



**Non-Governmental Organizations of Taiwan:  
A Force for Good in the World**

# Taiwan NGOs—A Source of Warm Power Enhancing Common Good with The World

Non-governmental organizations have not only been cornerstones of Taiwan’s civil society, but have also played a critical role in Taiwan’s democratic development. With a strong passion for making the world a better place, Taiwanese NGOs have long been contributing to fields such as democracy and human rights, gender equality, environmental sustainability, humanitarian assistance, public health, and art and athletics. Recognizing the importance of the work done by NGOs, and in response to international trends, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) established the NGO International Affairs Committee in 2000, which was renamed the Department of NGO International Affairs in 2012 following a government restructuring. This department has actively cultivated partnerships with private sector organizations to support international development and cooperation endeavors undertaken by NGOs and bolster their global participation. With this introduction, MOFA seeks to share with the world a further understanding of the experience and expertise of Taiwanese NGOs and thus Taiwan NGOs can have more opportunities to make more contributions to the world.

## DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Taiwan’s democracy and freedom have achieved high scores in international surveys. Especially in Asia, the country’s democratic transformation and development stand out as remarkable accomplishments. Taiwanese NGOs have also carried on the experience and expertise that have pushed Taiwan’s democratization forward, and their solidarity has even enabled the country to transform itself from a recipient to a provider of international assistance, giving back to the world and sharing Taiwan’s story.

## Citizen Congress Watch

Citizen Congress Watch, established in 2007, is composed of nearly 50 NGO members. It advocates transparency in the Legislative Yuan (Taiwan’s Parliament) and promotes related reforms. During each session of the Legislative Yuan (the Legislative Yuan holds two sessions per year), it publishes professional and comprehensive scorecards for each legislator of the Legislative Yuan. It also organizes and conducts trainings for legislative oversight volunteer groups and NGO staff responsible for liaising with the Legislative Yuan; operates “Congress Online 2” congress watch app”; and produces board games, educational materials, and presentations related to legislative oversight in order to further deepen democracy. Citizen Congress Watch has helped form and maintain a coalition of groups overseeing local legislative bodies in Taiwan. It has also held two international seminars to enhance exchanges and cooperation with organizations from other countries. Its ultimate goal is to foster an enlightened, uncorrupted, transparent, and efficient Parliament that serves the public interest.



Website: <https://ccw.org.tw/english/news>

©Source: Citizen Congress Watch

## Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

As the first national-level democracy assistance foundation in Asia, the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD) — established in 2003 — has worked with partners from the civil society to advance democracy and human rights in Taiwan and the world. In addition to providing grants for domestic and foreign NGOs on projects related to democracy and human rights, the Foundation also holds staple programs to maintain an Asian network of democratic advocacy, such as the Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award, the Asia Young Leaders for Democracy Program, and the East Asia Democracy Forum. The TFD has also been making great efforts in academic research regarding human rights and democracy, running the International Visiting Fellowship program and publishing the *Taiwan Journal of Democracy*, *Taiwan Democracy Quarterly*, and *China Human Rights Report*. As a result of these endeavors, the TFD has achieved top rankings in domestic and foreign think tank indexes.

Website: <http://www.tfd.org.tw/opencms/english/index.html>



©Source: Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

## Taiwan Association for Truth and Reconciliation

Though Taiwan has transitioned from authoritarianism to a democracy, there are still many issues regarding transitional justice that need to be resolved. More investigations into human rights violations committed by the past authoritarian government should be conducted, and people's understandings of democracy have to be deepened. These are key tasks in achieving transitional justice. In support of such endeavors, the Taiwan Association for Truth and Reconciliation was founded in 2007. Over the past 13 years, the Association has worked with the civil society to achieve many concrete outcomes, such as the establishment of the Preparatory Office of the National Human Rights Museum and the enactment of the Act on Promoting Transitional Justice and the Political Archives Act. It has also helped restore the reputations of and secure rights for the victims of repression and their families. The Association has cultivated the younger generation to preserve the historical memory underpinning transitional justice. Also, the Association raises public awareness of the importance of transitional justice through tours, exhibitions, and publishing related material. It periodically collects information on the latest transitional justice policies introduced by other countries, so that Taiwan can align itself with international human rights and democracy standards.



©Source: Taiwan Association for Truth and Reconciliation

Website: <https://taiwantrc.org>

## GENDER EQUALITY

Taiwan's progress in advancing gender equality has received international attention. The island-nation ranks first in Asia regarding gender equality, and Taiwan in 2019 became the first country in the region to implement marriage equality. Another key indicator is the ratio of women among the members of the Legislative Yuan (Taiwan's Parliament), which stands at 41.59 percent in 2020, the highest in Asia. In addition to sharing Taiwan's successful experience, Taiwanese NGOs have also implemented many relevant international projects that encourage more collaboration with international gender equality advocacy networks.

## The Garden of Hope Foundation

Founded in 1988, the Garden of Hope Foundation assists female victims of violence or abuse, and strives to foster a society characterized by gender equality. The Foundation is also dedicated to the prevention of cross-border human trafficking and largely involved in international movements for women's rights and gender equality. In 2012, it launched the Asian Girls Campaign, which seeks to empower disadvantaged girls in the region, and the Asian Network of Women's Shelters. It was awarded the Ashoka Foundation's Changemakers Innovation Award in 2005 and was ranked 16<sup>th</sup> among the top 500 NGOs by Global Geneva in 2015. In 2018, CEO Hui-Jung Chi was elected Chair of the Global Network of Women's Shelters. And in 2019, the Garden of Hope Foundation hosted the Fourth World Conference of Women's Shelters in Taiwan.

Website: <https://www.goh.org.tw/en/>



©Source: The Garden of Hope Foundation

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Website: <https://equallove.tw/>



©Source: Taiwan Equality Campaign

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Website: <https://www.tgew.org/>



©Source: Foundation for Women's Rights Promotion and Development

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Taiwan's recycling policies and renewable energy sector enjoy worldwide renown. With the oversight and activism of NGOs, Taiwan has aligned its policies, laws, and regulations with international standards despite being unable to formally take part in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Taiwanese NGOs have also spared no effort in pushing the government and private enterprises to release environmental data, promoting environmental education for the general public, and implementing sustainable development policies.

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Website: <https://en.taise.org.tw/>



©Source: Taiwan Institute for Sustainable Energy

## Homemakers United Foundation

In 1987, while Taiwan was still under authoritarian rule, a group of brave women set up the Homemakers United Foundation fearlessly, and started a social movement to monitor and push the government to reform its environmental policy. Their action also demonstrated the difference that women could make when participating in public affairs. The foundation's advocacy of renewable energy, energy democracy projects, energy-saving brochures for citizens, sustainable diet education, and green living have helped ensure that sustainable development policies are based on public participation and reach every household in the nation. In the future, enhancing exchanges with global environmental community will be one of the Foundation's priorities.

Website: <https://www.huf.org.tw/en/about>



©Source: Homemakers United Foundation

## Green Citizens' Action Alliance

The Green Citizens' Action Alliance aims to broaden public participation through issue-based coalitions, social networks, and citizen action, and achieve the goal of sustainable lifestyles and environmental protection under the precondition of ensuring the voices of the vulnerable are heard. The Alliance has long been monitoring and researching different energy issues, including nuclear energy, and building consensus between different stakeholders of energy policy. It has brought together international experience and domestic consensus on energy policy to provide the government with practical policy proposals, create a blueprint for Taiwan's medium- to long-term energy transition, and advocate for a sustainable society completely powered by renewable energy. Recently, the Alliance has been promoting its interactive website called "Thau Bing" that systematically records, charts, and visualizes pollution records of enterprises — one of the few projects in Asia of its kind. The website not only enables citizens to monitor pollution, but also enhances government transparency.

Website: <http://gcaa.org.tw>



©Source: Green Citizens' Action Alliance

# PUBLIC HEALTH

In recent years, Taiwan's health care system has been recognized as one of the best in the world by numerous international publications. Its success is in large part due to the policy advocacy of Taiwan's NGOs, which have also used their experience to help other nations establish equitable and affordable health care policies. In addition, many Taiwanese medical personnel organize volunteer medical teams that employ Taiwan's renowned medical technology and epidemic prevention and containment experience to improve public health for disadvantaged groups and provide medical support to even more people in urgent need worldwide.

## Foundation of Medical Professionals Alliance in Taiwan

To this day, Taiwan is still not an official member of the World Health Organization (WHO). Since 1995, the Foundation of Medical Professionals Alliance in Taiwan (FMPAT) has worked to promote Taiwan's participation in WHO. FMPAT also established the Center for Global Health Research to actively study and collect research on the latest international global health care regulations and policies. Moreover, the Foundation has assisted in sharing Taiwan's medical technology developments and policy experience with the international community through helping Taiwan participate in activities related to the International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and WHO. In order to promote Taiwan's understanding of global health care, the Foundation published a world health book series. Furthermore, FMPAT since its establishment has strived to advance the development of Taiwan's biotechnology sector. In addition to holding long-term clinical training courses, the Foundation has also invested in policy and industry research for innovative biomedicine, including regenerative medicine, cellular therapy, and digital health. These efforts have been made to create a favorable and high-quality biotechnology ecosystem in Taiwan.

Website: <https://www.mpat.org.tw/AffairsEn>



©Source: Foundation of Medical Professionals Alliance in Taiwan

## Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation

In 1959, Dr. Samuel Noordhoff came to Taiwan as a medical missionary. With his medical expertise and selfless kindness, he helped Taiwan establish its health care system, train medical personnel, and successfully enhance the quality of health care. In 1989, Dr. Noordhoff established the Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation (NCF) to promote holistic care that addresses physical, mental, and social needs. The Foundation has helped transform the lives of countless cleft lip and palate and craniofacial patients. In 1998, NCF launched international assistance programs, visiting nine countries 87 times to provide over 2,000 patients with free surgical treatment. The Foundation also sponsored 175 medical personnel from 23 countries to receive training in Taiwan. Once they returned to their home countries, they were then able to pass on the skills and knowledge they had learned and establish local and sustainable health care systems.

Website: <https://www.nncf.org/en>



©Source: Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation

## Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps

In 1995, Dr. Chi-Chun Liu established Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps (TRMPC) to provide medical assistance and training to Taiwan's rural indigenous communities and developing nations. Over the past 25 years, TRMPC has helped people in over 49 countries, especially during natural disasters. For instance, TRMPC provided assistance during the 1999 Kosovo War, the 2000 Enggano Earthquake (magnitude 7.9), the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami, the 2006 rice food aid in areas devastated by the 2005 Kashmir Earthquake, the 2010 Haiti Earthquake, the 2013 Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, and the April 2015 Nepal Earthquake. TRMPC is one of the few Asian NGOs to arrive quickly at disaster areas, providing medical and humanitarian assistance. Because of TRMPC's courage, they have not only won numerous domestic awards but were also ranked 144<sup>th</sup> in Global Geneva's Top 500 NGOs in 2020.



©Source: Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps

Website: <http://www.taiwanroot.org/?l=en>

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Since the 1980s, Taiwan has gradually cultivated numerous NGOs that provide international humanitarian assistance, including food aid, medical treatment, education, and infrastructure, to countries in need. Their contributions have been widely recognized by the international community, and are a way for Taiwan to express its gratitude and give back to the global community which has generously assisted Taiwan in the past. Through doing so, Taiwan hopes to become a force for peace and stability in the world.

## Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation

The Tzu Chi Foundation was established in 1966 by the Venerable Dharma Master Cheng Yen in Hualien, eastern Taiwan. It was founded upon the spirit of overcoming obstacles and Dharma Master Cheng Yen's charity philosophy of "a little each day goes a long way" which traces back to the first members of the Foundation saving 50 cents every day for those in need. The Foundation follows its guiding principles of "loving-kindness, compassion, joy and equanimity," and "sincerity, integrity, faith, and honesty" and in the promotion of its "Four Endeavors and Eight Footprints" including charity, medical treatment, education, humanity and culture, international disaster relief, bone marrow donations, community volunteer work, and environmental protection. Transcending ethnicity, national borders, and religious beliefs, Tzu Chi has branches in 63 countries and regions and has provided assistance to over 101 countries and regions. Tzu Chi's selfless humanitarian work has won the recognition of the United Nations and was chosen as a member to the United Nations Faith Advisory Council, in addition to being granted observer status in the United Nations Environment Programme. The Foundation invites everyone to work together with compassion to bring relief worldwide!



©Source: Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation

Website: <http://www.tzuchi.org/>

## Eden Social Welfare Foundation

In 1982, renowned disabled author Liu Hsia founded the Eden Social Welfare Foundation (Eden) with her friends to promote the broader social participation of people with physical and mental challenges. Eden began with vocational training to create job opportunities for the disabled. The Foundation has gone on to successfully push the government to amend the law to fulfill equal rights for persons with disability and the needs for accessible public transportation and facilities. The Foundation also helped the government to improve its policies and budget allocation for social welfare. Eden has also long provided holistic care to children with developmental delays, adults with physical disabilities, and the elderly, as well as worked with disadvantaged communities on sustainable development. The Foundation has incorporated the core values of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into its social work, striving to improve social welfare and spread the Gospel at the same time. Since 1996, Eden has been offering assistance abroad, including donating assistive devices, promoting vocational training for disabled persons, supporting local organizations, providing post-disaster relief, and conducting volunteer service exchanges. In addition, Eden actively participates in international organizations, such as the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the Asia-Pacific Disability Forum, Workability International, Rehabilitation International, and the International Association for Volunteer Effort, to share its experience and resources. Eden stands on the frontlines with disabled persons, promoting social equality and inclusivity while demonstrating compassion that transcends borders.

Website: <https://eden.international/>



©Source: Eden Social Welfare Foundation

## Taiwan Alliance in International Development

Taiwan Alliance in International Development (Taiwan AID) was founded in 2013 by a group of organizations, including the Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation, Zhi-Shan Foundation Taiwan, and Eden Social Welfare Foundation. This Alliance, which boasts 30 member organizations, is Taiwan's first platform for international aid and development NGOs. Its aim is to unite Taiwan's international aid and development NGOs to collaborate on knowledge sharing, enhancing organizational efficiency and professionalism, establishing ethics guidelines, and proposing policy initiatives. In 2014, the Alliance published its Taiwan AID Member Capacity and Needs Assessment, which summarized the substantive assistance needed by Taiwan's international aid NGOs. In 2015 and 2019, Taiwan AID was commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to conduct research for the Map of Taiwan NGOs' International Development Programs to enhance public understanding on how Taiwan's international aid NGOs have been working globally. Moreover, Taiwan AID has been continuously holding international seminars to facilitate experience-sharing.

Website: <http://www.taiwanaid.org/en>



©Source: Taiwan Alliance in International Development

## ARTS AND ATHLETICS

Taiwan's arts and athletics NGOs are very active abroad and serve to highlight Taiwan's essence of culture as an island-nation: diversity, open-mindedness, innovation, and inclusivity. Their participation in the international community also allows the world to see that universal values of humanism, freedom, and equality have become elements of Taiwan's culture.

## Chio-Tian Folk Drums & Arts Troupe

Chio-Tian Folk Drums & Arts Troupe (Chio-Tian) was founded in 1995 by Mr. Chen-Jung Hsu. Employing innovative music, performance styles, and theatrical forms, the Chio-Tian troupe has enriched the artistry and appeal of Taiwan's traditional temple parade performances. The troupe has performed at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in the United States, as well as in Africa, Australia, Canada, Europe, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, and the Philippines, helping audiences worldwide transcend cultural and linguistic barriers to enjoy Taiwan's traditional culture. Chio-Tian's performances are moving because, in addition to their professional artistry, they come from a place of deep compassion and concern for social well-being. Chio-Tian provides performance training to at-risk youth, which helps them build their confidence and self-esteem. Moreover, it ensures that this traditional art will be passed to the next generation and become a force for good in society.



©Source: Chio-Tian Folk Drums & Arts Troupe

## Taiwan Women's Baseball Advocate Association

The Taiwan Women's Baseball Advocate Association (TWBAA) was founded in 2013 to challenge the stereotype that women cannot play baseball, to encourage gender minorities to participate, and to raise gender awareness on the field. TWBAA trains female players, coaches, umpires, and score keepers, as well as providing the latest baseball-related information from abroad. In 2018, members of TWBAA visited Japan and Korea to observe how overseas female baseball teams promote their works. In 2019, TWBAA and Blueseeds jointly hosted the Blueseeds Cup-World Baseball Softball Confederation International Women's Baseball Tournament. Skilled and baseball-loving female players from Malaysia, Japan, and Hong Kong were invited to participate in the Tournament to exchange baseball techniques with Taiwanese players. The TWBAA and the Women's Baseball Federation of Japan also co-hosted the TWBAAxJAPAN women's baseball training camp, inviting Japanese female baseball players to interact with their Taiwanese counterparts.



©Source: Taiwan Women's Baseball Advocate Associate

## Cloud Gate Culture and Arts Foundation

Cloud Gate Culture and Arts Foundation is a non-profit organization, with a mission to create and perform dance works, to promote cultural activities, and to facilitate cultural development and cross-cultural exchange. It operates the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan and the Cloud Gate Theater in Tamsui. Founded in 1973 by internationally renowned choreographer, LIN Hwai-min, Cloud Gate is acclaimed as "Asia's leading contemporary dance theater" (The Times), and "One of the finest dance companies in the world" (The Globe and Mail). While touring extensively worldwide, Cloud Gate holds regular seasons in theaters at home, and stages annual free outdoor performances in cities and villages of Taiwan, drawing an average of 30,000 people per performance. Cloud Gate Theater, operating since 2015, is home to Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan. The Theater has presented performances and activities by Cloud Gate and visiting artists from Taiwan and abroad and has become a popular cultural hub of northern Taiwan.



• LIN Hwai-min's *Formosa* performed by Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan

• Photo LIU Chen-hsiang

©Source: Cloud Gate Culture and Arts Foundation

Website: <https://www.cloudgate.org.tw/en/>

# Interested in Learning More about Taiwan's NGOs?

Taiwan still has lots of other NGOs to explore! If you would like to learn about their remarkable experiences and histories, feel free to browse MOFA's Department of NGO International Affairs website and the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy website, or follow them on social media. For your convenience, you can also find the website links of the NGOs introduced in this pamphlet at the end of their introduction.

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Department of NGO International Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China(Taiwan)

**Website:**

<https://www.taiwannngo.tw/?Lang=en>

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/TaiwanNGO/>

**Twitter:**

@MOFA\_Taiwan



Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

**Website:**

<http://www.tfd.org.tw/opencms/english/index.html>

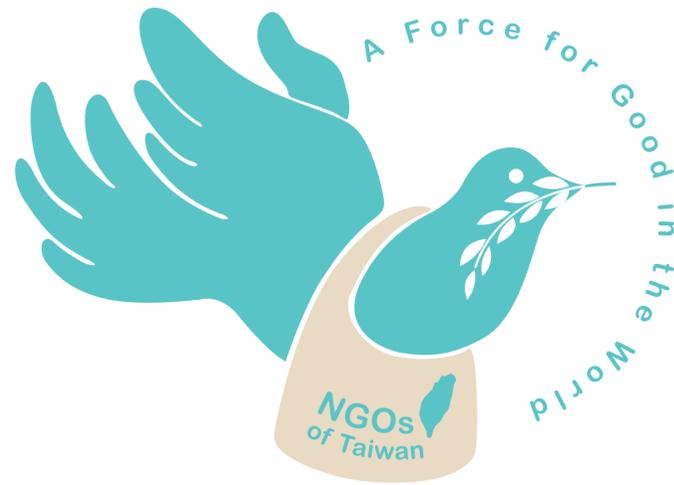
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<https://www.facebook.com/TaiwanFoundationForDemocracy/>

**Twitter:**

@TFDemocracy





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Website: <https://en.taiese.org.tw/>



©Source: Taiwan Institute for Sustainable Energy

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China(Taiwan)

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Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

Website:

<http://www.tfd.org.tw/opencms/english/index.html>

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## PUBLIC HEALTH

In recent years, Taiwan's health care system has been recognized as one of the best in the world by numerous international publications. Its success is in large part due to the policy advocacy of Taiwan's NGOs, which have also used their experience to help other nations establish equitable and affordable health care policies. In addition, many Taiwanese medical personnel organize volunteer medical teams that employ Taiwan's renowned medical technology and epidemic prevention and containment experience to improve public health for disadvantaged groups and provide medical support to even more people in urgent need worldwide.

## Foundation of Medical Professionals Alliance in Taiwan

To this day, Taiwan is still not an official member of the World Health Organization (WHO). Since 1995, the Foundation of Medical Professionals Alliance in Taiwan (FMPAT) has worked to promote Taiwan's participation in WHO. FMPAT also established the Center for Global Health Research to actively study and collect research on the latest international global health care regulations and policies. Moreover, the Foundation has assisted in sharing Taiwan's medical technology developments and policy experience with the international community through helping Taiwan participate in activities related to the International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and WHO. In order to promote Taiwan's understanding of global health care, the Foundation published a world health book series. Furthermore, FMPAT since its establishment has strived to advance the development of Taiwan's biotechnology sector. In addition to holding long-term clinical trial training courses, the Foundation has also invested in policy and industry research for innovative biomedicine, including regenerative medicine, cellular therapy, and digital health. These efforts have been made to create a favorable and high-quality biotechnology ecosystem in Taiwan.

Website: <https://www.mpat.org.tw/AffairsEn>



©Source: Foundation of Medical Professionals Alliance in Taiwan

## Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation

In 1959, Dr. Samuel Noordhoff came to Taiwan as a medical missionary. With his medical expertise and selfless kindness, he helped Taiwan establish its health care system, train medical personnel, and successfully enhance the quality of health care. In 1989, Dr. Noordhoff established the Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation (NCF) to promote holistic care that addresses physical, mental, and social needs. The Foundation has helped transform the lives of countless cleft lip and palate and craniofacial patients. In 1998, NCF launched international assistance programs, visiting nine countries 87 times to provide over 2,000 patients with free surgical treatment. The Foundation also sponsored 175 medical personnel from 23 countries to receive training in Taiwan. Once they returned to their home countries, they were then able to pass on the skills and knowledge they had learned and establish local and sustainable health care systems.

Website: <https://www.nncf.org/en>



©Source: Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation

## Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps

In 1995, Dr. Chi-Chun Liu established Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps (TRMPC) to provide medical assistance and training to Taiwan's rural indigenous communities and developing nations. Over the past 25 years, TRMPC has helped people in over 49 countries, especially during natural disasters. For instance, TRMPC provided assistance during the 1999 Kosovo War, the 2000 Enggano Earthquake (magnitude 7.9), the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami, the 2006 rice food aid in areas devastated by the 2005 Kashmir Earthquake, the 2010 Haiti Earthquake, the 2013 Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, and the April 2015 Nepal Earthquake. TRMPC is one of the few Asian NGOs to arrive quickly at disaster areas, providing medical and humanitarian assistance. Because of TRMPC's courage, they have not only won numerous domestic awards but were also ranked 144<sup>th</sup> in Global Geneva's Top 500 NGOs in 2020.



©Source: Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps

Website: <http://www.taiwanroot.org/?l=en>

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Since the 1980s, Taiwan has gradually cultivated numerous NGOs that provide international humanitarian assistance, including food aid, medical treatment, education, and infrastructure, to countries in need. Their contributions have been widely recognized by the international community, and are a way for Taiwan to express its gratitude and give back to the global community which has generously assisted Taiwan in the past. Through doing so, Taiwan hopes to become a force for peace and stability in the world.

## Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation

The Tzu Chi Foundation was established in 1966 by the Venerable Dharma Master Cheng Yen in Hualien, eastern Taiwan. It was founded upon the spirit of overcoming obstacles and Dharma Master Cheng Yen's charity philosophy of "a little each day goes a long way" which traces back to the first members of the Foundation saving 50 cents every day for those in need. The Foundation follows its guiding principles of "loving-kindness, compassion, joy and equanimity," and "sincerity, integrity, faith, and honesty" and in the promotion of its "Four Endeavors and Eight Footprints" including charity, medical treatment, education, humanity and culture, international disaster relief, bone marrow donations, community volunteer work, and environmental protection. Transcending ethnicity, national borders, and religious beliefs, Tzu Chi has branches in 63 countries and regions and has provided assistance to over 101 countries and regions. Tzu Chi's selfless humanitarian work has won the recognition of the United Nations and was chosen as a member to the United Nations Faith Advisory Council, in addition to being granted observer status in the United Nations Environment Programme. The Foundation invites everyone to work together with compassion to bring relief worldwide!



©Source: Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation

Website: <http://www.tzuchi.org/>

## Eden Social Welfare Foundation

In 1982, renowned disabled author Liu Hsia founded the Eden Social Welfare Foundation (Eden) with her friends to promote the broader social participation of people with physical and mental challenges. Eden began with vocational training to create job opportunities for the disabled. The Foundation has gone on to successfully push the government to amend the law to fulfill equal rights for persons with disability and the needs for accessible public transportation and facilities. The Foundation also helped the government to improve its policies and budget allocation for social welfare. Eden has also long provided holistic care to children with developmental delays, adults with physical disabilities, and the elderly, as well as worked with disadvantaged communities on sustainable development. The Foundation has incorporated the core values of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into its social work, striving to improve social welfare and spread the Gospel at the same time. Since 1996, Eden has been offering assistance abroad, including donating assistive devices, promoting vocational training for disabled persons, supporting local organizations, providing post-disaster relief, and conducting volunteer service exchanges. In addition, Eden actively participates in international organizations, such as the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the Asia-Pacific Disability Forum, Workability International, Rehabilitation International, and the International Association for Volunteer Effort, to share its experience and resources. Eden stands on the frontlines with disabled persons, promoting social equality and inclusivity while demonstrating compassion that transcends borders.

Website: <https://eden.international/>



©Source: Eden Social Welfare Foundation

## Taiwan Alliance in International Development

Taiwan Alliance in International Development (Taiwan AID) was founded in 2013 by a group of organizations, including the Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation, Zhi-Shan Foundation Taiwan, and Eden Social Welfare Foundation. This Alliance, which boasts 30 member organizations, is Taiwan's first platform for international aid and development NGOs. Its aim is to unite Taiwan's international aid and development NGOs to collaborate on knowledge sharing, enhancing organizational efficiency and professionalism, establishing ethics guidelines, and proposing policy initiatives. In 2014, the Alliance published its Taiwan AID Member Capacity and Needs Assessment, which summarized the substantive assistance needed by Taiwan's international aid NGOs. In 2015 and 2019, Taiwan AID was commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to conduct research for the Map of Taiwan NGOs' International Development Programs to enhance public understanding on how Taiwan's international aid NGOs have been working globally. Moreover, Taiwan AID has been continuously holding international seminars to facilitate experience-sharing.

Website: <http://www.taiwanaid.org/en>



©Source: Taiwan Alliance in International Development

## ARTS AND ATHLETICS

Taiwan's arts and athletics NGOs are very active abroad and serve to highlight Taiwan's essence of culture as an island-nation: diversity, open-mindedness, innovation, and inclusivity. Their participation in the international community also allows the world to see that universal values of humanism, freedom, and equality have become elements of Taiwan's culture.

## Chio-Tian Folk Drums & Arts Troupe

Chio-Tian Folk Drums & Arts Troupe (Chio-Tian) was founded in 1995 by Mr. Chen-Jung Hsu. Employing innovative music, performance styles, and theatrical forms, the Chio-Tian troupe has enriched the artistry and appeal of Taiwan's traditional temple parade performances. The troupe has performed at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in the United States, as well as in Africa, Australia, Canada, Europe, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, and the Philippines, helping audiences worldwide transcend cultural and linguistic barriers to enjoy Taiwan's traditional culture. Chio-Tian's performances are moving because, in addition to their professional artistry, they come from a place of deep compassion and concern for social well-being. Chio-Tian provides performance training to at-risk youth, which helps them build their confidence and self-esteem. Moreover, it ensures that this traditional art will be passed to the next generation and become a force for good in society.

Website: <https://chio-tian.com/en>



©Source: Chio-Tian Folk Drums & Arts Troupe

## Taiwan Women's Baseball Advocate Association

The Taiwan Women's Baseball Advocate Association (TWBAA) was founded in 2013 to challenge the stereotype that women cannot play baseball, to encourage gender minorities to participate, and to raise gender awareness on the field. TWBAA trains female players, coaches, umpires, and score keepers, as well as providing the latest baseball-related information from abroad. In 2018, members of TWBAA visited Japan and Korea to observe how overseas female baseball teams promote their works. In 2019, TWBAA and Blueseeds jointly hosted the Blueseeds Cup-World Baseball Softball Confederation International Women's Baseball Tournament. Skilled and baseball-loving female players from Malaysia, Japan, and Hong Kong were invited to participate in the Tournament to exchange baseball techniques with Taiwanese players. The TWBAA and the Women's Baseball Federation of Japan also co-hosted the TWBAAxJAPAN women's baseball training camp, inviting Japanese female baseball players to interact with their Taiwanese counterparts.

Website: <https://twbaa.org>



©Source: Taiwan Women's Baseball Advocate Associate

## Cloud Gate Culture and Arts Foundation

Cloud Gate Culture and Arts Foundation is a non-profit organization, with a mission to create and perform dance works, to promote cultural activities, and to facilitate cultural development and cross-cultural exchange. It operates the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan and the Cloud Gate Theater in Tamsui. Founded in 1973 by internationally renowned choreographer, LIN Hwai-min, Cloud Gate is acclaimed as "Asia's leading contemporary dance theater" (The Times), and "One of the finest dance companies in the world" (The Globe and Mail). While touring extensively worldwide, Cloud Gate holds regular seasons in theaters at home, and stages annual free outdoor performances in cities and villages of Taiwan, drawing an average of 30,000 people per performance. Cloud Gate Theater, operating since 2015, is home to Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan. The Theater has presented performances and activities by Cloud Gate and visiting artists from Taiwan and abroad and has become a popular cultural hub of northern Taiwan.

Website: <https://www.cloudgate.org.tw/en/>



• LIN Hwai-min's *Formosa* performed by Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan  
• Photo LIU Chen-hsiang  
©Source: Cloud Gate Culture and Arts Foundation