

## Survey on President Ma Ying-jeou's Performance after Assuming KMT Chairpersonship, Ma-Hu Meeting, and Taiwanese People's views on Unification with China and Independence

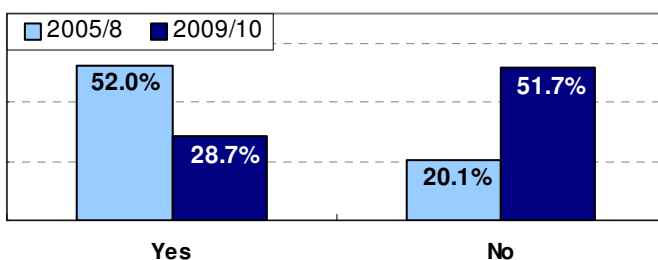
A. In response to President Ma's returning to the helm of the KMT, 51.7 percent of the respondents did not think it would create a clean image for the KMT and 41.7 percent said Ma was not competent to promote democratic reforms within the party.

Following August in 2005 when Ma became the KMT Chairperson during his Taipei mayoralty, he once again became the party's standard-bearer in mid-October. The GVSRC survey indicated that 51.7 percent did not think President Ma would be able to eliminate "black gold" politics from the party and to establish an upright image for the KMT after doubling as the party's chairperson while 28.7 percent said Ma would be competent. Compared with the poll conducted in August 2005 when Ma first assumed the KMT chairpersonship, the positive evaluation decreased 23.3 percentage points while the negative one rose 31.6 percentage points.

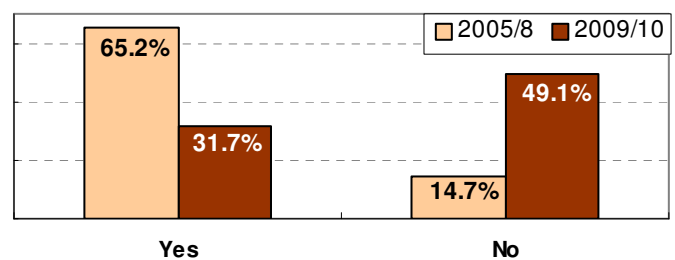
In addition, 49.1 percent of the interviewed thought even President Ma served concurrently as the KMT chairperson he would not be capable of promoting domestic reforms within the party while 31.7 percent said he would be. In comparison with the poll conducted in August 2005, the positive evaluation dropped 33.5 percentage points and the negative one advanced 34.4 percentage points.

In general, people had high expectation for Ma and approved of his decision when he first became then opposition KMT chairperson during his Taipei mayoralty in August 2005. Four years later when Ma returned to lead the KMT in October 2009, people had extremely different perceptions and evaluations regardless of the party's dominant position. The discrepancy is mainly ascribed to doubts about Ma's leadership and his administration's performance after the overwhelming election victory last year.

Can President Ma get rid of "black gold" politics and create a clean image for the KMT after doubling as the party's chairperson?



Will President Ma be competent to promote democratic reforms within the KMT after doubling as the chairperson?



Note : August 2005 survey was conducted by the ERA Poll Center.

B. 43.9 percent said it was appropriate if President Ma Ying-joue and his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao met as leaders of ruling parties across the Strait while 36.5 percent said inappropriate.

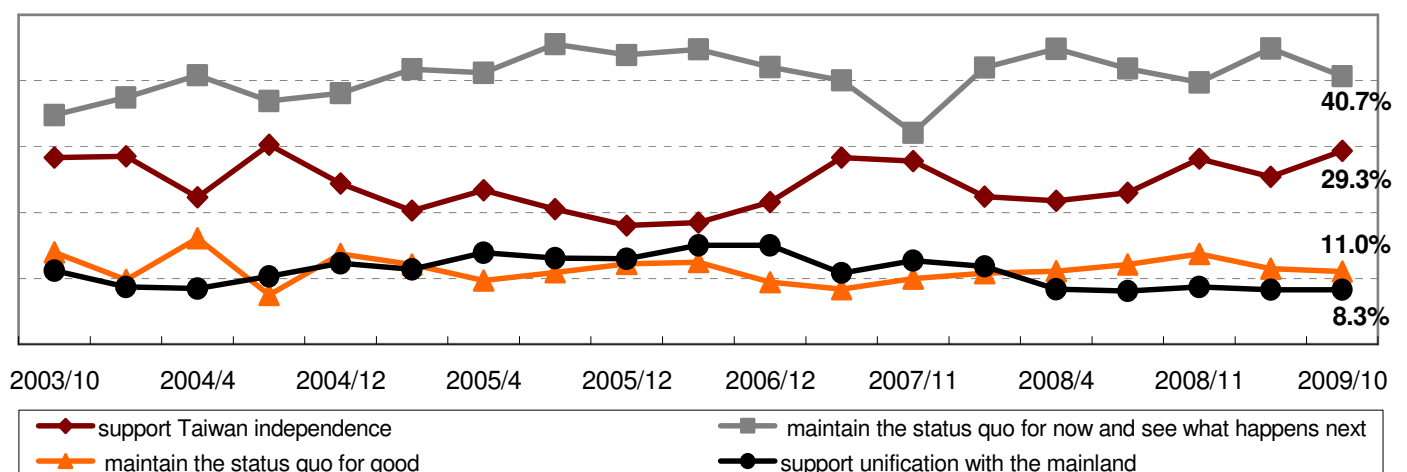
President Ma's taking helm of the KMT kindled the imagination of Ma-Hu meeting from both sides across the Strait. The previous GVSRC polls found that most of people deemed it necessary that leaders of the two sides across the Strait establish channels of direct communications. Without making mention of the time and venue for the Ma-Hu meeting when asked about the meeting between President Ma and his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao, people's attitude was quite divided with 43.9 percent saying it was appropriate while 36.5 percent saying inappropriate. According to the cross tabulation, amid people aged from 20 to 39, the ones who had a college degree or higher, or belong to pan-blue camp, more than 50 percent said the meeting was suitable. 64.9 percent of the pan-green supporters deemed it inappropriate while 23.2 percent said appropriate.

C. Taiwanese people's views on independence-unification issue: 51.7 percent favored status quo, 29.3 percent independence and 8.3 percent unification. People's stance on ultimately independence-unification issue: 47.2 percent of people were supportive of ultimate independence while 34.1 percent were not. 15.7 percent backed ultimate unification with China while 69 percent voiced opposition.

Aside from the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama's visit to Taiwan, DPP Kaohsiung Mayor Chen Chu-led Kaohsiung City Government's screening of a documentary about exiled Uighur leader Rebiya Kadeer also sparked political turmoil. Meanwhile, the China's military parade in commemoration of PRC's 60th anniversary and ROC's 98th National Day both happened in early October. The GVSRC has been observing the trend on Taiwanese people's stance on unification-independence issue. Therefore, in the aforementioned background, the center once again conducted the poll with the questionnaires on this issue.

The GVSRC survey suggested that 19 percent of the polled supported to declare independence as soon as possible while 10.3 percent said Taiwan should maintain status quo before moving toward independence. (People favoring radical and moderate independence

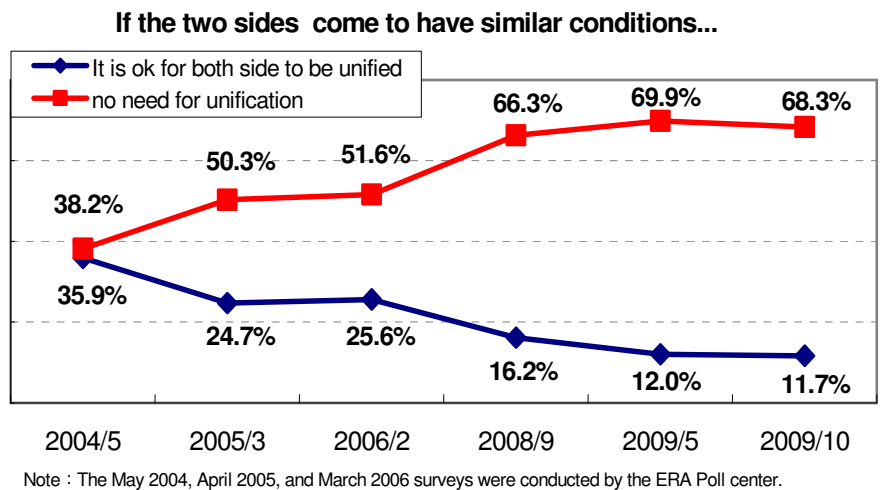
Taiwanese people's attitude toward the issue of unification and independence



Note: Data from 2003 to 2005 is from surveys conducted and published by the ERA Poll Center.

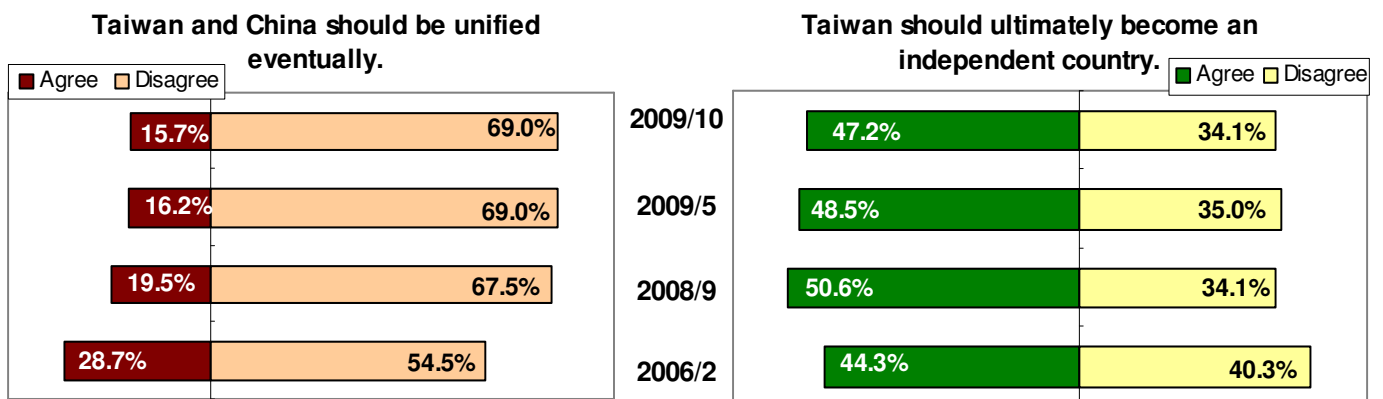
accounted for 29.3 percent.) 40.7 percent preferred to maintain status quo and then act according to circumstances. 11 percent were supportive of permanent status quo. (People opting for status quo accounted for 51.7 percent.) 4.3 percent chose to maintain status quo and then be unified with China while 4 percent said Taiwan should be unified with China as soon as possible. (People who preferred moderate and radical unification accounted for 8.3 percent.) The ration on unification did not change after President Ma took office in May last year.

In addition, the GVSRC's routine poll on the ultimately unification-independence issue showed 68.3 percent of the interview subjects deemed it unnecessary to be unified with China while 11.7 percent said an immediate unification was acceptable if the economic, political and social conditions were similar across the Taiwan



Strait. Compared with the previous polls this one was consistent with the one held in May this year, which demonstrated people had forged strong consensus and their attitude on this issue was stable and barely influenced by the aforementioned incidents.

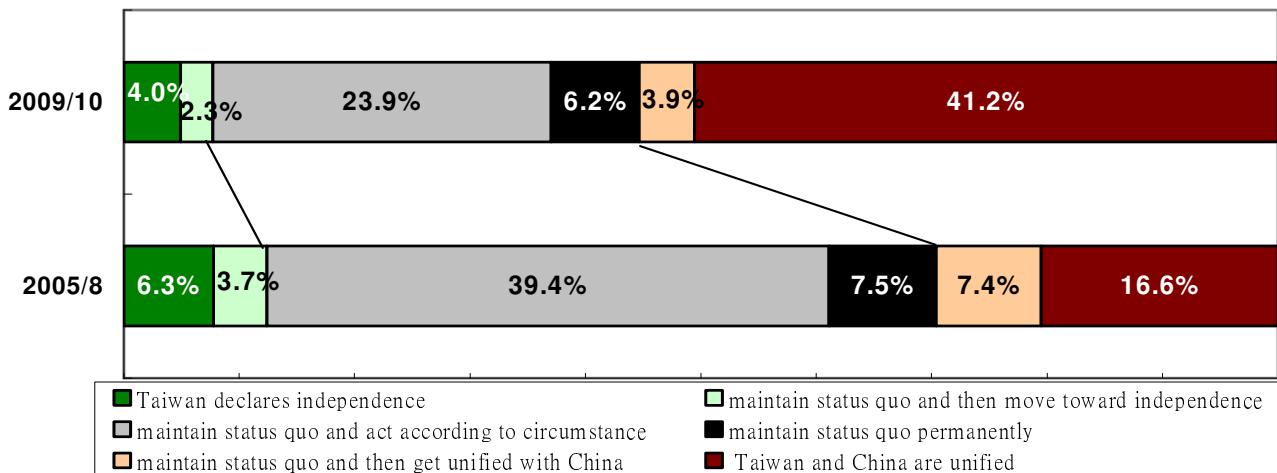
When asked whether both sides across the Strait should move toward unification eventually, 15.7 percent of people said yes while 69 percent voiced opposition. Amid the pan-blue supporters, 27.5 percent were supportive of the eventual unification while 63.7 percent opposed it. Even among the people with ancestors from mainland China, 55.9 percent did not support the idea and only 22.9 percent did. The poll implied people in Taiwan had reached an overwhelming and stable consensus on whether two sides across the Strait should march toward unification eventually.



47.2 percent of people supported Taiwan to declare independence and become a new country but 34.1 percent opposed it. The ratio of people in favor of independence was declining over the past year. 33.1 percent of the pan-blue people supported Taiwan independence while

54.4 percent don't. As for the pan-green people, 78.3 percent of them approved of it and 15.6 percent expressed disapproval. Compared with the previous polls, the public is still divided on Taiwan independence issue.

**People's perception on President Ma's stance on unification-independence issue**



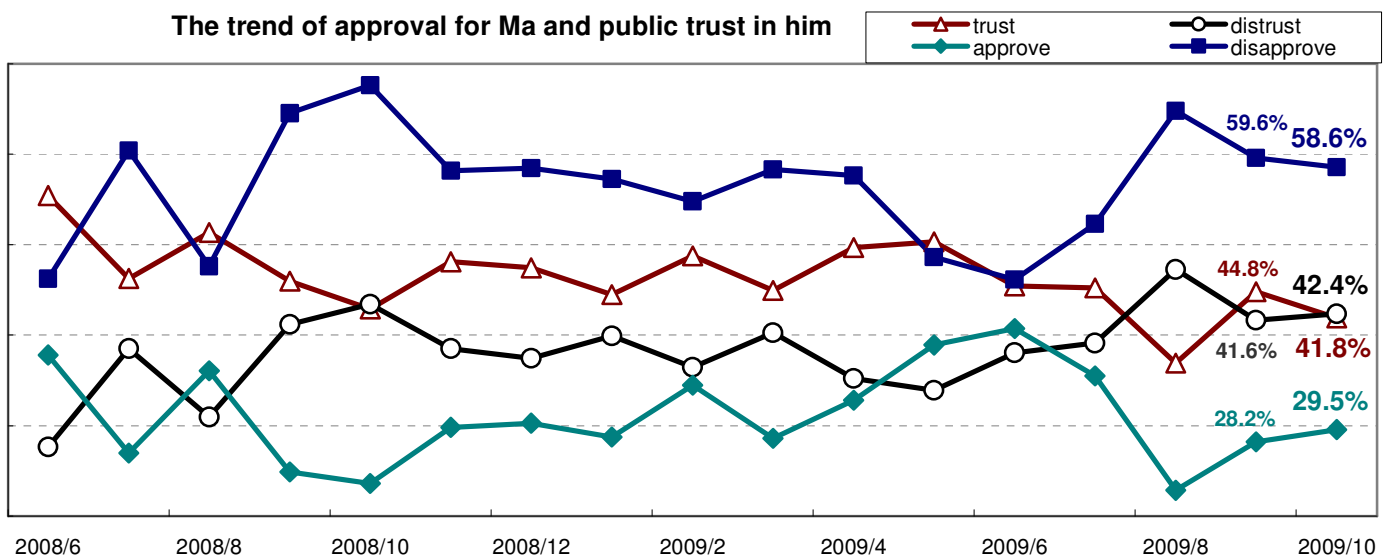
Note : The August 2005 surveys were conducted by the ERA Poll center.

President Ma had reiterated his commitment to maintain status quo across the Taiwan Strait with his ideal of no unification, no independence and no use of force under the framework of the ROC Constitution. The GVSRC survey revealed 45.1 percent of the polled thought President Ma's stance on Taiwan's future was to be unified with China while 30.1 percent thought Ma preferred to maintain status quo and 6.3 percent said he was in favor of independence.

Compared with the poll conducted in August 2005 when President Ma first served concurrently as the KMT chairperson, people who thought Ma in favor of being unified with China increased 21.1 percentage points while people who thought Ma would maintain status quo decreased 16.8 percentage points and the ones said Ma favored Taiwan independence slipped 3.7 percentage points.

D. President Ma Ying-jeou's approval rating is 29.5 percent and disapproval rating is 58.6 percent this month. 41.8 percent trusted him but 42.4 percent not.

**The trend of approval for Ma and public trust in him**



The GVSRC survey showed 29.5 percent of the interviewed were satisfied with President Ma's performance this month while 58.6 percent were not. Ma's approval rating rose 1.3 percentage points and disapproval rating decreased 1 percentage point in comparison with last month. People had very divided attitude on whether they had trust in President Ma with 41.8 percent saying they trusted Ma and 42.4 percent saying distrust. Compared with last month, the level of public trust in Ma dropped 3 percentage points while the level of public distrust in Ma slightly edged up 0.8 percentage points. Generally speaking, the changes of the two evaluations in comparison with last month were both within the margin of the sampling error.

**E. KMT lawmakers' approval rating is 21.9 percent and disapproval rating is 58.5 percent.**

Although KMT lost some seats in the Legislative Yuan after some legislators were recruited into the cabinet or nominated as candidates for the year-end county magistrate and mayoral elections or were deprived of their election victory because of corruption charges it still held nearly 70 percent of legislative seats and shared the dominant position in the legislature. The GVSRC survey found that 58.5 percent of Taiwanese were not satisfied with the KMT lawmakers' overall performance while only 21.9 percent expressed approval. In comparison with last month, the ruling KMT legislators' approval rating slipped 3.9 percentage points and the disapproval rating climbed 1.7 percentage points. The KMT supporters had split views on the KMT lawmakers' performance with 44.1 percent expressing satisfied and 43.4 said dissatisfied. The KMT lawmakers' substandard performance will be high responsibility and a challenge facing President Ma after his assumption of the KMT chairpersonship.

This survey was conducted by GVSRC from 6.20 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. from Oct. 14-16, 2009. It was conducted with random-digit-dial sampling and computer-assisted telephone interviewing methods. 1006 Taiwanese people who are 20 or older completed the interview. One can say with 95% confidence level that the theoretical margin of sampling error is  $\pm 3.1\%$ . Gender, living areas, ages, educational level and other features of the interviewees have undergone weighting procedure and test of the sample's representativeness in the survey results. The funding of the survey came from the *Global Views Monthly*.