

## **Never forget the original intention and keep the mission in mind**

By Shun Kau Ngan

A friend forwarded a special article from the latest issue of *Flow HK* magazine, 'The Second Hong Kong Summit—Communication Dilemma, Identity, and Route Choice.' The article is very long, but I still read it with great interest.

The summit of overseas Hong Kong resistance organizations has reached its second session. This meeting was of course very necessary, and it was even more urgent under the current complex internal and external situation. In addition to Hong Kong people in the United States, there were also Hong Kong people from 25 cities in seven countries including the United Kingdom, Canada, Taiwan, Japan, Germany and Estonia.

The three-day closed-door meeting focused on three directions. The first was to provide a platform to formulate their own strategies for the coming year. The second was to conduct discussions that could not be delivered online but had a profound impact on the community. The third was to promote exchanges and collaborations between participants and Washington as well as international diplomatic circles. Participants included Nancy Pelosi, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Chris Smith, chairman of the Congressional Executive-Commission on China, the FBI, major international human rights organizations, think tank members, and overseas ethnic political leaders.

I don't know how the organizers raised enough resources, nor how much time and energy they devoted to organizing this conference. In short, it was a difficult task, and I deeply admire the results of their efforts.

The issues discussed at the meeting were very realistic, such as whether to have a more centralized or decentralized platform than before, identity issues, deviations in the understanding of 'community'. These are all fundamental issues involving the form and value of this summit. A considerable degree of consensus on these issues has to be achieved first, otherwise holding a third summit seems to be of little significance.

A platform for overseas Hong Kong people to fight against communism is of course very necessary. We have a common political demand, which is to give us back a Hong Kong with freedom and the rule of law. As long as the goal is the same, it is the reason why we should and can come together. Just like governments and non-governmental organizations that oppose the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) around the world, they can come together as long as they have the common goal of overthrowing the rule of the CCP.

However, expectations for this platform cannot be too high. After all, Hong Kong's population is too small, even fewer are dispersed overseas. Resources are limited, and they are scattered in dozens of countries. A top-down structure to lead all resistance efforts of Hong Kong people is too much to ask for. I feel that if such a platform is needed, its role will only be limited to functions such as communication, liaison, publicity and lobbying.

This cannot be a permanent structure, and it does not necessarily require a mechanism to lead the resistance movements in overseas countries. The concept of a government-in-exile was involved in the meeting, which is even more a luxury. It is an unrealistic idea in terms of the

degree of dispersion of Hong Kong people overseas, the embarrassment of lack of resources, and its influence on real politics.

What can really play a role in combating the CCP's dictatorship is actually only in the two aspects of publicity and lobbying. Publicity can expose the CCP's hypocrisy and conspiracy at any time, combat the CCP's political brainwashing, influence the public opinion of the local country, and unite local Hong Kong people to participate in the struggle. Lobbying can further influence the local country's foreign policy, deepen the understanding of members of congress and government officials on Hong Kong issues, and make the CCP more isolated internationally.

In order to endeavour in these two aspects, communication and liaison must be strengthened. Because it is too scattered, there needs to be a permanent communication platform. Also, similar closed-door exchanges need to be held regularly, and some common programs and action plans need to be discussed.

For example, on a specific day every year, the Hong Kong diaspora around the world hold rallies and marches on the same day, and their momentum is more influential than if they were held individually. Of course, various seminars can also be held to exchange summaries of Hong Kong's British political system, the nature of the CCP's rule, experiences and lessons from past protest movements, imaginations about the future of Hong Kong, and sharing experiences in lobbying from various countries, etc.

Under limited conditions, do limited work and strive for limited goals, instead of having too high expectations and too broad narrations. That is a realistic attitude, and only then can one truly get things done. Otherwise, working behind closed doors and empty talk will not only waste time, but it will also be difficult to produce positive results in the end.

Some people have raised the issue of Hong Kong independence. In my opinion, like the government-in-exile, it is not an issue that needs to be discussed now. Whether Hong Kong is independent or not is not something to be resolved now. It will only be decided by all Hong Kong people after the collapse of the CCP. Debating this issue now will only cause internal chaos.

As long as an anti-communist platform appears, the CCP will definitely try to get in and pull it out. The platform should learn from the lessons of the overseas Chinese democracy movement and be wary of those with ulterior motives from the beginning. For those who are extremely radical, yelling to fight and kill, sows dissension among peers, or steals the right to speak by any means, corresponding measures must be taken to guard against them.

This will be a platform designed by a group of thoughtful Hong Kong people for the long-term struggle of overseas Hong Kong people. It will definitely help unite Hong Kong people, plan joint actions, influence geopolitics, and promote the prospect of the disintegration of the CCP. At present, international disputes are rife and the CCP is having a hard time. This is the time for everyone to collaborate. I hope everyone will work hard together.