



**CALD Taiwan Presidential Election Observation Mission  
8 – 12 January 2020  
Taipei and Hualien, Taiwan  
&  
CALD Executive Mission to Hong Kong  
12-14 January 2020  
Hong Kong**

**Concept Note**

On 11 January 2020, close to 20 million registered voters are eligible to take part in Taiwan's presidential and parliamentary elections. The elections are portrayed as the most important electoral exercise in nearly a quarter century, primarily because what is at stake could be Taiwan's democratic existence and way of life.

China appears to be bent on stopping the re-election of incumbent President Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), and is supportive of the candidacy of Koumintang's (KMT) Han Kuo-yu. The two presidential hopefuls hold divergent views over relations with Beijing, with the former declaring that, "Our Republic of China, Taiwan, is a country, a sovereign, independent country. Our people have the right to choose their own president."

Recent surveys suggest that President Tsai is leading Han by over 16 percentage points, following her announcement of William Lai as running mate last 17 November. Lai, a former premier, angered Beijing when he described himself as a "Taiwan independence worker" and that he believed Taiwan is a sovereign, independent country. There are claims that the ticket of Tsai-Lai has been boosted by the events of the past months in Hong Kong, which demonstrated the dangers of the so-called "one country, two systems."

While the DPP has a comfortable lead, so far, in the presidential race, the parliamentary elections appear to be more difficult. The Legislative Yuan (LY) has 113 seats: 73 district election seats, 34 proportional representation seats, and 6 seats reserved for indigenous Taiwanese. DPP currently has the majority in the LY with 68 seats, but various analyses suggest that it may be a struggle for the party to retain the majority. Even if Tsai wins the presidency, her ability to push for policy would be severely limited if the DPP loses the LY.

Taking into account the importance of the upcoming Taiwan presidential and parliamentary elections not only to the future of Taiwan but also to democratic prospects in the Asian region, the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), in cooperation with the DPP and with the support of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF), is organizing an election observation mission to Taipei and Hualien, Taiwan on 8-12 January 2020.

The election mission participants are also invited to take part in an executive mission to Hong Kong, which happens subsequent to the Taiwan election mission on 12-14 January. Those who will participate are expected to take a direct flight on 12 January from Taipei to Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, they are expected to meet with the members of the pan-democracy camp (legislators, district councilors, political party and civil society leaders, students, among others) in order to better understand the political crisis that has been gripping the territory in the past months. It will also be an opportunity for the participants to discuss with Hong Kong counterparts the implications of the Taiwan elections.

More specifically, the Taiwan election mission and Hong Kong executive mission aim to achieve the following specific objectives:

- To provide the participants with a general understanding and appreciation of the Taiwanese democratic system, electoral framework and political party dynamics;
- To comprehend the main issues and problems that define the campaign platform and strategies of major political parties and candidates in the 2020 elections;
- To understand the strength and weaknesses of the leading political parties and candidates, as well as their approaches to maximize their chances of electoral victory;
- To observe and analyze the voting process and vote tabulation and how these meet the standards of free and fair elections;
- To show liberal solidarity with CALD founding member-party, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), as it contests crucial elections;
- To hold dialogues with various members of the pan-democratic camp in Hong Kong to better understand the issues that led to months-long protests in the territory; and
- To demonstrate liberal solidarity with Hong Kong's pan-democratic camp as they continue their fight for more democratic Hong Kong.

*Project Goal: Through these missions in Taiwan and Hong Kong, CALD hopes to contribute to the development and communication of liberal solutions to electoral and political issues, particularly in the context of more aggressive China. The participants are expected to come up with media articles, policy papers, resolutions*

*and other related materials that summarize their key learnings or take-aways from the missions. Copies of the materials should be sent to the CALD Secretariat two (2) weeks after the events for recording and documentation.*

## **CALD Taiwan Presidential Election Observation Mission**

8-12 January 2019 | Taipei and Hualien, Taiwan

*Note: Campaign activities and meetings with candidates are subject to last minute changes*

### **8 January 2020, Wednesday**

Variable      Arrival and hotel check-in

#### **Howard Plaza Hotel Taipei**

Address: No. 160號, Section 3, Ren'ai Road, Da'an District  
Taipei City, Taiwan 106  
Phone: +886 2 2700 2323

19:00      Welcome Dinner

Election Briefing

#### **J. Michael Cole**

Editor-in-chief, Taiwan Sentinel  
Senior Fellow, Global Taiwan Institute

21:00      End of dinner

### **9 January 2020, Thursday**

08:00      Breakfast

09:00      Hotel check-out

10:00      Depart for Hualien

Arrival in Hualien at 12:30

13:00      Hotel Check-in

#### **Byeyer Hotel**

Address: No. 361, Zhongshan Rd., Hualien, Hualien County, Taiwan

13:30 Lunch  
15:00 Briefing with academics on the politics in Hualien  
17:00 Meeting with other political groups  
18:30 Dinner  
20:00 Observation of local campaign  
21:00 Return to hotel

***10 January 2020, Friday***

07:00 Breakfast  
08:30 Depart for meeting  
09:00 Meeting with Tzu Chi Foundation  
11:30 Hotel check-out  
12:58 Departure for Taipei with lunch box  
Arrival in Taipei at 15:57  
16:30 Hotel check-in

**Howard Plaza Hotel Taipei**

Address: No. 160號, Section 3, Ren'ai Road, Da'an District  
Taipei City, Taiwan 106  
Phone: +886 2 2700 2323

17:30 General orientation about Taiwan Presidential Elections,  
Candidates and Political Parties (election campaign/ strategy, election  
issues, and Taiwan's democratic process)

**DPP Headquarters and Campaign Headquarters**

19:00 Dinner  
20:30 Observation of last DPP campaign rally  
21:30 Return to Hotel

***11 January 2020, Saturday***

- 07:00 Breakfast
- 08:30 Departure from the Hotel
- 09:00 Observation of voting
- 12:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Briefing with the DPP Department of Press and Information

**Andrea Yang**

Director, Department of Press and Information  
Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) of Taiwan

- 16:00 Observation of vote-counting
- 18:00 Dinner
- 20:00 Debriefing Session / Observation of Tsai-Ing Wen's Post-Election Speech

**The DPP Headquarters**

Address: 10F., No.30, Beiping E. Rd., Jhongjheng Dist.,  
Taipei City 10049, Taiwan  
Tel: +886 2 2392 9989

- 22:00 End of Dinner and Debriefing Session

***12 January 2020, Sunday***

- 07:00 Check-out and depart for airport
- 10:00 Departure from Taipei to Hong Kong