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US urged to strengthen maritime military cooperation with Taiwan

A visiting US expert and former official says the United States should strengthen maritime military exchanges with Taiwan.

Randall Schriver made the comments on Saturday in Taipei. Schriver is president and chief executive officer of the Virginia-based think tank Project 2049 Institute and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia. He is in Taipei to attend the International Conference on New Asian Dynamics and the Role of Taiwan.

When presenting his paper, Schriver said that Washington must stop isolating Taiwan from bilateral and multilateral exercises and security events as a way to appease Beijing. He said such a policy undermines American interests in Asia.

Schriver said the US Department of Defense should invite Taiwan to the Rim of the Pacific Exercise, the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise.

Schriver stressed the importance of the US-Taiwan military and security relationship. He said the US has a critical role to play in deterring or limiting aggression against Taiwan. He also said Taiwan is “the single most valuable and underutilized asset that US has for adapting to the increasingly risky maritime environment in the Western Pacific.

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DPP's success in local elections surprising: ex-AIT chief

TAIPEI--Former director of the American Institute in Taiwan's Taipei Office William Stanton said Saturday that the staggering success seen by the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in last weekend's elections was surprising, even though he had expected the party to be at an advantage.

Stanton, who is now the interim senior vice president for global affairs at National Tsing Hua University, said he did not expect that the DPP would do so well, referring to the DPP's crushing of the ruling Kuomintang (KMT) by winning 13 of 22 mayoral-level races, leaving the ruling party with only six.

The former diplomat said on the sidelines of an international conference on Taiwan's role in Asia that from his interactions with students, he sensed that many young people were dissatisfied with the current situation in Taiwan and would vote for change, but he was still surprised by the DPP's victory in the KMT strongholds of Taoyuan and Taichung.

Factors that could have contributed to the KMT's defeat include public

dissatisfaction with the economy and the after-effects of the Sunflower Movement that occupied the Legislature to oppose the trade-in-services deal with China earlier this year, he said.

Asked whether the results of the elections will influence the development of the cross-strait ties, Stanton said that “it's hard to say.”

“We will need to wait and see future developments,” he said.

He added that Beijing has been cautious about its dealings with Taiwan.

China has been preparing “for every contingency,” he said in reference to how Beijing might react if the China-wary DPP wins the 2016 presidential race.

Stanton was speaking to reporters at the International Conference on New Asian Dynamics and the Role of Taiwan, co-organized by the U.S.-based Project 2049 Institute and the Taiwan Brain Trust, a Taiwanese think tank.

It brought together experts from Australia, Japan, Taiwan, India, South Korea and the United States to discuss issues related to new Asian dynamics, the role of Taiwan, cross-Taiwan Strait relations and others.

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Ex-US official urges diversification of Taiwan's role in the Asia-Pacific

TAIPEI--As its ties with China improve, Taiwan should also seek to advance its relations with other countries in the region, particularly Japan, South Korea and the Philippines, a visiting former U.S. official said Saturday.

Kurt Campbell, who served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs between 2009 and 2013, told an international conference on Asian dynamics and the role of Taiwan that he would like to see “a degree of diversification with respect to Taiwan's role in the region.”

While supporting the improvement of cross-strait ties, Campbell, chairman and CEO of the Asia Group, a Washington-based advisory firm, urged Taiwan to develop closer ties with other countries in the region as well.

Asked following his keynote speech about possible U.S. and Chinese intervention in Taiwan's 2016 presidential election, he said that there should not be any outside forces influencing democratic engagement in Taiwan.

“The United States takes a serious view about the progress of Taiwanese democracy and the perfection of the Taiwanese system,” he said.

“I believe that whoever wins fairly in the election the United States will be fully committed to working with.”

He added that such a view is unanimous across both the Democratic and Republican parties.

Campbell also called for a stronger relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan, saying there is a major role Taiwan could play in the region.

He reiterated that the U.S. supports improving ties across the Taiwan Strait, “but the path, pace, context and content of that diplomacy” must be decided by the people of both Taiwan and China.

Washington welcomes economic, commercial, and people-to-people discussions and diplomacy between Taiwan and China, he said, and improving those ties will help Taiwan expand its international presence.

Echoing Campbell's remarks, William Stanton, former director of the American Institute in Taiwan's Taipei Office and now an interim senior vice president at National Tsing Hua University, said that the U.S. and Taiwan should cooperate more in defense and trade.

He called for more support from Washington to help Taiwan join the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade bloc.

He also commented on China's aggressiveness and said the U.S. should strengthen military ties with Taiwan and other countries in the region to ensure continuing peace and stability in the Asia Pacific.

Also present at the conference was Madhav Nalapat, director of the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations at Manipal University in India, who similarly said that regional ties are important for Taiwan.

Taiwan is important to Asia, Nalapat said, expressing hope for more cooperation between Taiwan and India.

Preserving the status-quo of Taiwan is key to ensuring stability in Asia and is also in the interest of India, he said.

Bruce Jacobs, a professor at Australia's Monash University, said Taiwan needs to realize that it is a “middle power,” and not a “small” or “tiny” country as many Taiwanese perceive themselves to be. The people need to realize that they have power too, he added.

In the face of a rising China, Taiwan should clearly align with countries such as Australia, Japan, South Korea, India, the Philippines and the U.S., Jacobs said.

The International Conference on New Asian Dynamics and the Role of Taiwan was co-organized by the U.S.-based Project 2049 Institute and the Taiwan Brain Trust, a Taiwanese think tank.

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Taiwan must think globally: conference

By Shih Hsiu-chuan / Staff reporter

Taiwan should diversify its engagements with nations in the region other than China to play a more active role as a good regional and global citizen, former US assistant secretary of state for East Asian affairs Kurt Campbell said at an international conference held in Taipei yesterday.

“Alternatively, I would like to see a degree of diversification with respect to Taiwan’s role in the region,” Campbell said to attendees at the luncheon. “Taiwan has built much deeper ties with China in the last five years. We support that, but we would also like to see... stronger ties between Taiwan and Japan, [South] Korea, the Philippines, India and other countries in the world.”

Chairman and chief executive officer of The Asia Group, Campbell was invited to deliver a keynote speech at a symposium titled New Asian Dynamics and the role of Taiwan that was jointly hosted in Taipei by the Taiwan Brain Trust and the Washington-based think tank the Project 2049 Institute.

In answering questions, Campbell sympathized with concerns regarding Taiwan’s international status, saying: “I do believe that Taiwan has experienced

a degree of isolation and a lack of strategic respect. That is problematic.”

“It’s important to treat Taiwan internationally with respect and to allow it to play an important role... and I believe that it can be done within the context of improving relations between China and Taiwan,” he added.

At a panel, Project 2049 Institute chairman Randy Schriver praised Taiwan’s offers of humanitarian aid to victims of attacks by the Islamic State, and in donating funds and equipment to combat the Ebola outbreak, saying that the US should continue to create ways to help Taiwan promote good regional and global citizenship.

In some cases, the US risks its relationship with China because China is often opposed to those activities, former US deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Schriver said. “But we need to do that, because we are better off when Taiwan plays a primary role in regional and global affairs.”

The challenges China presents require a regional response, a common operating picture, integration of threat data, whether that be maritime, air, or subsurface, Schriver said, urging the US to provide Taiwan with diesel-electric submarines — in accordance with the decision the US made in 2001 — or to assist its indigenous submarine program, and promote Taiwan’s role in regional security.

Madhav Das Nalapat, director of the Department of Geopolitics and

International Relations at Manipal University in India, said that from an economic point of view, Taiwan, a knowledge-based economy, “is an extremely desirable partner for India to have.”

“One problem we have seen here in Taiwan, quite frankly, is a lot of R&D [research and development] is now being utilized by China. A lot of Chinese R&D is sourced from Taiwan,” Nalapat said.

Taiwan needs to interact with India as actively as with China, develop R&D facilities in India and have Indian R&D experts come to Taiwan, he said.

“Countries like India or Brazil, we can be as valuable an R&D partner for Taiwan as China has been,” Nalapat said. “Even more valuable is that I have never heard of India having a missile that has ever been pointed at Taiwan.”

National Tsing Hua University interim senior vice president and former director of the American Institute in Taiwan William Stanton brought up the issue of maritime disputes.

Taiwan should seriously consider basing its claims in the South China Sea as well as for the islands and reefs it already has under its control on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, rather than the 11-dash line, because the dashes have never been explained or justified, Stanton said.

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Taiwan must think globally: conference

By Shih Hsiu-chuan / Staff reporter

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DPP's success in local elections surprising: ex-US rep

Former director of the American Institute in Taiwan's Taipei Office William Stanton said Saturday that the staggering success seen by Taiwan's opposition Democratic Progressive Party in last weekend's elections was surprising, even though he had expected the party to gain an advantage.

Stanton, who is now the interim senior vice president for global affairs at National Tsing Hua University in Hsinchu, said he did not expect that the DPP would do so well, referring to the opposition party's crushing of the Kuomintang by winning 13 of 22 mayoral-level races, leaving the ruling party with only six.

The former diplomat said on the sidelines of an international conference on Taiwan's role in Asia that from his interactions with students he sensed that many young people were dissatisfied with the current situation in Taiwan and would vote for change, but he was still surprised by the DPP's victory in the KMT strongholds of Taoyuan and Taichung.

Factors that could have contributed to the KMT's defeat include public dissatisfaction with the economy and the after-effects of the Sunflower Student Movement that occupied the Legislature to oppose the trade-in-services deal with China earlier this year, he said.

Asked whether the results of the elections will influence the development of the cross-strait ties, Stanton said that "it's hard to say."

"We will need to wait and see future developments," he said.

He added that Beijing has been cautious about its dealings with Taiwan. China has been preparing "for every contingency," he said in reference to how Beijing might react if the China-wary DPP wins the 2016 presidential race.

Stanton was speaking to reporters at the International Conference on New Asian Dynamics and the Role of Taiwan, co-organized by the US-based Project 2049 Institute and the Taiwan Brain Trust, a Taiwanese think tank.

It brought together experts from Australia, Japan, Taiwan, India, South Korea and the United States to discuss issues related to new Asian dynamics, the role of Taiwan, cross-Taiwan Strait relations and others.



AIT former director William Stanton. (File photo/CNA)

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US urged to strengthen naval cooperation with Taiwan

The United States should strengthen maritime military exchanges with Taiwan, through such means as US Navy ships conducting port visits in Taiwan and including Taiwan in international maritime drills led by the US, said a visiting US expert and former official.

Randall Schriver, president and CEO of the Virginia-based think tank Project 2049 Institute, said that Washington must stop isolating Taiwan from bilateral and multilateral exercises and security events in order to appease Beijing.

Such a policy undermines American interests in Asia, Schriver said in his paper presented at the International Conference on New Asian Dynamics and the Role of Taiwan, co-organized in Taipei by the Project 2049 Institute and the Taiwan Brain Trust, a Taiwanese think tank.

Instead, Schriver said, the US Department of Defense should invite Taiwan to the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC), the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise.

This year's RIMPAC exercise, held between June and August, marked the first time in which China has actively participated. More than 20 countries took part in the US-led biennial exercises.

Stressing the importance of the US-Taiwan military and security relationship, Schriver, who served as deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 2003 to 2005, said the US has a critical role to play in deterring or limiting aggression against Taiwan, while Taiwan is "the single most valuable and underutilized asset the US has for adapting to the increasingly risky maritime environment in the Western Pacific."

He also urged the US to work together with partners, including Taiwan, to deal with a growing number of potential natural and man-made disasters in Asia.

Reflecting the importance of Taiwan to the United States' Asia policy, Schriver said that there has been an increase in the number of military exchanges between Washington and Taipei but closer cooperation is needed in the area.

He suggested that the US integrate Taiwan's awareness of the area's waters and its capabilities into a joint infrastructure so that the island can share its information with the United States, so as to help raise US understanding about the regional maritime situation.

Both sides should also continue efforts to better share a common operational picture that would allow them to seamlessly work together as coalition partners

during a crisis or conflict, he said.

He added US high-level military officials should also visit their counterparts in Taiwan to learn about the local environment first-hand.

To expand and deepen its military exchanges with Taiwan as part of America's policy of rebalancing focus toward Asia, Schriver said, the US Pacific Command should use Taiwan as a hub for training personnel in the language of Mandarin Chinese and Chinese culture.

Among the other suggestions made by Schriver is that Washington should clearly signal to Taiwan and the US defense industry its intention to approve licensing for American industrial participation in Taiwan's indigenous defense submarine program.

He said Washington should support Taipei's submarine program, citing the strategic benefits of Taiwan acquiring new diesel-electric submarines and the range of missions they could undertake as part of coalition operations.

The one-day conference brought together experts from Australia, Japan, Taiwan, India and the United States to discuss issues related to new Asian dynamics, the role of Taiwan, cross-Taiwan Strait relations and others.



Randall Schriver speaks at International Conference on New Asian Dynamics and the Role of Taiwan in Taipei, Dec. 6. (Photo/CNA)

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DPP's sweeping success in local elections surprising: ex-U.S. rep

By Elaine Hou

Taipei, Dec. 6 (CNA) Former director of the American Institute in Taiwan's Taipei Office William Stanton said Saturday that the staggering success seen by the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in last weekend's elections was surprising, even though he had expected the party to be at an advantage.

Stanton, who is now the interim senior vice president for global affairs at National Tsing Hua University, said he did not expect that the DPP would do so well, referring to the DPP's crushing of the ruling Kuomintang (KMT) by winning 13 of 22 mayoral-level races, leaving the ruling party with only six.

The former diplomat said on the sidelines of an international conference on Taiwan's role in Asia that from his interactions with students, he sensed that many young people were dissatisfied with the current situation in Taiwan and would vote for change, but he was still surprised by the DPP's victory in the KMT strongholds of Taoyuan and Taichung.

Factors that could have contributed to the KMT's defeat include public

dissatisfaction with the economy and the after-effects of the Sunflower Movement that occupied the Legislature to oppose the trade-in-services deal with China earlier this year, he said.

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CONFERENCE ON ROLE OF TAIWAN: International experts touched on various fronts of Taiwan politics and security issues during an International Conference on New Asian Dynamics and the Role of Taiwan, co-organized by Taiwan Brain Trust and the Project 2049 Institute on Saturday. (The conference handbook can be downloaded [here](#).) The highlights:

William Stanton, former AIT director: The U.S. should seek active cooperation with Taiwan on trade and security, including arms sales and support for Taiwan's Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) bid.

Tadashi Ikeda, former Japan representative to Taiwan: Based on a mutual bilateral security pact, Japan would support military actions if armed conflict broke out in the Taiwan Strait perimeter.

Kurt Campbell, former assistant secretary of state: Washington will cooperate with whoever wins Taiwan's 2016 presidential election and will not interfere with the poll.

Randy Schriver, President and CEO of Project 2049 Institute: The U.S. is urged to strengthen its military cooperation with Taiwan through a series of measures, such as support for Taiwan's indigenous submarine production project, exchange of intelligence and inclusion of Taiwan in future military exercises.