

# New York Chapter & Activities 2008

分會長/林芳敏醫師 總會長/蔡榮聰醫師

Jan.1 2009 : Joining Greater New York region Overseas Taiwanese Pen Club ( GNY-OTPC) Annual meeting with Medical Presentation by Dr. Jacob Huang and Dr. Huey J. Lee

March 5-12,2009 : Joining NATMA Medical Mission to Republic of Dominican with 60 volunteer Medical related professionals

May 6,2009 : Taiwan National Health System and its implication to US health care reform 50 people with 10( 2G)

May 24, 2009 : joining " Passport to Taiwan " at Union Square Under NATMA banner for the health Affair with many 1G and 2G

August-October 2009 : Morakot Flood Relief Fund Raising Activities

September 2009 : Medical Tourist Exploration Meeting with Amerigroup

November 4-14,2009 : Joining NATMA for Taiwan Trip and Medical Mission Seminar and Floor Relief

## Musings from a Taiwanese American

Christopher Ko, MD  
2G New York Chapter

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Annual NATMA Southern California Chapter meeting, which was held this past September at the Pacific Palms Resort in Industry, California. Attendants were greeted by a delectable assortment of Taiwanese breakfast snacks courtesy of coordinator Dr. John Hsu's wife. Most of the day was filled with various talks ranging from updates in Infectious Diseases, to practical financial advice, to outreach from various Taiwanese American youth and young professional groups. This year's conference was unique thanks to a special effort by both 1G and 2G members including Dr. Rita Chuang, towards drawing more attendants from the 2G community. One of the highlights of the conference was the keynote speaker, Dr. Chi-Cheng Huang. Dr. Huang is a Taiwanese American who has devoted his life toward rehabilitating abused Bolivian street children. He chronicles his experiences in his book, "When Invisible Children Sing." His keynote address was a sobering account of the struggles and horrors that his Bolivian children faced, and I was ultimately blown away by his selflessness and dedication to their well-being.

Dr. Huang delivered a separate talk that focused on Taiwanese American identity which I found to be equally stirring and motivating. One of his key points was how important it is as a Taiwanese American to represent our parent's generation. "We are our parents' greatest asset." asserted Dr. Huang. That statement seemed to say it all. That statement encapsulates the importance of recognizing the struggles of our parents, being aware of our Taiwanese ethnicity, and preserving our identity and legacy. Taiwanese of the first generation are inherently connected by the personal strife and struggles they have faced to succeed as immigrants. Because they have suffered and persevered, the first generation has a greater appreciation of a common purpose to preserve their heritage. It is imperative that the second generation carry on that purpose and continue the legacy that the first generation has worked so hard to create.

After didactics were completed, the conference continued happily into Taiwan Night. The large banquet hall was filled to capacity and I was happy to meet several other Taiwanese Americans from different regions of the U.S. I was warmed by the sense of community and familiar shared upbringing. In looking to the future, I hope that we can continue to outreach to each other so that we can grow as a community and I look forward to future conferences.