



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2008



PROFILES

1

Frank Hsieh (謝長廷)



Born: May 18, 1946
Birthplace: Taipei City
Education:
▶ Master's degree in Law, Kyoto University (1974)
▶ Bachelor's degree in Law, National Taiwan University (1970)



Experience:

- ▶ Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) chairman (2008-present)
- ▶ Premier (2005-2006)
- ▶ DPP chairman (2000-2002)
- ▶ Kaohsiung mayor (1998-2005)
- ▶ DPP vice presidential candidate (1996)
- ▶ DPP legislator (1989-1996)
- ▶ DPP co-founder (1986)
- ▶ Taipei County councilor (1981-1988)
- ▶ Defense lawyer for the accused in the Formosa Incident (1980)
- ▶ Attorney at law (1969-1981)

1

Su Tseng-chang (蘇貞昌)



Born: July 28, 1947
Birthplace: Pingtung County
Education:
▶ Bachelor's degree in Law, National Taiwan University (1968)



Experience:

- ▶ Premier (2006-2007)
- ▶ DPP chairman (2005)
- ▶ Presidential Office secretary-general (2004)
- ▶ Taipei County commissioner (1997-2004)
- ▶ DPP legislator (1995-1997)
- ▶ DPP secretary-general (1993)
- ▶ Pingtung County commissioner (1989-1993)
- ▶ DPP co-founder (1986)
- ▶ Taiwan provincial councilor (1981-1985)
- ▶ Defense lawyer for the accused in the Formosa Incident (1980)

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Ma Ying-jeou (馬英九)



Born: July 13, 1950
Birthplace: Hong Kong
Education:
▶ J.D., Harvard University (1981)
▶ LL.M., New York University (1976)
▶ Bachelor's degree in Law, National Taiwan University (1972)



Experience:

- ▶ Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) chairman (2005-2007)
- ▶ Taipei mayor (1998-2006)
- ▶ Assistant professor, National Chengchi University (1998)
- ▶ Minister of Justice (1993-1996)
- ▶ Mainland Affairs Council vice chairman (1991-1993)
- ▶ Deputy secretary-general of KMT central committee (1984-1988)
- ▶ Deputy chief, First Bureau of the Presidential Office (1981-1988)

2

Vincent Siew (蕭萬長)



Born: January 3, 1939
Birthplace: Chiayi City
Education:
▶ Master's degree, Graduate Institute of International Law and Diplomacy, National Chengchi University (1965)
▶ Bachelor's degree, Department of Diplomacy, National Chengchi University (1961)



Experience:

- ▶ Cross-Straits Common Market Foundation chairman (2000-2007)
- ▶ Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research chairman (2002-2005)
- ▶ KMT vice chairman (2000-2005)
- ▶ Premier (1997-2000)
- ▶ KMT vice presidential candidate (2000)
- ▶ Legislator (1996-1997)
- ▶ Mainland Affairs Council chairman (1994-1995)
- ▶ Economic Planning Development chairman (1993-1994)
- ▶ Minister of Economic Affairs (1990 to 1993)
- ▶ KMT central committee member (1988)
- ▶ Consulate General, Kuala Lumpur (1966 to 1972)

GRAPHIC: TT

DPP presidential candidate Frank Hsieh's election platform:

CROSS-STRAIT

- Implement direct charter flight services within three months through an incremental expansion of holiday cross-strait charter flights to regular days.
- Increase the number of airports used for cross-strait flights to include around 20 Chinese cities.
- Improve domestic investment environment to encourage small and medium-size companies to return to Taiwan.
- Open up to Chinese tourists, but not completely depend on China.
- Oppose opening of domestic real estate market to Chinese investors.
- No recognition of Chinese educational credentials or medical professionals.
- No opening of local markets that would result lead to unification.
- Manage China-bound investment guided by what is best for Taiwan.
- Support allowing Chinese investment in Taiwan, but let Chinese capital focus on manufacturing.
- Adjust the 40 percent ceiling on investment in China on a case-by-case basis.
- Uphold Taiwan's national interests at all times during negotiations with China.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

- Continue purchase of defensive weapons to give Taiwan a strong position from which to negotiate with China.
- No development of offensive weapons as it would increase tension in the Asia-Pacific region.

FOREIGN POLICY

- Develop closer relations with non-governmental organizations, opposition parties and public sectors in other countries.
- Turn former Taiwan provincial government building complex in Chungshing New Village (中興新村), Nantou County, into an NGO center.
- Unite the people in the face of China's suppression of Taiwan's international space.
- Use money for genuine diplomatic purposes as Taiwan should help other poorer countries, change public attitude to providing genuine aid.

FINANCIAL /ECONOMIC

- Create job opportunities, rather than just pursuing higher economic growth figures.
- Prioritize the middle class, the middle-aged and those living in central and southern Taiwan.
- Protect industries related to national defense, agriculture and people's livelihoods.
- Implement an amnesty to facilitate the return of capital previously remitted from the country via underground or illegal channels
- Open more to global capital
 - Decrease inheritance tax to 10 percent
- Cut business and income tax rates
 - Write-off unpaid health care premiums for lower-income households.

EDUCATION

- Give priority for kindergarten admission to children from disadvantaged families.
- Expand subsidies to children from disadvantaged families entering private kindergartens aged between three and five.
- Continue to push for 12-year compulsory education, drop entrance examinations for senior high schools.
- Upgrade the quality of higher education, weed out universities or colleges that fail evaluations.

ENVIRONMENT

- **"Golden triangle"** policy to strike a balance of economic growth, sustainable development and social justice.
- Adjust industrial structure, develop renewable and alternative energy sources, promote green financial reform while strengthening public construction.
- Move toward low energy, low water and low pollution industries to create high value-added, high technology and knowledge-based industries.
- Refrain from encouraging, if immediate removal is unattainable, improper incentives and preferential treatment offered to industries with high energy consumption, high water consumption and high pollution.
- Follow the experience of advanced countries in reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

CULTURE

- Acknowledge the value of Taiwan's history, language, art, historic sites, social customs and public feelings.
- Carry on tradition, innovate Taiwanese values, create new culture and connect with the world.
- Push cultural legislation and increase culture budgets.
- Build a multilingual society and increase dialogue among different ethnic groups via education and mass communication.
- Preserve and promote the uniqueness of Aboriginal, Hakka, Hoklo, Chinese and new immigrant cultures, including building and enriching museums dedicated to different ethnic groups.
- Examine the allocation, quantity and quality of national and regional museums, art museums, libraries, cultural museums and performing venues.
- Introduce international cultural troupes, encourage local groups to develop new programs or activities.
- Revitalize historic sites and cultural relics to increase public visits or participation in cultural activities.
- Develop cultural and creative industries, develop brand name products and marketing channels.
- Promote culture and festive activities unique to each area and expand marketing to encourage local travel.
- Cultivate cultural and artistic talent and provide funding to nurture professionals in the visual arts, performing art, culture, history, philosophy, community development and heritage construction.

SOCIAL WELFARE

- **Six strategies:**
 1. Establish social safety net, including establishing a national annuity program.
 2. Assist the unemployed.
 3. Alleviate the burden of working mothers.
 4. Promote 10-year long-term senior care program, including gradually reducing the number of foreign caregivers.
 5. Properly regulate foreign labor brokers, encourage arrival of foreign white-collar professionals in areas where local expertise is lacking.
 6. Help foreign spouses settle, including cashing in on foreign spouses' language and cultural advantages to help Taiwanese merchants tap into Southeast Asian markets.

AGRICULTURE

- Upgrade the Council of Agriculture to a ministerial body.
- Establish an agricultural radio station and agricultural TV channel.
- **Seven propositions:**
 1. Increase purchase price of rice. The government should better protect local farmers during WTO negotiations.
 2. Agricultural produce registered at the Council of Agriculture would be under government protection. The government would offer 95 percent of the average market price over the past two years to purchase a glut if market price is lower than production cost.
 3. Promote identification system for agricultural produce to protect domestic agricultural produce from inferior Chinese produce.
 4. Strengthen the inspection of Chinese agricultural produce. Harsh punishments for bootleggers of agricultural produce.
 5. Turn farming villages into garden-like tourist areas. Encourage young people who cannot afford to live in big cities to return home.
 6. Improve transportation problems in remote areas.
 7. Tax exemptions for industries investing in the construction of farming villages.

WOMEN

- **Five guarantees:**
 1. Establish gender equality committee under the Executive Yuan, increase budget for related purposes and fully protect women's rights.
 2. Create 1 million jobs for women within eight years.
 3. Provide NT\$5 billion of low-interest, no-collateral loans to women to open their own businesses.
 4. Provide free computer learning courses to 100,000 women each year.
 5. Employ professional social workers to ensure safety of women and children.
- **Six promises:**

To hire more female government officials, ensure safety of women, protect and respect female caregivers, prevent cultural discrimination against women, encourage children of international marriages to speak the language of their foreign parent and provide quality child-care facilities.

YOUTH

- **168 housing policy:**
 - Release state-owned land for construction of public housing for rental to those over 25.
 - Build more dormitories on campuses and make efforts to stabilize real estate prices, make housing more affordable for the young.
 - Provide a 40 percent discount on rent for the first two years and 20 percent discount for next two years on a once-in-a-life-time basis to those aged between 25 and 35.
 - Low interest loans for young people, first-time buyers would be entitled to interest-free loans.
 - Lower young people's monthly rent payments to 10 percent and mortgage payments to 25 percent of monthly income.

ETHNICITY

- Set up commission to investigate injustices suffered by Aborigines and award compensation, apologize to Aborigines on behalf of the government.
- Recognize and respect Aborigines' rights to autonomy, natural resources and property.
- Set up Aboriginal courts to resolve conflicts in accordance with Aboriginal laws and customs.
- Increase Aboriginal participation by requiring representation in the Constitutional Court, the Control Yuan and the Examination Yuan.
- Build an Aboriginal-oriented social welfare system to meet Aborigines' needs.
- Establish a national languages development bill.
- Designate Hakka Yimin Festival as National Hakka Day.

OTHER

- Upgrade the Council of Labor Affairs to a ministerial body.
- Take care of the disadvantaged, establish a fair society by integrating social resources, setting up funds, strengthening the national insurance program.
- Stabilize the medical system and upgrade quality of medical treatment with NT\$10 billion each year.
- Build an international exhibition and world trade center in Shuinan (水湳), Taichung.
- Establish an art corridor from Tsaotun Township (草屯), Nantou County to Sun Moon Lake.

PREPARED BY KO SHU-LING, STAFF REPORTER

KMT presidential candidate Ma Ying-jeou's election platform:

- **"Three noes" policy** — no pursuit of unification, no Taiwanese independence and no use of force.
- Implement weekend charter flight service by July 1 and daily charter flights by the end of this year. Expand charter flights to regular flight service by June 2009.
- Recognize Chinese education credentials, but holders will not be allowed to take national examinations for professional licenses.
- Allow Chinese investment in the nation's real estate market.
- Allow Chinese tourists to visit Taiwan, with approximately 3,000 people per day in the first year.
- Relax 40 percent cap on investment in China.
- Oppose opening Taiwan to Chinese laborers and Chinese agricultural products.

- **"SMART"** — "Soft power," "Military deterrence," "Assuring [sic] the "status quo," "Restoring mutual trust with China" and "Taiwan-centric."
- Maintain defense budget with no less than 3 percent of GDP and continue arms purchases from the US.
- Negotiate peace agreement with China.
- Keep Taiwan nuclear weapons-free and no development of offensive weapons.
- Replace the existing system of compulsory military service with enlistment within six years.

- Begin pragmatic negotiations with Beijing via a "modus vivendi" and not oppose allies developing foreign relations with other states unless national interests are damaged.
- Re-establish mutual trust with the US and improve Taiwan-Japan relations.
- Establish free trade agreement or comprehensive economic cooperation agreement with the US and other countries.
- Seek membership in the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development, the IMF and the WHO, among other international organizations.

- **"i-Taiwan 12 projects,"** including NT\$1.4 trillion nation-wide rapid transit system, NT\$240 billion waste water sewage system and NT\$30 billion reforestation project to attract NT\$1.34 trillion in private investment and boost GDP by more than NT\$4 trillion within eight years.
- Establish "twin golden flight circles" among airports in Taiwan, Haneda Airport in Tokyo, Seoul's Gimpo Airport and Shanghai's Hongqiao Airport.
- Establish NT\$30 billion fund to develop tourism industry.

- List the five-year NT\$50 billion subsidy to promote projects at various institutions of higher education as a regular budget.
- Oppose extending compulsory education from nine years to 12 years.
- Pay college tuition for students from low-income families.

- Establish Ministry of Environmental Resources to address issues such as land conservation and global warming.
- Conduct a nationwide inspection before implementing the eight-year, NT\$80 billion package upgrading flood-prevention infra structure proposed by the DPP government.
- Reduce the use of energy that causes carbon dioxide emissions to meet emissions targets set by the Kyoto Protocol.
- Establish 60,000 hectares of new forests to meet sustainable development goals.

- Establish Ministry of Culture and Tourism with a budget of NT\$30 billion to develop the cultural and tourism industries.
- Increase the budget for the cultural sector from 1.3 percent of the general budget to 4 percent.
- Join efforts with China to edit a "21st Century Chinese Dictionary" with both simplified and traditional Chinese versions to promote the language and the two cultures.
- Establish a Taiwan Film Center to cultivate more talent in the film industry and promote traditional arts.
- Set up a "cultural diplomacy" fund— with an initial budget of NT\$5 billion— to encourage more international students to study in Taiwan.
- Hold an annual presidential culture forum to ensure the government is implementing its policies.
- Push for cross-strait cultural exchanges to promote Taiwanese culture and values to China by supporting cross-strait media exchanges.
- Normalize set up of media outlets across the Taiwan Strait and encourage cross-strait media exchanges.
- Set up centers in China to promote charitable activities and provide help to disabled groups to allow Chinese people to gain a better understanding of Taiwanese culture..

- A two-year zero interest NT\$2 million home loan for first time buyers.
- Make Women and Children's Day on April 4 a national holiday.
- Provide subsidy for caregivers.
- Establish long-term care insurance system within four years.

- Budget NT\$150 billion to develop leisure industries in farming and fishing villages.
- Increase the farmers' monthly subsidy to NT\$6,000.
- Establish Ministry of Agricultural Affairs.
- Establish a "Golden Corridor" in western Taiwan to link the agricultural and biotech industries.
- Encourage farmers to grow fruit and flowers and establish Taiwan as the global center for the cultivation of subtropical fruits and flowers .
- Budget NT\$150 billion to develop leisure industries in farming and fishing villages.

- Grant two-year maternity leave on 60 percent of salary.
- Create more than 100,000 full-time jobs for women within four years.
- Increase prison terms by as much as 50 percent for sex offenders and implement stricter standards on granting parole to protect women's safety.
- Establish **"caregiver service law"** that would clearly define terms of employment.
- Budget NT\$1 billion each year in loans for women to start their own businesses.
- Fight the top three threats to women: domestic violence, sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- Seek to eliminate gender discrimination in the job market.
- Relax limits on the employment of foreign brides.

- Establish **"Galloping Horse"** program to sponsor 10,000 Taiwanese students to attend foreign schools each year, while inviting 20,000 foreign students to attend local schools.
- Set up a NT\$10 billion venture fund for the nation's youth.
- Establish **"Taiwan Peter Pan"** program to double the budget in four years of volunteering service and encourage younger generations to volunteer.

- Establish Indigenous Peoples Autonomy Act to push for the autonomy of Aborigines.
- Budget NT\$50 billion over the next four years to repair and reconstruct Aboriginal villages that are in danger.
- Increase Hakka affairs budget by 20 percent each year over the next four years.
- Establish a national Hakka-language radio station to promote Hakka culture.

- Introduce a tonnage-based tax system for shippers.
- Establish Ministry of Ocean Affairs to improve shipping policies.
- Reduce the number of death sentences and ultimately abolish the death penalty after seeking social consensus.

PREPARED BY MO YAN-CHIH, STAFF REPORTER

