



佛教慈濟慈善基金會願景白皮書

Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation Vision Statement

Striding Into the Future®

邁向新未來
Gone through Half a Century,
走過半世紀



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In 1966, filled with compassion, Dharma Master Cheng Yen founded Tzu Chi in Hualien, Taiwan. In the early days, she and her five disciples committed themselves to each produce one more pair of baby shoes every day; thirty housewives each saved fifty cents a day from their grocery spendings for donation into the “bamboo coin bank,” whereby the charity work to help the poor and needy started.

Half a century has passed. Through the years of Taiwan’s economic hardships and amidst a world in turbulence, her charity work of helping the poor and inspiring the rich has advanced with difficulty, one step at a time. With the development and demands of the society, Dharma Master Cheng Yen founded the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation, successively launching the Four Missions and Eight Footprints, including medical mission, education mission, cultural mission, international disaster relief, bone marrow donation, community volunteerism and environmental protection. Grounded in Buddhism and centering on charity, the Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation, Buddhist Tzu Chi Education Foundation, and Tzu Chi Culture and Communication Foundation were established with the donations, upholding honesty and integrity in their operations and following guidance and supervision of their respective governing authorities.

Under Dharma Master Cheng Yen's vision of "purifying people's minds, inspiring social harmony, and a world free of disasters and suffering", the Tzu Chi Foundation has grown immensely from a Taiwan-based charity group to an international charity organization, leading its members and volunteers to extend the love and kindness of Taiwan to the world based on the core values of "sincerity, integrity, faith, honesty" and "loving-kindness, compassion, joy, equanimity", and adhering to the spirit of "gratitude, respect, love" and "self-support using local resources.". Tzu Chi members and volunteers scatter across 54 countries and regions; their footprints of humanitarian care and assistance have also reached 94 countries. All relevant missions and financial operations are in compliance with local laws and regulations.

We are grateful for the selfless dedication and devotion of the Tzu Chi volunteers around the world, and the trust and support from the public. Looking into the future, we will stick to our initial aspiration to face the multiplication of charity missions, the diversification of social environments, and the globalization of sustainable development. We hereby invite social elite to join us in - planning our "Visions and Goals" with honesty and sincerity; encouraging "Listening and Reflection" with confidence; pursuing "Optimization and Sustainability" with perseverance; and shouldering "Responsibilities and Commitments" with courage!

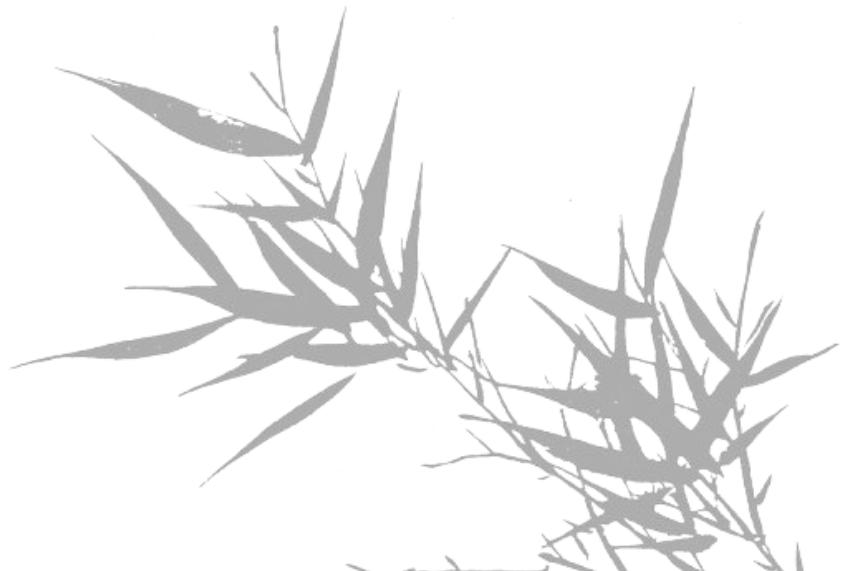


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Visions

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Goals



The footsteps of globalization have brought up several major issues for Taiwan and the world: poverty and population, disadvantaged groups in the community, ecological and climate changes, and the new impact brought about by developmental trend of globalization. To tackle these major global challenges, the United Nations promulgated 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 on September 25, 2015, including poverty, hunger, medical care, education, health, welfare, environment, climate, peace, and partnership.





In response to the social, environmental and economic issues faced by Taiwan and the world, we have laid down the following six visionary goals in line with the UN 17 SDGs:

1. Goodness of the Hope:

Based on the principle of charity localization, we aim to promote poverty alleviation through multiple cooperation with the governments and other related charities. Special emphasis is placed on the fields of deviant behaviors and disadvantaged groups in the community to formulate educational, healthcare, and spiritual enhancement solutions, working together to create social harmony.



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6. Goodness of the World:

Tzu Chi is one of the United Nations NGOs. To fulfill its responsibilities to the international community, it will establish a global network to tackle major international disasters, infectious diseases, refugee issues, etc., collaborating with the United Nations, international NGOs, overseas Tzu Chi members and volunteers, local governments and institutions to bring together love and resources around the world for initiatives and activities relating to humanitarian relief, environmental protection, social development. In the event of major international disasters, Tzu Chi volunteers will actively provide cross-border assistance in compliance with the laws and regulations of Taiwan and various countries, and call for global donation support, manpower complementation and sharing of material resources.





H

Listening

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Reflection



As society progresses, the public is increasingly concerned about the governance and supervision of charitable organizations. We are grateful for the community members' concern for and suggestions to Tzu Chi. From 2015 onward, we have actively optimized our organizational governance and management, commissioning KPMG Taiwan to provide professional services. From the three perspectives of "organizational optimization", "financial transparency" and "sustainable social responsibility", a dozens-strong project team was formed and has organized more than 160 discussions, actively and comprehensively improving our organizational governance.

1. Principle of organizational governance and management:

After 50 years of operation, Tzu Chi has become a global charity. To adhere to our initial aspiration and extend our missions for a century and beyond, the Foundation has strengthened its administration and auditing system in particular to establish a solid cornerstone for promoting our businesses and missions. The principle of governance and management will be further extended globally in the future.

2. Principle of fundraising:

General Donation: Analysis of the donation patterns in 2015 showed that over 90% were small-amount individual donations. Our members firmly believe in the power of "many drops of water converging into a river, many grains of rice filling up a basket." They build up confidence with love. The "coin bank" program has spanned over different times, carrying the spirit of individual love amassing great love to present Taiwan's most beautiful scenery.



Project Fundraising: In the event of a major disaster, a project fundraising will be conducted with approval of the governing authority. Any surplus from a project will be used for similar purposes in accordance with relevant regulations by submitting an application to the governing authority. For example, the remaining fund from the August 8 Typhoon Disaster project was used in the Hope Projects for disaster risk reduction in Pingtung, Taitung, Hualien, and Kaohsiung based on the above principle.

Regarding donation credit verification, both public and private credit procedures have been soundly established.

3. Principle of financial transparency:

To live up to the international trend and standard and in response to public expectation for financial transparency of non-profit organizations, the Tzu Chi Foundation has commissioned KPMG Taiwan to audit its 2015 financial statements. Related financial information will be disclosed to the public upon its completion and verification by the governing authority.

4. Principle of sustainable mission:

Tzu Chi will never stop promoting its “Four Missions and Eight Footprints.” In addition to pursuing charity work continuously, it is also concerned with the impact and prospect of climate change on society, the economy, and the natural environment. On the usage of donations from all walks of life, we stick to the principle of respecting donors’ intentions. To preserve the value of their kindness and love, we set up the earmarked sustainable development fund to expand the circular benefits of the donations.

5. Principle of utilizing real property:

We are grateful for the support of kind-hearted people. Committed to sustainable development, Tzu Chi has always allocated its land for the purposes of charitable assistance, medical deliverance, educational inspiration, cultural purification, environmental education, and community services to respond to social development and meet social needs. The Neihu Park project for example, which had drew general concern from the public, was originally planned a charitable ecological park for spiritual leisure, serving both ecological and social welfare purposes. Yet due to lack of social consensus, the application was later withdrawn. In the future, we will accord the park’s development with the overall planning of the Taipei City Government and increase popular involvement to implement the park’s functions in ecological conservation and restoration, as well as environmental education.

6. Social functions of recycling stations:

Tzu Chi’s recycling stations not only facilitate environmental education and resource recycling, but also serve the functions of caring for the elderly in the community, encouraging them in social participation, happy learning, communal meals, and health improvement.

The Foundation also takes initiative to include extremely deprived scavengers in the target of long-term care. Tzu Chi works with the government and related private agencies to push forth the environmental protection movement, making positive contributions to the implementation of general environmental education and expanding both quality and quantity of recycled social resources.



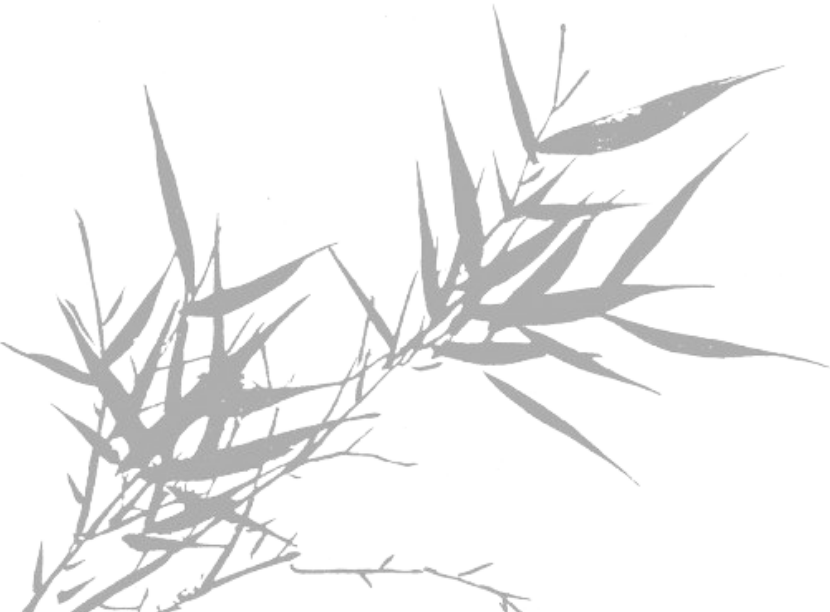


III

Optimization

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Sustainability



Non-profit organizations have to take on their missions and the expectations of the public. The issues and challenges they face are diverse and complex. Thus, they need to implement more forward-looking, growth-oriented, and sustainable governance and management. Accordingly, this organizational optimization exercise focuses on strengthening the governance of the Board of Directors and improving administrative effectiveness.

1. Strengthening BOD governance:

To improve the decision-making quality of the Board of Directors (BOD) and strengthen its supervision, the amendment to the Endowment Charter was completed in 2015. The following important tasks continue:

(1) The BOD has more than one-third of its members being external directors who acknowledge the Tzu Chi philosophy and maintain a religious sentiment, a charitable care attitude and an international macro-vision, and one to three supervisors with legal, financial and accounting, and management experience are added, to improve decision-making quality from a professional and objective perspective, and effectively carry out the supervisory function.

(2) Functional committees are set up under the BOD, including a “Sustainable Development Committee” and an “Asset Management Committee,” to formulate relevant policies and systems, and hold in-depth discussions on proposals regarding sustainable development and asset management. This is to ensure that proposals undergo scrupulous planning and decision making, and their execution is carefully monitored.



(3) An auditing department is set up to perform an independent supervisory role, assisting the BOD in supervising the design and implementation of internal control systems.

2. Improving administrative effectiveness:

(1) Adjusting organizational structure to cope with trends of charity development and enhancing professionalism and humanities.

(2) Establishing internal control systems for core procedures and optimizing operational processes to effectively identify potential risks and improve administrative efficiency.



IV

Responsibilities

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Commitments





Led by Dharma Master Cheng Yen, commissioners from Hualien and Taipei went on an island-wide tour to revisit the poor in 1976.

Tzu Chi is a religious charity. Our volunteers take spiritual refuge in their beliefs and affirm human values by helping others. For more than 50 years, Tzu Chi volunteers uphold the mentality of “caring for all including strangers with great loving-kindness and feeling others’ pains as their own through compassion”, motivating themselves to join the ranks of those relieving people’s suffering and giving with love. They stay firm to their initial aspiration to walk the Tzu Chi path from youth, adulthood, middle age to old age. Driven by the energy of great love, Tzu Chi's missions start in Taiwan and expand to the world.

There is much suffering in this world. Tzu Chi volunteers, in their blue and white uniform, are always ready to help regardless of national boundaries, race, color and religion, reaching out to wherever their feet can walk or hands can serve, undaunted by hardship and difficulties and embracing the suffering mankind around the world. Such responsibilities without regrets derive from the universal value of “respecting life and affirming humanity!”

“Pave a path of love around the world; walk the path of compassion life after life.” After half a century of progress towards the future, Tzu Chi volunteers put these words into practice, unwaveringly upholding their love and compassion and continuously paving and walking the path of love. This unconditional giving comes from our initial aspiration of "working for Buddhism and all living beings"!

Tzu Chi started with the spirit of frugality. Our achievements over the past fifty years boil down to all volunteers seizing every moment to carry out the missions steadfastly. We will uphold our original intention, faith, perseverance and courage, sharing a common understanding, consensus and taking collective actions with Tzu Chi members and volunteers and those who have been supporting Tzu Chi's missions, to head towards countless years in the future!



大愛之道廣披寰宇
長情之路古往今來

Spreading Great Love Around the World Inspiring
Lasting Compassion Life After Life



佛教慈濟慈善基金會

Tzu Chi Foundation