

Others Drowning As If We Are Drowning



人溺已溺

——齊心迴向爲莫拉克颱風災民祈福

- Let's transfer merit and virtue together for the relief of Typhoon Morakot

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莫拉克颱風今年8月9號重創南台灣、中國大陸東南沿海省份以及菲律賓等地，由於強風、洪水和土石流，造成很大的災難。台灣當地報紙形容「一颶沖毀20橋，慘過921大地震。」截至17日下午為止，台灣地區累計死亡人數已經達到133人，失蹤人數更超過577人。



莫拉克颱風所帶來的洪水淹沒台灣南部屏東縣佳冬鄉。(三葉/法新社/格蒂圖片)
Flood waters brought by Typhoon Morakot submerge a house in Chiatung, Pingtung county, in southern Taiwan, on August 9, 2009. (SAM YEHL/AFP/Getty Images)

Typhoon Morakot devastated southern Taiwan, southeastern coastal provinces of China, and Philippines on August 9, 2009.

Heavy rain, flood and mudslides created huge disasters. According to local newspaper in Taiwan, "This typhoon destroyed 20 bridges. The damage is worse than the 921 Earthquake." At least 133 people are known to have died as officially reported on August 17. Over 577 people remain missing in Taiwan.

One of the severely devastated areas is Liu-Gui in Kao Hsiung County. The transportation to the outside world was cut off for 5 days. However, Dharma Realm Sagely Monastery, which is a branch of DRBA remained miraculously intact without any damage. The laity from the Buddhist association in Kao Hsiung was sincere in protecting the Dharma. When the rain slowed down on August 11, they tried to carry water and food to support Dharma Realm Sagely Monastery. However, they had to give up their rescue mission since the roads were blocked and the devastated areas were restricted for entrance. On August 14th, the road to Liu-Gui was repaired and opened again but the original road to this town and the Liu-Gui Bridge were all destroyed. The lay people could only drive through the dried riverbed to get to the monastery.

Liu-Gui, Kao Hsiung were either flooded or damaged due to avalanche or mudslides. The situation was quite serious. However when the lay people arrived at Dharma Realm Sagely Monastery, everything was calm and intact.

高雄六龜是重災區之一，對外交通斷絕五天，法界佛教總會在當地的分支道場法界聖寺卻奇蹟式的毫髮無損。高雄分會的居士們護法心切，當8月11日風雨稍緩，即背負糧食飲水，欲步行進入法界聖寺救援，但因道路不通且災區管制無法進入而放棄。8月14日，六龜對外交通開通，但原有道路已被大水沖毀，六龜大橋也全毀，帶糧食上山的居士們，只能走河床進六龜。

一路上滿目瘡痍，六龜興龍一帶建築物不是遭到嚴重水淹，就是遇到山崩，被土石流重創，災情十分嚴重。但到了法界聖寺卻見一切平安祥和，只有兩棵樹被颱風吹倒，建築物本身則安然無恙。寺後山坡地完全沒有任何山崩或土石流的跡象，令居士們十分驚歎。而舉目所見，附近其他山頭都有山崩的痕跡。雖然寺內停水停電，電訊中斷，幸有山泉、瓦斯，還有麵條罐頭等乾糧，常住法師們和平時一樣自炊自食，並繼續作功課修行。

法界佛教總會各分支道場聞訊，莫不紛紛誦持大悲咒，唸誦觀世音菩薩聖號或者地藏經；就連正在加州沙加緬度法界聖城接受108天嚴格訓練的戒子們，天天將拜大悲懺的功德迴向給台灣災難減輕，亡者早生淨土，風調雨順，世界和平。在此向所有參與救難行動的工作人員致意，向救難任務中犧牲的工作人員致敬，並向亡者致哀。本著「人溺己溺」精神，讓我們齊心迴向，來幫助莫拉克颱風災民。



法界聖寺於莫拉克颱風中屹立不搖
Dharma Realm Sagely Monastery stands unshakable
in Typhoon Morakot



在南台灣的台東縣太麻里的洪水中，一名男子站在屋頂等待救援（法新社/法新社/格蒂圖片）
A man stands on a roof as he awaits rescue in heavy flooding
in Taimali, south-eastern Taiwan's Taitung county on August 8,
2009 during Typhoon Morakot. (AFP/AFP/Getty Images)



在台灣南部屏東縣，明顯地看出一條山路山崩的痕跡。（美聯社照片）
A massive landslide is seen across a mountain road in Pingtung
county, southern Taiwan, Monday, Aug. 10, 2009. (AP Photo)



Only two trees were knocked down by the typhoon but the building of the monastery was fine. There were no signs of avalanche or mudslide in the back of the moanstery, where the hill was. The laity were really amazed since everywhere they saw on the hills have traces of avalanche. Although there was no tap water, no electricity and the phone line was down, luckily there was mountain spring water, gas, and dried food such as noodle and canned food. So, Dharma Masters cooked for themselves as they normally would and continued their daily practices.

When the branch monasteries of DRBA heard about this news, all started to recite the Great Compassion Mantra and Guan Yin Bodhisattva's holy name or Earth Store Sutra for Taiwan. Even the preceptees who are undergoing the 108 days of rigorous ordination training in Sacramento also dedicate the merit and virtue from bowing the Great Compassion Repentance to Taiwan everyday with the wish to alleviate disasters, all those who passed away be born in the Pure land; moderate weather with timely rain and wind; and the world be in peace. We want to send sincere regards to all rescue workers, pay respect to those died on the rescue mission and mourn for all victims." With the spirit of "When seeing people drown, it is as if we are drowning ourselves", let's dedicate the merit with a united heart to help the victims resulted by Typhoon Morakot.

左圖：在台灣南部的高雄縣甲仙鄉，明顯地看到沖毀的大橋。（法新社/法新社/格蒂圖片）

left: A storm-damaged bridge in Chiashien, southern Taiwan's Kaohsiung county, seen on August 10, 2009. (AFP/AFP/Getty Images)