

台灣路竹會



# TAIWAN ROOT MEDICAL PEACE CORPS

Bilingual Periodical



Root International Peace Corps

台灣路竹會

第十九期 雙語會刊

2010 JANUARY

**MEDICAL MISSION IN THE PHILIPPINES**

**THE SKY IN MANILA**

**SACRIFICING ONESELF FOR THE SAKE OF SERVICING OTHERS**

**DISCOVERING A DIFFERENT TAIWAN**

**LAMBARENA IN HEART**

**—SEARCHING FOR A DOSE OF SOUL VITAMIN**



一場颱風讓我開始意識到，生命的期限，其實只有上天知道。生命也許很長，也可能很短，我只想要把握當下，認真去做我想做的事情。

攝影：劉啟群 會長

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## Message of TRMPC

**Ignite the hope at a different place in a different time  
Compensate Gods' pain with your hands and passion.**



Upon celebrating Taiwan Root's fifteenth anniversary, New Year 2010 has come at the same time. We have received New Year's greeting from Ambassador Ching-Long Lu from Taipei Representative Office in France, who is also Taiwan Root's good friend. People from Taipei, France, and all around the world with different races and religions are celebrating New Year and

expecting a great and wonderful year.

People around the world have different wishes depending on their living conditions.

Taiwan Root has been through 15 years medical missions. We are very used to the easy access medicine and medical resources. But, it's an ignition for the hope of the patients in the countries lacking medical resource extremely.

In all the religions' meanings, lives are equal, which is not necessarily true. From now on, we wish to compensate Gods' pain to shorten lives differences with everyone's hands and passion.

**Liu Chi-chun, 18/01/2010**

**President of Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps**

photo by Amb.Ching-Long Lu (Taipei Representative Office in France)

台灣路竹會  
Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps



Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps (TRMPC) is a private, non-sectarian, non-profit organization dedicated to improving quality of life through provision of medical services and health education. Founded in 1995, by the vision of Dr. Chi-Chun Liu, TRMPC joined talented medical personnel with enthusiastic volunteers to form a medical service group. In nearly 200 medical missions, TRMPC focuses on bringing medical care to not only indigenous populations inhabiting remote mountain areas of Taiwan, but to people in developing nations and in refugee camps. The number of people we served amounts to 100,000. TRMPC believes that medical service should transcend national borders and exceed the limitations of politics, race, and religion. It holds as its end goal a united international community working in cooperation to bring about equitable access of healthcare to all populations.



## Medical Mission in the Philippines

Written by Cheng, Jer-Zen (程哲仁)

Translated by Lee Yie-zong(李依蓉) 、 Haiping Cheng(程海平) Photographed by Cheng, Jer-Zen (程哲仁)

**#202 Medical Mission was originally planned for Myanmar when I signed up for. However, you never know what waits next. Just right after Taiwan Root sent out the trip detail for Myanmar, we began to receive disaster news from the Philippines caused by the typhoon. Dr. Liu made a prompt decision to change the trip to the Philippines for disaster relief. Since I had already taken the days off from work, I might as well accept the change and give up my dream trip for Myanmar once again. The day before we departed, we learned that our flight got postponed due to the typhoon, and our mission had to be shortened to five or six days instead.**

### October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Philippines Mission

Besides a quick stop at a McDonald's for lunch after leaving the airport, we wasted no time for the mission. Two police cars escorted our bus and van, carrying our equipments and medical supplies, through the city streets to the mission location, which was inside an alley in Manila. A sign welcoming Dr. Liu and Taiwan Root Medical



Peace Corp was already visible from a distance, a little white dog from one of the residents greeted us while standing on its hind legs, and already there were many patients along with their family waiting in line.

We quickly unpack, put all the equipment, tools, and medicine into place, and started our first stop of this mission. The registrations haven't even started and already the speaker outside was making these loud annoying sounds. It was probably because since it isn't every so often that these people get free medical services from other countries, no wonder the organization in charge had to shout from the top of their lungs, to keep the people in order.

To understand what damages the typhoon and flood really did to the area,

the cameraman and I made good use of our free time and went strolling around the nearby alleys with our camera and camcorder. We saw a bulldozer cleaning from door to door the trash that the flood left behind into this huge pile of garbage. We also saw a shoe factory owner lining up his flooded damaged shoes in the alley, in hoping that after they all dried up he could still lessen his loss by selling them. There was also this little boy, walking among the streets with a pair of ruined high-heels, wobbly due to his not being accustomed to it making the image all the more striking.

After a tiring day, we noticed that there were a lot of infant patients and also those who came to get their teeth cleaned. It was said that local teeth cleaning is costly, thus when



the flood victims heard that there were to be free teeth cleaning services, they all jumped at the chance, and whether there's anything else wrong with their teeth didn't seem all that important to them.

The more patients there were, particularly infants and children, the more workload awaits for the pharmacists. And even though the situation was a bit hectic due to the increasing amount of patients, every procedure from writing and filling in the prescription to delivering the medicine to the patient, everything must be dealt with accuracy and precision down to every detail.

As it started to get darker outside, the pediatrics division seemed increasingly busier. Fortunately, because other departments' patients lessened, whether they are doctors or nurses, everyone pitched in to help once

they have spared time.

With the help from everyone, work over at the pharmacy finally came to an end around 9:50 PM. We packed up our things, had dinner and headed for the hotel to check-in. It was such a tiring day that after showering, there wasn't even an energy left to watch television, and we all went right to sleep.

### **October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Philippines Mission**

Today's stop took place at an indoor basketball court in San Juan which took us about 10 minutes to get there by car. Because it didn't provide electricity there so throughout the day we had to rely on this generator which made all these machinery sounds as we continued on our mission.

In order to understand more about how the disaster happened, how they responded and how they recovered it, we formed a temporary news team and interviewed the local rescue workers along with several images of the disaster area.

We went to an elementary school about a couple hundred meters away and was situated higher above the ground. Inside there was this two floor auditorium which took in more than one thousand refugees during the flood.

They stayed there for two whole days and live on food and water the rescue workers handed out. It wasn't until the flood finally died away that they could return back to their ruined homes.

Behind the auditorium down the stone steps was a line of classrooms that were a bit below the surface. We haven't even gotten that close to it and already we could smell a strong stench of dampness and moldiness. Some were cleaned and some were still being cleaned, piles and piles of books waiting to get dried filled up the classrooms. Outside the elementary school was a traditional market, they were selling all kinds of vegetables, fruits, chickens, ducks, fishes, and meats. Through the market was this big supermarket, when the flood came, the water already reached as high as an adults' upper thigh or waist, and the supermarket's basement was nevertheless immersed with sewage.

Across the supermarket was San Juan's city government building, luckily for it being built higher above the ground, no damages were done by the typhoon. According to the people at the fire department, there are 21 villages in San Juan and amongst them 11 were affected by the flood.





### October 8<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of Philippines Mis- sion

The third day of our mission was also at a basketball court.

The place was more spacious than the day before, and there were already quite a few people waiting in line even before we arrived. Thus, we quickly set up our equipments and supplies and started to take registrations and another day of treating patients. Over at San Juan's city government, a female executive of the fire department took us to this old, once flooded house which was over a hundred years old. The owner of the house told us that when the flood came there were more than ten people altogether in the house, and because the water arose so fast that they didn't know what to do at the time. Luckily for them, the rescue squad came just in time with

rubber rafters and carried the women and children out of the house, the rest had to escape by floating air beds.

According to the fire department, by using what they had at the time and helping themselves escape instead of waiting for help was what really saved them from the disaster. Like putting a new born inside a plastic box, which was floating everywhere at the time, and the kiddie's swimming pool could be used as a floating rubber rafter if needed, the same goes with Inflatable mattresses which could be found in almost every household. Suddenly, under the dire situation of having only two life saving rubber rafters, with the residents' quick thinking and reaction, the rescue mission was proceeded as planned and not a minute wasted. Another particular finding about their rescue mission was that every rescue workers had a

Walkie-talkie on them, so whenever there was any news everyone would be informed within minutes, adding more efficiency to their work and making the mission go along smoothly

### October 9<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Day of Philippines Mis- sion

On the fourth day, our spot this time was a 2 hour ride from our hotel, a place called Quezon City. The place was scaffold and had soldiers standing guard. They provided two spare tents for us to use as pharmacy and electrocardiograph testing room, and the soldiers were nice enough to help us unload our equipments right after the trucks arrived.

The news team went interviewing the vice governor of Municipality of Tanay Rizal Province, Frisco S. San Juan Jr., and along with several staffs they took us to see a few disaster areas and visit couple victim shelters.

We then arrived at this bridge which crosses the Tanay River. They explained to us while pointing at the river bank beside the bridge, saying that there used to be a house made out of tin metal there, but got washed away after the flood came, four people living inside suffered an untimely death, the rest was saved after





the water took them downstream.

Later we came to this traditional market called Sitio Pasipit, which was situated next to a rice field. The water had gotten 1.2 or 1.5 meters high and along with mud it deluged the entire area including the rice paddy and all its nearby neighbors. It took the residents about a week's time to clear up all the pile-up, and according to their estimates, they will still probably need one or two more weeks to finish up cleaning the whole community.

After that we headed off to a community called Wawa Barangay. The typhoon not only damaged their dams but also hollowed out the foundations of those living nearby the riverbanks. There even was this two-stories high house which toppled right into the river covering half of its course. The rescue workers had already contacted authorities in regards to fixing and mending the damages.

Finally, they took us to one of the victim shelters located at a local senior high school. There were only two floors with six classrooms in total, inside which said to have located approximately 400 people from 150 families. How they were able to get all those people inside the six classrooms baffled us all.

## October 10<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Day of Philippines Mission

Barangay Tatalon was the spot for our mission on the fifth day, which took us less than ten minutes to get there by car. The people in charge had warned us not to wander around by ourselves without companions since the place was said to have bad living conditions and the security wasn't as good either.

Today the news team went to a community in Quezon City which suffered not only flood but also fire at the same time, Barangay Tatalon. This time except for the rescue workers who accompanied us every time, there was this doctor who is fluent in Chinese, Taiwanese, English and Phillipine dialects, Dr. Wang, who also came along with us.

Dr. Wang explained to us that the community had about a thousand residents and at the time when the flood came the five reservoirs started to release the water all at the same time, causing an abrupt rise of flood in the area. It was dark and somehow the electricity leaked amounting to the fire. After burning for 5 hours straight, 150 wooden houses were gone and 6 lives were taken away, the houses that survived the fire were those which suffered

one-story flood or brick houses.

With the advent of having thousands of people becoming homeless due to its double disaster, and knowing that the Philippine Government could only provide very limited help, the local overseas Chinese organization quickly started a fund raiser raising up to over 44 million pesos, providing those in need the money to buy materials for rebuilding their homes and community back together. To see the victims helping each other out, restoring their homeland and facing all these sudden tragedies bravely and with such positive perspective, the scene alone was really something.

Due to the fact that the last day of our mission was also our Double 10<sup>th</sup> day back in Taiwan, after our mission had come to an end a local legislator candidate treated all the TRMPC fellow volunteers to a fancy dinner. A lot of important people attended, thanking us for the help and also presenting awards and such as gratitude, going from one table to another toasting drinks, and finally ending the event by taking a photograph of everyone as something we could look back on to.





## The Sky in Manila

Written by Weng Hui-zhen (翁慧真)

Translated by Kelly Her(何佳珊) Photographed by TRMPC

**It was 4:30 a.m. before dawn. I was suddenly awakened by the sound of the alarm clock and felt very heavy-eyed. Nevertheless, I must get out of bed because I had to arrive at the airport at 5:30 a.m. to meet with other members of Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps to head for Manila, Philippines to render free medical services. I was glad to join in the relief effort to the country which was recently hit by flooding.**

Manila was situated in Southeast Asia, and it took only two hours to fly from Taipei to Manila. We arrived there at about noon and received a warm welcome from a local women's association. After exchanging greetings, we started our services right away at the needy communities. At that time, the traces of floods such as muddy ground were still visible everywhere though it had been two weeks after the area was devastated by the flood. After all, it was definitely not an easy task to restore a homeland from the damage of a serious natural disaster. At the same time, the water pollution and foul garbage had begun to cause a problem of environmental sanitation. Many elderly people and children were seen to have a bad cough, fever and other cold symptoms. On average, there were five persons per household that called

for medical care. As such, on the first day of our arrival, we worked from noon to late night at around 10 p.m. We felt totally exhausted. But we did sense the importance of emergency medical care and understood that it was the principle of voluntary medical services to offer timely and proper assistance when in need. After a long day's work and returning to the hotel, despite our tiredness, we still felt like going out for a walk. As it was already late, nearby shops largely were closed. Thus, out of curiosity, we just walked around a bit, visiting the 7-11 convenience store and a vegetarian restaurant. And since we had not yet made the money exchange for local dollars, pesos, we could only do 'window shopping' on the first day of our arrival. On the second day, we went to one of the hardest flood-hit areas and there was a larger space there

that could facilitate our proceeding of medical services. Since local residents appeared too 'excited,' the policemen were called on to help maintain the order so that the patients could receive proper medical services one by one. Meanwhile, it's my observation that in Manila, there seemed to exist two different worlds—on one side of the street was the high-rise buildings, a sign of prosperity, whereas on the other side was a dirty slum environment. Such disparity in wealth revealed the cruelty of reality, as well as the essentiality of free medical services. In the next few days, Liu Chi-chun, president of Taiwan Root, told us that we needed to visit those disaster-devastated areas to make our medical mission more worthwhile. Although we only carried simple medical devices, we had managed to provide emergency treatment and attended to some





2,750 patients amid our concerted efforts.

By participating in this overseas medical mission, we gained personal growth by seeing, hearing and eating something dif-

ferent and through teamwork. Though our services were limited by the medical equipment we could carry around, we had given a number of people the needy medical services,

and the smiling faces of those local children were the greatest feedback to members of Taiwan Root for their dedication to international medical relief.





## Sacrificing oneself for the sake of servicing

### others

Written by Chen, De-hao(陳德皓)

Translated by Lee Yie-zong(李依蓉) Photographed by Chen, De-hao(陳德皓)

**I**t has been 16 years since I last joined the medical missions up in the mountains.

During the first two years of med school, I started out joining those groups which do service works up in the mountain areas, in those days I had to take orders from others and do hard labors. I remember how young and inexperienced I was facing the patients during my fifth and sixth year. During my residency, I remember how big a responsibility I had leading the med students up into the mountains, and how they followed my every lead reminded me of how enthusiastic and full of energy I once was, though the memory now seem vague and so far away. Yet, that long buried feeling of helping others by sacrificing oneself, due to joining Taiwan Root's medical mission this time, has once again awakened.

It has been over ten years since I left med school,

with professional training and gaining work experience taking up most of my time, my priorities of servicing others out of passion like when I was young has been put last on my list. Although I still often times recall my naïve days as an intern doctor, raising my right hand and reciting the doctors' vows at Taiwan University Hospital saying: I solemnly swear to sacrifice everything for the sake of servicing others when I enter the medical field. As the patients' well-being being my utmost consideration, I will pay my duties with a clear conscience and dignity.

With joining Taiwan Root's 203th mission, we went to Pingtung's "da hou", "tai wu", "ma jia", "shen shan", "wu tai" and "de wen" Township. My father is from Pingtung, and even though I grew up in Taipei, I still spend my vacations there when I was young, thus I have deep sentimental

feelings for the place. "wu tai", "san di men" and "ma jia" are places that I am once familiar with, there was even a place that used to be called "fanshe" (a derogatory word for place where aboriginals live) and to make it worse older kids used to scare us about the place and thus I always kept a respectable distance whenever I passes by.

Because of joining Taiwan Root's mission, I could finally step into this "dream land", and actually everything just came together coincidentally. Particularly being one of the places that was brutally shattered by the typhoon, the childhood expectations and fantasies, the line between "egoism" and "altruism", and the doctor's vow of selfless dedication all kept coming back, and somehow making a grown, middle-aged man finding himself actually excited about something once more.



Facing the flood victims, our hearts were heavy. The 4 by 4 carried us through the collapsed mountainsides as the Kaoping River was still running rapidly by carrying sands and floating wood along. Compared with the mountain far away on the other side, which was not being overused by humans, stood there green and full of lush, which made it all the more sad of how great a change the flood has brought.

However, when we actually meet these victims they were not as distressed and helpless as the media said they would be, but rather contented. The fact that they face their homes being destroyed by natural disaster with unyielding courage brought tears in our eyes.


One particularly touching story was that there was this young person who used to work down on the

plain lands, but came back these past two years, trying to rebuild his hometown. He took me to see where the mountain collapsed and the landslides, explained why it happened and how human's destructiveness has affected the place. He also shared with me his plans of nurturing this place back again.

He despised the mountain residents' bad drinking habits, thus decided to promote a quit drinking movement. It's like he's already made up his mind to make things happen even though there might be thousand of obstacles along the way, it still wouldn't make him change his decision. As he explained his plan to me, he used big elaborate gestures and give forth huge enthusiasm, though nothing was really put into work just yet. Whether his dream might come true or not, I give him my deepest

and most sincere blessings. Already a person in his/her forties, I think more about the line that separates "egoism" and "altruism". Before, I always thought that those are two clearly separated philosophies, contrasting each other in every way; "altruism" lies within the domain that defines the giver enjoying lesser happiness and even a bit melancholy with each scarification.

After joining this mission, I truly felt the selfless dedication and working enthusiasm from every volunteer. Even though situated in an adverse environment, everyone still kept their smiles, fulfilling the virtue of "altruism". This mission made me find myself once again and the fulfillment of helping someone, but more importantly, every volunteer's happiness and passion had let me, a rookie, get infected by this joyful atmosphere, all the while fulfilling my own satisfaction. Suddenly, the line between the two isms no longer exists; rather work as a complement for one another.

Taiwan Root's medical missions not only let us volunteers enjoy the feeling of helping others but also discovering ourselves, making our sacrifices all the more worthwhile. 



## Discovering a different Taiwan

Written by Ye, Zheng-rong (葉崢嶸)

Translated by Rosa Huang (黃珍吾) Photographed by TRMPC

**I never really get to know Taiwan until I was 18. Five years of university, one year of internship and a couple of months of residential practice can be concluded in a simple sentence regarding the impression of Taiwan. The accidental encounter with the Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps, however, unfolds my journey of seeing a different view of Taiwan.**

Dwelling in the bustling and prosperous Taipei gives us an easy excuse to overlook that there are people and places which are very different. The next day after my national exam, I stopped by Taiwan Root's website by chance and was grasped by the following words: "If you just stay there being moved, you will find that the things that can move you become less and less.

I wondered if the qualification through the exam had taken my heart, driven by insanity, I picked up the phone and signed in a medical mission as soon as I saw the words. I was lucky, my first registry suc-

ceeded. I wasn't then aware of that my impression of Taiwan would be thoroughly overturned in two months.

I went to the Morakot disaster areas twice - one in Mt. Ali, the other Pingtung--with Taiwan Root. I think I would never forget the feelings when I saw the destroyed bridges roads, and houses trapped in mires.

Those scenes hit me although they had been shown on TV for hundreds of times. All of a sudden, I realized that the Taiwan in my mind isn't the same thing as in reality. There are, in fact, places and people incomparable to those in Taipei. That was the first time I saw the true faces of the mountain areas in Taiwan; "excitement" wasn't the word to describe the fresh experience, "sadness" is. I remembered an old lady

in Machia Village. She came to the medical station to pull her tooth. We spent a long time struggling with the residue, which might make her think the tooth couldn't be removed. She didn't complain, instead, she said, "it's okay if you can't pull it out. I am still grateful. Your visit let me have a chance to pull the tooth. I know you have been trying hard. It's not your problem. I can come over again when you are here next time."

We made it at last. Yet her considerate reassurance surprised me and moved me, given that we are in the age that patients' rights overtop all other principles and relationship between doctors and patients is tense. The patients in these mountain villages always say "thanks" after the treatment, even the treatment—scaling and






tooth pulling mostly-- isn't that sufficient owing to limited equipments. I was impressed by their patience also, sometimes they had to wait in a long line, they didn't complain about it. With Taiwan Root, I had discovered aspects of Taiwan that I had never known. These experiences change the stereotypes that I had. The unknown became known and the unimaginable became imaginable. One thing is I was very surprised to find that it was the medical workers who do the least work in the missions; all we had to do is to unload the equipment from the truck and treat the patients. We dined on hot meals during breaks and closed our eyes and rest on the jeeps, yet the villagers convey all their gratitude to us. Actually the logistic volunteers contributed more, for instance, the kitchen team had to get up at dawn to cook breakfast and the drivers had to stay up really late to send us into the mountains. I want to thank you all for what you had done for us and for the missions. When I recalled the whole process of the missions, I found it amazing; without knowing each other,

there was always someone who was ready to help. Every member of the team did his/ her best to carry out his/ her duties, the simplicity and efficiency brought me back to the time when I was in the volunteer club in the university. I never expected I could experience it again after graduating. Another thing I didn't expect was the yummy home-made delicacies. Since I have been away from home for a long time, those tasty food captured me so much. (Maybe I went to the missions for the food? Ha!)

Once in a while, when I look at the photos of the missions, I would wonder if I hadn't have made the call two months ago, my impression about Mt Ali would have still remained as "Fen-chi Lake lunchboxes and small trains," and I wouldn't have seen the new-built tribes in the mountain in Ping-tung. Now I am able to put all the puzzle pieces together and several maps appear in my head. I smile to the air and think that happiness, in fact, is easy, isn't it. I thank myself for making the call, which gives me a chance to know Taiwan Root and I thank Taiwan Root for leading me, a foreigner, to see

the scenery that I had never seen and for teaching me to cherish everything I have.

I remember a friend I knew in the mission once said that she had no idea she would keep participating in the medical missions for ten years when she signed in the first time. "Is it worthwhile?" I asked. "What do you think?" She smiled. I am still clueless about the answer, my education never taught me about this kind of things. What I do know is Typhoon Morakot had sent us a message that only God knows the expiry date of our life. No matter how long or short the life is, I just want to seize the present moment to do whatever I want to, even it doesn't turn out good eventually. At least, after a long time, I would remember I had given myself a chance to move myself.

People say, "A thousand-mile journey starts right at where we stand." We can't control the length of our life, but we can control our perspective. If you believe you own the ability to move yourself, pick up the phone now, come with us. I bet you will find a whole new Taiwan and a new self just like me. 



## Lambarena in Heart—Searching for a Dose of

### Soul Vita in

Written by Zeng Guo-zhi(曾國枝)

Translated by Chen, Hong-Sing (陳鴻旻) Photographed by Jen, Chien-Ming (甄健明)

**"The evening party finished, all the members were busy packing up the stuffs—the drapes, the chairs, etc. Soon, everything was back in order." This image, as far as I can remember, could be traced back to around twenty years ago when I first participated in a volunteer medical service. That experience was tiring to my body but enriching to my soul. After that, all the volunteer medical services I participated in, no matter as a member or a leader, I tried to create such an atmosphere, in which I hope all the participants would have their soul nourished.**

As time goes by, pressures from my job increase; though equivalent endeavors on my job earn me equivalent gains, there seems existing an unknown potential crisis in these decent routine days. I wonder if this potential crisis that I feel is the so-called midlife crisis, but to the age-of-no-doubt, I really find the power of my soul draining away. Therefore, I pick up books again, trying to write theses for academic fulfillment. However, my uneasiness is still there.

This does not seem to be enough when I exam myself.

I am used to seeing delivering, aging, sickening and dying in the hospital. Dealing with hematemesis, practicing intubation or

even treating the swelling abdomen of a terminal liver cancer patient all seem to be no difficult task for me. But I still have a feeling of lost.

"I swear by my character..., I will promise to devote myself to all humankind..., the health of patients is the top priority..., " the oath came back to my mind again. Schweitzer's biography and my teacher's edification that there is a Lambarena in everybody's heart emerge from the bottom of my heart. Since the direction is clear, then the way to my own Lambarena is right in sight.

I feel the same way as everybody else when I first heard "Taiwan Root Medical Corps". I thought it might be some sort of association in Lujhu

Township, Kaohsiung County. (My hometown is in Hunei Township which is just next to Lujhu Township.) Later on, I find that TRMC is a volunteer medical organization which practices both at home and abroad. I paid heed to its activities but I did not take any actions to jump in because I was busy—what a most direct and irresponsible excuse.

During 88 flood disaster, I participated in some volunteer medical services. Through my friend's friend, I got connected to TRMC's facebook and got some information about TRMC's activities. Therefore, I participated in its 204<sup>th</sup> volunteer medical service to Taian township in Miaoli county.

Before I detail my experience during the



two-day-service in Taian, I want to mention the reason why I wanted to participate in TRMC's medical services. The reason is simple and practical: I want to establish a role model for my kids. It goes without saying that under present social circumstance, it is never an easy task to cultivate children's moral character. Our children are exposed to too many negative and improper information and examples; therefore, as one of the parents, setting a role model is important.

During the two-day-service in Taian, I learned a lot and felt very much impressed as if the feelings 20 years ago came back to my mind. Every volunteer played his part well; besides, what is more important is "everyone was doing very happily", which I think is the real spirit of volunteer service.

In addition to medical members, many thanks to kitchen members, you got up early than others; your sesame oil chicken was palatable and warmed our hearts in such cold windy weather. Also, many thanks to our drivers, you activated the whole medical service activity; it was fun but made me a little nervous to use telecommunication for connection. I hope that next time there would be galloping MAZDAs, not wandering MAZDAs. Finally, many thanks to Xiaoyu for your reminding before departure and many thanks to Hui-chen for telling everything about TRMC.

Lastly, I want to talk about the essence of volunteer medical service. One of my colleagues asked me, "How you feel about the service this time? Was it helpful?" I have been thinking about such

questions since I was a medical student. Am I helping others or just fulfilling myself? To some extent, volunteer medical service is like a dose of vitamin to my soul, which makes me feel grateful. Owing to volunteer medical service, I also feel sound treading on my medicine road. For those remote tribes, volunteer medical service definitely does not just mean giving medicine in those few days.

Volunteer medical service is just a sort of means or, we can say, a media to convey our caring and empathy. What we should care for the most is the poverty hidden behind the illness. Through cooperation with local associations, maybe we can find a light for those ill and poor tribes.





## Your Participation is Our Strength

Thanks to all the volunteers who joined us during the four local and international free medical service trips in October and November 2009. The services would not be as successful without all your supports and helping hands. The details of the three service trips are as following:



### A.10/04-11 Philippines Typhoon Parma Mission

**26 volunteers**

5 physicians, 3 dentists, 2 medical technologists, 2 medical technologists, 6 nurses, 8 logistic volunteers.



### B.10/23-25 Typhoon Morokot Mission 5

**54 volunteers**

4 physicians, 5 dentists, 3 medical technologists, 1 medical technologists, 10 nurses, 2 medical students, 12 logistic volunteers.



### C.11/07 Taipei Mission

**66 volunteers**

7 physicians, 3 dentists, 2 medical technologists, 2 medical technologists, 12 nurses, 2 medical students, 15 logistic volunteers.



### D.11/14-15 Miaoli Mission

**63 volunteers**

5 physicians, 3 dentists, 1 medical technologists, 3 medical technologists, 8 nurses, 19 logistic volunteers.





## Grant yourself a chance to give, take actions and join the team today!

If you have been acting as a spectator, you will eventually find yourself in a place where things are getting less interesting as time goes by. You do not need to be a medical professional to be on our team, we sincerely welcome you to join our Taiwan Root Medical Missions. At the same time, Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps also welcome donations including funds, medications, nutritional supplement and other forms of collaboration and supporting projects.

### Join Us

Please find the detailed schedule, volunteers and resources needed on the official Taiwan Root website [www.taiwanroot.org](http://www.taiwanroot.org). And please fill out an application online, or send it via email or fax.

Volunteers we are looking for:

#### **Medical professional volunteers -**

Physicians, dentists, nurses, medical technicians and pharmacists

#### **General volunteers -**

Kitchen works, resources distribution, field research, registration, transportation, moving, paper works, translation for foreign missions and periodicals (English and other languages).

### Donate to Us

#### **One-time fund donation -**

please transfer the donated funds to our Chunghwa Post account. Account name: Taiwanroot Medical Peace Corps. Account number: 19487090. We will issue receipt of donation for tax reduction purpose.

#### **Recurring credit card donation -**

Please fill out the credit card form from our official website, or contact us for a faxed credit card form. We will issue receipt of donation for tax reduction purpose.

#### **Medical equipments and medications -**

We need various of medical equipments, supplies and medications. Your donations will be organized and used for domestic and foreign medical missions.

#### **Personal and household goods -**

Goods including commonly used items, cans, dry foods and etc. We will bring cases full of your love to the rural area and distribute them to the ones in need.



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