

2012



Taiwan Forum

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Taiwan's 2012 Presidential & Legislative Elections: Results & Analyses

Date : 2012.01.15

Time : 13:30-15:30

Venue : Taiwan Thinktank (8F/9 Aiguo West Road, Taipei 台北市愛國西路 9 號 8 樓)

Host by : Taiwan Thinktank

Chair :

I-Chung LAI, Director, Foreign Policy Studies, Taiwan Thinktank

Speakers:

Yung-Ming HSU, Assistant Professor, Dept of Political Science, Soochow University

Joanne Jaw-ling CHANG, Research Fellow, Institute of European & American Studies, Academia Sinica

Joseph Chao-hsieh WU, Former Taiwan Representative to the United States

Press Release
Taiwan Thinktank

Taiwan Thinktank held a forum to brief foreign communities regarding the results of Taiwan's 2012 presidential and legislative elections.

January 15th, 2012



Taiwan's 2012 presidential and legislative elections concluded on January 14th. Despite incumbent President Ma Ying-Jeou taking 51.6 per cent of the votes and claiming his second term, the results together with the outcomes of the legislative elections carried a number of implications on the possible changes of Taiwan's internal and external politics.

More than fifty participants from the foreign communities based in Taiwan joined a forum hosted by Taiwan Thinktank, and sought to exchange timely analyses and insights.

Dr. Yung-Ming Hsu, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science from Soochow University, said that given that there are four different parties expressing separate political voices, Taiwan will be expecting a more diversified or even fragmented legislature in the next four years. He stressed that although James Soong from People's First Party (PFP) failed to gain satisfactory votes (2.77%) in the presidential election due to "bandwagon effect", the PFP managed to win three seats with 5.4 per cent of the vote, thus, survived in the legislative election. As a result, an opposition coalition composed by the DPP, the PFP and the TSU might be established in the next session.

Dr. Joseph Chao-hsieh Wu, Taiwan's former representative to the United States under the DPP administration, on the other hand, suggested that the DPP shall pay more attention in strengthening its leadership and structure, as Chair Tsai Ing-Wen, who won 45.63 per cent of the votes, resigned from the position after the election defeat. Wu also said that the DPP largely broadened its public support base from the past tragic loss of 2008. Nevertheless, he said that internally, the DPP would encounter a difficult but inevitable discussion on whether its cross-strait policies will ever be welcomed by the majority in Taiwan. Dr. Wu further argued that there were a number of factors which influenced the overall outcomes of the elections. No less than KMT's own campaigns and mobilisation of civil servants, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), who insisting the so-called '92 consensus', also tried to manipulate this election by indirectly encouraging or subtly admonishing the Taiwanese business people in China to return and vote for Beijing's preferable KMT candidate. Dr. Wu alerted the audience that China's influence on Taiwan's domestic politics has gradually increased, and it seems that this authoritarian regime now has greater influence than Washington DC on a democratic Taiwan, and that should cause many to worry.



Dr. Joanne Jaw-ling Chang, Research Fellow from Institute of European & American Studies of Academia Sinica, said that President Ma Ying-Jeou, as a winner, should show more humbleness than before, not only because his total votes dropped from 7,659,014 to 6,891,139, but also because of the

fact that there were six million Taiwanese people that sided for the DPP in this election. Dr. Chang urged President Ma to demonstrate his determination of bridging the expectation gaps between himself and the non-supporters to avoid further divisions in society. In doing so, she further noted that President Ma would need to level up Taiwan's international participations and to protect Taiwan's sovereign status without Beijing's intervention.

Dr. I-Chung Lai, Director of Foreign Policy Studies for Taiwn Thinktank, commented that KMT's total votes and legislative seats dropped significantly, and President Ma shall consider the fall of his votes as forewarning indicators on his cross-strait moves, and consequently, he would need to increase dialogue with the oppositions to avoid further conflicts. Dr. Lai concluded that Taiwan will also need to reconsider its strategies for an advanced and sustainable Taiwan-U.S. relationship, so to maintain its interests and survive in a much more complicated Sino-U.S. rivalry and cooperative relationship.

Electoral Results comparison

Presidential Elections

	2000		2004		2008		2012	
Turnout %	82.69%		80.28%		76.33%		74.38%	
DPP	Chen Shui-Bian Annette Lu	39.3% 4,977,697	Chen Shui-Bian Annette Lu	50.11% 6,471,970	Frank Hsien Su Tseng-Chang	41.55% 5,444,949	Tsai Ing-Wen Su Jia-Chyuan	45.63% 6,093,578
KMT	Lien Chan Vincent Siew	23.1% 2,925,513	Lien Chan James Soong	49.89% 6,442,452	Ma Ying-Jeou Vincent Siew	58.45% 7,659,014	Ma Ying-Jeou Wu Den-Yih	51.6% 6,891,139
PFP	James Soong Chang Chao-Hsiung	36.8% 4,664,972					James Soong Lin Ruey-Shiung	2.77% 3,69,588

Parliamentary Elections

	2008				2012			
Turnout %	58.5%				74.72%			
	Total Vote Count	1 st Stage	2 nd Stage	Total Seats	Total Vote Count	1 st Stage	2 nd Stage	Total Seats
DPP	3,610,106	36.91%	41.88%	27	4,556,526	34.62%	36.98%	40
KMT	5,010,801	51.23%	58.12%	81	5,863,379	44.55%	47.59%	64
PFP	-	-	-	0	7,22,089	5.49%	5.86%	3
NP	386,660	3.95%	0%	1	-	-	-	0
TSU	344,887	3.53%	0%	0	1,178,896	8.96%	9.57%	3
Independents	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	3
	-	-	-	113	-	-	-	113