

# Cross-Strait Crime-Fighting: Mutual Legal Assistance Between Taiwan and Mainland China

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**Room 425, 4/F KK Leung Building, The University of Hong Kong**

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It has been many decades since Taiwan and Mainland China began relaxing cross-strait policies resulting in large flows of people and business activity across the strait and giving rise to various kinds of legal disputes and patterns of crime. In April 2009 during the third round of Chiang-Chen Talks, the “Cross-Strait Joint Crime-Fighting and Judicial Mutual Assistance Agreement” (海峽兩岸共同打擊犯罪及司法互助協議) was signed between representatives of Taiwan and Mainland China to formalize efforts to tackle cross-strait crime and bring criminals to justice. Since the start of the Agreement, vivid progress has been made in some aspect but many challenges still exist. Cooperation between two jurisdictions politically antagonistic towards each other is no bed of roses. Some practical experience of cross-strait interactions will be of interest to Hong Kong as it moves towards developing more co-operation agreements in criminal matters with other parts of China.

**Lin Yen-Liang**, is a Senior Prosecutor in Taiwan Taichung District Prosecutors Office, a Research panelist of Cross-strait affairs Task-force of Ministry of Justice, Taiwan, and was also a staff of the Squad of Agreement's Task-force and the first main liaison to implement the Agreement. At present he is in the Taichung District Prosecutors Office, managing around 400 cross-Taiwan-strait criminal cases and trying to make the most of the new mutual legal assistance mechanism to bring criminals to justice.

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