

澳洲專家：國際資安合作 須擴大與台灣「二軌」外交

Australian Expert: International Information Security Cooperation Requires Expanding "Track Two" Diplomacy with Taiwan

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(CNA reporter Chiu Te-chen, Sydney, July 31) Australian information warfare expert Greg Austin told CNA that in order to address the increasingly serious cybersecurity threats, Australia and Taiwan should strengthen privately-led "Track II" diplomacy to fill the gap in cybersecurity cooperation caused by the lack of official exchanges between the two countries.

Australian information warfare expert Greg Austin believes that by strengthening "Track II" diplomacy and incorporating Taiwanese private sector resources, it will help establish a cybersecurity cooperation network among medium-sized powers in the region. (CNA reporter Chiu Te-chen, Canberra, July 31, 2026) Austin, director of the cybersecurity strategy consulting firm Social Cyber Group and adjunct professor at the University of Technology, Sydney, told CNA that Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, and Australia are all facing increasingly serious cybersecurity threats, and their cybersecurity experiences are worth learning from each other; therefore, democratic countries in the region need to jointly build a transnational cybersecurity cooperation network.

Austin cautioned that for democratic countries in the region to effectively conduct transnational cybersecurity cooperation, Taiwan must be included. To this end, such transnational cooperation networks could adopt a "Track II" diplomacy model, bringing together cybersecurity experts and scholars from partner countries to establish think tanks or research organizations. The characteristic of the "Track II" model is that it is led by private sector forces while simultaneously allowing the participation of officials from partner countries. He said, "A typical 'Track II' mechanism brings scholars and officials together in a non-official forum to discuss important issues; this is the fundamental cooperative nature of the 'Track II' mechanism."

Austin explained that "Track II diplomacy" is a common international exchange model from the Cold War era. It refers to a shift to private sector-led international exchanges when "Track I" official-to-official diplomacy becomes difficult to conduct. The consensus and mutual trust accumulated in this process can then be fed back into, facilitate, or adjust relevant government decisions.

Austin noted that even after the Cold War, "track two" diplomacy remained crucial; for example, the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP) itself grew in response to the needs of "track two" diplomacy during the Cold War; and even today, Taiwanese experts and scholars participate in the CSCAP.

Austin emphasized that "track two" cooperation, driven by the private sector and unconstrained by the so-called "One China" policy, is expected to more effectively promote transnational cooperation between Australia, Taiwan, and other democracies in the region. Therefore, he reminded the international community to continue to recognize the role of "track two" diplomatic channels.

Austin said, "Just as Taiwanese experts and scholars have long participated in the CSCAP; however, due to pressure from China, such 'track two' cooperation is likely to become increasingly rare." Austin further pointed out that democracies in the Indo-Pacific region must cooperate to resist information warfare intrusions from China and Russia, and to address the problem of multinational technology giants, including the United States, allowing the manipulation and dissemination of disinformation.

Austin said, "International cooperation to combat disinformation is crucial, especially for middle powers, because the scale and speed of such threats often make it difficult for them to cope. This is particularly true for smaller countries like Australia with a population of only 25 million, or countries with a similar population to Taiwan. They need to unite to effectively understand, track, and report on developments, and formulate response strategies."

Austin believes that strengthening "track two" diplomacy and incorporating Taiwanese civil society will help establish a cybersecurity cooperation network among middle powers in the region. He said, "Only by uniting the power of transnational citizens and academia to establish a civil society initiative with a broad social foundation can we achieve results; because the responsibility of combating disinformation cannot be entrusted to any one institution, government, or social organization; it must rely on civil society to broadly mobilize different grassroots forces to jointly address different issues in order to succeed." (Editor: Chen Chenggong) 1150731