

Panel: Cross-Strait Relations (Cosmos & Violet Room)

Date/Time: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 / 13:45-15:00

Talking Points for: Liou To-hai, Professor, National Chengchi University

Cross-Straits relations transformed from precarious confrontation to peaceful interactions in the Hu jin-tao era since 2008 when Ma Yingjeou was inaugurated for his first term. During this period, coupled with political détente, Taiwan and China accelerated their economic integration in a rapid way marked by direct flights, two-way interactions and the signing the ECFA in June 2010. With the reelection of Ma Yingjeou and the advent of Xi jin-ping era, cross-Straits relations have entered into a new stage expected to be characterized by further consolidating economic integration and possibly political reconciliation. However, this promising prospect is not without challenges. Taiwan is under the mounting pressure from both outside and inside. Given the prolonged negotiations on the four ECFA follow-up agreements and not yet including in the ASEAN plus six mechanism of Asian economic integration, Taiwan is now marginalized by the intensifying regional economic integration. Other challenges are the growing competition of China and the US as well as Ma's plunging domestic popularity.

*** The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies.**