

NATPA Think-Tank Committee
Annual Report to NATPA Board
July 13, 2015

This annual report by the NATPA Think-Tank Committee is being submitted to the NATPA Board prior to NATPA's annual meeting, as stipulated in the *NATPA Think-Tank Policy*.

A review of the work done this fiscal year:

1. On November 15, 2014, The Committee made a report to the Board about its activity conducted after the 2014 annual meeting and the obstacles faced (see the next section "A discussion..." for the strategy developed).
2. On November 15, 2014, the Committee received approval from the Board for enhancing the *NATPA Think-Tank Policy*. The enhancement added a clause (underlined) to make the purpose of the Policy read as "The purpose of the NATPA Think Tank is to share our aspiration for the future of Taiwan with the Taiwanese people and to leverage the expertise of the NATPA members to enhance and elevate "scholarly research and education on subjects related to Taiwan, which is one of the four purposes of NATPA." This enhancement will guide our attitude in studying Taiwan issues.
3. In December 2014, for publicizing the Committee's work, it posted two documents on the NATPA website: *NATPA Think-Tank Policy* and *NATPA Think-Tank Committee Annual Report to NATPA Board 2014*.
4. On January 21, 2015, the Committee received the approval and posted it on the website for an incentive proposal to encourage members to speak up for Taiwan.
5. On January 21, 2015, the Committee received the Board's approval on its request to have a two hour program at the annual meeting, with the purpose to increase members' knowledge about Taiwan's dynamic change of political, social, and economic factors.
6. On February 22, 2015, the Committee sent a letter to NATPA members to call their attention that three documents are posted on the website by the Think-Tank Committee, and encourage their participation in the persuasion of speaking up for Taiwan.
7. By this date, the Committee has failed to receive any essay on Constitutional Crisis and Juridical Reform for which we sent out a solicitation letter on August 30, 2014.

A discussion on our approach:

1. In our Annual Report to NATPA, issued on August 5, 2014, we had a section on "outlining research topics/projects for action," but the reality proves that this approach has encountered problems, as for many members to be able to make significant contribution on the topics pre-identified, it requires a considerable learning curve. We should consider to change the strategy to encourage members adding a "Taiwan element" onto their specialties, which is believed to be more meaningful to members.
2. To facilitate the collaboration among members working on same subjects, the Think-Tank Committee should consider the feasibility to request that the nomination of the Board members be

based on member's specialty classification. (Note: in 2011 we classified members into four categories: Engineering & Natural Sciences, Humanities, Life Sciences, and Social Sciences.) This has been in practice for years by the TAUP. If NATPA wants to take this approach, a minor amendment to our By-laws would be needed.

Prepared by the NATPA Think-Tank Committee

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