Virtual Discussion: Report on Taiwan Healthcare Policies and US-Taiwan Relations

Mark L. Kao, Ph.D.
President, Taiwanese American Association of Biotechnology

February 24, 2021
US-Taiwan Bilateral Tread Agreement (BTA)
Impact on bilateral cooperation and healthcare issues

• Current Taiwan Government is strongly behind a US-Taiwan BTA
  • Could increase two-way trade and investment, and strengthen ties
  • Could help Taiwan diversify away from China
  • Could provide a pathway for other counties to pursue similar agreements with Taiwan.
Bilateral Tread Agreement (BTA)
Impact on bilateral cooperation and healthcare issues

• Potential Concerns for Taiwan Government
  • The BTA could decrease DPP’s traditional support
    • US pork and beef import
  • There might be impact on the local pharmaceutical and medical device industry
    • Pushback from pharmaceutical and medical device industry
  • Current cost containment policies may become an issue
    • Pushback from patients
  • Will Biden Administration support a US-Taiwan BTA?
Taiwan’s Healthcare Policies

• Aimed for cost containment and protection of local industry
  • Cost containment is planned from welfare perspective, which will not foster innovation

• Regulatory issues
  • Long approval timeline – product and clinical trials
  • Unnecessary requirements and documentation
  • Different level of playing field for EU and US

• Progress can be made through negotiation and consumer advocacy
  • US Pork and beef import
  • Advocacy for not requiring animal testing for food safety
  • BTA negotiation?
Potential future business ties

• R&D and commercial collaboration between US and Taiwan’s healthcare industry
  • Remote healthcare
    • Taiwan has excellent ICT and hardware, but weak in software
  • Pharmaceuticals
    • Taiwan has excellent manufacturing standards, but lack of innovation
  • Medical Device
    • Taiwan has ICT industry as the backbone but lack of understanding for international regulatory requirements
• Information for finding potential collaborators
Potential future business ties

- **Strategic supply chain**
  - Supply chain needs to be diversified, and Taiwan can help
    - Taiwan’s manufacturing meets international standards (PIC/S GMP)
    - Raw material and life-saving drugs – Doxil, potentially valsartan, etc.
    - Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) – masks, gloves, respirators, etc.

- **Strategic National stockpile (SNS)**
  - Taiwan’s industry can help stockpile for emergency use
    - PPE
    - Antibiotics – Anthrax countermeasures (levofloxacin, ciprofloxacin, etc.)
    - Antivirals and vaccines – Flu pandemic
BTA and US-Taiwan Business ties

• Future business ties between the US and Taiwan is important
  • Economical and strategic
• BTA could foster more international collaboration
• BTA could potentially remove regulatory and pricing hurdles to increase US-Taiwan business ties