

Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen affirms Taiwan Lifeline's contribution to suicide prevention

Jan, 2019 / Taiwan

January Focus

Huang, Min-Wei, chairman of the Taiwan Lifeline Association, led the Board of supervisors and directors as well as district chairmen and directors to meet with Taiwanese President Tsai, Ing-wen. The meeting is to provide the President an overview of Lifeline's service activities and also the recent exchanges in the international suicide prevention meetings to share Taiwan's experience. Lu, Pau-Ching, the deputy director of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and Mr. Cheng, Lizhong, head of the Department of Psychology and Oral Health of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, attended the meeting.

In the meeting, Chairman Huang provided President Tsai an overview of Lifeline's service activities: Taiwan Lifeline, established nearly 50 years ago, has serviced more than 4 million calls cumulatively, with about 170,000 calls per year it has become the most widely known and widely used phone line for consultation. The Lifeline is deeply committed to local communities and to developing a diversified service model. The scope of services extends to a large number of local areas and demographics. For example more than 10 local Lifeline associations in Taiwan have signed service agreements with local naval and air force units to provide Taiwanese military personnel timely consultation services. The Association has also represented Taiwan on many occasions, actively communicating with lifeline and suicide prevention units in other nations, and establishing Taiwan's prominent role in the area of telephone consultation in the Asia-Pacific region. In response, President Tsai not only strongly affirmed that Taiwan's lifeline has greatly contributed to the stability of the Taiwanese people's emotional health, she also gave recognition that Lifeline is the critical first line of defense in the entire social safety net.

Due to recent changes in the social population and economic structure, Taiwan Lifeline is also facing multiple challenges such as recruitment and funding. However, each and every volunteer of Lifeline has many years of experience in suicide prevention and control. They are our most precious resource. We are actively using the latest information technology in our calls, expecting to effectively leverage the resources of volunteers and further elevate the quality of the calls. In addition, we also expected to express through this meeting the need for the government to actively support Lifeline, leveraging Lifeline's long established effort to continue to save lives together. President Tsai supported and agreed to this request on the spot. She also expressed her willingness to be the strong pillar for Lifeline and work together with Taiwan Lifeline in suicide prevention.

For more information, please visit our [Official website](#) OR [Facebook](#)



President Tsai, Ing-Wen with the Association's supervisors and directors



President Tsai, Ing-Wen with the district chairmen and directors and staff



Meeting with the President



resident Tsai, Ing-Wen (right) with the Association's chairman Huang, Min-Wei (left)