

The politics of Taiwan PSM collaborating with civil society organization in fact-checking—

Analyzing through a quarrelsome on the CEO of CTS stepping down for its initiative

Abstract

On 21 Jan. 2022, one of the commercial arm in Taiwan Broadcasting System Group (TBS) is hit by a political controversy. Mr. Leon Chuang, the Director-General of Chinese Television System (CTS) is resigned from the post after the Board of Director approved his move. This incident caused by his remark and protest in the parliamentary session for reaching a compromise between parties for annual appropriation for PSM.

On the surface, the conservative and right-wing party, Nationalist requested to frozen the appropriation for CTS before reviewing its report regarding the past collaboration with Taiwan FactCheck Centre. Another key dispute between CTS and Nationalist Party is the past record of the organization above in programming its news channel. Nationalist party filed the complaint for the Centre not checking several “statements” disseminated by Central Government and Presidential Office Spokesperson. Without reply and further investigation, Centre has been labelled as leading the bias of ruling Green Camp. For respecting the political impartiality and editorial independence of PSM, Nationalist Party requested CTS should not continually establish any cooperation with Centre on the task of combating fake news. Mr. Chuang rebuked against this motion by claiming the project belong to the affair of autonomy of PSM news staff.

This research paper, based on the above-mentioned incident, proposed a study on the ethics of PSM collaborating multi-stakeholders in the fact checking issue in Taiwan. It is the first time documented a questioning policy toward PSM working with non-profit or citizen group in fact check. The climax of those-liked controversies is marching to clarification on the relationship between PSM and fact check initiative by civilian sectors. The research paper will investigate into the motion of Nationalist Party and the reply of FactCheck Centre by interviewing with representatives or stakeholders of those two entities.

Historically review is another task of this research. To draw the background analysis

behind this parliamentary resolution, one must refer back to the origin of fact check enterprise in Taiwan and its collaboration with PSM. This research traced the pioneer of introducing fact-check movement in findings its partisan and activism for social reform. The search for fact-check was intensified again with politics happened in Presidential Election 2020. A News Lab run by PSM is accused for it politicalizing fact-check in one verdict. The stereotype of fact-checker is reflected onto the U.S. example as “Fact checkers are often accused of being partisan, usually in favor of Democrats.” (Graves, 2017) Conservative party in Taiwan lacked trust with this initiative for democratizing social media.

Taiwan FactCheck Center established in 2018 by former PSM’s Executive Office and Governor with many academics. It is a second wave of fact-checker movement in Taiwan by institutionalizing the work and internationally accrediting the performance. However, the Nationalist Party caucus’s resolution for general budget bill of PSM is attacking again the collaboration between Center and CTS. Under the political negotiation and screening, TFC and Ministry of Culture address this issue by replying its accreditation with IFCN and the termination of past collaboration. The fact check belongs to editorial independence or not left without serious discussion.

And the controversy political statements without check by the past collaboration is another major issue. Policing anti-fake news by Central Government, the collaboration between public and private sectors is highly promoted since 2020 facing the COVID-19 Pandemic. Government Spokespersons are cheerleader for thriving fact-checkers in anti-fake news action. The KMT accused the lack of choosing spokesperson’s statements to check is entangled with current freedom of expression and safety of public health in the age of social media reform. However, recently, KMT recommended the leading figures of Center to be incoming Governor of PTS in May. This move complicated the future way of fact-checkers affiliated into the outlet of PSM.

The third part of this research is done through a comparative study on similar issues between Austria and Taiwan. The far-right party of Austria, FPÖ, criticized the ORF (Osterreichischer Rundfunk, Austrian Broadcasting Corporation) as left-wing bias in 2018. Followed by depicting as disseminator of fake news, ORF engaged with FPÖ in several rebuttals. The confrontation is mixed with different ideologies and information disorder campaigned by politician. The two cases should be divided by following sub-topics in comparison: type of topics been questioned, the positioning of engaged political actors, and the political maneuvers against PSM and its reacted.

ORF is tackling with populism and far-right forces dated back its past political lesson. CTS is served the mission of debunk misinformation and info the truth of public health issue. However, the public figures in this circle addressed the satire article in private post on Facebook caused the demise of their leadership. The editorial independence of ORF is underpinned by its long-term public value project. Although its leadership finally replaced by the current government appointment, the refined public value on trust still be documented an ongoing advantageous perspective negated the far-right ideology. In Taiwan, the new-born PSM is not ready to provide the foundation thoughts on fact-checker and its ethical consideration. CEO of CTS stepped down on the surface for failing to claim its legitimacy to rough up parliamentary politics. But this younger PSM is liberated its buildup by easily assimilated the new social media service into its core following much speedy path than the incumbent PSM such as ORF.

Tentatively concluded this research article, a final remark suggested that the PSM is basically entangled with left-wing accusation into the fact check report before the stakeholders reach out a consensus for all parties should be equally involved into this task force beyond only a civil society group initiative.

Introduction.

Taiwan public broadcasting is legalized by 1997. The state-of-the-art of PSB performance is not fulfilled its mission until the end of news magazine format reporting only four-year later. News service is highly politicalized by parliamentary politics after the lift of Martial Law in 1987. Due to the fierce competition between 24-Hour around the clock news channels, public service broadcasting is strategically diverted to documentary making and reporting into magazine journal format till the government appropriation frozen to decrease in 2001.

The following quarrelsome on the news cooperation between PSB and its allies is not disappear. The PSB entity is operated by Public Television Service Foundation (PTS) organized by the non-profit purpose. For inventing the new technology and promoting the advanced new service, PTS launched several cases of leading digital terrestrial broadcasting implementation in first decade of 21th Century. Based on a horizontal integration of digization, PTS multiple channels could also delivery through mobile broadcasting, satellite digital TV, and IPTV to the final users.

This proliferation of reach and inform within the new profiles of audience caused the highly alert to the politicians and different parties. In the first phase of Taiwan digitalization of TV, PTS faced several challenges from the ruling party to draw a borderline before reaching the deal with satellite TV channel operators registered as overseas entities. The information service should not enhance with the foreign or oppositional broadcasters even the technology deregulated the marketplace be circumvented by analogue one. This is the vulnerability of news service being manipulated by political forces into its profession decision.

The formal fact-checking mechanism in Taiwan was established on July 31, 2018. A non-profit oriented entity is created jointly by Association of Quality Journalism (AQJ) and Taiwan Media Watch Foundation as Taiwan FactCheck Centre. Financed by donation and contribution of social institutions, Taiwan FactCheck Center insisted on its service being independence of government, party and commercial interest. Gained its popularity and esteemed performance, Center legally registered as Taiwan FactCheck Education Foundation (TFC) in December, 2020. Internationally, TFC has been a verified signatory to the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN)' s Code of Principles since November 2018. One of founding members, Mr. Yuan-hui Hu, used to be the President of PTS from 2004 to 2007. It went without saying, fact check, as a "good journalism" purpose, naturally aligned with camp for a public interest requested

media business. (TFC, 2020)

This research article is originate from the questioning by the political force or media profession what tenable relationship between fact check and public service media. In highly convergent with same mission as “inform public”, two entities is collaborated with one way or the other. Informally or occasionally, Taiwan PSM is the bedfellow of fact check center and alike projects. After the Presidential election held in 2020, fact check on politician claim earned the reputation within political circle of active members. This accumulated the backlash of parliamentary proceedings for reviewing the annually appropriation for Public Television Service Foundation ignited by a key issue, “fact check center”.

Unprecedentedly, CEO of Chinese Television System (CTS), protested the budgetary bill by Nationalist Party in negotiable meeting before session. The dispute between them is outrageous within the different caucus of parliament and Ministry of Culture. The ruling one, Democratic Progressive Party publicly condemned the President of CTS. By disagreement of ruling and oppositional party regarding his attitude, President is stepped down with approval by Board Meeting of CTS. This is the first event of public media manager requested to be responsible for fact check affiliated to PSM matter.

This event is served as a crystal ball illustrated a political conjecture regarding “fact check” journalism after a three-year long experiment. Particularly, once the fact-check center affiliated into public service media one way or the other, a parliamentary review through the legally hearing is documented several factors concluded by the political effect of its initiative. This article is grouping the similar findings together with international comparison. Moreover, one should advance the ever-changeable development in the disruptive transformation age when the regular re-election impending within next year and two. This Taiwan case will demonstrated with a dialectical way of organizing fact check into a PSM journalism.

A Political Review on Fact Check in Taiwan

Fact-checker is a maturing side-product of precision journalism. In recent years, due to social media networking and geo-political maneuvering between East and West, so-called anti-“fake news” is a universal symptom for consecutive modernization of nation-building around the globe. To harness this surge, media regulation is gradually put in place to tackle the emerging challenge. For authoritarian regime, to tighten the anti-insurgent legislation is a common solution. However, in democratic state, other than the security act or civil law, the rise of profession and non-governmental organizations in realizing counter misinformation is affirmed with voluntary co-regulation.

In America, three well-established Fact-checkers is launched continuously by FactCheck.org at the University of Pennsylvania (2003), PolitiFact by the Tampa Bay Times (2007), and Washington Post’s Pinocchio-dealing fact-checker (2007). United States is the pioneer to introduce the regulation of “fake news”. Before the rise of social media and algorism, media regulator found the disguise of news spread by product placements and PR agent’s agenda-setting into digital broadcasting multichannel service around 2005. Jonathan Adelstein, FCC Commissioner, told to National Conference on Media Reform by issuing a call to unite public defending against “Fake News Challenge”. (Miller, 2005)

The growing efforts into this trend is augmented by independent journalists, academics, and policy activism. There are different aspects of fact-check in serving check the claim of political actor, debunk misinformation regarding emergency, and verification of scientific matter or specific statement. (Singer, 2019) For the way to operate fact checkers, there are three types of well democracies and one type of emerging one.

In well-established democracies (Horowitz, 2018), major press and broadcasters have their own fast-check unit. Public service broadcasters in Western Europe follows suit. For example, BBC (UK) dispatched Reality Check team into the debunk misinformation mission. Based on the data journalism in place, BBC is also regrouping its staffs across different department into an intelligent unit in serving its World Service output. In German, ARD is divided by 12 regions equipped with data journalism unit. Their contribution fundamentally resonated with the theme of fact-check for reporting regionally and nationally (Beiler, Irmer and Breda, 2020). Based on the above, Bavarian Runfunk established a team called “BR Verifikation”. ZDF launched “ZDF chekc17”. ARD

published a website “Fakenfinder”. They served multitude functions at cross-media fact-checking, combating fake news on social media, teaching the media literacy in recognition of disinformation and misinformation. (Horowitz, 2018)

The innovative way to introducing fact-check into single program or experimental version done by RTVE Lab (Spain), Deutsche Welle’s webpage “fake news” and YLE (Finland) reporter created crowdsourced series. MCOT, Thailand PSB company created a website for adolescent in the name of “ask before you click”.

Thirdly, the contribution of fact-checker by PSM is the collaborations. ORF joined the venture project through Austrian Press Agency for broadcast awareness-raising program. In Norway, NRK jointly invested with other media companies into Faktisk.no employed independent fact-checkers. SVT (Sweden) recruited four journalists dedicated into fact-check task sat in a permanent editorial office. RAI (Italy) news programs host regular program targeting misinformation by inviting external fact-check organizations sitting into the special guest to show the result of investigation.

For the rest of world belonged to emerging democracies, U.S. Federal government or International multilateral organizations help fund the fact-check initiatives (Singer, 2019).

In Taiwan, the formal fact-checker is dated back to July 31, 2018 when a Taiwan Fact Check Center is “Choosing claims to check”. The Center are promoted by Association of Quality Journalism and Taiwan Media Watch Foundation. Both organization are aligned with media reform movement, and composed of teaching faculty for public journalism and public interested media. The awareness raising of debunk misinformation is occupied one side of political spectrum. However, before this profession-oriented movement, one should notice the original idea to realize is activated by one major social movement in 2014.

“Cofacts”, the pioneer site for fact-check, is operated by g0v (zero government), a grassroots organization run for transparent public policy information and discussion in 2017. G0v is earned its credits by Sunflower Student Movement in Taiwan circus 2014. The functioning of g0v is expanding after the event. The coordinator of g0v is Audrey Tan, current Minister without Portfolio for digital affair, appointed by Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). One of petition by DPP parliament member (PM) in citing Audrey Tan is the founder of Taiwan Fact Checker demonstrated her initiative’s political connectedness (Legislative Yuan, 2020). On the surface, fact checker is seemed as the

swing of partisan movement or social activism. Nevertheless, this later established Taiwan FactCheck Center should endorse the “Fact-Centered Journalistic Activity” (Mena, 2019), rather than the previous one’s political ideology.

However, the Governing Board of Taiwan Public Television Service (PTS) decided to invest three-year special fund to innovate the platform journalism in 2018. Journalism Department launched the News Lab, named P# (Sharp) wrapped into a prototype of internet media and uploaded outlet into YouTube platform. Following the Taiwan Fact Check Center, P# News Lab launched on internet by May 1, 2019. For aiming the Presidential Election 2020, it collaborated with READr Fact Check program (co-working with citizen) to check the statements of politicians.

READr Fact Check is initiated by one of gov internet engineers again. (Excellent Journalism Newsletter, 2019) The founder of READr later led his project team to be affiliated with Mirror Media. Mirror Media currently operated 24-hour around the clock news channel (Mirror TV) which was recently franchised by regulatory body with highly controversy in January, 2022. Protested by oppositional party, Mirror Media is fluctuated to reshape its board leadership four times during preliminary stage. (Yeh and Lee, 2022)

P# News Lab interpreted their move by joining this initiative for fact checking on claims of presidential candidates. She said the future code of platform journalism is not refrained themselves from objectivity and neutrality but endorsed the transparency, open sourcing, well-informed exchange between citizen society. (Excellent Journalism Newsletter, 2020) Based on the belief, the team worked closely with alliance, including 6 media companies, 20 news editors and journalists, to finalize the document of “Instant Fact Check Report on Making Claims of Presidential TV Debate”. (READr+, 2019)

P# News Lab with collaboration is not engaged with citizen or voters without resentment. First, the Instant Report disproportionately concluded the following checks. According to the sample of three-candidate’s claims, the team of fact-check audited those 45 claims by reaching verdict into “contain false information”, “partial truth”, and “correct” three categories.

Table 1. The Verdict of 45 Claims in Presidential Election TV Debate

Party	Claims Verdict	Contain false information	Partial truth statement	Correct
KMT (Nationalist)		9	5	2
DPP		2	4	14
PFP (People First)		3	3	1

(Source: READr+, 2019)

The real competitors for this race are KMT and DPP. The figures showed the big contrast of those verdicts between two camp’s candidates. This result is raising the similar reaction to the figure showed as U.S. generally found the,

“Second, Democrats fare much better than Republicans in recent fact-checking, with statements made by Republicans more likely to be classified as false” (Walter, Cohen, Holbert and Morag, 2020: 354)

In addition, among participants, the perception that Republicans are more prone to make false claims was moderately higher than the perception that Democrats are more likely to produce false claims..... (Mena, 2019: 667)

If one historically recalled the Martial Law enacted by Nationalist Party from 1949 to 1987 in Taiwan, popular image of KMT is judged by the conservative nature and right-wing ideology at large. Then, the rebuke to this fast check result will be dominated by follows,

On the other hand, fact-checkers have been accused by right-wing partisans of going after Republican leaders..... Studies have evidenced that right-wing supporters were much more likely to accuse fact-checkers of bias than left-wing partisans..... (Mena, 2019: 661)

Third, popular conservative media outlets such as Fox News and Breitbart have been outspoken in their disdain of fact-checking organizations, referring to them as leftists and partisan..... (Walter, Cohen, Holbert and Morag, 2020: 354)

Particularly, one previous verdict by P# News Lab (see report on January 3 and 7, 2020) is strongly criticized by United Daily News (2020b), a right-wing quality press. One of the hotly debated claim made by Nationalist Party candidate for the reason of dissolving Special Investigation Division (SID) of the Supreme Prosecutors’ Office. PTS chose this claim to check and made a verdict of false information on KMT by tracing

the claim's origin into a check against by a partisan statement. After the verdict is finished, the critics is outbreak. To save its validity, PTS corrected its work by categorized the DPP candidate's claim into a statement of opinion groundless to verify. However, the revised version of P# Lab report is exemplified as a fault of fact-check report.

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【2020總統候選人事實查核】廢除特偵組的理由 何者為真？ | 公視P#新聞實驗室

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結論先講

特偵組存廢，到底是因為政爭？還是為了逃避查辦重大貪汙案件？哪位總統候選人說的才是真的？本文查核總統候選人在第二場政見發表會上的發言，結果發現，蔡英文提到廢特偵組的背景，與前檢察總長違反《通保法》監聽有關，乃為真；韓國瑜提到，蔡英文將廢除特偵組「扭曲」為政爭，則含有錯誤訊息。

Correction Notice

【更正啟事】蔡英文發言提到「特偵組被國民黨當政爭工具」，編輯台判定應屬於意見評論、不具標準答案，因此

<https://newslab.ptb.org.tw/news/155-【2020總統候選人事實查核】廢除特偵組的理由 何者為真？>

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Figure 1. P# News Lab Report with Special Notice for its correction

The 2020 fact-check project by PTS and its alliance is not just earned its reputation for enhancing the public participation into public policy issues. Moreover, the P# News Lab is energizing with more social reform and activism rather than the professional journalism as conservative party review.

Fact Check as Good Journalism in Debate

The role of fact-check is differentiated along the changing political economy. Although each presidential election is a trial to expand its initiatives, the major contribution to public is larger than the political communication itself. Taiwan FactCheck Center announced there are two activities as their mission work. One is looking at public claims and viral content spread by social media in order to determine one's false or truth. The other is focus on the claims by political party politicians. Politicians are more likely to produce false claim. (Mena,2019) In the end of 2020, the center is corporatized by registered as Education Foundation of Taiwan FactCheck . And its code is committed to non-partisanship, fairness, transparency of sources, funding, organization, and methodology defined by IFCN.

In May 6, 2019, Chinese Television (CTS), the commercial arm of Taiwan Broadcasting System (TBS), announced to collaborate with TFC to rebroadcast the video report of fact-check. This cooperation is exercised with one-year on without political protest. However, the CTS business is not went without political controversy.



Figure 2. CTS signed the Collaboration with TFC formed the “Squad for Anti-false Information” (Source: TFC Education Foundation, 2020)

CTS launched a news channel for Pay-Cable Service on April 19, 2021. This policy is not run by the independent decision of Governor Board. Dated by Nov. 18, 2020, National Communications Commission (NCC) revoked the license of CTiTV (Chung Tien Television, a pro-Beijing cable news channel) for failing to meet the renewal requirement of six-year performance. After the verdict was announced, NCC Chairman Chen Yaw-shyang is personally suggested that the vacant channel should be recruited

a news channel run by public service broadcasters. This recommendation is rated by Taipei Times as “ an unprecedented and inappropriate move”. (Shan, 2021)

KMT criticized NCC’ decision as the puppet of enforced Presidential Office’s Ordinal. Former President Ma Ying-jeou and Current KMT Chairman called for an international press conference on Dec. 11, 2020. President Ma interpreted a closed down of a news channel is the sign of totalitarian regime rising. However, Reporters without Borders (RSF) suggested the intention of this revocation is a regulatory requirement in democratic control. RSF established Asia Bureau in Taipei, 2017. (OCAC News, 2020)

Gained this highly controversy rejection of renewal CTiTV license, NCC issued following direction to PTS without policing through Ministry of Culture is typically signified a political move. The policy rhetoric is polished by a contribution into public interest from the vacancies left by an abolished incumbent channel. In other words, the abruptly nominated successive operator by public service broadcasters is alleviated the notorious reputation of regulatory body in this event.

Politically a wake-up call is resounding, TBS (Stands for PTS and CTS as a group of PSB) jointly organized a press conference to support NCC move on Dec. 1, 2020. This project is energized by CEO of CTS based on an info satellite channel licensee. However, the vacancy slot left by CTiTV is packaged by an advertiser-support cable networks. Originally, the news channel of PSB is belonged to basic cable households. Questioning by the press, Leon Chuang, CEO of CTS replied by positioning news channel as a commercialization unit levelling the news channel pay services. Given its low rating and market share, this unreasonable venture is barely run by a political motive. (Chung, 2021)

With the critical politics backdrop, CTS is paid the price much more than the cost-effect of investing in marketplace. The annual of government appropriation to PTS is regularly under the review of oppositional party. CTS is subsidized by arranging PTS budgetary bill into sub-commissioning program production contracts. One is delivered for rebroadcast Parliamentary TV Channel, the other for programming Taiwanese-Language Channel (TAIGI) which was legal subsidy enacted by National Language Development Act in the end of 2018.

In January, 2022, the regular parliamentary concessive discussion regarding the General Budget Bill of Central Government is gradually reached into resolution. Breakdown the discussion into the cultural and educational budget, Nationalist Party

requested a negotiation for the sub-one bill to CTS. It is the first time drafting a resolution by KMT caucus to stipulate CTS reconsider the collaboration with Taiwan FactCheck Center before the amount of TAIGI program procurement is legalized.

The contestation is made by Leon Chuang saw this requirement infringe the autonomy of Journalistic profession. Without the consensus between political caucus, national government and executive staff of PTS, CEO of CTS requested individually this resolution- in-draft be rescind, without reserve or amendment. Otherwise, CTS will call a press conference to protest this bill during parliamentary session.

The issue of consenting fact-check into one part of public media journalism profession is raising without discussion. Is the public service media collaborate with one fact-checker or another been chosen by one's editorial independence? The origin of fact-check enterprise are led by journalist, academics, activists and foundation officials. (Graves, 2018) Although the work of fact-checker is free from partisanship, advocacy and rhetoric, the emerging political actors used the "fact-check" one way or the other to realize their campaigns. Particularly, the critics of fact check if only focus on the matters of left-wing leaning media are not credited by the international professional fact-check organization in United States. (Graves, 2018:616) There is a trendsetting by IFCN to promoted fact-checker belong to the professional journalism rather than the NGO working for public interest.

Lacking of any formal discussion regarding his remark on fact-checker being part of professional journalism and independent of any political force, the members of Parliament condemned his move as a threat to its functioning as oversee government administration. And KMT caucus replied by frozen the resolution deal with ruling party on the general budgetary bill 2022. The leader of DPP caucus and Minister of Culture both asked the Governing Board of CTS to review his conduct seriously. Leon Chuang promised to call a press conference day after and the meeting under the headline "Safeguard Freedom of Press, Resistance to Political interference". However, the Premier of National Government commented on this issue by classified the fact-checker collaboration into a cooperation deal with civil society organization not the part of professional journalism. (Yun and Chung, 2022)

According to the PTS Editorial Guideline renewed by 2021, there is no clause for the fact checker but listed many political collaborations under the subject "submission and consultation". This fact-checker controversy is went without the purview of journalistic and editorial guideline. Behind the political smoke screen, the Chairwoman of Board

acknowledged the suggestion from the Minister and DPP caucus and accepted the resignation of Leo Chuang in the end of January. However, one appended resolution to his leave was agreed in planning a public inquiry on the “fact-check” issue.

Fact Checker Progress in Taiwan

The Taiwan FactCheck Center (TFC) is operated internationally for joining the worldwide reform movement. To endorse the IFCN’s code of principles, TFC committed to the non-partisans, fairness, transparency of sources, funding, organization, and methodology. TFC annually attend the Annual Global Summit of Fact-Checkers run by IFCN for accreditation.

TFC is one of the fact-checkers in Taiwan but enlarging its scope of networking with global movement. Based on the long-term promoting public interest in communications, TFC on behalf of two foundations (TW Media Watch and AQJ) served the state-of-the-art fact check. One of the founder is the previous CEO of PTS (2004-2007), the other is previous senior Board of Director (1997-2007). TFC reached the goal of verifying the claim to check and beyond. The first priority is given to debunk misinformation. Secondly, it educated citizen to be new fact-checkers.

In January, 2022, KMT requested the budgetary bill to cut three-hundred thousand US Dollar and set delay-payment one-million dollar to CTS. The oppositional party criticized TFC operate the double standard for selecting the claims to check. Those examples were listed as following items drafting in the resolution,

1. Former government spokesman falsely accused Champion Beef Noodles with ractopamine additive
2. President Tsai Ing-wen said that Kaohsiung Power Plant Event was caused by a power grid accident not a power blackout.
3. DPP Legislators claimed Pfizer BNT vaccine imported by Shanghai Fosun Pharmaceutical Group was a Chinese OEM product
4. President Tsai distorted the referendum "opposition to importing pork containing ractopamine" into "anti-US pork "

These claims are not verified, whether false information or not, and instantly published the report. KMT questioned TFC’s fairness and validity. Based on critics above, Culture and Education sub-Committee requested CTS stop collaborating with TFC before a Ministry audit report published within three-month period. Ministry audit

report simply replied to Parliament by confirming the cooperation is ended in March, 2021. According into CTS program planning, TFC is only one of many fact-checkers supported the Squad of Anti-false Information. The dispute regarding claims aren't selected to check is left without enquiry and investigation.

TFC replied to KMT critics by affirmed its IFCN principle and correction policy in place and executed with successful third renewal of code signatory by Poynter Institute. (TFC, 2022) This dispute went without further disapproval regarding the work of TFC. And the claim by Leon Chuang in Parliament session also was not selected to be checked.

KMT critics raised the questioning to Government Spokesperson's statement should be selected to be check as a political claim. However, National Government proposed measures to counter the harms of misinformation in 2018. In 2019, Premier of National Government announced to strengthen the current regulation, and introduce the new penalties against "perpetrators" (country fellow) who spread misinformation about nuclear accidents, food safety, scandals and natural disasters. He called all government agencies have responsibilities to verify and defend the fact promptly. With acknowledged the private-sector has already countered false information, government needed to activate defend mechanism more swiftly and efficiently. (Department of Information Services, 2019a)

Such like the mechanism of Hungary, Taiwan government determined the "untrue fact" and "misinformation" and those help to spread it. To target an article that challenged the government's official news on the pandemic for example, an Operation Staff for handling press release and misinformation detecting (consisting of surgeon general, health ministries and police force) will mount up to attack. (Bleyer-Simon, 2021) Taiwan local police will be dispatched by Government to interrogate the general people who spread the "false information" online and issue penalties upon the person brought to court.

A tidal of resentment arose in the last three-year, it seemed a terror of Martial Law brought back by DPP's democratic state for the sake of national security and stability. National Government even coordinated a program between public and private sectors to link domestic fact-checking organizations with the online real-time media rejoinder section of the Executive Branch website (Department of Information Services, 2019b). Taiwan police has reported having initiated 320 criminal proceedings into suspicion of 'scaremongering' in 2020. (UDN, 2020a; Up Media, 2021) The 83% of total cases are withdrawn by Court against arbitrary use of Social Order Maintenance Act.

Under this circumstance, to questioning Government Spokesperson spreading false information is highly sensitive move. The civil society organization put government official's statement into a claim to check is an ambivalent gesture.

In April, CTS is mistakenly run a news ticket online which originally for exercising a drill for nature disasters. The fallout of this event caused the step down of CTS 's Chairwomen and Deputy CEO. This accident forced DPP government to accelerate the 2nd nomination and selection procedure of PTS Governors. (Shan, 2022)

One week before May 9, 2022, KMT Caucus criticized the conflict interest between candidate of Governor and members of Review Committee. There are three members of Review Committee and one candidate serving the Board of TFC and Education Director of it, respectively. Again, the Chairman of Taiwan Media Watch Foundation, founder of TFC, served as Review Member to select future PTS Governors. Two executive members of AQJ, founder of TFC, respectively served as Review Member and Governor-in-Elect. Minister of Culture replied to the critics by clarifying the position in NGO without conflict to the one in foundation of public television before inauguration.

However, Ms. Chao-hui Huang, the Education Director at Taiwan FactCheck Education Foundation, is nominated by the President of KMT Party. The complex relation behind the politics, media and civil organization is represented by this tie. TFC gradually associated with the different political spectrum by its achievement and credit.

Austria and Taiwan in Comparison

This section of article is drawn the recent Austrian case in comparison with the previous one of Taiwan. It seems to me these two share some findings in common by interacted with fake news, politics, and the code of PSM issues.

In April 23, 2019, ORF presenter Armin Wolf, interviewed with Harald Vilimsky, SG of Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ) by comparing a cartoon of its party's poster with one represented a Jew in the former Nazi newspaper. This question is infuriated him left with a serious accusation. Many supporters also posted the resentments on Facebook.

One year before, the party leader of FPÖ, Heinz-Christian Strache even described the newscast of Armin Wolf is lies and fake news, with a headline "Satire" in Facebook. Wolf, who is famed for his muscular interviewing style, won the supports from European Federation of Journalists, and the German affiliate GPA-djp, DJV, and finally

ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation) Director-General Dr. Alexander Wrabetz showed his enduring backup. (European Federation of Journalists, 2019; Reuter, 2018)

One of the major theme of enhancing ORF public value in here is tackle the threat of populism, outrage public management, increasing polarization reminiscent of the 1930s, and frightening leveling of political discourse. (Unterberger, 2019) The mounting challenges ORF perceived are addressed directly to the rise of far-right party movement and their, including FPÖ, jointly established cabinet. ORF witnessed the tidal wave of political development be resemble of history past. In eager to learn from the past, ORF strives to develop a cosmopolitan democracy entitled by the international value of Europe.

Finally, Strache apologized for his remark on private Facebook by labeling “Satire”. This claim also was collected by ARD Tagesschau’s faktenfinder column. (Horowitz, 2018) This “Satire Post” is not common written by a Vice-Chancellor of a European State. He also faced a notice from the regional criminal court. One year after, ORF’s entertainment editor reacted an equivalent satire to him by synchronizing the text “from neo-Nazi to sports minister” with the recorded interview program. Then the program file was updated by checking the word with appropriateness then edited before put online again.

In May, 2019, FPÖ was collapse and quitted from coalition government due to the scandal be published by German media for exchanging support from a businesswoman with government huge contract. The ruling central-right party of ÖVP is called for a re-election in September. Two years after, Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, the Leader of ÖVP also stepped down for another scandal by granting generous public advertising contract to favourable tabloid press. (Sparviero and Trappel, 2022)

Alexander Wrabetz, served CEO of ORF for 15-year, was not reappointed by Governing Board in the end of 2021. According to law, the governing board is established largely by different parties’ recommendation. Roland Weissmann, the successor of him, is appointed directly by ÖVP. (Vogt, 2021) However, the Audience Council consent the licenses fees to increase by 8% to € 219 per household.

The public value endorse by ORF were renewed in 2021. This mission of “Trust” is interpreted by a refined version of balance and diversity. The diversity principle is extend to the “Identities”. With defending against social fragmentation and polarization, the new mission will follow a delicate balance principle. A news report should not

contain all points of view on a current issue but the delegates of pluralistic society must be considered as a whole. (Daser, 2021) However, the false balance should not be applied to the science reporting. For example, “minority positions elevated to the same level as established scientific consensus” should be avoided.

Comparing the Austrian case, Taiwan PSM faced with the new digital network challenge. In Austria, the print occupied the source of news at 42% but only 1.77% in Taiwan. Both countries of TV News are second to the total percentage of online media (76% in Austria, 52.49% in Taiwan).

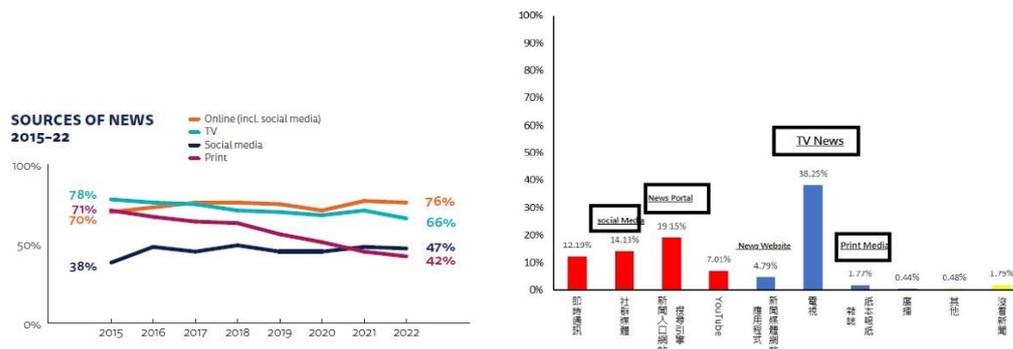


Figure 3. The Sources of News divided by Austria and Taiwan

(Source: Reuters Institute, 2022; TAIS, 2022)

The collaboration with independent fact-checkers of Austria is coordinated by Austria Press Agency (APA) (Horowitz, 2018), however Taiwan is experimented directly with many new internet media. The Taiwan fact-checkers is friendly to be affiliated outlet of PTS or CTS. But in Austria, “Fakt Ist Fakt” is emphasized its mission to “rough up” the journalistic landscape. (Singer, 2019). ORF journalism is kept focus on reliable information and editorial independence rather than the collaboration with young media. Taiwan PTS is eager to fund News Lab associated with fact-checker. CTS are quickly assimilated fact-checker service into new slot of 24-hr round the clock journalism.

Engaged with right-wing party regarding fake news is happened on both sides, ORF stands behind long-term “Public Value” project, and strategically confronts against accusation by politicians. Lacking of a documentation (Editorial Guideline) on fact-check, CTS CEO failed to acclaim its statement for including collaboration with fact-checker into editorial independence purview. TFC mission statement is also revised the “balance” principle by saying that “TFC does not attempt to set an absolute balance in terms of numbers of items fact-checked among the varied positions”. This addressing point is lacking opportunity to check against TBS guideline.

By criticism from right-wing politician, the bias of ORF is negated by the support of journalists union. In Taiwan, Leon Chuang, CEO of CTS commented on National Day as a celebration for a Ghost Nation posting in private Facebook (Oct. 10, 2021). The political satire article, like the work of Strache, written by a leading media profession of public broadcasting is quite abnormal without appreciation. KMT and its supporters condemned his misconduct on behalf of CTS. He apologized and was forced to edit a CTS guideline for social media.

Greatly influenced by ruling party's appointment, ORF's Director-General is succeeded by his former colleague with recommendation of People's Party (ÖVP). Insulated from the political forces by PTS Act, Leon Chuang resigned from his post by consensus reaching within different political parties. His remark on the TFC controversy is referred back to political appointment interfered by KMT in 2008. (Freedom House Report, see Chao, 2010) However, his resignation is openly requested by the DPP convener who is the rivalry of KMT caucus. In other words, his leave is a consensus between two rivals.

Conclusion

This research inspired by a budget bill resolution of PSM drafting in 2022. It was landmarked by singling the Fact Checker out into a political controversy on re-appointment of DG in public TV. To upholding the editorial independence, Leon Chung, the former CEO of CTS is striking against the routine of budgetary bill proceedings by requested a resolution must rescind without compromise. It resulted into a too early to recognize a collaboration with Fact Check as the core of public journalism with autonomy guarantee in Taiwan. However, comparing with Austria case in recent year, one found the political flake used "fake news" into a battlefield between politician and PSM is common.

What decide a political cost of verifying a claim or statement as "false" by PSM or its affiliate outlet is judged critically by leadership of public figure and the long-term positioning for its "fact checker". In Europe, the rise of far-right party or the coalition government intensified with the journalism of PSM dealing with the issues of migration, human rights, vaccine and pandemic. It corresponded with situation of U.S. by both side of Atlantic regarding fact-checker shows bias on the right-wing politicians rather than left-wing partisans. However, to professionalize the fact-checker as good journalism led the future anyway as a global reform.

By tracked down the implementation of fact-checkers in local, this article represented the origin of fact-checking as a civil movement in 2014 against Nationalist Party's regional economic policy. The pioneer of fact-checkers are more or less aligned their political ideologies with Anarchism or left-wing. Even the experimental News Lab, introduce by Taiwan Public Television Service, relaxed their collaboration with offspring of fact-checker in the first generation. Naturally, they have been accused by conservative quality press in one verdict for political claim during presidential election. The verdict mistook one opinion of ruling party with the factual basis of the claim to be checked. It is easily to judge the workers of PTS fact-check with clear political ideology akin to left-wing or radical politicians even when they already elected to be government officials.

The first wave of fact-checker with younger generation easily identified their move as a political reform or movement. They are partisan move in the disguise of professional journalists if judged by right-wing media or politicians in the same race. One successive wave is institutionalized in 2018 established TFC as a formal fact-checker organization. Built by former PSM manager and governor with many academics, they are marching to the-state-of-the-art doing fact-check internationally acknowledged.

With clear methodology and procedure for choosing claims and tracing false ones, TFC rigorously experienced the contribution it made to natural disaster, Covid-19 pandemic, and public health issues. On the other face of them, it also accumulatively collected mistrust by right-wing party aiming at the converging hotly debated issues. The result is evident with the controversy of KMT caucus' resolution draft. National government has actively involved into the anti-fake news movement with private sectors since 2020. This is another politicalizing fact-checker effort to curtail the trust of civil endeavor in this profession.

The resign of CTS President is left the issue of fact-check equating as independent journalism without tackle. TFC issued press release for clarification its profession as an open to public gesture. Ministry of Culture finalized the investigation without touching the fact-check entrepreneurs but playing down the collaboration with PSM. Finally, the 2nd nomination of PTS Governor refreshed the criticism of right-wing party by supporting Education Director at Taiwan FactCheck Education Foundation to be one Director-in-elect. For next stage, the research finally suggested that the PSM is basically entangled with left-wing accusation into the fact check before the stakeholders reach out a consensus for all parties should be equally involved into this task force beyond only a civil society group initiative.

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