

**Letter sent to the Editor of The Economist by email on November 18, 2012 and a follow-up correction of the ending word next morning (Taipei time)**

**From:** [chebao.ma@msa.hinet.net](mailto:chebao.ma@msa.hinet.net)

**Sent:** Monday, November 19, 2012 3:36 AM

**To:** [letters@economist.com](mailto:letters@economist.com)

**Subject:** Ma the bumbler; an apology is warranted to uphold the newspaper's esteem (2nd sending)

Resend with a correction of the ending word: Correct "international news ~~media~~" to "international news reporting". Sincerely, Che-Bao Ma

**From:** [chebao.ma@msa.hinet.net](mailto:chebao.ma@msa.hinet.net)

**Sent:** Sunday, November 18, 2012 3:32 PM

**To:** [letters@economist.com](mailto:letters@economist.com)

**Subject:** Ma the bumbler; an apology is warranted to uphold the newspaper's esteem

Sir - As O-ba Ma's "kinsman" (a title dubbed to me recently by my former Harvard professor, Jim Hays), I would hate to see if you ever title your report Obama the Muslim, the Kenyan, or the Communist even though it is in the minds of many Americans. So do I to read your disrespectfully entitled report on President Ma, with whom I have known since late 1970s when we both came back from abroad to serve this beautiful island state and joined the local Harvard Club (bumblers are not allowed). Yes, there are lots of discontent in Taiwan toward his presidential governance in particular on domestic issues but so do for many presidents in other countries globally. I would take the freedom to express discontent symbolic of true democracy. But I don't think foreign media's exaggerated exploitation of free press is appropriate. (Given the wide-spread domestic socio-economic upheavals in England in recent years, what would you feel about a foreign media report entitled likewise: Cameron the bumbler?)

As a long-time subscriber, I hope you could look things forwardly with a world perspective and comment more constructively to promote a better future. In this regard, President Obama and General Secretary Xi with 4 and 5 more years for their upcoming terms, and President Ma with 3 and a half years in his remaining term could very well work together to bring America, Mainland China, and Taiwan to form the stabilized core of a progressive joint-force of alliance to help mitigate not only socio-economic and political conflicts facing this part of the world but also those

caused elsewhere by the financial turmoil in England as well as other European Union countries. The Economist, given your most-respected record of news analysis with a strong editorial force, could make meaningful contributions substantially, if you choose to. At any rate, an apology to President Ma and the people of Taiwan is warranted, which would also uphold your not-easy-to-get long-held esteem in international news ~~media~~ reporting.

Che-Bao Ma  
Taipei, Taiwan