement.
- ③ **Open sth up** (phrasal verb) – To make something possible, available or able to be reached. (使機會、可能性等出現)
Examples: 1.New opportunities are opening up for investors by the new rail link. 2.It was also felt that the collapse of the system opened up new possibilities.
- ④ **Pop up** (phrasal verb) – To appear suddenly. (突然出現)
Examples: 1. A new problem has popped up. 2. After World War II, pizzerias popped up in every city in the nation.
- ⑤ **Hustle and bustle** (idiom) – Busy, excited and noisy activity. (忙忙碌碌，熙來攘往)
Examples: 1.Some folks delight in the hustle and bustle of holiday shopping. 2. He wanted a little cottage far away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

馬英九兩岸政策要邁新步

今年一月在台灣地區領導人選舉中成功連任的馬英九，昨天正式展開第二任期。他在就職演講中除了闡述如何提升台灣競爭力外，還強調未來將在「九二共識」的基礎上，維持台海「不統、不獨、不武」的現狀，推動兩岸和平發展。四年前馬英九便以此立場和原則開創兩岸新局，如今再重申遵循原有路線，看來未來四年兩岸關係會穩步前進。

近年來，兩岸關係可謂發生了十分可喜的變化。四年前馬英九上台，堅持體現一中內涵的「九二共識」，穩定了兩岸關係和平發展的航向，使大陸海協會和台灣海基會得以恢復中斷了九年的事務性協商，並簽署了16項重要協議。尤其是兩岸經濟合作框架協議（ECFA）啟動了兩岸經濟一體化進程，開闢了兩岸經濟共同發展繁榮的前景。在陳水扁任內一再延宕的「大三通」也終於全面實現。去年兩岸人員往來已達到710萬人次，平均每天有近百個航班飛越台灣海峽。兩岸已步入了大交流、大合作、大發展的新階段。未來兩岸關係若要更進一層樓，勢必需要新動力和新能量。

馬英九昨日在就職演講中重申堅持「九二共識」，無疑是正確的，這是推動兩岸交流和合作的最基本前提。但隨著兩岸協商的議題逐步邁向「深水區」，若不進一步鞏固彼此間的政治互信，兩岸關係恐難深化發展。雖然兩岸未來四年仍以經貿交流為主，但不可避免地會觸碰到一些敏感議題。馬英九在就職演講中就提到希望擴大參與國際組織。可見，增進政治互信，就是要在認同兩岸同屬一中、維護一個中國框架這一原則問題上形成更為清晰的共同認知，這樣才能不斷為解決兩岸各領域交往中出現的新情況和新問題提供



▲馬英九強調未來台海仍維持「不統、不獨、不武」的現狀，積極推動兩岸和平發展

更有利條件，營造更良好環境。

過去四年，兩岸在經貿、文化、教育、交通、司法等方面均展開了如火如荼的交流，但熱鬧的背後還要講求質量。台灣雖於2009年開放陸資入島，但至今效果並不明顯，相較於台灣對大陸投資已超過100億美元，陸資來台只佔台商到大陸投資的1%。究其原因，是島內有關部門對陸資入島投資的管理門檻嚴謹。此外，在不設獎學金、不得留台工作等「三限六不」的限制下，陸生赴台人數也不盡理想。此外，福建平潭綜合試驗區可謂兩岸區域合作的試驗田和推動兩岸關係和平發展的新載體，不料台當局卻聲言要處罰赴當地擔任公職的台灣民眾。看來，台當局只有廢除不合時宜的法規，去掉束縛兩岸交流的枷鎖，才能使兩岸關係輕鬆向前。

馬英九在第一任期的就職演講中曾提到，未來將與大陸就兩岸和平協議進行協商，但此次第二任期卻未談及。雖說兩岸協商遵循「先經後政，先易後難」的原則，但不等於不可觸碰政治、軍事等敏感議題。正是「千里之行，始於足下」，倘若連新的一步也不敢邁出，連規劃也不敢制订，兩岸交流的成果就難以鞏固和發展。

綜觀馬英九的就職演講，較多的篇幅是花在如何處理島內經濟事務方面。這是由於近來其處理「內政」的手法在島內引起爭議所致。但兩岸關係的走向同樣攸關台灣未來的經濟建設與社會繁榮，馬英九切不可滿足於過去四年在推動兩岸關係上所取得的成績。如今正值兩岸關係過去60年來最好時期，兩岸應把握機遇，努力推動兩岸關係和平發展，走向和平統一的光明大道。

2012/05/21 大公報社評

從阻撓的撓字誤讀提防有邊讀邊犯錯

五月五日，有朋友打電話來，說他從電台廣播得知，有一名官員在立法會的會議上，把阻撓這個常用詞讀成阻擾，問我可以不可以。

朋友的問話已隱藏答案。以他的中文水準，不會不懂得這個他也認為常用的詞怎麼讀。他借問話來諷刺讀錯的人。因為撓字即使在小學時未接觸到，到中學時也會讀到、用到。

阻撓的撓，粵音讀成拋錨的錨，是平聲字，絕不能像騷擾的擾字那樣讀成上聲。讀成擾，正是有邊讀邊。

儘管撓字右旁為堯，而擾字右旁為憂，似乎無邊可讀，但撓字同環繞的繞、富饒的饒、知曉的曉和倥傯的僂，讀音相差不少，而都有個堯字作偏旁。如那名官員已認識繞、饒、曉、僂這四個字，不難依循有邊讀邊的習慣對付撓字。所以，挑誤讀擾，還

該歸入這一類。

且慢怪責這名官員連中學程度也欠奉，我曾碰到一名做教師的，把澆水的澆字誤讀擾，無非也是看到澆字有個堯字作偏旁，以為澆音與堯音差不多，成了「差不多先生」，殊不知此字讀驕，同自己想法相差很遠。

無疑，有邊讀邊並非絕對不可以。就以有個堯字作偏旁的字為例，峇峽的峽字就可以照讀堯了。不少字加了偏旁，照讀本音，但不宜「一本通書睇到老」，加了偏旁而改讀的例子也相當多。所以要實事求是。

如峇峽的峽就不能有邊讀邊。此字讀條，像千里迢迢的迢讀條那樣。說到這裡，逗字又不能有邊讀邊了。總之，遇到未讀過的字，應該抱持「不恥下問」的態度，切勿懶開口！容若

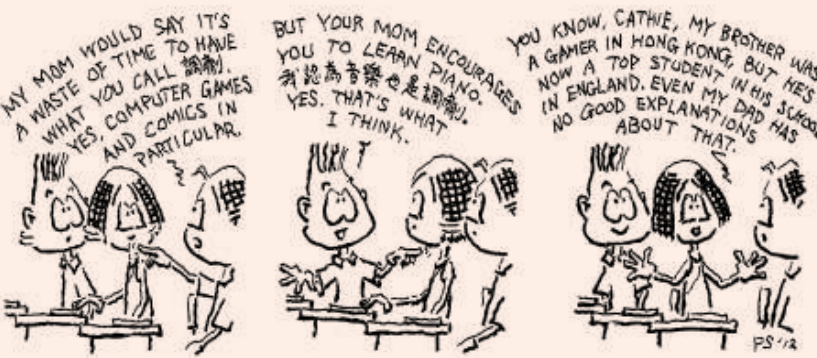
觸景立畫

古代人物



佛教林金殿紀念小學 2E 伍鈞穎

SOHO DIARY



The Chart-toppers (3)

Hark Yeung (yeung@harkyeung.com)

What will students in Hong Kong say if they are asked why people succeed at school?

When I was a secondary school student, I would probably say: "I am responsible for my exam results. It depends on how hard I work." At that time, I could not question the competence of the teachers or how sensible the exam questions were.

Some years later, I had different answers to such a question. And to other questions as well. Once, while visiting East Berlin a year after the fall of the Wall, a young woman, about twenty, told me that people there used to have two answers for a same question: one was public and politically correct, and the other one private but honest.

While coaching students, I have asked them why some students succeed at school. Their answers are usually different

from what I could think of in my school days. Some of them say it depends on whether one has the money to go to one of those "special tuition schools". Some say it is a matter of luck or fengshui (風水). Some say that one has to be stupid because the education system is not designed for intelligent students.

Have I heard some of them say that "it depends on how hard I work"?

Perhaps. But even I myself do not believe it is just about how hard one works. Very often I tell my students not to work too hard before their exams. "There is no point staying up late to study. It is more important to get enough sleep because one needs physical strength to answer the exam papers." I tell them I had the experience that I knew the answers to the questions but didn't have the energy to write them on my answer sheet.

通識記憶體

「九二共識」是用於概括台灣海峽兩岸在1992年香港會談中就「一個中國」問題及其內涵進行討論所形成之見解及體認的名詞。其核心內容與精神是「海峽兩岸均堅持一個中國原則」。

從兩會來往信函中可看出，「雙方共識是海峽兩岸均堅持一個中國原則，努力謀求國家的統一」（即九二共識）；但兩岸看法有差異，台將「一個中國，各自表述」稱為「九二共識」，定義不同；但兩岸對「一個中國」的內涵解釋不相同。這些至今都是兩岸間一難解議題。

海峽兩岸堅持一個中國原則

「九二共識」形成過程

1987年底	隔絕30多年後，兩岸同胞交往增多，衍生種種問題
1990年11月21日	台灣成立海峽交流基金會
1991年12月16日	大陸成立海峽兩岸關係協會
1992年3月22日	兩會在京進行首次事務性商談。大陸堅持商談的問題為一國內部事務。台灣堅持一個中國政策，但為謀求「對等政治實體」地位，提出用「各說各話」方式說明一個中國的涵義
10月28至30日	兩會在港商談，就事務性談中如何表述堅持一個中國原則的問題進行討論，但在文字表述方案上難達一致
11月3日	海基會致函建議兩會「各自以口頭聲明方式表述一個中國原則方案」，海協會接受但內容另商
11月16日	海協會致函，海峽兩岸都堅持一個中國的原則，努力謀求國家的統一。但在海峽兩岸事務性商談中，不涉及「一個中國」的政治涵義
12月3日	海基會函覆，兩岸事務性之商談，應與政治性之議題無關，且兩岸對於「一個中國」之涵義，認知顯有不同