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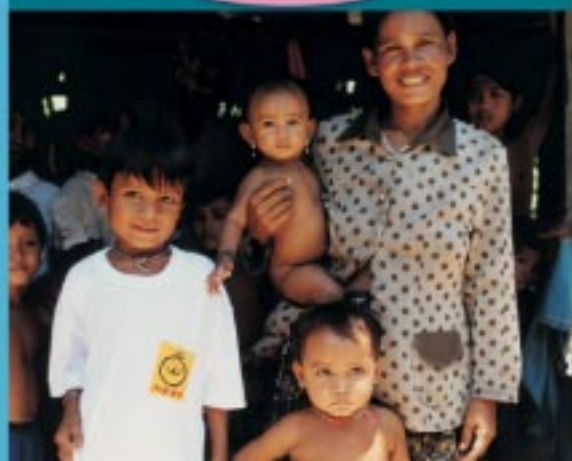


Taiwan International Health Operations Center (TIHOOC)

Promoting International Medical and Health Cooperation with Love from Taiwan

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Taiwan International Health Operations Center





## Taiwan International Health Operations Center (TIHOC)

Promoting International Medical and Health Cooperation with Love from Taiwan

### I. Origin

Following several discussions between related departments and the private sector, Taiwan's medical and health resources for overseas assistance are being integrated. A long-term coordination institution—the Taiwan International Health Operations Center (TIHOC)—is being established to promote the sustainable development of relevant efforts. TIHOC is in charge of pooling the strength of both the government and the private sector. It will coordinate, integrate, manage and make the best use of all useful resources for a variety of international medical and health assistance operations.

### II. Objectives of TIHOC

By integrating and managing current health assistance manpower and facilities, TIHOC helps developing nations with their medical and public health infrastructure development, and provides emergency medical and humanitarian assistance when disasters occur anywhere in the world. Its founding vision is to give back to the international community.

### III. TIHOC's Main Tasks

TIHOC's main tasks are to coordinate medical and health assistance resources from Taiwan, to promote international cooperation, peace and development, and to prepare future contributions to the WHO in preparation for Taiwan's participation in the organization.

Optimal project implementation would combine all usable resources. TIHOC has collected a list of medical staff who can dedicate themselves to overseas assistance, and explored how to resolve the regulatory and practical difficulties of recruiting those medical staff.

TIHOC coordinates the efforts of hospitals, medical schools, NGOs and other civic groups, and aims to provide incentives to encourage those groups' expanded participation in Taiwan's overseas medical and health assistance. TIHOC also integrates various medical equipment, instruments, medications, mobile hospitals and other medical resources to support overseas humanitarian and medical assistance.

Practical steps towards achieving TIHOC's goals include:

- holding public health seminars and clinical training in Taiwan;
- training medical personnel from allied countries and providing them with clinical training programs;
- providing medical equipment, health facilities and medications;
- facilitating bilateral health and medical cooperation projects with countries having no diplomatic ties with Taiwan and entering into bilateral health and medical cooperation agreements with these countries based on their medical and health development needs;
- providing humanitarian relief and health and medical assistance to countries affected by natural disasters;
- participating in global and regional epidemic prevention programs for malaria, HIV/AIDS and other diseases according to the WHO's disease reporting system;
- helping Taiwan's allies and other friendly countries develop their medical and health infrastructure; and

- stationing medical missions abroad and dispatching volunteer medical missions to other countries.

Overall, all these steps help demonstrate Taiwan's ability in contributing to the international community's humanitarian, health and medical cooperation.

### IV. Structure of TIHOC

TIHOC has one director in charge of relevant work, and one deputy director to assist the director. It also has two key advisors: the coordinator of the WHO Special Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the director-general of the Bureau of International Cooperation of the Department of Health. TIHOC will have divisions of medical services, public health and administration.

### V. Concrete Accomplishments

Through the joint efforts of relevant agencies, TIHOC has already achieved concrete results since the plan to establish it was launched. For example, in order to respond to recovery and reconstruction needs in the areas devastated by the tsunamis in South Asia in December 2004, TIHOC cooperated with prominent international NGOs to dispatch Taiwanese gynecologists to work in the Maldives, and facilitate the Expert Review and Meetings on the Public Health Impact of the Tsunami Disaster. It has also pledged to contribute to international meetings on medical care and practice with other international health institutes.

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