



# Taichung

## Dajia Mazu Parade Cleanup, Over a Hundred Commit Together

**March 25th 2017**

This year the annual Taiwanese religious festival “Dajia Mazu Parade” began on March 25th 2017. The medical team from Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital and local volunteers gathered in front of the Jenn Lann Temple. One by one, over a hundred people marched to pick trash after the parade. This is one way to assimilate ourselves into the community while joyfully protecting the earth.

### **Participate In Activities to Change Society - Tired but Joyful**

At 4 am early morning, Taichung TC Hospital’s lobby was already filled with human voices. Hospital Superintendent Chien Sou-Hsin led the once a year Dajia Mazu Parade cleanup effort. He said, “One year had passed and it seems like I just swept here not long ago. More and more people from the hospital are joining





**Hospital Supt. Chien Sou-Hsin(first from left), staff, and local volunteers work together sweeping the streets and helping the environment.**

the effort. Enthusiasm from participants is rising. It is admirable that some colleagues participated right after work while others came directly from home for this event.”

Supt. Chien raised an interesting question. “I kept thinking about why Mazu is so busy every year? Why not have it indoors instead of on the streets”? He believes we have to walk the community in order to find out its problems. Our society will only improve with our effort.”

In fact, volunteers and the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) had already done cleanup once after the festival. At first glance, the streets of Dajia actually didn’t look too messy. While sweeping, there were still a lot of soaked firework debris, cigarette butts, plastics, beverage cans along the way. “These are all obvious leftovers harming

the environment and our health. Through streets sweeping, we can have an impact on the society, to be conscious about the environment on health issues,” said Supt. Chien.

Pediatrician Yu Meng-Kung attended the event for the first time. He said, “As part of the community, participation is a small act to impact the environment in a positive way. I respect the brothers and sisters good intention to help recycling discarded plastics. Walking the streets, I’m now happy that it is cleaner than before.” Gastroenterologist Lin Chung-Yi, Neurosurgeon Lin Ying-Chao, Colorectal Surgeon Liu Chang Hui-Chuan, and many more are very dedicated to this event.

Breast Medical Center Director Hsieh Hui-Chen and Education Department Chen Mei-Ju are first-time participants.

“When I heard that Dajia Mazu Parade cleanup is the hospital’s tradition, I immediately invited my other-half (spouse) to register. It was really hard to wake up so early in the morning and I regret it a little. There were so many participants at the Dajia Jenn Lann Temple, my enthusiasm was way up. After the sweeping, I felt fantastic and energetic,” said Dir. Hsieh. Chen Mei-Ju said, “It had been tempting for a long time. Before, I always found excuses because of work. I finally did it! Through the cleanup event, it enables me to have adequate rest, and adjust mentally to prepare for work in an effective way.”

Education Department Chen Zhi-Ming registers every year. He said, “We have to grasp any opportunities to do

environmental protection so there is hope for the earth.” Publicity Colleague Jiang Bo-Wei’s daughter is a 4th grade student and took the initiative to join the team.

The street cleanup effort is the fifth year. It is the most popular volunteer outreach activity in Taichung Hospital. This year participants were a record and they filled two buses. Over a hundred participants sacrificed their personal time and sleep for the clean-up, many still look forward to doing it again. Supply Center Lin Wan-Qi just finished her night shift before the event. “My body is exhausted, but the spirit is pleasant. Next year if there is an opportunity, I will keep going,” said Lin. (Text and Photos by Tseng Tsui-Yin; Translator: Wesley Tsai)



Over a hundred registered colleagues from Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital participated in the once a year Dajia Mazu Parade Cleanup.