

Kaohsiung College Students' Perceptions towards the Prospective Relationship Across the Taiwan Strait

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Abstract

Young generations of today determine the future of relations across the Taiwan strait. Yet, few studies focus on this specific population. As Kaohsiung has long been regarded as the DPP's headquarters, understanding how college students in this city view the future development of the cross-strait relationship may provide interested stakeholders some valuable insights toward the future development across the Taiwan Strait. In a survey conducted in summer 2017, and 1,048 valid questionnaires were collected from college students studying in Kaohsiung. The results suggested that Kaohsiung college students showed two major inclinations: 1) they lacked the desire to maintain close cross-strait relationship, but agreed to have more economic exchanges with China; and 2) they believed that, no matter independence or unification, peace was most important, and they had no willingness to participate in war. This study provides Taiwan and China authorities the youth's attitudes on the cross-strait relationship. Both could thereby make policies to nurture a relationship which benefits the cross-strait people.

Keywords: Cross-Strait relationship, College students, Kaohsiung City