

2013 Strait Talk Hong Kong

Achievements



STRAIT TALK
HONG KONG



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I. Overview

Strait Talk is a youth academic exchange platform with university students as major participators, neutral political stance, cross-border and cross-school networks, and Taiwan Strait Relationship as subject of inquiry. Strait Talk was founded by a group of Chinese-American university students in the U.S. in 2005. To take its influence one step forward and to escalate, in Greater China, the young generation's concern on cross-Strait peace building, Strait Talk Hong Kong (STHK), as the first overseas chapter of its American origin, debuted in the University of Hong Kong in 2011. Today, its chapters have reached Brown University, University of California, Berkley, and National Taiwan University.

Strait Talk Hong Kong aims to establish a platform for open-hearted and in-depth communication among young people from both sides of the Taiwan Strait, which will contribute to the development of peaceful relationship and common prosperity among mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau and other Asian countries. STHK invites well-known scholars and outstanding youth leaders, who share the lasting passion and commitment for rolling the history of peace forward, to Hong Kong, where close-door meetings and public speeches are scheduled for seven days in a row. Strait Talk Hong Kong is a registered society in Hong Kong, operated by current undergraduate students of the University of Hong Kong from Hong Kong, mainland China, and Taiwan.

As the first independent students' organization that devotes to arranging direct dialogues among youth and promoting peace-building on cross-Strait issues, Strait Talk pioneers in applying the Interactive Conflict Resolution (ICR) mechanism, which is commonly used for resolving conflicts in the international society, to Chinese issues and cross-Strait disputes. This mechanism, allowing uncustomary and in-depth probe, makes Strait Talk distinct from a great number of cross-Strait youth activities. Only by knowing each other's stories can we possibly abandon stereotypes: Strait Talk tries to motivate rational thinking of the big picture of future cross-Strait relationship from the starting point of perceptual individual values. Following a calling for peace and the faith in resolving cross-Strait disputes humanely, Strait Talk encourages its young delegates to go beyond dilemmas in reality, and to prospect innovative resolutions with active attitude and mutual trust.

II. Strait Talk Hong Kong 2013

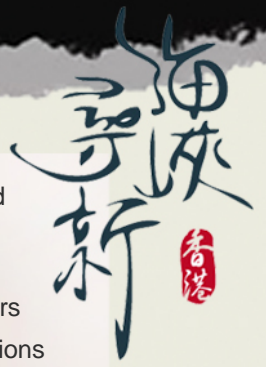
This year, Strait Talk Hong Kong selected sixteen youth delegates from mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, and Malaysia, and invited them to the University of Hong Kong for a seven-day symposium. Three main activities were "Interactive Conflict Resolution (ICR) sessions", "Salons / Public Speeches" and "Peace Projects".

Delegates participated in close-door, small-scale, in-depth and high-frequency conversations under the constructions of an ICR expert: from "sharing personal experience and stories", to "exploring essential benefits and values"; from "analyze and rethink conflicts" to "prospect and anticipate the future". Through "fish-tank-style discussion", "exchange roles", "walk through histories" etc., delegates

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HONG KONG

were exposed to different ways of thought, based on which they sought to dissolve prejudice and obtain consensus.

There were two salons and two public speeches during the symposium. Famous experts, scholars and opinion leaders from mass media, academic and/or research institutes, and social organizations at both sides of the Strait were invited to provide independent lectures and to have conversations. As for the public speeches, guest speakers unfolded topics of "The Tale of Two Cities: Urban Development in Hong Kong and Taipei" and "Occupying Central: New Era of Civil Disobedience?". As for the salons, the Symposium focuses on the topic of "Diaoyu Islands Landing: Fighting for Territorial Integrity" and "Opening Year of the China Dream: Visions, Hopes and Challenges Across the Taiwan Strait". All public events led delegates and general audience to think, to question and to answer. After that, delegates and speakers had close-door panels whose heated discussions impressed everyone.

As for "Peace Projects", delegates formed their own groups and collaborated to produce innovative projects for long-term interaction across Taiwan Strait. After the seven-day symposium, back to their own region, delegates will carry out their promise: in the following one year, they will pay effort to realize their "peace projects" and share their harvest from the forum with the public.

"Consensus" was a concluding remark of the symposium and was read out by delegates at the closing ceremony at the end of the week. Only by knowing each other's stories can we possibly abandon stereotypes. Strait Talk Hong Kong's spirit to bridge chasm, shelve differences, and join hands vividly embodies philosophies of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, with which we believe a historic communication platform can be successfully created across Taiwan Strait for young people concerning peace-building in Greater China in the new times.

III. The 7-Day Symposium

The following is excerpted from Delegates' Diaries.

April

IV. Public Speeches, Salons, and Closing Ceremony

Diaoyu Islands Landing: Fighting for Territorial Integrity

Time: April 7, 2013, 15:00-17:00

Venue: Room 403, T. T. Tsui Building, The University of Hong Kong

Speaker: Mr. Henry Wong, Hong Kong Diaoyu activist, Asiaweek's "Person of Year 2012" on "Kai Fung 2" who landed on Diaoyu Islands

Opening Year of the China Dream: Visions, Hopes and Challenges Across the Taiwan Strait

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Taiwan-Strait Conflict Resolution Symposium

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Time: April 9, 2013, 16:00-18:00

Venue: Room 303, T. T. Tsui Building, The University of Hong Kong

Speaker: Dr. Yan Xiaojun, Assistant Professor of Department of Politics and Public Administration, HKU

A Tale of Two Cities: Taipei and Hong Kong

Time: April 8, 2013, 18:30-21:30

Venue: Lecture House 1, Meng Wah Complex, The University of Hong Kong

Speaker: Prof. Chu-Joe Hsia, Taiwan architect, renowned scholar, former director of Graduate Institute of Building and Planning, NTU; Prof. Wang Weijen, Head of Department and Professor in the Department of Architecture, HKU

Occupy Central, New Era of Civil Disobedience in Hong Kong?

Time: April 10, 2013, 19:00-21:00

Venue: Lecture House 1, Meng Wah Complex, The University of Hong Kong Speaker: Dr. Benny Tai, Associate Professor of Department of Law, HKU

Closing Ceremony

Time: April 12, 2013, 16:45-18:15

Venue: Room 328, Centennial Campus Podium, The University of Hong Kong

V. Peace Project Introduction

Electronic Magazine

This peace project is initiated by Mainland China delegates, Taiwan delegates, and Hong Kong, Macau, and Overseas delegates. The project aims at, through the promotion of electronic magazines, unite young people in mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, and other districts so that a platform for mutual communication can be firmly established. The electronic magazine will integrate the campus media affiliated to the universities from which the delegates come.

Taiwan Reading Group

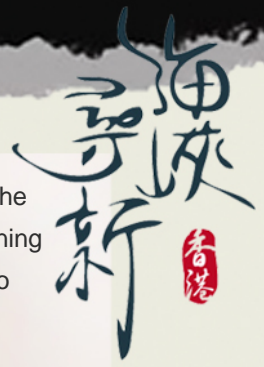
This peace project is initiated by Mainland China delegates, Taiwan delegates, and Hong Kong, Macau, and Overseas delegates, facing to those exchange student from mainland China in Taiwan. The reading group can, on the one hand, promote the mutual communication among the exchange students. On the other hand, it can help expose those students to the real Taiwan society. The project hopes to introduce the ICR session into the reading group. The preliminary plan of the project include four reading discussion forum in the year that follows, of which the extent of participation will be enhanced.

Research on Taiwan Exchange Student in Mainland China

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HONG KONG

This peace project is initiated by Mainland China delegate, aiming at reflecting on the quality of the exchange program between mainland China universities and Taiwan universities through examining the situation with which Taiwan exchange students are faced. The research project also hopes to provide some further advice on promoting the quality of current exchange program.

Mainland China Reading Group

This peace project is initiated by Mainland China delegates. The form taken is similar to the Taiwan Reading Group above.

VI. Delegates and Audience Feedback

The organization committee carries out four survey corresponding to each public events, including salons and speeches, as well as two surveys on the delegates concerning with the whole symposium. The result is as follows:

Audience Feedback

- 85% of the audience believe the topics of the public speeches are very attractive.
- 85% of the audience are satisfied with the quality of the public speech.
- 90% of the audience believe the topics of the salon are very attractive.
- 80% of the audience are satisfied with the quality of salon.

Delegates Feedback

- The delegates are in general satisfied with ICR session.
- The delegates are very satisfied with the organization committee.
- The confidence and identification with the common culture of the delegates has been promoted after the symposium.
- The personal expectation of contribution to Mainland-Taiwan relationship is raised.

VII. Media Report

The following is the list of the report of the symposium

- **Sina News** The Third Straittalk is Held in The University of Hong Kong
- **CDNews** The Third Straittalk is Held in The University of Hong Kong
- **UND TV** Occupy Central; Hong Kong Scholar Foreseeing Reasonable Election
- **Lianhe Zaobao** Occupy Central; Hong Kong Scholar Foreseeing Reasonable Election
- **Apple Daily** Li Dazhuang: Occupy Central Harms Hong Kong
- **Wenwei Post** Li Dazhuang: 10 Thousand People Influencing 7 Million People
- **Haiwai Net** Li Dazhuang: Occupy Central Harms Hong Kong; Exhausting the Next Generation
- **Eastern Liu** Zhaojia Worries Occupy Central Ends up with Conflict
- **TaKung Pao** Li Dazhuang: Occupy Central Harms Hong Kong; Exhausting the Next Generation
- **Zijing.Org** Li Dazhuang: Occupy Central Harms Hong Kong; Exhausting the Next Generation

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STRAIT TALK
HONG KONG

- **Singtao Daily** Li Dazhuang: Occupy Central Harms Hong Kong; Exhausting the Next Generation
- **Sina Taiwan** Yan Xiaojun on Chinese Dream
- **Sina Taiwan** STHK on Taipei and Hong Kong
- **CDNews** Yan Xiaojun on Chinese Dream
- **CDNews** STHK on Taipei and Hong Kong

VIII. About US

Please contact us for more information

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www.renren.com/straittalkhk weibo.com/straittalkhk

IX. Acknowledgements

names listed in no particular order

Host

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CEDARS, HKU

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