

# A Global Village Near and Far

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There was an article in a high school Chinese textbook with the title of 'Hsieh Tien' (Heaven be thanked), meaning that when we receive help from others and achieve some success later, we could not express gratitude to each subject, we would sum up the gratitude and say 'Hsieh Tien'.

Today, we are thankful for the support of international society when we were in deprived condition. Now with abundant medical care resources through development in the past few decades, we are eager to feedback whatever we could to anywhere that needs supports.

Humanitarian and international medical aid organizations in Taiwan have grown in large numbers in the past few years. Except relief actions of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, the Presbyterian Mackay Memorial Hospital, other non-religious, non-governmental organizations such as the Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps, International Action and Cooperation Team (iACT), Taiwan International Medical Alliance (TIMA), Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation are all developing. Even the Nobel Peace Prize winner, the Medecins Sans Frontier (MSF), is planning to set up a branch in Taiwan.

The Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps pioneered with providing free medical care services in countries with no diplomatic relations with Taiwan such as the Amazon region in Peru. iACT has finished pilot research in Nepal and Southern India for further aid actions, TIMA has also sent teams for the prevention of tobacco hazards projects in Malaysia with the Rockefeller Foundation.

With so many years' experiences in international medical aid, the word 'Taiwan' is already engraved in many countries. Medical care sees no boundaries; more importantly, the access to it is one of the basic human rights. With or without diplomatic relations, we deeply believe that human beings have the utmost value of helping each other.

台灣過去的國文課本裡有一篇文章：「謝天」，簡言之，當我們接受外人的幫助而有所成就時，對於無法一一表達謝意的對象，我們歸而為一叫做「謝天」。

今天，我們感謝國際社會在台灣困頓的年代給予我們支援，而今我們發展擁有富足的醫療資源，更希望將我們的能力，回饋給這個地球上須要支援的地方。

台灣的人道及國際醫療援助組織，近年來亦呈快速成長趨勢，除了佛教慈濟、基督教馬偕與各地教會醫院展開的援助行動外，包括「路竹會」、「國際醫療行動協會」、「台灣國際醫學聯盟」、「羅慧夫顏重建協會」等非宗教、非政府組織亦在萌芽發展中，就連曾獲諾貝爾和平獎的「無國界醫生組織」（MSF），也計畫在台灣設立分會。

「路竹會」以提供醫療服務做先鋒，深入無邦交國秘魯亞馬遜流域進行義診；「國際醫療行動協會」則在尼泊爾與南印度完成探路研究，做為日後援助路線；「台灣國際醫學聯盟」也派人前往馬來西亞參與洛克菲勒基金會的菸害防治計畫。

多年從事國際醫療援助的經驗；「台灣」兩字已經深入各個國家。醫療無國界，更是基本人權，不管有沒有邦交，我們都深深認為有人類互助的無上價值。

Taiwan often incorporates with the Red Cross Society for international medical aids.

台灣經常配合國際紅十字會進行國際醫護救援。









Taiwan though is small, both the governmental and non-governmental organizations are eager to volunteer for international relief.

台灣雖小，但是不論政府或民間都積極主動的對國際急難伸出援手。





















Mending God's joke-the Noordhoff Foundation in Taiwan provides free operations for harelip all over the world.

修補上帝開的玩笑---台灣羅慧夫  
顱顏基金會在世界各地進行兔唇  
整形義診。