



澳洲墨爾本台灣同鄉會

TAIWANESE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA MELBOURNE CHAPTER INC. (TAAM)
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Dr. William Lin
President, TAAM
25C The Avenue Spotswood Vic 3015

1st February 2021

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

**RE: PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO EXPANDING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE AGREEMENT FOR TRANS-PACIFIC
PARTNERSHIP (CPTPP)**

On behalf of the Taiwanese Association of Australia Melbourne Chapter Inc. (TAAM), I am writing to express TAAM's strong advocate of the expansion of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and stress that Taiwan's inclusion in the CPTPP will be mutually beneficial for both Australia and Taiwan.

Economically, Taiwan has strong bilateral trade and investments with all 11 members of CPTPP. Taiwan is currently Australia's 12th largest two-way trading partner with a forecast of 9.9% growth over five years. Taiwan is also the world's leading manufacturer of high-end semiconductor chips and the most irreplaceable part of the global advanced supply chain.

Strategically, helping Taiwan develop more options for trade diversification will only strengthen the liberal international order, to which both Australia and Taiwan belong. Both Canberra and Taipei have been managing the so-called 'China choice', as we balance the needs of our strategic freedom from, and our economic relations with, China.

Helping Taiwan's inclusion in the CPTPP will thus expand Taiwan's economic and strategic autonomy, and improve the cohesion and interoperability between the Western-led liberal international order's key allies and partners. Taiwan, by virtue of its central geostrategic location in the First Island Chain, is a key link of the strategic chain connecting the United States, Japan, Korea, Australia, and other 'like-minded' Indo-Pacific democracies.

Culturally and politically, Taiwan and Australia share the same values of human rights and democracy, which undergird our enduring friendship. Taiwan is the leading liberal democracy of the Chinese speaking world and a cultural powerhouse of Northeast Asia. As Australia enters our 'Asian Century', Taiwan will only become an ever-more indispensable partner in our quest for greater Asian literacy.

A strong Australia-Taiwan relationship is in line with Australia's foreign policy priorities. The US-China rivalry and COVID-19 pandemic have radically changed the global geo-economic environment. Taiwan's inclusion in the CPTPP will strengthen the mutual benefit relationship between Taiwan and Australia, providing Australia with a key economic partner, a dependable strategic friend, and an indispensable cultural resource. I urge you to support Taiwan's inclusion in the CPTPP.

Respectfully yours,



Dr. William Lin

President

Taiwanese Association of Australia Melbourne Chapter Inc.