

## President of Philippines Offers Prayer and Support After Tainan Earthquake

Written by Tzu Chi Foundation  
Wednesday, 09 March 2016 13:57

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“We have not forgotten the aid that you have sent us during super typhoon Haiyan and remain grateful for the humanitarian efforts you continue to conduct in our country today.” In a letter to Master Cheng Yen, Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Philippines, expressed his concern and condolences for the people affected by the Tainan earthquake. He also shared his gratitude for the relief effort and rehabilitation by Tzu Chi after Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan), which devastated the country in 2013.

On February 6, 2016, a devastating earthquake hit southern Taiwan, causing 117 deaths and over 10 buildings to collapse. On hearing the news, the President and his fellow countrymen prayed for those affected by the earthquake. In his letter, he thanked Tzu Chi for its assistance to the Filipinos and said he hoped the Foundation would continue to help those in need in his country.

The Tzu Chi Philippines chapter was set up in 1994. Unlike other chapters, it started its charity by providing free medical services. Volunteers later extended their work into education, helping the poor and conducting emergency relief. They were involved in relief works after many serious disasters such as Typhoon Haiyan and the 2013 Bohol earthquake; they provided hot meals, implemented cash-for-work programs, distributed aid supplies and provided free medical services. Where necessary, they organized a mid- and long-term relief program after the first emergency phase.

“You and your movement are inspiring and admirable exemplars in our milieu, and are significant contributors to the advancement of all humanity,” said President Benigno S. Aquino III in his letter.

### The Letter

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MALACANAN PALACE  
MANILA

9 February 2016

CHENG YEN  
No.1, Ln. 88, Jingshe St.  
Xincheng Township  
Hualien County 971  
Taiwan

Dear Master Cheng Yen,

It is with great sadness that I learned of last Saturday's earthquake in Southern Taiwan. The Filipino people share the grief of all those who have been affected by this tragedy and, on a personal note, I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well at this time.

In times of calamity, the Tzu Chi Foundation has always been at the frontlines of response and rehabilitation, staying steadfast to your mission to provide relief and charity, and create a society of love and kindness. We have not forgotten the aid that you have sent us during super typhoon Haiyan and remain grateful for the humanitarian efforts you continue to conduct in our country today.

As you and the volunteers of the Tzu Chi Foundation mobilize to render service to the victims and survivors of the earthquake, know that you have our prayers and support. I also thank you for the assistance you have extended to my countrymen who have been affected by this disaster and hope that you and your organization will extend your support to other Filipinos who may need your help.

Indeed, it is during these times that we see true humanitarians emerge and those who truly and genuinely put their faith and belief into action. You and your movement are inspiring and admirable exemplars in our milieu, and are significant contributors to the advancement of all humanity.

Sincerely,



BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES