

FCD TIMES

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Taiwan donates medical supplies to Central American allies hit by storms.

台灣捐贈醫療物資給遭受颶風侵襲的中南美洲盟國。

Taipei, Dec.9 (CNA) on Wednesday donated about 500 kilograms of emergency medical supplies to four of its diplomatic allies in Central America, which were badly hit by two hurricanes recently.

In a symbolic donation ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), representatives of the Taiwan International Health Action (Taiwan IHA) handed over the medical supplies to the ambassadors of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

"Taiwan, as a member of the international community, shares a responsibility to contribute to disaster relief efforts. We hope that the people of these countries will feel Taiwan's love and care," Vice Minister of Health and Welfare Shih Chung-liang said at the ceremony.

He said Taiwan is willing to assist further with the rehabilitation efforts in the four countries, which are among its 15 diplomatic allies.

In response, the four ambassadors to Taiwan expressed thanks on behalf of their countries for the goodwill shown by the Taiwan government.

The donations are a concrete example of the government's mantra of "Taiwan can help," Belize Ambassador to Taiwan Diane Haylock said.

In his remarks, Guatemalan Ambassador Willy Alberto Gómez said the donations demonstrated that Taiwan is a true friend that can be relied on in times of difficulties.

台灣週三（12月9日）捐贈中美洲的四個外交盟友約500公斤的緊急醫療用品，因為最近兩次颶風沉重打擊了這些國家。

在外交部（MOFA）的象徵性捐贈儀式上，台灣國際醫衛行動團隊（Taiwan IHA）的代表將醫療用品移交給了貝里斯，瓜地馬拉，洪都拉斯和尼加拉瓜的大使。

衛福部副部長石崇良在儀式上說：「台灣作為國際社會的一員，有責任為救災工作貢獻力量。希望這些國家的民眾能感受到台灣的關愛與照顧。」

他表示，台灣願意持續協助這四個國家的重建工作，而這四個國家是台灣的15個外交盟友之一。

作為回應，四位代表他們國家的外交大使對台灣政府表現出的善意表達感謝。

貝里斯駐台大使賀黛安說：「『台灣可以幫助』是政府的口號，而捐款是政府具體的實踐。」

瓜地馬拉大使威利·阿爾貝托·戈麥斯說道：「這些捐款表現台灣是在困難時期可以被依賴的真正的朋友。」



The donation of medical supplies followed a cash grant of US\$100,000 to Belize and US\$200,000 each to Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, to help with the recovery efforts in the wake of two devastating hurricanes in October and November.

Taiwan IHA, a taskforce assembled by MOFA and the Ministry of Health and Welfare, was established in 2006 to provide medical and humanitarian assistance to developing countries and to consolidate government and private resources for that purpose.

According to a list provided by MOFA, the medical supplies donated Wednesday to the four Central American countries included antibiotics and other medicine, surgical instruments, bandages, gloves, forehead thermometers, blood pressure gauges and blood glucose meters.

Officials from the health ministry told reporters that the medical supplies are already on the way to the recipient countries, which were hit recently by hurricanes Eta and Iota.

The two storms, carrying winds of up to 260 kilometers per hour, killed more than 200 people and damaged thousands of homes in Central America, according to foreign media reports.

台灣捐助貝里斯10萬美元，並捐助尼加拉瓜、洪都拉斯和瓜地馬拉各20萬美元，之後還捐助這次的醫療物資，以幫助它們從十月和十一月之間的兩個毀滅性的颶風中恢復過來。

台灣國際醫衛行動團隊，一個由外交部和衛福部組成的智庫，於2006年建立，以向發展中國家提供醫療及人道救援並鞏固政府和私人資源為宗旨。

根據外交部提供的清單內，於週三捐贈給中美洲四個國家醫療用品包括：抗生素和其他藥物、手術器械、繃帶、手套、體溫槍、血壓計和血糖儀。

衛福部的官員告訴記者，醫療用品已經運往最近遭受颶風埃塔(Eta)和艾奧塔(Iota)襲擊之受援國的路上。

根據國外媒體報導，這兩起颶風風力時速都高達到260公里，造成200多人死亡，且中美洲數千個家園遭受到破壞。