

Innovation with Humanity



**Kuo Hann-Chorng,
Vice CEO of Tzu Chi Medical Foundation**

On Oct. 2017 we held our first Annual Meeting of Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation with the chief purpose of actualizing Master Cheng Yen and CEO Lin Chin-Lon's shared ideal proposed many years ago - "Six Hospitals As One". Tzu Chi has 6 hospitals that are scattered around all corners of Taiwan, and we have been endeavoring towards the coordination and facilitation of resource integration laterally across the same divisions of all 6 hospitals in order to create a distinguished feature for each of the divisions respectively. I think this meeting itself is the actualization of Six Hospital As One.

Utilizing the weekends, colleagues from all 6 hospitals journeys back to their spiritual home, and medical practitioners of different disciplines sit down together and have conversations on each other's clinical practices and research progresses. Slowly we can bond together and each discipline can develop its unique features. Further more, we also use this opportunity for medical practitioners in Hualien-Taitung region to have access to continued education in Hualien. More importantly, we can use this meeting as a health education seminar for general public by allowing the residents of Hualien and Taitung to enter the campus of Tzu Chi University and take part in our professional conventions. We have the elected doctors of Tzu Chi hospitals across Taiwan who are the best in their clinical practices to talk about frequently encountered disease and health care knowledge to the public, using plain language with stories and personal experiences.

From the conceptualization, detail planning, to its actualization, the 2017 annual meeting of Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation finally had its grand debut in the midst of wind and rain. The leaves of Taiwan gold-rain tree in October were changing from golden to coffee brown, adding a tint of autumn to Hualien. The torrential rain that came associated with the interaction between Typhoon Khanun and the winter northeasterly monsoon was a thunderous prelude to this magnificent medical convention. The staff were in place, doctors were arriving, and the show was about the start.

Though we could not but wonder whether the incessant downpour would cause the railway service to be suspended. Train after train carrying medical staff from Dalin, Taichung, and Taipei were either delayed or simply suspended, which unfortunately interfered with our programs on the first day afternoon. However, all of our members eventually arrived at the Xie Li Building of Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital, just in time for the dissertation presentation by all 6 hospitals. The



Happy reunion of six Tzu Chi Hospitals senior staff at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

ongoing rainstorm could not douse the passion of the participants. On the very night, we enjoyed gourmet vegetarian buffet in the Cocentric Circle Restaurant and the splendid performances of Tzu Chi Kindergarten and Truku people, talking about clinical practices and medical researches. It was wonderful!

We thought the rain would end. The loud roaring of storm throughout the night interfered with the sleep of many of our staff. At daybreak, the rain finally weakened. The mountain shrouded in cloud and mist. We thought the weather would change for the better. It did not. The downpour returned for the entire



Keynote speaker Dr. Wang Yin-Wei, Director-General, Health Promotion Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare.

day, soaking everything and everyone. Still, the enthusiasm of our staff from all hospitals was on the rise. Shuttles one after another transporting our staff into the Great Love Building, which brought us immense joy and inspiration.

Minister of Health and Welfare Chen Shih-Chung and Director-General of Health Promotion Administration Wang Yin-Wei were present at our meeting, and gave a speech on the current medical policies and health promotions. The entire morning was scheduled with keynote speeches on the distinguished features of each Tzu Chi hospital and the presentation of excellent research papers. For the afternoon, in addition to the four venues holding forums for each divisions, on rural medicine, nursing and health care, and basic medicine, we also arranged a keynote seminar associated with the overall theme, including university-hospital collaboration, rural medicine, contemporary medical education, and simulation surgery. The speakers of each topic were well-prepared and their speech were fantastic, more so than I anticipated. By 5 pm the meeting ended, all our staff began cleaning the venue. The 2017 First Annual Meeting of Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation came to a successful end in a stormy weather.

It is so fortunate to have an opportunity to congregate medical staff from all six hospitals in one place, observing the essence of each other's researches, and to acquaint outstanding Tzu Chi medical partners. I personally believe this meeting is a milestone and a new beginning. "At thirty I stood firm," Confucius said. Thirty years later, we are about to journey to our next milestone, the milestone that is characterized by the integration of Taiwan's power, a demonstration of our clinical potential, the dedication to research for new medical technology and medication to relieve suffering and to enhance the corresponding humanistic care. That is why we themed this meeting in 2017 with the distinguished feature of Tzu Chi medicine, the human-orientation to medical care that Tzu Chi has been upholding for decades ever since its conception, "Innovation with Humanity".