

A Letter from the Former President of the Republic of China

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中華民國第十三任卸任總統辦公室

Office of the Former President of the Republic of China (2008-2016)

September 20, 2019

Professor Donald Tobin, Dean of the University of Maryland Law School, Professor Michael Van Alstine, Director of the East Asian Legal Studies (EALS) Program, Ms. Chih-yu Wu, Associate Director of the Program, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I am delighted today to say a few words, through Professor Chuni Chen of National Chengchi University coming from Taiwan, to express my great appreciation to the University of Maryland Law School for supporting the East Asian Legal Studies Program. The program has been created and administered by Professor Hungdah Chiu, originally from Taiwan, Republic of China, with the able assistance of Associate Director Chih-yu T. Wu, until he passed away in 2011. I have benefited greatly from reading publications of this program for over 40 years. Eventually I became an author myself. I published my first academic treatise entitled 《Legal Problems of Seabed Boundary Delimitation in the East China sea》in 1984 which received favorable reviews from Socialist Law Review and China Quarterly.

I have never formally taken a course with Professor Chiu. But I have received many valuable advices and help from him for many years ever since I attended a lecture he gave in April 1971 at National Taiwan University on the legal issues of the Diaoyutai Islands during the peak of the student movement defending the sovereignty of these Islands. He urged us to study the history, geography, and international legal issues involved and try to come out with a sophisticated view. He stressed that this way would prove more effective to our country than just taking the fury to the streets shouting slogans. His timely advice woke me up and changed my thinking and eventually my career planning. His idea to create the EALS program at University of Maryland Law School was also a wise and great move in this regard.

Now the EALS has successfully accomplished the purpose for which it was established and come to a close. I want to thank the University of Maryland Law School, Director Van Alstine and the staff of EALS for their tireless efforts in keeping the program grow. My appreciation especially goes to Associate Director Wu who have served the program for more than 30 years. For those of you who are interested in international law issues, we at the Chinese (Taiwan) Society of International Law of which I am a board member and the Chinese (Taiwan) Yearbook of International Law and Affairs of which I am the editor-in-chief, will be happy to keep in touch with you. Once again thank you so much for making the EALS such a wonderful program.

Sincerely,

馬英九

Ma Ying-jeou, S.J.D.

Former President of the Republic of China (2008-2016)