

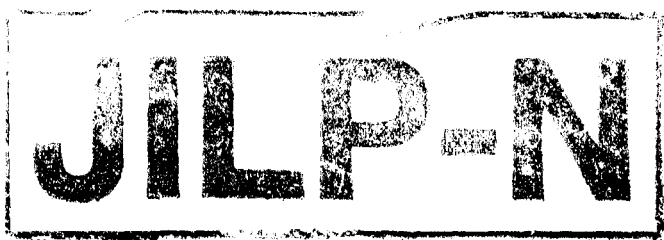
2007

Membership for Taiwan in the United Nations

Lung-chu Chen

Membership for Taiwan in the United Nations

Achieving Justice and Universality



Lung-chu Chen, Editor

New Century Institute Press
New York

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Published by New Century Institute Press
c/o New York Law School
57 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

ISBN 978-0-9792613-0-5

Printed by Joe Christensen, Inc.
1540 Adams Street
Lincoln, NE 68521

Cover Design by Tom Fowler Inc.

In the spirit of new beginnings, this inaugural volume of the New Century Institute Press is dedicated to the people of Taiwan, steadfast in their quest for a new era of human dignity and justice.

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Foreword to The New Century Institute Press

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the inaugural volume of The New Century Institute Press. *Membership for Taiwan in the United Nations: Achieving Justice and Universality* marks the beginning of what promises to be an exciting publishing venture. For those people seeking a forum on an important global issue, the fate of freedom, and particularly Taiwan's freedom, in the 21st century, the NCI Press offers an opportunity to be heard.

As we move further into the new century, it becomes increasingly apparent that nations or groups do not act in a vacuum. Rather, their actions affect the global community. Whether it is polluting the ocean or developing nuclear weapons or flagrantly ignoring the human rights of a minority, each country has the potential to greatly harm the world. Conversely, respecting human rights, devoting political efforts to democratization, and fiercely protecting the natural resources of our planet are also well within what we can, and must, accomplish as citizens of the world. But as long as some people are denied freedom, we all risk our liberty. We must not allow hubris to cloud our vision: once we allow China to illegally annex Taiwan, we pave the way for future lawless actions, perhaps directed to other Asian countries, perhaps directed to us.

In light of such concerns, The New Century Institute Press offers a forum for The New Century Institute, incorporated in the State of New York in 1999. The New Century Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of human dignity values for Taiwan and the world community. It seeks to facilitate better understanding of U.S.-Taiwan relations, the United Nations, human rights, and world affairs through educational and cultural activities, such as symposia, seminars, workshops, conferences, speeches, training programs, joint projects, and the exchange of visits. In addition, the Institute seeks to foster research and publication concerned with Taiwan in relation to the United States, the United Nations, human rights, and world affairs.

The New Century Institute Press will continue to publish papers and transcripts that illustrate the dynamic discussions taking place at NCI international conferences, seminars, and other

symposia. However, the Press welcomes submissions from scholars, politicians, and concerned citizens on the issues facing Taiwan.

The New Century Institute Press has a sister publication in Taiwan: the Chinese-language quarterly journal “New Century Think Tank Forum,” in collaboration with the Taiwan New Century Foundation. In addition, the Institute’s website is currently undergoing expansion, which will include research papers. The Institute makes its home at New York Law School.

For further inquiries or to obtain submission guidelines for the New Century Institute Press, please write to the address below.

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Preface

In trying to understand the whole, it is useful to break it into parts. Cutting open an apple, one can see the seeds that represent future trees. Just the same, opening this volume, one can see its many parts that represent the future of Taiwan, a country of 23 million people who see themselves as Taiwanese, not Chinese, and who long to be recognized as such. *Membership for Taiwan in the United Nations: Achieving Justice and Universality* contains the papers prepared for the International Conference on Taiwan and the United Nations, sponsored by the New Century Institute and held at the Yale Club of New York City in September 2003, and the conference transcript. The conference represented an endeavor toward making the dream of a free, sovereign Taiwan a reality. It is the first in a series of conferences on the state of Taiwan in the 21st century.

As I contemplate what this volume represents, I first think of the title *Membership for Taiwan in the United Nations* in its parts. Eighteen experts were present from Taiwan, Canada, Tuvalu, the Gambia, and the United States to discuss the question of membership for Taiwan in the United Nations.

As you read on in the conference proceedings, you will see a drama unfold, the drama of intellects sometimes in disagreement. What is the future of Taiwan? How best should this brave David of a country go forward, with the Goliath that is China always breathing on it? Not everyone agrees on the right approach to Taiwan's path to membership in the United Nations and therein lies the fascination of those who conferred on the topic. But what all the presenters could agree on was the need for a conference that offered a forum for legal scholars, statesmen, politicians, and ordinary citizens to share their concerns, questions, and thinking about Taiwan. China may not like it, but the world cares deeply about the fate of Taiwan, and this conference was evidence of that concern and an indication that the world will not remain silent on the subject of Taiwan.

Next, there is Taiwan in the title, which speaks for itself. Just as it is enough to say China or America, it is enough to say Taiwan and be understood. The name itself has done the hard work of being recognized in the world and of being sovereign, even when China would so like to wash away its sovereignty. People throughout the world know what Taiwan is, and where it

is. They know of Taiwan's economic strength, and they know of Taiwan's commitment to principles of democracy and human rights. Yet certainly this volume, and the others that will follow, will contribute to a greater understanding of the challenges faced by the island nation of Taiwan.

As for the "United Nations" nugget, the United Nations purports to be a world organization. In this day and age of terrorism, conflict, violence erupting everywhere, the importance of the United Nations cannot be underestimated. But if you build a house without a foundation, won't the house come tumbling down? If you say that a group of nations is complete, while ignoring the 23 million people of one country, won't that organization be weakened? Won't it be in danger of collapse if 23 million can say, "We are not allowed to belong"?

This volume is, of course, a reflection of the 2003 conference. In some cases, information, such as some biographies, has been updated, and the entire text has been edited for greater clarity. However, the bulk and the essence of the text have remained unchanged, as most of the issues discussed still face Taiwan today. The volume represents the first in a series that will allow Taiwan's champions to confer—or argue—about the issues that Taiwan faces.

It is my fervent hope that one day in the near future, we will be writing a new chapter in Taiwan's history. It will be a chapter very different from its history: a territory owned by Japan, a country illegally occupied by a deposed ruler who enforced martial law, and finally, the attempted theft of its very sovereignty by big brother China. In this new chapter, Taiwan will finally be able to take its rightful place in the United Nations and other world organizations, and its 23 million citizens will be free. As Thomas Jefferson said, "I have no fear that the result of our experiment will be that men may be trusted to govern themselves without a master." His words described a different country and a different time, but they hold true for Taiwan and the Taiwanese people. In the 21st century, surely the time is over-ripe for the master to free his slave.