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民主進步黨
Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan

Heavy Lifting Ahead for LY Committee

Tracking the Kinmen Incident

- **Overview:** The Kinmen fishing boat capsizing incident occurred on February 14, 2024, in the afternoon. A nameless and unregistered speedboat from Mainland China entered the restricted waters of Kinmen County, Fujian Province, Republic of China (Taiwan), to fish. It was intercepted by the Ninth Coast Guard Fleet of the Oceanic Affairs Council of the Republic of China (Taiwan) stationed in the area. During the pursuit, the two vessels collided, causing four crew members from the speedboat to fall overboard, two of whom were pronounced dead after being taken to the hospital.
- **Progress:** In Taiwan, the Mainland Affairs Council issued an official statement on February 18, highlighting that the Ministry of National Defense had designated certain waters as restricted and prohibited since October 7, 1992, based on Cross-Strait Regulations. The statement stressed Taiwan's commitment to strictly enforcing laws against illegal fishing by "three-no" vessels and expressed regret over groundless accusations from the Taiwan Affairs Office. On February 19, a Kinmen tourist boat was boarded and inspected by the Chinese Coast Guard for 30 minutes, causing panic among passengers and crew. This action by the Chinese Coast Guard was part of a larger presence of six coast guard ships around Kinmen. Following this, on February 21, a spokesperson for the Democratic Progressive Party relayed Lai Ching-te's stance, emphasizing the need for the incident

to be properly handled and affirming continued support for the Coast Guard's enforcement efforts to prevent future incidents.

- **Analysis from Taiwan Experts:** The analyses surrounding the maritime incidents between Taiwan and China reveal Beijing's strategic use of "grey zone" tactics, aimed at undermining Taiwan's jurisdiction and advancing China's sovereignty claims without triggering open conflict. Experts highlight the CCP's denial of the median line in the Taiwan Strait and its aggressive enforcement actions as efforts to internalize the strait and challenge the status quo. This includes unprecedented inspections of Taiwanese vessels, intended to provoke Taiwan and test its response ahead of Lai Ching-te's presidency. The adoption of formal law enforcement methods by Chinese coast guards, previously unseen, marks a shift towards normalizing Beijing's control over contested waters, erasing tacit agreements, and asserting new "facts" through legal warfare. Despite the potential for escalating tensions, there is a noted restraint on both sides, suggesting a calculated approach to avoiding outright conflict while pressing territorial and jurisdictional claims.

[Link to the Full Notes >>>](#)



Photo from CNA

限制水域：Restricted waters/ 禁止水域：Prohibited waters

12:47 Unnamed Chinese speedboat detected by radar

12:52 Speedboat enters restricted waters

13:05 Coast Guard vessel spots the speedboat crossing the boundary, signals with lights and sound for it to stop for inspection

13:08 Speedboat zigzags, refusing inspection

13:10 Speedboat capsizes due to evasive zigzagging, making a sharp right turn; Coast Guard vessel immediately conducts rescue, saving 3 people, one unconscious

13:10-15:50 Coast Guard mobilizes 7 boats for search and rescue, dispatches divers twice, finds the last person without signs of life

20:30 Towed back to Liaoluo Port

Bipartisan Unity: The Legislative Yuan USA Caucus Launches with Historic Co-Chair System

The Legislative Yuan USA Caucus (台美國會議員聯誼會, LUC) held its 11th founding assembly on February 23rd, attended by 73 legislators from the DPP, the KMT, and the TPP.

Vice President-elect Hsiao Bi-khim, who served as the chair of the 9th session of the LUC, also attended the event. She emphasized the non-partisan nature of Taiwan's legislative diplomacy with the U.S. and expressed her ongoing commitment to supporting Taiwan's foreign diplomacy efforts. Hsiao highlighted the significance of bipartisan cooperation in the Legislative Yuan to secure support from both parties in the U.S. Congress, deepening Taiwan-U.S. relations. She also congratulated the association on its establishment under a bipartisan spirit, becoming the largest caucus group in the Legislative Yuan.

The first-time adoption of a "Blue-Green Co-chair System" (藍綠雙會長制) for its operation is a special feature of this year's LUC, reflecting a bipartisan approach to Taiwan-U.S. relations. The co-chairs are Wang Ting-yu from the DPP and Ko Chih-en from the KMT, with Vice Speaker Johnny Chiang serving as the honorary chair. This arrangement showcases a model of cooperation and unity in promoting Taiwan-U.S. relations.

[Link to Full Statement from LY \(CN\) >>>](#)

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Photo from LY

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