



Institute of Forensic Medicine, Ministry of Justice Press Release

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Press Conference for the Plaque-Unveiling Ceremony of the Central Region Forensic Imaging Center and the Donation of Computed Tomography Equipment by Changhua Christian Hospital

Seeking to enact the resolution reached by the National Conference on Judicial Reform and achieve the policy goal of technification, Minister Tsai of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) oversaw the collaboration between the Institute of Forensic Medicine of the MOJ, the Taichung City Government, and Changhua Christian Hospital to establish the Central Region Forensic Imaging Center. The press conference for the plaque-unveiling and donation ceremony took place in the 6th-floor conference room of the Second Office Building of the Taiwan Taichung District Prosecutors Office at 10:40 AM on December 27, 2022 (Tuesday), with speeches from Minister of Justice Ching-Hsiang Tsai, Director-General Shan-Chih Lee of the

Legal Affairs Bureau representing Taichung City Mayor Shioh-Yen Lu, and Superintendent Mu-Kuan Chen of Changhua Christian Hospital. Alongside Chief Prosecutor Tou-Hui Chang of the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office, Chief Prosecutor Ching-Yun Chang of the Taichung Branch of the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office, Chief Prosecutor Yong-Fa Guo of the Taichung District Prosecutors Office, Deputy Director Chang-Mei Chou of the Civil Affairs Bureau of the Taichung City Government, and Director Kuan-Ren Hou of the Institute of Forensic Medicine, they unveiled the plaque of the Imaging Center. Also in attendance were leaders of District Prosecutors Offices, including Chief Prosecutor Jia-Yuan Hong of the Changhua District Prosecutors Office, Chief Prosecutor Song-Chi Chen of the Miaoli District Prosecutors Office, and Chief Prosecutor Chun-Hui Zhang of the Yunlin District Prosecutors Office; Director-General Cheng-Tan Chan of the Civil Service Ethics Office of the Taichung City Government; Director Chen-Tsun Liu of the Taichung City Mortuary Services Office; Director Wen-Hsiang Chiang of the Chong-De Funeral Parlor; and Division Chief Jyh-Wen Chai of the Department of Radiology of the Taichung Veterans General Hospital.

Medical imaging is currently a commonly used examination method within the clinical setting of hospitals. Developed countries such as Europe, the U.S., Japan, and Australia have already employed this technology to improve the quality of

forensic examinations and autopsies. As the use of computed tomography (CT) scans to facilitate forensic examinations and autopsies becomes increasingly widespread around the world, Taiwan has proactively adopted international trends, and in response, this has been included among the main policy goals for the technification of the MOJ. Therefore, the MOJ expressed its appreciation to the Taichung City Government. “This year, the Institute of Forensic Medicine collaborated with the Civil Affairs Bureau of the Taichung City Government. With the Taichung City Government and the MOJ each funding half of the installation fees, the CT equipment donated by Changhua Christian Hospital was restored and installed in the mortuary; in addition, the Forensic Imaging Center was established in the autopsy room of the Chong-De Funeral Parlor of the Taichung City Mortuary Services Office. Today marks the Imaging Center’s official inauguration. In the future, the Imaging Center will facilitate forensic examination and autopsy cases in the Central Region (including Taichung, Miaoli, Changhua, Yunlin, and Nantou).”

In his speech, Minister Tsai announced the official launch of forensic CT imaging in the following year. The northern, central, and southern regions will each see the installation of one forensic CT scanner. As the equipment grade required for postmortem computed tomography (PMCT) differs from that for medical use, it is unnecessary to purchase new equipment. Therefore, the Ministry expressed special thanks to Changhua Christian Hospital,

Changhua Christian Medical Foundation and Taichung Veterans General Hospital for their donation of their CT equipment to be replaced, which is both economical and cost-effective. With the inauguration of the Central Region Forensic Imaging Center, the quality of Taiwan's forensic examinations will align with that of the world's developed countries. In addition, this fulfills a key item in the technification of the MOJ and achieves the corresponding resolution of the National Conference on Judicial Reform. Furthermore, this improves the techniques and applications of technological criminal investigation and bolsters the justice system's ability to uncover the truth.

Superintendent Chen of Changhua Christian Hospital stated that the Hospital is very pleased to be able to contribute to the forensic medicine system of Taiwan. Maintaining a spirit of compassion and medical humanitarianism, Changhua Christian Hospital regards as its duty to improve the health and welfare of the entire population, and has continually upheld its social responsibility and active commitment to the public good. This plaque-unveiling ceremony not only represented a milestone in interdisciplinary collaboration between forensic medicine and radiology, but also helped Taiwan keep abreast with international trends in technological forensic medicine. Superintendent Chen also mentioned that literature published in international research journals as early as in 2020 showed that the use of CT scanning to facilitate forensic examinations and autopsies could improve their

accuracy, particularly in causes of death from facial and cervical fractures and intraventricular hemorrhages. He expressed his hope for further collaboration with the MOJ in forensic medicine to jointly establish a comprehensive forensic medicine system.

Speaking on behalf of Mayor Shioh-Yen Lu, who could not attend the press conference on account of a municipal administrative meeting, Director-General Lee of the Legal Affairs Bureau of the Taichung City Government thanked the support of the MOJ and the donation by Changhua Christian Hospital. Thanks to this, the plaque-unveiling ceremony for the Central Region Forensic Imaging Center was able to take place. By custom and tradition, Taiwanese people have long honored the primacy of the deceased, and technological forensic medicine promises to improve the quality of forensic examinations. Therefore, the launch of the Imaging Center will not only increase the rigor of forensic examination, but also offer respect and solace for the deceased and their families. The Taichung City Government expressed its hope for further collaboration with the MOJ to jointly establish a comprehensive forensic system, improving the quality of forensic examinations and autopsies in central Taiwan, and ensuring the protection of judicial human rights.

On behalf of the MOJ, Minister Tsai presented certificates of appreciation to the Taichung City Government and Changhua Christian Hospital for their joint contributions to the establishment

of the Central Region Forensic Imaging Center of the Institute of Forensic Medicine, MOJ. Beyond deepening forensic science policy and improving the quality of scientific evidence through interdisciplinary collaboration between forensic medicine and diagnostic imaging in medicine, this also establishes an empirical scientific basis for the use of PMCT in facilitating Taiwan's forensic examinations and autopsies. Furthermore, this demonstrates the MOJ's resolve to implement a thorough reform of the justice system.