



Letter from the SC

Hope those going to the Advocacy for Taiwan Weekend are excited and getting ready! More material this edition to help you get prepped: another history article, and also a series of anecdotes, reports, and tips that come from our Advocacy Chairs, Jonathan Lee our Outreach Chair, and Emily Chang from San Francisco YPG.

It's a pretty short edition of the newsletter. Finish reading it and get outside and enjoy yourself; it's summer!

Enjoy!

- The YPG Steering Committee

Good Work!

Congratulations, to everyone who signed up for the Advocacy for Taiwan Weekend! It's so easy to not set aside the time for a weekend conference; or to let your fear of public speaking hold you back; or to be apathetic about vital causes like Taiwan's democracy. Instead, you've taken a step to actively make a better world!

Especially congratulations for those who have committed to staying on Monday to visit Capitol Hill, and those who are serving as team leaders and busily making appointments right now their groups!

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1 - Letter from the SC

Page 2 - Table of Contents

Page 3 - History Column

Page 4 - “Best of” Our Advocacy Experience

Page 7 - Formosa Betrayed, at the Asian American International Film Festival

Take Action NOW!

Do this NOW!! Go to

<http://www.fapa.org/>

taiwanactiondays/

Click on the “Reading List” link in the top left. Then, on the new page that comes up, check out the pre-conference reading material Excel worksheet (Pre-conference reading list.xls). Even if you’re not going to the conference, this is a great set of resources for info about Taiwan’s struggle for democracy!

Advocacy Tip

When you are going to talk about Taiwan with someone, be prepared with a 30 minute version, a 15 minute version, a 5 minute version, and a 20 second version. Sometimes Members of Congress will suddenly have to go, because a vote is on the floor or just because something else came up. So, you’ll have to be ready to say your piece quickly, then spend more time having a longer conversation with the aide. It’s also useful to have different length versions of your talk so that you can adjust how much detail you give based on your conversation partner’s interest level. Further, besides being able to tell a MoC all about Taiwan in 30 seconds if he’s in a rush to take care of something extremely important that came up, having a 30 second conversation about Taiwan in mind lets you talk about Taiwan quickly with any random person on the subway!

Debunking the Myth: “China has always ruled over Taiwan.”

By Albert Tseng
Advocacy Chair

Well, of course we've already covered in the last edition of the newsletter that Taiwan was ruled by Japan in 1900. So there you go, the myth has been debunked and this article is finished!

More seriously, one of the claims China makes internationally is that it has always ruled over Taiwan, going back to prehistory. This is the basis for China's false claim of sovereignty over Taiwan. In fact, archeological digs in Taiwan have never found any evidence of permanent Chinese administrative structure on Taiwan.

The Portuguese in 1590 were the first to discover Taiwan, besides the original aborigine settlers who were of Polynesian descent. That's why Taiwan's first name was Formosa - a sailor called the island "Ihla Formosa!" when he saw it. The Dutch in fact were the first to rule over Taiwan, beginning in 1624. The first Chinese on Taiwan came as imported workers, under Dutch rule. They intermarried with the aborigines and stayed on Taiwan.

Really, the Chinese government was never interested in Taiwan back in those days. The Qing Dynasty was a land power and had no interest in the sea. After Dutch rule was overthrown in Taiwan, and piracy became a big problem off Taiwan's coast, the American, French, and Japanese

governments complained to the Qing government as the greater power in the area. The Qing's response was "Taiwan is beyond our territory."

It wasn't until the Sino-Japanese War at the end of the 19th Century that China became interested in Taiwan at all. Because of the war, the land-based Qing decided in 1887 that they would like to annex the island to compete against Japan's naval power. However, the Qing lost the war in 1895 and Japan became the ruler of Taiwan for the next 50 years.

“Best of” Our Advocacy Experience

1. Tony Lee, West Coast Advocacy Chair

As a member of the FAPA YPG Advocacy Chairs, I would like to share with you some of my past experiences and observations on the Hills. Having participated in the FAPA National Conference last year, and Formosa Foundation’s Ambassador Program in the years before, I have had many experiences meeting many congressional members and staff. The meetings have really varied from Congressmen enthusiastically jumping on a legislation and signing up for the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, to the staff that were more interested in the staring into the ceiling than listening to what we have to say.

In my observations, I have noted to myself that the key to a successful meeting is often not in what you have to say, but how you say it. While understanding and researching the issues is important, it is more critical that you build a connection and leave a positive impression from the meeting. This does not mean that you can go into the meeting without much clue on the issue or preparation. Instead, you should apply the interpersonal skills you have developed from day to day activities. What do I mean by that? Well, be as pleasant as you can be is my best advice. Imagine you are meeting with the corporate recruiter of a Fortune 500 company, how would they act and converse with you? You should be as professional and personable as you can, and you will get the results much faster

than you can by being confrontational. I have witnessed many young activists taking a more confrontational approach, questioning the congressional staff why they are not doing more than what they were doing for Taiwan, but I have yet to find that to work with me. Instead, treat the person you are meeting with as your best friend. Smile, empathize and relate to that person, and you will come out with a more positive experience and better results.

2. Julia Famularo, East Coast Advocacy Chair

1.) Be clear, concise, and remember to rehearse your presentation! Creating a positive impression on your audience will help establish yourself as someone who understands Taiwan. Carefully consider what you’d like to say before your meeting, and practice running through your presentation so that you speak smoothly, naturally, and confidently. Also, remember to deliver a clear and concise message. If your audience can’t follow your message, then it makes effective communication and mutual understanding difficult.

2.) Tell a story, paint a picture. Did your friends participate in the Wild Strawberries Movement? Were your parents persecuted during the White Terror? If you’re not Taiwanese, what moved you to support Taiwan? Politicians love anecdotes... they always tell stories about people they’ve met so that that every issue has a human face. Do the same for Taiwan.

3.) Always try to ask for some concrete action from your Member of Congress. She can nod her head in acknowledgment or agreement all day long, but if you don't ask her to help Taiwan, then it's almost as though the meeting never happened. Urge her to write a letter, draft a resolution, plan a visit to Taiwan... something specific and concrete! Remember to tailor your "ask" to the types of issues you're discussing.

4.) Research your issues carefully. Before you meet with elected officials, make sure that you have all of the facts, statistics, and data that you'll need to answer questions. Roughly how many people attended that protest in Taipei? How much does our state export to Taiwan (hint: check the Census Bureau's foreign trade stats)? When did Taiwan last have representation in the United Nations? Anticipate the types of questions that your audience will likely ask, and have the answers ready. However, if you don't know the answer to a particular question, that's okay! Just admit that you're not sure, and tell them that you'll get back to them with an answer... and make sure to actually follow through!

And most importantly:

5.) Always frame your issues in terms of how they reflect United States interests. We elect Members of Congress first and foremost to serve our own national interests and agenda at home and abroad. No matter which issue you'd like to discuss, ask yourself "Why does this matter to the United States? Which goals and ideas do our two countries share? How can the United States and Taiwan enhance their relationship through closer,

more productive cooperation?"

3. Tony Lee, West Coast Advocacy Chair

We were at the office of Congressman Green's office...his staff had one Chinese (or KMT) intern or aide...and I just remembered he wasn't being very responsive and didn't say anything relevant to the issues we were talking about (not agreeing with Taiwan's human rights, defense..blah blah). But he was still able to put up a smiley face and talk about his random life stories. But we were able to get him to put on the Taiwan nation wrist band that was green....and matched his name. We took a picture together as if he believed in our cause...anyway...point of the story is that no matter how opposite their beliefs are (and this is the only one I have encountered, they will at least be polite and your experience will not be bad at all

4. Emily Chang, San Francisco YPG

Sophia and I had our appointment with Rep. Speier on April 3rd. We were joined by Yamei and two of her friends, Sandy Yen and Marie Chuang. The five of us had a very productive conversation with the Congresswoman, and overall we think it went very well.

We had three items on our agenda:

1. HCR 18 - She agreed to support the resolution and said she would "look into" co-sponsorship.
2. Taiwan Caucus - She agreed to join the caucus.

3. Stanford TRA event - She said she would send someone to attend the event.

We exchanged contact information with the Congresswoman's staffer Juliet, who was in the meeting with us, so we will be able to follow up with her in the future.

5. Jon Lee, Outreach Chair and Founder of DFI, Rutgers YPG Chapter

After months of planning and training, we were late for DFI's very first meeting with a Congressman. My GPS gave us the wrong location and we in our suits were walking around desperately looking for directions. Luckily, the Congressional office was not only nice enough to give us a call and tell us how to get there, but we were also still able to meet with Congressman Garret for the full time. Despite an unprofessional first impression and daunting task ahead of them, the trainees remembered their training and advocated to the freshman Congressman. Afterwards, fear abated and confidence took its place. What seemed like a fantasy became reality as one trainee surmised that we spent time training for it, talked about, but he never thought it would actually happen. And from that reality was born a new generation advocates that would go on to guide new ones. At the same time, Congressman Garret has become one of Taiwan's most outspoken supporters.

6. Albert Tseng, Midwest Advocacy Chair

I was in our second day of Congressional Office visits during the Formosa Foundation program, and boy was

everyone tired. Not just all the good posture and nervousness of being in front of Congressmen for the first times, but also all the walking around and, most of all, the oppressive heat of D.C. in summer!

After our first listless meeting, Daniel Lin our Facilitator gave us a pep talk I'll never forget. He said, "Come on guys! How many chances will you ever get to spend a whole week talking to Congressmen about Taiwan? Don't hold back, ask them for what you want!" I've carried that with me for all the years since. It's true, when I'm sitting in front of a Member of Congress or an aide, I'll probably never ever get the chance again to influence them to support Taiwan. So you know what, I'm NOT going to settle for just "getting by" and having a "passable" meeting. Instead, I'm going to give it whatever energy I can muster, and make sure to always ask for something concrete and give all the powerful stories there are in Taiwan's history.

Screening of *Formosa Betrayed* at the Asian American International Film Festival

By Margaret Yu
President of Distinct Formosan Identity
(Rutgers YPG Chapter)

Anxiously waiting, crowds of people began to line up at the SVA Theater in New York City for the showing of the much anticipated film *Formosa Betrayed*, during the Asian American International Film Festival. Having been sold out before the day of its premier on July 24, 2009, *Formosa Betrayed* faced high expectations from a diverse audience.

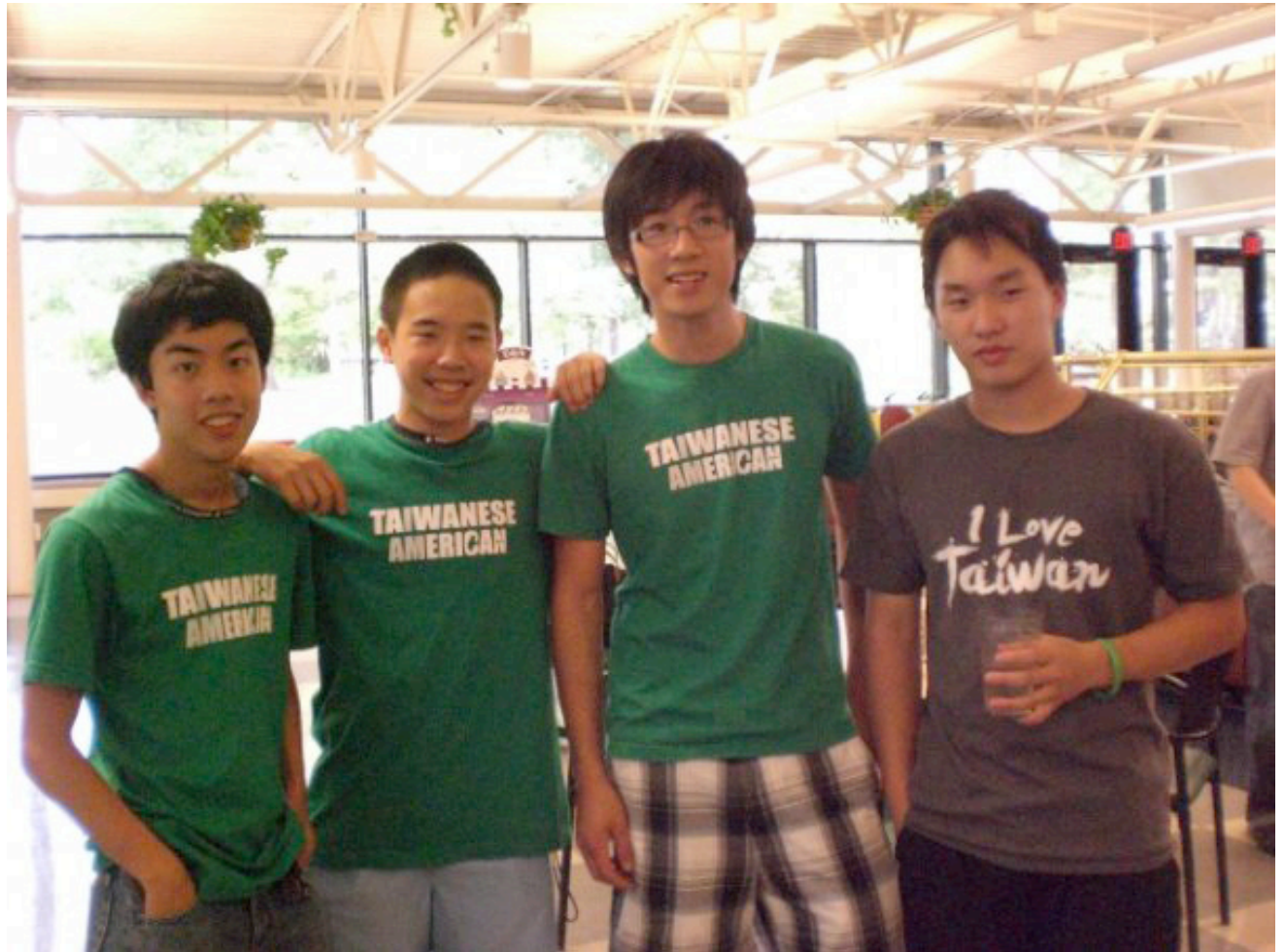
Not only a thriller film, *Formosa Betrayed* also has substantial historical scenes which educate the audience, but not to the degree of a documentary. The film itself generates much interest in Taiwanese history, with flashbacks highlighting the darkness and violence of Taiwan's past. It both entertains yet enraptures the audience through the story line and glimpses of the past. At the very least, the film opens up the public's eyes to the much overlooked portions of Taiwan's history.

James Van Der Beek, who plays the lead as James Kelly from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, also accurately represents how a "traditional American" would view Taiwan. Knowing only the westernized version of Taiwan's past, Kelly is thrown into a different world of violence when sent to investigate the murder of Professor Henry Wen, played by Joseph Forunda. The stark contrast between Kelly's understandings of Taiwan compared to the harsh reality highlights the naivety of those without

Taiwanese surroundings.

During the question and answer session at the end of the film, Will Tiao, actor and producer, mentions that the film is directed to three types of audience: the first Taiwanese generation of those who directly faced events depicted in the movie, the second generation with Taiwanese background, and everyone else. Adamantly making clear that the movie was designed to satisfy those of the latter group, Tiao may have irked some minds in the first group as one gentleman shouted to correct a line in the movie saying it was not historically accurate. The film connects to several types of audience on different levels. Coming from a Taiwanese background, I feel the film accurately depicts the hardships the generations before us have felt. The acting by Will Tiao genuinely conveys the daily dangers facing people, and the courage it took to speak freely during the martial law era. The film depicted historical scenes quite well, and in some instances helped clarify my knowledge of Taiwan.

Formosa Betrayed achieved its goal in giving the public an indication of Taiwan's continual political turmoil, and the affects it has on its people. Hopefully the movie will continue to open the eyes of the public as it did so at the Asian American International Film Festival.



Campers from TANG 2009. Photo by Amanda Chou

Thank You to the Contributors
and Editors for this issue:

Jonathan Lee, Amanda Chou,
Albert Tseng, Margaret Yu, Tony
Lee, Julia Famularo & Emily
Chang

■ *Suggestions?*

- *Disagree with some of the opinions?*
- *Felt an important piece of news was omitted?*
- *Ran an activity in your local area?*
- *Want a particular Taiwanese recipe?*
- *Have something to announce?*

send an email to atseng@ypg.fapa.org

<http://ypg.fapa.org>
Formosan Association for Public Affairs
Young Professional Group
atseng@ypg.fapa.org