

Marshall Islands Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 1226 Majuro, MH 96960

Tel.: (692) 625-3177

Fax: (692) 625-3330

Email: Commerce@ntamar.net

Website: <http://www.MajuroChamber.net>

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Marshall Islands Resort

Meeting called to order by President Jack Niedenthal at 12:01 P.M. Approximately 45 members and guests were in attendance. The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, January 8, 2008.

- **Minutes** – approved electronically prior to the meeting
- **Treasurer's report** - \$2,109.08 BOG balance
- **Guests**
 - Clyde Bishop, American Ambassador
 - Bruce J. D. Linghu, Taiwan Ambassador
 - Dianna Lin, Uliga Restaurant owner and Taiwan Association Board member
 - Alice Lin, Uliga Restaurant
 - Harry Campbell, Toronto, Canada
 - Ingrid Ahlgren
 - Dr. Hazel
 -
- **Chamber President's remarks**

I would first like to welcome and recognize our guests from the Republic of Taiwan, the Hon. Ambassador Bruce Linghu, and the other members and staff from his embassy. I would also like to recognize the Honorable U.S. Ambassador Clyde Bishop and the delegation from the US embassy, and all the RMI and local government officials. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the general public in attendance, and of course our Marshall Islands Chamber of Commerce membership.

Thank you all for coming today.

We sincerely appreciate Ambassador Linghu's acceptance of our invitation to speak today. Before he begins his presentation, on behalf of the Marshall Islands Chamber of Commerce, I would like to thank the Republic of Taiwan for all that it has done for the people of the Marshall Islands. As part of my remarks today I was thinking about making a list of what the ROC has contributed to the RMI since they were recognized 1998, but after I did a search on the internet I realized that there has been so many projects and donations that I was afraid I would run out of time if I listed them all. I do want to thank the embassy of Taiwan for always having the foresight to make sure that they have plenty

of nice, friendly and capable staff here on island for the people of the RMI to interact with. I have enjoyed working with them as they are always very kind and helpful.

Before I conclude I would just like to remind everyone that the national election is next week. The Chamber encourages those of you who can vote to consider only those candidates who will help make the RMI a better place to do business.

Now I would like to ask Ambassador Bruce Linghu to come forward and make his presentation.

- **Ambassador Linghu's remarks**

[Secretary's note: Ambassador Linghu showed and discussed a PowerPoint presentation rendered in text as follows:]

Next Tuesday is the ninth anniversary of RMI/Taiwan relations. It has been a partnership and friendship.

“History of Taiwan” and “Taiwan-China Relations”
Speech by Amb. Bruce J.D. Linghu, Embassy of R.O.C. (Taiwan)
At Marshall Islands Chamber of Commerce; Melele Room, MIR
November 13, 2007

Taiwan History

- I. Earliest Inhabitants – people migrated to Taiwan from China and Southeast Asia between 12,000 and 16,000 years ago
- II. European Colonization
- III. Administration under the Jheng Family
- IV. Ching Rule over the Island
- V. Japanese Colonization
- VI. The ROC on Taiwan

- I. Earliest Inhabitants

Tribes of indigenous peoples, plus Han people from China, were already living in Taiwan when survivors of Portuguese shipwreck first visited the island in 1582.

“Ilha Formosa” – this means “beautiful island”

- II. European Colonization

The Dutch settlement on Taiwan was called Zelandia. They also discovered and named New Zealand at about the same time.

1622 Dutch East India Company on the Penghu Islands

1624 Dutch moved to Taiwan

- 1626 Spanish occupied northern Taiwan
- 1642 Spanish were forced off by the Dutch

III. Administration under the Jheng Family

This was during the Ming dynasty.

- 1662 Jheng Cheng-Gong forced the Dutch out of Taiwan

IV. Ching Rule over the Islands

This was during the Ching dynasty.

- 1683 The Jheng family was defeated by Ching forces
- 1856-1860 The Second Opium War Opened to foreign trade
- 1874 Japan invaded part of southern Taiwan
- 1884-1885 French invaded northern Taiwan (Vice Admiral Courbet)

The French were defeated by General Liu.

- 1885 Ching dynasty incorporated Taiwan as its 22nd province

V. Japanese Colonization

The Chinese were defeated by the Japanese.

- 1894 The First Sino-Japanese War
- 1895 Taiwan was ceded to Japan
- 1895-1919 To suppress dissent
- 1919-1936 Assimilation of Taiwanese as an extension of the Japanese homeland
- 1936-1945 Kominka (Japanization)

VI. The ROC on Taiwan

Taiwan was returned to China under the Cairo Declaration.

In 1954 there was a mutual defense agreement between Taiwan and the US.

The August 23rd bombardment (“823”) lasted for 44 days.

- 1945 Returned to the Republic of China
- 1949 The Nationalist government relocated to Taiwan
- 1949 Gunningtou Battle
- 1950 Korean War Seventh Fleet patrolling Taiwan Straits
- 1958 The communists attempted to take over the islands of Kinmen (Quemoy) and Matsu – “823 Bombardment”

- 1971 ROC withdrew from UN
- 1979 United States recognized PRC
- 1987 Lifting of martial law

II. Cross-strait Consultations

Koo was from Taiwan, and Wang was from the PRC.

- 1992 Agree to Disagree
- 1993 The First round Koo-Wang talks
- 1995 President Lee visits Cornell University
- 1995 Beijing postponed the second round Koo-Wang talks / Military Exercises
- 1996 Beijing fired guided missiles near Taiwan
- 1996 Taiwan's first direct presidential election

- 1998 Koo and Wang met again in Shanghai
- 1999 President Lee describes the cross-strait situation as a "special state-to-state relationship"

- 1999 Beijing again unilaterally suspended negotiations

III. A New Era

- 2000 Chen elected as Taiwan's President

Four Noes Plus One: So long as China did not have intention to use military force against Taiwan,

He would not declare independence

He would not change the name of the nation

He would not push for the inclusion of the so-called "state-to-state" description in the Constitution

He would not promote a referendum on the issue of independence versus unification

Neither the Guidelines for National Unification nor the National Unification Council would be abolished

- 2000 "No haste, be patient" policy was replaced by the principle of "Proactive liberalization with effective management"

- 2002 Chen states "one country on each side"

- 2004 Chen re-elected as Taiwan's President
- 2004 China announced to adopt "anti-separation law" in 2005
- 2005 Anti-separation law being passed
- 2005 Parade for "Democracy and Peace to Protect Taiwan"
- 2006 "Proactive management and effective liberalization"

- 2006 Chen announces the National Unification Council would cease to function and Guidelines for National Unification would cease to apply

Taiwan-China Relations

PRC: One China Principle
US: One China Policy
ROC (Taiwan) One China Issue

Economic/Trade
Cultural/Tourism
Social
Diplomatic/Political
Military

Conclusion

Key components of Taiwan's cross-strait policy: Peace and Stability; Equality and Sovereignty; Democracy, Freedom and Human Right.

Taiwan looks forward to a reciprocity of goodwill from China and hopes Beijing will abandon its belligerent stance, replace confrontation with negotiation and conflict with dialog, and conduct cross-strait relations pragmatically.

Since 1987 when Taiwan ended marshal law, it has had no military ambitions regarding mainland China.

- **Questions from the floor**

Q: Why was there a problem with the first President's visit to Cornell?

A: At that time there was an American prohibition against high level Taiwanese visitors.

Q: Do you have any information about the recent PRC five-year plans?

A: No.

Speaking as a candidate for elected office and not as a member of the RMI government, Fred Muller related his experiences when traveling to Taiwan regarding the vibrant economic development and democratic freedom that he witnessed. He thanked Taiwan for its continuing assistance of the RMI.

Q: Would Taiwan accept an arrangement with the PRC similar to what was done in Hong Kong?

A: No. Any such agreement would have to place both countries on an equal basis. The people in Taiwan don't want a "one country two system" plan.

Q: As a result of PRC pressure, what are the restrictions that the US has accepted regarding Taiwan?

A: Individuals including members of US Congress are free to express their opinions openly in the US regarding Taiwan. However, the national government has adopted specific rules of conduct in that regard.

Q: Will Taiwan compete in the upcoming Olympics that will be held in Beijing?

A. Yes. The last time this occurred Taiwan attended as “Chinese/Taipei.” This was an Olympic Committee designation.

Q: Are you concerned about recent travels to the PRC and a possible reversion to an affiliation with the PRC?

A: Taiwan has no political ambition in the region. We are here as friends. There is good cooperation between Taiwan and the RMI. We practice the so-called “soft politics” of aid, training, health services, and special projects.

- **Final comments – Chamber President**

Thank you Ambassador Linghu. In 2002 I traveled along with President Note to Taiwan. Since then I’ve found the history of Taiwan to be fascinating. There is a good book on this subject in my office.

On Wednesday, November 21st there will be a meeting open to all Chamber members in the Marshall Islands Resort’s Enra room to meet with officials from Continental Airlines. Please submit any questions you might have to me by email. I’ll give these to the Continental officials ahead of time.

There will not be a formal Chamber meeting next month in December. Special Projects Chairman Sam Smith and Vice President Hirobo Obeketang will be handling the annual Marshall Islands Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade.

The next regular Chamber meeting will be on Tuesday, January 8, 2008. The purpose of that meeting will be to elect new officers for a two-year term. In order to vote, each Chamber member will have to pay his or her \$50 2008 annual Chamber dues. You can bring your payment with you on January 8th.

- **Committee Reports**

Government Relations – Jerry Kramer

Business and Trade – Neal Skinner – no report

Financial Services – Jim McLean – no report

Tourism – Bill Weza

Communications – David Strauss – no report

Transportation – Salome Andrike

Education – Carlos Domnick – (Don Hess reporting)

CMI will host US Interior’s David Cohen on November 30th. He will be discussing the economic affect of the planned military buildup in Guam.

Health – Dr. Alex Pinano

The Wellness Clinic is in the process of examining all of the restaurants in Majuro. They will release their evaluation of how healthy the food is when they conclude this effort.

Environment – Don Hess

The Solid Waste Corporation met recently with President Note and the Majuro mayor. The President released approximately \$160,000 of the \$600,000 annual subsidy that we requested from ROC funds. The meeting with the Mayor had no results. We should see some progress on waste bins soon.

Membership and Public Relations – Liz Rodick
Special Projects – Sam Smith

The Christmas parade will be on December 15th.

- **New Business**

There will be no classes at CMI next Monday so that students and faculty can vote. BOMI will only be open ½ day at all of its locations to allow its employees to vote. Otherwise, it is not a holiday.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Minutes prepared by:

Jim McLean