



VINCENT SIEW, 1985 CHINA (TAIWAN)

Vice Chairman, Kuomintang

Vincent Siew believes his fellowship in 1985 gave him the opportunity to have a deeper understanding of the United States. By being acquainted with Fellows from all over the world, he enhanced his broader international perspective, as well as the ability to network; tools which have been extremely helpful in every aspect of his career to date.

During his program, Siew visited Yale University to meet with Professor Yu Ying-shih to talk about the influential power of cultural factors. As a distinguished historian, Ying-shih's viewpoints and analysis in this context still influence Siew today. He also traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with several leaders in Congress to discuss their viewpoints on economics, particularly trade liberalization. These discussions had a long term effect on his later career of handling international trade and national economic development.



In the late 1970s and early 1980s, China (Taiwan) began purchasing American goods to narrow the Taiwan-U.S. trade deficit. Siew believes his fellowship pushed him to get involved in this endeavor, as he has either planned or personally led several "buy American" missions. He believes that his country had not simply bought American goods, but more importantly earned American friendship. As a result of these missions, many in Congress have strongly supported China (Taiwan).

Siew credits his fellowship for helping him significantly in several of his positions. In his tenure as the Minister of Economic Affairs from 1990-1993, he successfully integrated China (Taiwan)'s economy with the General Agreements on Tariff & Trade (GATT) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). When he was chairman of the Council for Economic Planning and Development from 1993-1995, he represented President Lee Teng-hui many times during the APEC's Leader's Summit.

Siew's fellowship has sparked much collaboration as well. In 1997 Siew was appointed by the President to form the cabinet of the central government. Siew invited active political figures and other prominent Eisenhower Fellows based in Taipei, such as Paul Chiu (1988), Jih-chu Lee (2001), and Chi Schive (1996), to join him as members.

While on his fellowship, Siew learned the American values of political democracy and economic freedom. This helped him in solidifying his belief that, no matter what, his country had to overcome its difficulties in pursuit of the goals of trade liberalization and internationalization. This mentality is something Siew has continuously pushed for in each of his positions. His fellowship, compounded by this belief, instilled in him the determination to move from an administrative officer as the director general of the Board of Foreign Trade to step into an extremely successful political career, which he describes as his greatest professional change. Beginning as a minister, he advanced to positions as chairman of the Council, legislator, prime minister and then served as vice president of China (Taiwan) until 2012.

Of his fellowship, Siew states, "to be frank, I really appreciate very much the fellowship, and it has been a great help to my career, and as a result to my country also".

Leaders bettering the world around them.