

■ MOFA Taiwan Fellowship Presentations Discuss Diplomacy from a Variety of Angles

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Taiwan Fellowship began in 2010 and has been going on for more than a decade. It is handled by the National Central Library's Center for Chinese Studies. Through this Taiwan Fellowship Presentation, it provided fellowship recipients and academic institutions in Taiwan with a mechanism by which to exchange ideas.

On September 6, 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held "MOFA Taiwan Fellowship Presentation II" at the National Central Library for Taiwan Fellowship scholars. The overall theme was "Innovation and Opportunities: A Diverse Diplomatic Environment."



Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Chung-kwang Tien during his remarks.

The first presenter was Prof. John Fitzgerald from Swinburne University of Technology in Australia. His topic was "Subnational and Para-Diplomacy in Taiwan-Australia Relations: Prospects and Challenges." He believes that the Asia-Pacific region actively interacts on social, non-government levels. This type of interpersonal social relationship helps breed familiarity between countries. The discussant Tamkang University's School of Strategic Studies Dean Ming-hsien Wong agreed with Prof. Fitzgerald's views. He felt that in recent years Taiwan's actively connecting with the international community has helped create diplomatic opportunities.

The second presenter was Dr. Kumari Mansi from Amity University Haryana in India. Her topic was "Between Diplomacy and 'Para' diplomacy: Taiwan's Foreign Relations in Uncertain Times." She pointed out that Taiwan's diplomatic space has shrunk, and Taiwan's maritime situation is tense, with a possibility that China will invade. All of this makes Taiwan exploring new (potential) diplomatic/asymmetric diplomatic /amphibious diplomacy the norm. The discussant, Prof. Ping-Kuei Chen from National Cheng Chi University's Department of Diplomacy and executive director of NCCU's India Research Center, responded that Taiwan needs different diplomatic orientations to create visibility and connections on the international stage.

The third presenter was Mr. Lucio III Pitlo, a researcher from Asia Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation Inc. His topic was "Chips and Labor: Can Taiwan Play to its Strengths to Grow its International Space?" He stated that varied investments could help stimulate partner support for joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF). Furthermore, Taiwan could establish its place among the four chip countries. The discussant, Prof. Cheng-Chao Song from National Cheng Kung University's Department of Political Science, expressed that mutual economic benefit is a way to maintain what the presenter called the partnership between Taiwan and the international community.

The moderator, Ambassador Andy Kang-I Chen, gave feedback and asked questions to the aforementioned presenters. This brought on another wave of intense discussion. Scholars in attendance also actively participated in the discussion portion after the presentations. Everyone there had positive things to say about the event.



A group photo of attendees.