



TAIWAN FOUNDATION
for DEMOCRACY

財團法人臺灣民主基金會

Press Release

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The Rescue Foundation of India Received 2010 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award

Taiwan Foundation for Democracy held the annual award ceremony of Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award this morning at Far East Shangri-la Hotel in Taipei; and the winner this year's award goes to the Rescue Foundation of India, who dedicates their work on stopping the human trafficking, saving the victimized teenage girls, and restoring their lives back in order.

President Ma Ying-Jeou was invited to give the award trophy to Ms. Triveni Balkrishna Acharya, the president of Rescue Foundation; and Speaker Wang Jin-Pyng, the chairman of Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, also provided the award prize of 100,000 US dollars to Ms. Acharya validating the remarkable performance of Rescue Foundation. There are more than 100 distinguished guests participating this ceremony, including Hon. Wu Tun-Yi, Premier of Executive Yuan, Mr. Liao Liou-Yi, Secretary-General to the President, twenty Ambassadors and Representatives from Foreign Embassies and Missions, scholars and NGO representatives. During his speech, President Ma illustrated his admiration to the outstanding accomplishments of Rescue Foundation, which not only save the girls from endless torture, but also restore their life through rehabilitation and occupational training courses.

President Ma also addressed that during the process of democratization; Taiwan should always follow the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and set the promises of the declaration as goals to achieve. In 1966, United Nations has established the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in order to improve human rights globally, and Taiwan's Legislative Yuan has put these two

covenants into practices as the common laws. Nevertheless, President Ma pointed out that the emphasis on human rights shall not only be illustrated on the regulation, but also shall be implemented on every citizen; and as the first and the only government-funded, democracy-assistance foundation in Asia, it is essential for Taiwan Foundation for Democracy to encourage individuals and organizations on promoting democracy and human rights through giving this award annually.

President Ma also mentioned of Taiwan's long-term cultivation on anti-human trafficking. Especially the "Jog to Snake Alley and stop child prostitution" campaign jointly held by the Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation and other human right groups is still memorable. In addition, Taiwan's task on anti-human trafficking is not only limited to domestic women victims. We have assisted those "comfort women" in the World War II to go abroad to make lawsuit. President Ma expressed that human right issue should be emphasized without borders and seriousness. From the Past to the Present, the problems of human trafficking have emerged in endlessly, we should admonish them and spread our care to other regions in Asia.

Furthermore, President Ma highlighted the fact that Western scholars often see the Taiwan's democratization experience as a paradigm; in comparison to the other newly-born democratic regimes, Taiwan's democratization process is considerable smooth and peaceful after the two party alteration. For the past two years, Taiwan's beliefs on democracy and human rights have supported by our international partners, which not only indicated Taiwan as a regime implemented the human rights thoroughly, but also as a contributor to the global community.

Later on, Speaker Wang Jin-Pyng, the chairman of Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, also stated that since the establishment of Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award in 2006, the individuals and organizations who promote democracy and human rights are being awarded due to their astonishing performance in Asia, and the reviews composed by two panels of reviewers ensured the fairness and transparency on the decision of giving such a prize. The Rescue Foundation of India was chosen as the winner of 2010 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award, and Taiwan Foundation for Democracy is delighted to honor Rescue Foundation for their efforts on protecting human rights through offering this award.

Chairman Wang also addressed that Taiwan Foundation for Democracy is delighted to honor Rescue Foundation for their efforts on protecting human rights through offering this award. It is a disastrous condition on human trafficking in South Asia region, especially on trafficking teenage girls. These teenagers are been shipped between countries such as India, Nepal, and Bangladesh, and be forced to serve as prostitutes in Mumbai and its neighboring cities. Rescue Foundation saves approximately 300 teenage girls from such an abuse every year, and they built a rehab center in suburban area of Mumbai to help these abused teenagers to get back with their lives. The services provided by the rehab center include medical examination of AIDS/HIV, professional training courses, farming training sessions, and fundamental education, and the purpose of the center is to assist the recovery of the victims both materially and spiritually. Although the maximum capacity of its rehab center is only up to 100 patients, the Rescue Foundation always tries to intake as many people as they can and illustrates all their rescue missions on the website with details.

India's Rescue Foundation was established in 2000 by Mr. Balkrishna Acharya. The Mumbai-based foundation mainly focuses on rescuing, rehabilitating and repatriating females who were trafficked from different parts of India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Rescue Foundation is the largest NGO in India in saving human trafficking victims, and it is also the only NGO providing integrated services for these girls to get back to the society. The Rescue Foundation of India has always delivered the outputs and outcomes with very limited budget agreed upon commencing projects. The Rescue Foundation has grown considerably in the past years. Their protective homes not only established in Mumbai, but also in Boisar and in Pune. About 240 victims stay in the three shelters now. In 2006, the current President of the foundation, Ms. Triveni Balkrishna Acharya, received the award of 'women of peace' by the Women Peace Power Foundation, U.S. for the achievement of Rescue Foundation.

After concluding the award ceremony, the symposium on "The Dark Corner –Current Situation of International Human Trafficking" was held, and it was by Dr. Teh-Fu Huang, the president of Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, and Ms. Acharya, the president of Rescue Foundation, who gave a speech on the agenda based on her experience working in Rescue Foundation. The discussants of the

symposium included Dr. Sandy Yeh, an associate professor of Central Police University, and Ms. Justine Wang, the director of Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation, Human Trafficking Department. The symposium discussed on the issues of current situation of human trafficking in Asia, the ways of rescuing victims, and possible regulations preventing such a crime through future collaborations.

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