

A Dream Yet to be Realized

Dear NATMA Members:

It is with the utmost pride and sincerity that I write this letter to you. Almost two years ago, with your trust and support, I was voted in and inaugurated as President of NATMA. Like many of you, I am a Taiwanese American, full time practicing physician with a busy work schedule, and I can honestly say that my term as President has been both tremendously challenging and incredibly rewarding.

As the end of my two year term draws near, I reflect on these past 2 years and see many of our great accomplishments and some disappointments for the agenda I laid out during my presidency. Yet through it all, the one unwavering element was your much needed cooperation and participation. My goal as President was to promote the visions and mission of NATMA and I hope I was successful in doing so. Though we've made progress as an organization, *I believe our dream has yet to be realized and the best is yet to come.*

NATMA consists of Taiwanese medical related professionals living in the United States and Canada, with a large constituent of 2nd generation medical related professionals. We all share deep ties and love for Taiwan, and we will do anything and everything to ensure a bright future for Taiwan. To achieve this goal we ought to maintain the continuous influx of Taiwanese Physicians to America. With the help of 2G in Taiwan, this year we establish "Taiwan Chapter" as a contact window to facilitate the smooth transition for new comer. In addition, one of our seven Foundations has set-up 5 scholarship to award 2G for their achievement as well as reconnection. Another example of this is the formation of the 2nd generation group in the

greater New York area in 2008. The bi-monthly meetings are very informative and eventful, that include book readings, along with leisure activities and join our discussion about US health care reform and WHO for Taiwan issues. This group stepped up and helped out this past two May for the "Passport to Taiwan" event under NATMA's banner and the Medical affair at the "Taiwan Center" in Queens. We also pleased to learn the Northern CA and Chicago Chapter's Leaders are now 2G. Clearly, The torch has started to pass to the younger generation. That is very exciting and encouraging news.

Last year our three day Annual Scientific Meeting in New Jersey with the key-note speaker by Dr. Tsai Ing-Wen, chairwoman of DPP attracted more than 400 attendees. Further, the lectures and latest medical break-through news were all delivered by the 2G in various medical specialties. It was a great success.

Since 2003, NATMA has provided annual medical missions to the poor and needy in various Caribbean nations who remain diplomatic with Taiwan and recognize Taiwan as a nation, not as part of the People's Republic of China. I decided to have our medical mission in Haiti in March 2008 because of the large and growing Haitian immigrant presence in the Elizabeth, NJ area. Haiti is perhaps the most destitute country in the western hemisphere, largely due to political unrest, and as a result, the majority of Haitians fail to receive even the most basic health care. During our 5 days in Haiti, our team provided medical, dental and surgical cares to over 1500 patients.

This year, we traveled to the Dominican Republic, where we examined and treated over

3,000 medical and dental patients and performed 20 major surgeries at the Army hospital. Our pediatric seminar at the newly established Children's Hospital provided a much needed update and education on children health care. It won the prestigious award and friendship from the First Lady of the Dominican Republic. As physicians with ties to Taiwan, one of NATMA's goals is to do everything in its power to give back to society while promoting the motherland Taiwan. We as an organization will continue to serve in this capacity, maximizing the resources and manpower we have.

South African cleric and activist Desmond Tutu once said "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality." The United States and Taiwan share the same tenets of values such as democracy, equal human rights and justice. Therefore, we believe that former President Chen was treated and sentenced unfairly and we will strike down upon those with great vengeance, those who attempt to poison and destroy our Taiwanese brothers and sisters. We have always stood and risen up for the suppressed, from the time of Chiang's authoritarian regime to the present day suppression of Taiwan by Communist China and its followers.

Medical education, mission, interaction, and outreach for all generations are the pillars of our organization. I humbly ask you to join me in this journey at the 25th Annual meeting in the great city of Kaohsiung on November 7, 2009. Typhoon Morakot's floods and mudslides buried over 700 people and was a nightmare of historic proportions in Taiwan's history. Our most sincere thoughts and prayers go out to the victims' families and we will bring our donations and medical consultation on our upcoming trip to comfort them in their darkest hour. Help us help them.

Sincerely,
Dr Jung T Tsai
President, NATMA



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