This note aims to explore the Taiwanese position before and after the Permanent Court of Arbitration Award regarding the South China Sea dispute. The findings suggest that the new Taiwanese Authority, led by Tsai Ing-Wen, has taken a slightly different approach toward the South China Sea, compared to Ma Ying-Jeou’s administration. The new Taiwanese Authority makes no comment on the eleven-dash line claim, which, in turn, implies that its approach is closer to that of the American orientation. It is suggested that the South China Sea Peace Initiative, proposed by Ma Ying-Jeou’s administration, should be followed by Tsai’s administration. In addition, the recognition of the 1992 Consensus by Tsai’s administration will encourage mainland China to consider Taiwan as one of the key players in future South China Sea negotiations.

Keywords
South China Sea Disputes, Taiwanese Position, Permanent Court of Arbitration Award

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1. Introduction

In recent years, the dispute concerning the South China Sea has intensified among the surrounding States. Finally, the release of the South China Sea Arbitration Award (hereinafter PCA Award)\(^1\) on July 12, 2016, has caused the South China Sea dispute to reach new heights. The situation is further complicated due to the fact that the Taiwanese Authority\(^2\) has also made claims over the South China Sea islands and related waters.\(^3\) Prior to 1949, China as a unified entity, occupied and exercised jurisdiction over the South China Sea islands. After 1949, however, the People’s Republic of China (mainland China) and the Taiwanese Authority exercised their claims separately in the South China Sea. Taiwan has actually occupied two maritime features in the South China Sea, namely, Dongsha (also known as Pratas) and Taiping (also known as Itu Aba) as the largest ones of the Spratly.\(^4\)

![Figure 1: The Location Map of Dongsha and Taiping Islands\(^5\)](image)

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2. This paper refers to the governmental representative on Taiwan as the ‘Taiwanese Authority.’