

# **Cross-Party Group on Taiwan**

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025 9:30am

Minute

Present

MSPs

- Rhoda Grant MSP
- Jamie Greene MSP
- Karen Adam MSP
- Simpson Graham MSP

Invited guests

- Dr Liu Chi-Chu
- Dr Guy S Bewick
- Dr Chih-Cheng Chen

Non-MSP Group Members

- Chi-hua Ding
- Chi-ming Lu
- Horng-Ming Yeh
- Hsin-i Chien
- Jenny Chen
- Konstantinos Kontis
- Leeming Chen
- Penny Ho
- Philip Chan
- Robert Banks
- Yufen Chen
- Scotland Taiwanese Association

Apologies

- Jeremy Balfour MSP
- Miles Briggs MSP
- Beatrice Wishart MSP
- Clare Adamson MSP
- Ian Irvin

- **Lindesay Low**

## Agenda item 1: Welcome Remarks

**Rhoda Grant MSP** chaired and opened the AGM meeting by welcoming all members and friends of the Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Taiwan. She emphasized the importance of the group's collaborative efforts and set the tone for the meeting's formal agenda. Rhoda Grant MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed her pleasure in co-chairing the Cross-Party Group. She suggested the group begin with the formal AGM business, ensuring structure and inclusivity by inviting key speakers for remarks and by acknowledging significant guests and parliamentary colleagues. Her comments and participants' participation reflected a spirit of collaboration, appreciation, and effective meeting management as the group embarked on another year of partnership between Scotland and Taiwan.

**Welcome remarks from Chi-hua Ding**, the Director General of the Taipei representative Office in the UK, Edinburgh Office. He warmly welcomed members and friends of the CPG on Taiwan to the meeting. Initial remarks included gratitude extended to Dr. Liu and his team from Sin-Lau Hospital in Taiwan and warm greetings to all attendees. A review of upcoming presentations was shared, with a special note of appreciation for Dr. Liu, Dr. Bewick and Dr. Chen. He explained the cultural significance of the moon cake, sharing traditions from Taiwan with the MSPs as well as the other distinguished attendees. Further, He welcomed Jenny Chen, President of the Scotland Taiwan Association.

## Agenda item 2: AGM

- Co-convenors:
  - **Rhoda Grant MSP** and **Jamie Greene MSP** were nominated and agreed as co-conveners of the CPG on Taiwan.
- Secretary:
  - **Leeming Chen** was nominated and agreed as secretary of the CPG on Taiwan.

## Agenda item 3: Guest Presentation

**“160th anniversary of the Sin-Lau Hospital’s founding in Taiwan”** by **Dr. Liu Chi-Chu**, Superintendent of Sin-Lau Hospital

- Dr. Liu expressed his gratitude to the organizers and colleagues for the opportunity to present the significant legacy left in Taiwan by Dr. James Maxwell, who was born in Edinburgh, Scotland.
- He provided a historical overview of Sin-Lau Hospital, beginning with Dr. Maxwell's missionary work in Taiwan starting in 1865.
- Dr. Liu described the initial difficulties Dr. Maxwell faced in setting up a clinic and how the hospital gradually grew, benefiting the local community.
- He emphasized the hospital's dual role in advancing medical care and spreading Christianity, noting the Dr. Maxwell family's key contributions.
- Dr. Liu shared photos of the hospital's modern facilities and discussed its continuing role in Taiwan's healthcare system.
- He spoke about Sin-Lau Hospital's 160-year anniversary, thanked supporters in Taiwan and Scotland, highlighted Dr. Maxwell's legacy, and invited the audience to visit Taiwan to witness the hospital's achievements.

"Sng-a novel neural pathway for chronic pain emerges from a Taiwan-Scotland collaboration" by **Dr. Guy S Bewick**, University of Aberdeen and **Dr. Chih-Cheng Chen**, Academia Sinica in Taipei.

- Dr Guy Bewick was introduced to present his research on chronic pain, focusing on the distinction between pain and somatic discomfort ("sng" in Taiwanese) and its prevalence within the Mandarin community.
- He explained his and Dr. Chen's clinical observations and research findings that led to identifying a new biological pathway related to chronic pain.
- Dr. Bewick discussed the role of acid-sensing ion channels (ASICs) and glutamate in the sng pathway, presenting evidence of their involvement in sng-related discomfort.
- He compared pain perception between pain-dominant and sng-dominant patients, based on clinical data from Taiwanese patients.
- Dr. Bewick outlined potential therapeutic targets and emphasized the importance of recognizing "sng" as a separate clinical condition, calling for greater awareness in Western medicine.

#### *Discussion on presentation*

- Rhoda Grant MSP asks about the timeline for developing medications to treat sng and the current treatment options.
- Dr. Bewick explains the challenges and timeline for developing new medications and the importance of recognizing sng in the Western medical community.
- Karen Adam MSP shares her personal experience with chronic pain and the importance of understanding the difference between pain and sng.
- Dr. Bewick emphasizes the need for continued research and collaboration to advance the understanding and treatment of sng.

## Agenda item 4: General Discussion on CPG

- Rhoda Grant MSP reviewed the two meetings held in 2025 — one on Scottish whisky and another on policing and gender perspectives — highlighting opportunities, and one meeting held in 2024—challenges in Taiwan's whisky industry and the growing popularity of Gin.
- Rhoda Grant MSP emphasized the significance of Taiwan's emerging feminism and the importance of exchanges between Taiwanese and Scottish policewomen.
- The Director General Chi-hua Ding referred to the legacy of the Scottish missionary Dr. James Maxwell and his contribution to Taiwan's medical health, shared insights on the state of the aviation health during the COVID-19 pandemic and Taiwan's contributions to global public health. He emphasized the significance of Taiwan's meaningful participation in ICAO as well as WHA/WHO.
- In the closing remarks, Rhoda Grant MSP and The Director General Chi-hua Ding expressed gratitude for the participants' support, extended Moon Festival greetings, and looked forward to continued collaboration between Taiwan and Scotland.