

Pan-Chinese top newsmakers of 2021

Eleven persons made it to the 2021 LIVAC Pan-Chinese Newsmaker Roster released by the City University of Hong Kong (CityU) through its Department of Linguistics and Translation. This is the smallest number since the debut of the Pan-Chinese Roster of Beijing, Hong Kong and Taipei in 2000 and invites explanation.

“This is an indication that the common agenda for the three cities has been significantly reduced. Furthermore, politics has predominated 2021 since nine of the eleven are political figures. The two remaining personalities draw attention to concerns with persistent corruption issues and desirable as well as possible peaceful fraternal competitions across the Taiwan Straits in the Olympic Games.”, said **Professor Benjamin T’sou Ka-yin**, Emeritus Professor of CityU’s Department of Linguistics and Translation, where the Rosters were first launched. Surprisingly, former U.S. President Trump did not make it but Hong Kong’s Chief Executive Carrie Lam did, suggesting diminished interests in the ongoing China-U.S. disputes that began with the Trump administration, and the continuing concerns about Hong Kong.

The Beijing Roster is led by Xi Jinping and four more members of the Politburo, and includes other national leaders in different areas. There are four sports figures on the Roster, reflecting the significance of the Olympic Games. The only non-Chinese on the Beijing Roster is Ralph Steven Baric, a leading expert on COVID-19, who commands exceptional respect in China.

The Hong Kong Roster includes a number of senior officials associated with either the National Security Law or COVID. The entertainment sector shows many changes, including 7 names in contrast to only 2 sports figures and shows Andy Lau’s usual place taken over by others. In addition to Chinese and American leaders, the Hong Kong Roster also includes British, German and Myanmar leaders, as well as a lead figure in technology and finance in addition to sports icons, thereby maintaining Hong Kong’s traditional broader international perspective.

The Taipei Roster includes mostly local figures. Other than three American, two Mainland Chinese and one Japan political figures, indicating a strong focus on domestic concerns. Interestingly, two media commentators make it to the Roster, illustrating the importance of KOLs with numerous followers. More significantly, among the three grades of Chinese Taipei Olympic medalists, a silver medalist for the women's badminton singles (who was defeated by an opponent from the Chinese Mainland) appears on the local Roster, but not the other gold and silver medalists. However, the gold medalists for men's badminton doubles, who defeated their Mainland opponents, did not appear on the Roster. The situation has drawn many kinds of explanations but may be best seen in the spirit of Olympian competition rather than hostile aerial confrontations often reported.

The 2021 Pan-Chinese Newsmaker Rosters are based on the LIVAC Synchronous corpus developed by **Professor T'sou**. Since its development in 1995, the corpus has filtered 2.5 billion characters of news media text from representative Chinese speech communities, such as Beijing, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Macau, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Singapore, Taipei, and analysed nearly 700 million of them, with a large database of nearly 2.5 million Chinese words.

The LIVAC Newsmaker Rosters were launched in 2001 and the newsmakers in the Pan-Chinese regions have been compiled and analysed every two weeks. The top 25 newsmakers appearing most frequently in newspapers are listed on the “bi-weekly local news media rosters”. The LIVAC Pan-Chinese Newsmaker Roster is based on the annual summaries and statistics of the bi-weekly rosters.

New Chinese Buzz words for 2021 has been released by CityU on Jan 5, 2022, please check the link: [Chinese Buzz words for 2021 released by CityU](#)

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