

**Eurasia Foundation International Lectures in the first semester of the 110  
academic year**  
**“Asian Community: The Construction and Transformation of East Asian Studies”  
Lecture Series (9)**  
**Topic: The Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association and Current Japan-Taiwan  
Relations**

For the 9th Eurasia Foundation International Lecture in the 110th academic year of the Chinese Culture University, we are particularly honored to invite the Minister of the Press and Culture Department of Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association, Ikura Murajima to deliver a lecture entitled “The Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association and Current Japan-Taiwan Relations.” Minister Murajima has extensive academic training and professional experience. In terms of experience in studying abroad, in addition to the experience of studying in China and Taiwan, she pursued her master’s degree at Yale University in the United States after graduating from university. After graduation, she entered the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in 2003 and worked in the following departments: Intelligence and Analysis Service, Second China and Mongolia Division in Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, Regional Policy Division in Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, Space Division in Foreign Policy Bureau, Consulate-General of Japan in Shanghai, and Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association, Taipei Office. Minister Murajima shared her diverse academic experience and inspired teachers and students. The excerpts of the wonderful speech of the Minister Murajima are as follows:

**The Experience in Space Division in Foreign Policy Bureau**

Minister Murajima emphasized the importance of the space. Most people think that the space may have nothing to do with our daily lives, but in fact it has a close relationship with us. In the case of artificial satellites, in the future, if one country shoots down another country’s satellite and cuts off the function of the satellite as they fight against each other, it can easily win. Therefore, protecting satellites is also a major issue of foreign policy.

**Murajima’s Questions and Expectations for Students**

Minister Murajima hopes that the students think about what they will do after graduation in the future. How will Japan-Taiwan relations be in the future? How will be your future development? These issues are very important life issues for college students. Minister Murajima quoted Steve Jobs’s famous quote: “I was lucky, I found what I loved to do early in life” to encourage students to find their own future direction.

**Diplomat’s Work**

When Japan and Taiwan established diplomatic relations in 1952, the Japanese Embassy was established. However, after Japan and Taiwan broke off diplomatic relations in 1972, the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association was established. Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association is divided into three branches: Tokyo Headquarters/Taipei Office/Kaohsiung Office. Its goal is to enable more Japanese and Taiwanese people to become “Taiwan expert” (businesses related to Japan) and “Japan expert” (business related to Taiwan exchange). Minister Nakamura quoted statistics data to illustrate the mutual amity between Japanese and Taiwanese. Take Taiwanese’s perception of Japanese people for example, 59% of Taiwanese respondents chose Japan as their favorite travel destination,

70% of Taiwanese respondents feel an affinity with Japan, and 90% of Taiwanese respondents want to travel to Japan. On the other hand, what is the Japanese's perception of Taiwan? For example, 78% feel an affinity with Taiwan, 75% feel that Japan-Taiwan relations are good, and 63% trust Taiwan.

### **Exchanges between Japan and Taiwan**

People travel between Japan and Taiwan are very diverse, including international students/long-term workers/working holiday makers/educational tours, etc. In addition, cities in Japan and Taiwan have become sister cities, and people-to-people exchanges are very active. In terms of economic and trade relations, this year, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., a Semiconductor Manufacturing Company in Taiwan, announced its investment project in Japan, and the Japanese government has shown their full supports. This is also the best evidence of the good relations between Japan and Taiwan.

In view of the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami occurred 10 years ago, Japan received about 20 billion yen donations from Taiwan, the largest in the world. The Japanese still remember Taiwan's assistance to Japan. In addition, Taiwan donated anti-epidemic masks to Japan when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. In 2021 Japan to return Taiwan's favors with the AZ vaccine. This kind of selfless dedication of the country-to-country relationship is a sign of the good relationship between Japan and Taiwan. Moreover, there are posters and light up like "Japan-Taiwan friendship 101 lights up," "Friendship vaccine," "Taiwan pineapples," "Taiwan Loves Japan lights up at The Grand Hotel," "Go Taiwan, Tokyo Olympics," etc., in Taiwanese and Japanese cities and the media. These various kinds of friendly relationship can be seen everywhere.

### **Students' Questions**

Minister Murajima's speech ended earlier and save some time for Q & A section for communication with students. One student asked, "What can Japan and Taiwan do without formal diplomatic relations? What can't they do?" Minister Murajima replied, "In fact, the affections between people are still the most important. The Japanese actually like Taiwan very much. Even though some countries maintain diplomatic relations, it does not mean that there are good relationships. It depends on the actual affection exchanges between Japan and Taiwan."

Another student asked: "It was mentioned in the speech that Japan's trust to Taiwan is 63%, is that low?" In response to this question, Minister Murajima explained with the statistics data of "Genron NPO 2019" that if comparing with China, Taiwan's 63% is relatively high.

Finally, the students asked: "Regarding 'nuclear food,' what did the Exchange Association do?" Minister Murajima pointed out that the term "nuclear food" is inherently problematic. Media reports or judgments not based on science are actually labeling. The Japanese are very sad to hear the terms "nuclear food," because the Japanese eat it every day, and there is no problem, and South Korea has not banned Japanese food. In Japan, the actual test data is released to the public, and the data is published on the website of the Exchange Association for public reference.

(Web link: <https://eurasia.pccu.edu.tw/index.php>)

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