Renewed calls for official government use of 'China'

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Lawmakers and academics are calling on the government to refrain from using the term "mainland" in reference to China in official documents in an effort to put an end to the "one country, two areas" framework that the former Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) government had envisioned.

"China" has been an internationally recognized term—used to refer to China by countries like the US and Japan, which do not—call the country of 1.3 billion the "mainland," New Power Party Legislator-at-large Hsu Yung-ming (□□□) said.

"Out of respect, Taiwan should also use the term 'China.' If we call the other side of the Taiwan Strait 'Mainland' or 'Mainland China,' we are subjecting ourselves to the 'one country, two areas' framework and recognizing that Taiwan is a part of China," he said.

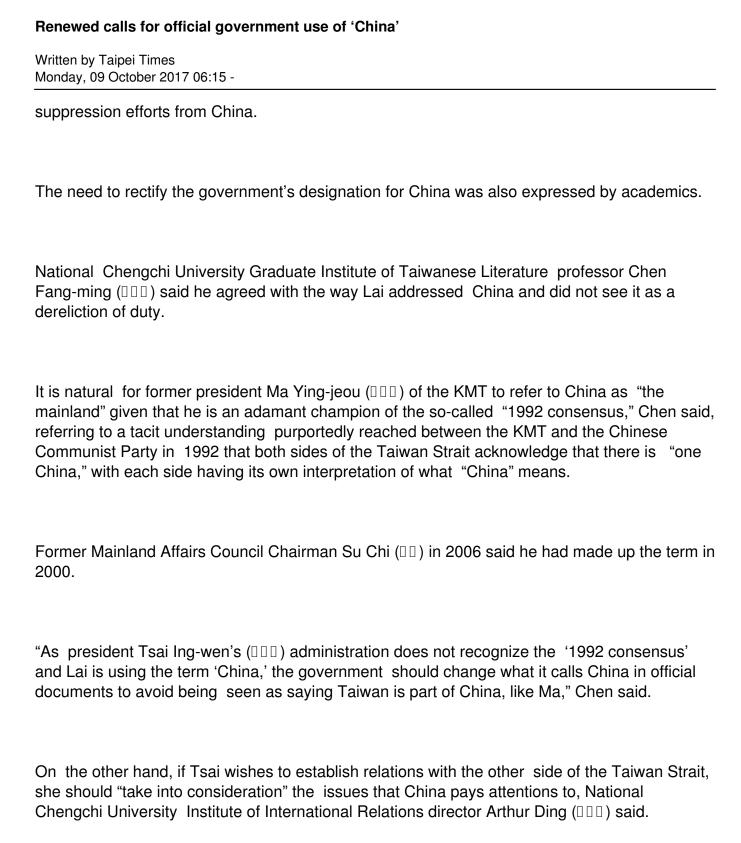
Unlike former premier Lin Chuan ($\square\square$), who referred to China either as "the mainland" or "Mainland China" in his public remarks, Premier William Lai ($\square\square\square$) has been using "China" exclusively, even after assuming the premiership, Hsu said.

He suggested that government agencies follow Lai's example and use "China" as the unified appellation for China in their official language.

Echoing Hsu's views, Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) Legislator Lin Chun-hsien ([][]]) said that addressing China as "China" conforms to reality, while using "mainland" or "Mainland China" constitutes a continuation of the KMT's ideology.

"The government has the right to decide on the type of language it prefers to use in official documents, a decision that should be free of Chinese restriction," Lin Chun-hsien said.

If such a minor term change would end up stirring the water in the Taiwan Strait, that would only expose China's hegemonic mindset, Lin Chun-hsien said, adding that the government's benevolent gesture of calling Beijing "Mainland China" has only been met with continued



He advised the government to "temporarily hold off" on making changes to its designation for China in official documents, or else it might only augment China's mistrust of the DPP.

A high-level government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that the Presidential Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have adhered to the principles of

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sovereignty, dignity and equality in their references to China, despite the use of different terms.

"Which terms they choose to use depends on the rhetorical context. There are 'the other side,' 'Mainland China,' 'Beijing government' and 'China.' Similarly, we also use 'Washington,' the 'US side' or the 'US' in different contexts," the official said.

The government's use of China's full state name in the aftermath of several diplomatic crises, such as Panama's severance of ties with Taiwan, suggests that it takes the principle to heart, the official added.

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