



Press Release
June 27, 2008

Contact: Amy Lin
213.820.2489
amylin@formasafoundation.org

FORMOSA FOUNDATION CONCLUDES 2008 AMBASSADOR PROGRAM STUDENTS HOLD MEETINGS WITH 127 CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

WASHINGTON— 19 future leaders graduate on June 27 from the sixth annual Ambassador Program hosted by the Los Angeles based nonprofit Formosa Foundation. During the first 10 days of the program the student Ambassadors immersed themselves in a series of workshops and seminars conducted by policy experts and scholars to gain a better understanding of the complex political situation in the Taiwan Strait, and an in-depth appreciation of how U.S. policy is made. The Ambassadors devoted the last four days to meeting with their elected representatives in Congress to discuss U.S. policy towards Taiwan. The 2008 Class held a total of 127 meetings with individual members of Congress and their staff, including 89 House and 38 Senate meetings.

In each meeting the Ambassadors emphasized the importance of Taiwan to the US in terms of economic and strategic interests, as well as the democratic and human rights values shared by both the United States and Taiwan. The Ambassadors also urged each Congressional member to (1) support Taiwan's entry into the WHO; (2) strengthen trade and economic ties with Taiwan; (3) improve US-Taiwan dialogue by supporting high level visits; and (4) expedite the arms sales package to Taiwan.

"Challenging young people from the United States and Taiwan to be concerned with and advocate for freedom and democracy is the heart and soul of the program," said Terri Giles, Executive Director of the Formosa Foundation. Ambassadors are encouraged to take an active and meaningful role in civic affairs and to develop and sustain an appreciation for the role of individuals in supporting democratic values. "The program helps Ambassadors recognize that their responsibility in shaping government policies and at the same time provides them with an opportunity to voice their concerns to American policymakers."

Since its inception in 2003, 150 young people have successfully graduated from the Ambassador Program. Ambassadors have held more than 850 meetings with members of Congress and their staff helping to change the hearts and minds of elected leaders in Washington.

The Formosa Foundation is a non-profit entity based in Los Angeles that dedicates itself to the advancement of human rights, democracy, and the right to self-determination of the people of Taiwan. The Foundation is committed to fostering better understanding and international cooperation between the United States and Taiwan through sustained educational and advocacy efforts. The Formosa Foundation supports peace, freedom and vibrant regional, economic and cultural relations that are the cornerstones for long-term stability in East Asia.

The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy is a major sponsor of the 2008 Ambassador Program. The TFD was created in 2002 with the mission of playing a positive role in consolidating Taiwan's democracy and fortifying its commitment to human rights both nationally and internationally.

2008 Ambassadors

Name	School	Hometown
Christina Chang	UC Irvine	Trabuco Canyon, CA
Kerry Chang	University of Illinois	Schaumburg, IL
Janis Wen-Chieh Chen	National Cheng Kung University	Taoyuan, Taiwan
Kevin Chen	California Polytech at Pomona	Diamond Bar, CA
Tsung-Yen Chen	Stanford University	Taoyuan, Taiwan
Julia Famularo	Georgetown University	Bethany, CT
Han-Hsien Hsieh	UCLA	West Covina, CA
Carrie Hsu	Georgia Tech	Knoxville, TN
Stephanie Hu	Boston College	Cerritos, CA
Ellen Tzu-Chun Kuo	European Institute	Taichung, Taiwan
Amy Fay Lin	University of Texas	Sugar Land, TX
Joseph Lin	New York University	Bayside, NY
Richard Lin	MIT	Taipei, Taiwan
Erica Ling	UC San Diego	Hacienda Heights, CA
Winifred Liu	National Kaohsiung First University	Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Corey Sanderson	Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh, PA
Sean Su	New York University	Woodhaven, NY
Karen Yang	UC San Diego	Fountain Valley, CA
Rebecca Yeh	Columbia University	Parsippany, NJ

###