

## **Our Ethnic Policy Vision**

### **Equality, Autonomy, and Anti-discrimination**

Taiwan is a “settlers’ society” comprised by diversified multi-ethnic groups instead of a conventional “immigrant country.” This categorization recognizes the historical status of the “indigenous people” in Taiwan rather than only defines which ethnic group had come earlier than other immigrants flooding into this island one after another. Therefore, the “indigenous people” should be safeguarded under their particular indigenous rights. Generally, the posterity of the early settlers, including “Hakka” and “Hoklo” has seen Taiwan as their homeland or motherland subjectively; hence they should be recognized as the “natives.”

With regard to the “mainlanders” who fled to Taiwan along with the defeated Chinese Nationalist Party and has been long-oppressed under the system of the Republic of China (ROC), they have suffered internal struggles ever since their first encounter of Taiwan until settling down. Due to this structural factor of the historical background, the points of view determine whether the mainlanders can be identified with the “ethnic minority,” are still diversified subjectively and objectively. Besides, the so-called “foreign spouse” can be regarded as “marriage migrant” that longs for participating in Taiwan’s society; however, whether the coherence of ethnic awareness has been formed among them even though they were coming from different cultural backgrounds, needs further observation. Moreover, the “Pingpu (plain) group” that thought to be disappeared has appealed to the government for regaining its status of “indigenous people” taken away after World War II. Yet, from the perspective of human right or social welfare, ethnic policy is not only for the convenience of the Ministry of the Interior when conducting population census, but also a public policy subject for a democratic nation to put emphasis on.

Concerning those circumstances as abovementioned, the Taiwan Brain Trust (TBT) makes following propositions:

With regard to the indigenous people, we need to protect their rights through the implementation thereof into the specific “Chapter of Indigenous People,” “Chapter of Human Rights” within our Constitutional framework and related laws and regulations to make sure that the indigenous people whose rights have been long-ignored by the governor are willing to jointly live life in this nation.

Concerning the Hakka people, to safeguard their collective identification, the government should not only preserve the cultural properties, strengthen the cultural contents, and promote their language, but also simultaneously rebuilt the history of Hakka since the identification among modern Hakka people are built up by their common memories and experiences. That is, the primary topic of the government is to provide Hakka people an opportunity to self-identify.

Perhaps the Mainlander's group feels like avoiding discrimination generated from the registration of birthplace, yet the Hakka people are facing the problem of population decline. Thus, the government is bound to ascertain the population of Hakka by conducting the population census to at least keep the cultural and educational expense of Hakka matching with the ratio of population.

As to the Mainlander's group, to prevent them from receiving the perception of being outcast, the identification of it should be given considerable weight of respect and further achieve the fair distribution of political powers and economic resources.

Moreover, the rights of indigenous people are in large portions based on the reparation of the past. According to the most of Taiwan's historical records, the Pingpu group is the gravest victim especially in terms of the land expropriation and the cultural domination.

TBT's ethnic policy visions are: to enforce the national autonomy to possess lands, properties, and powers through the enactment of the "Autonomy of the Indigenous People Act;" to promote all Taiwanese local dialects to national languages by the making of "Language Equality Act;" to safeguard the enjoyment of fair treatment to everyone by enacting "Anti-discrimination Act;" to protect the fundamental human rights of foreign spouses and especially pay respect to their original cultures; to make the Pingpu (Plain) group regain its status of "indigenous peoples" and thereby reconcile the historical grudge held between the indigenous people and the Han People.