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SUMMARY

Canadian educational and academic relations with Taiwan have not kept pace with the expansion of bilateral economic exchange, changes in the political economy of Taiwan, or current developments in PRC-ROC relations.

This report situates post-secondary educational and academic affairs in the broader history of Canadian contact with both the ROC and the PRC. It then outlines developments in educational and academic contact with Taiwan in the past two years. Finally, it offers several suggestions on how to advance Canadian interests in the areas of faculty exchanges, research and conferences; study abroad, especially Taiwanese in Canada; and the promotion of Canadian studies at universities and research institutes in Taiwan.

The principal argument is that Taiwan deserves special attention in the areas of educational and academic cooperation. Because of past Canadian policy and the absence of significant historical connections, government needs to play a role in initial funding, though this will not be large, and in legitimating and facilitating private contacts.

The principal recommendations are to do the following:

1. Create a Canadian Working Group on Educational and Academic Exchange with Taiwan to examine and implement suggestions on how to promote bilateral cooperation.
2. Open a permanent Office for Sino-Canadian Educational Exchange attached to the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei.
3. Create a scholarship program for top Taiwanese students to attend Canadian universities.
4. Inform Canadian scholars and university officials, as well as the relevant parties in Taiwan, that scholars from Taiwan are eligible for existing government programs such as the Faculty Enrichment Grants.
5. Send a small delegation to Taiwan later in 1990 to gather information and confer with relevant parties about how to expand academic cooperation.
6. Launch a pilot program in conjunction with a major university in Taiwan to promote awareness of Canada through a visiting lecture and seminar series.
7. Convene a national conference on promoting academic and educational relations with Taiwan.
8. Create and publicize a small fund to promote scholarly conferences and joint research programs between institutions in Canada and Taiwan.

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