

Public Statement by  
The Formosan Association for Public Affairs Canada

## Canada must support Taiwan's WHO bid

Saturday, April 29, 2006, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

The Formosan Association for Public Affairs Canada (FAPA Canada) states that Canada must support Taiwan's bid for entry into the WHO as an observer. Taiwan will make its tenth bid for admission at the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2006.

The WHO Constitution explicitly states, “The objective of the World Health Organization shall be the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health”. Taiwanese people should be entitled to have the basic right to enjoy the right to good health. The continued exclusion of Taiwan from the WHO is a threat not only to Taiwan, but also to Canada.

FAPA Canada calls upon the Canadian delegation to the WHA to fully support Taiwan's entry to the WHO as an observer. It is imperative that Taiwan be able to participate in all WHO technical meetings, and be integrated into global response mechanisms to outbreaks and epidemics. Excluding Taiwan from the WHO’s Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), for example, is dangerous and self-defeating from a professional perspective.

Taiwan seeks to participate in the WHO in order to both protect the health and well being of its 23 million people, and further contribute to the multilateral health worldwide cooperation of the WHO system.

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