



Broadening the Perspective on Life

In this vast world, suffering is prevalent. We often see people descend into poverty due to illness, and the illness is aggravated due to poverty. Eventually, a family can be dragged into ruins by sickness, and in turn, the children's future loses hope. Therefore, our missions of medicine and education endeavor to nurture bodhisattvas of this world who can alleviate the pain of the people.

Ever since Tzu Chi College of Nursing (TCCN) was established 22 years ago, the succession of presidents and professors has worked mindfully and diligently to infuse Tzu Chi's cultural values with education. In retrospect, their effort has yielded outstanding results. In 2011, Tzu Chi College of Technology (formerly TCCN) has been awarded the top quality ranking from the Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan.

Our students often perform community services as extracurricular activities. Students visit those patients who forgo treatment because of costly transportation and medication. We seek to infuse this spirit of charity mission into their medical education. Before these medical and nursing students begin their internships, cap and gown ceremonies are conducted to symbolize the mission of inheritance of safeguarding lives.

Just like the doctors and nurses of our Tzu Chi International Medical Association (TIMA), who voluntarily venture into remote areas to provide free clinics and material distributions for the needy. Everyone vows to be the Great Healers of Medicine and Goddesses of Mercy and dedicate their lives into healing.

For example, countries like Brazil and Guatemala are in the middle of harsh winter and they also suffer from torrential floods; while in the remote mountains of northern California, there are homeless veterans in dire need of medical and dental care. In these desperate corners of the world, our TIMA volunteers defy difficulties to provide free clinics, winter supplies, and console with love.

I am grateful to TIMA volunteers around the world, nearly 14,000 members and half of them are doctors and nurses, for they devote their lives to reach out to other lives.

By alleviating sufferings, our medical professionals fully emanate the beauty of human compassion and love.

Shih Cheng Yen