



World Council of Churches

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Rev. Lyim Hong-Tiong
General Secretary
Presbyterian Church in Taiwan
3, Lane 269
Roosevelt Road Sec. 3
Taipei 10647
TAIWAN

Dear Mr Lyim,

Greetings to you as you begin your new year!

We were saddened to learn of the earthquake in Taiwan on 6 February. A natural disaster of this magnitude at a time when so many gathered to be with family to celebrate the promises of the future makes this all the more tragic and painful. We received your relief update informing us of the number of lives lost, the many injured and the properties experiencing damage. Yet we are heartened to also hear of the relief efforts in which the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan is engaged. We are called as the church to be a source of recovery and restoration particularly at such times of loss and pain. We stand with you in your own pain and as you seek to bear witness to God's love and care at this time.

We were pleased to receive you and your delegation here at the Ecumenical Centre on 2 February. It was good to learn even more about your church's work in Taiwan. As we spoke at the time of the New Year to come in mere days, we could not have known that such a sad occurrence was soon to happen. Thank you again for your generous gifts of the crosses. As I communicated to you when you presented them, we hope that other churches from other regions will also share with the WCC such crosses that we can in turn share with still other churches and regions as a symbolic gesture for the strengthening of the fellowship in prayer and solidarity. It is in this spirit that I write to assure you that you, your church, and the people of Taiwan are being held in prayer by brothers and sisters within this global fellowship of churches. As we share the cross which you have graciously given, we shall invite others to pray with and for you as you continue to serve those in need particularly at this difficult time. We journey with you now and as we continue on the pilgrimage of justice and peace.

Yours in our common Lord,

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit
General Secretary