

## Business Trumps Politics for China-Taiwan Relations

Contributed by Tom McGregor  
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BEIJING: Relations between Beijing and Taipei appear to have entered a permanent thaw with better business and trade ties. Taiwan "President" Ma Ying-jeou delivered a speech in Taipei on Wednesday to introduce measures that would encourage more investments from the mainland.

A few days earlier, Frank Hsieh Changting, a power broker of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, visited the mainland for the first time and he was greeted by high-level Beijing officials including: State Councilor Dai Bingguo, Chen Yunlin, chairman of the Association for Relations across the Taiwan Straits, and Wang Yi, director of the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, among others, according to the Asia Times.

The sudden warming of Beijing-Taipei ties occur at an opportune moment when Taiwan is struggling with annual economic growth rates at around 2 percent, while the mainland appears headed for a "soft landing" in its overall economic outlook. It seems that as the saying goes, "a friend in need is a friend indeed."

Due to a continued widespread global economic slowdown, improved cross-Straits ties have become a greater necessity and a stronger friendship could enhance Beijing's "soft power" image abroad. Emphasizing business relations to overcome ideological differences mark a transformational shift for both sides, since Ma suggested he would overlook political issues to push ahead with better cross-Straits economic ties.

To read the entire article from the China Daily, link here:

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