**「台灣國際宗教自由論壇」**（Taiwan International Religious Freedom Forum,TIRFF）

**開幕式暨記者會**

**採訪通知**

**各位媒體記者小姐、先生平安，**

　  　繼日前舉辦政府版台灣國際宗教自由論壇（Taiwan International Religious Freedom Forum, TIRFF），民間版的TIRFF也緊鑼密鼓展開，2019年5月30日- 6月1日（禮拜四-六）假新竹聖經學院舉行。今年的主題是「迎接挑戰」（Rising to the Challenge），將邀請來自全球多國的宗教領袖、政府代表和非政府組織代表交流旨在促進全球宗教自由、共同找出希望方案並進一步採取有效行動。

　　本次論壇由台灣基督長老教會與對華援助協會（China Aid Association, China Aid）、傳統基金會(Heritage Foundation, HF）、以及台灣關懷中國人權聯盟（Taiwan Association for China Human Rights, TACHR）主辦，並由自由之家（Freedom House）、國際宗教自由圓桌會議/秘書處（International Religious Freedom Roundtable/Secretariat）、宗教自由中心（Center for Religious Liberty, CRL家庭委員會Family Research Council）以及共產主義受害者紀念基金會（Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, VCMF）共同協辦。宗教自由是首要的自由（The First Freedom），我們相信，任一國家或地區，只要人民有選擇信仰的自由，而且能夠彼此互相尊重，這個國家就有希望成為一個偉大的國家。不論政府機構或非政府組織均表示，國際社會必須對世界各地侵害宗教自由的行為採取行動。

 　TIRFF將集結世界各區域領袖共同促進宗教自由和相關人權，建立並強化現有的宗教自由倡議網絡。**5月30日上午9:00-9:30的開幕式，以及6月1日上午10時在新竹聖經學院舉辦記者會，與會貴賓將共同發表「台灣宣言」，歡迎媒體先進蒞臨採訪！**

「台灣國際宗教自由論壇」相關資訊如下：

**主辦單位：**1.對華援助協會（China Aid Association, China Aid）
2.傳統基金會（Heritage Foundation, HF）
3.台灣關懷中國人權聯盟（Taiwan Association for China Human Rights, TACHR）
4.台灣基督長老教會（Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, PCT）

**時間：**2019年5月30日- 6月1日 （禮拜四~六）

**地點：**台灣基督長老教會聖經學院，新竹市東區高峰路56號。

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**Taiwan International Religious Freedom Forum, TIRFF**

**Opening Ceremony and Press Conference**

**Press Release**

God's peace be upon you - God bless you all.

During March 11 to 12, 2019, a Regional Religious Freedom Forum was held in Taipei, Taiwan. The forum was sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, and the U.S. State Department; the aim of the forum was to promote religious freedom in the Asia-Pacific region. Sam Brownback, the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, said that Taiwan could serve as an example of religious freedom at Taipei Religious Freedom Conference.

In response to the 2019 Regional Religious Freedom Forum, China Aid Association, Heritage Foundation, Taiwan Association for China Human Rights and the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) will hold Taiwan International Religious Freedom Forum (TIRFF) at PCT Presbyterian Bible College, Hsinchu, May 30 to June 1, 2019. The theme is “*Rising to the Challenge*”. Religious leaders, the government representatives and NGO delegates from around the world will participate in TIRFF and promote religious freedom, initiate programs that can advance religious freedom, and take action.

　　Religious freedom is the first freedom. We believe that as long as countries or regions respect people’s free will to choose their religions, countries are taking greater accountability. As the critical situations of religious persecutions from around the world are rampant, the government agencies and NGOs express that international societies must take action.

 　Prominent leaders and personalities from different countries will gather at TIRFF, in an effort to promote religious freedom and human rights, and to build and strengthen religious freedom platforms. TIRFF Opening Ceremony will be held on 30 May 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. at the venue.

Immediately following conclusion of the Forum a Press Conference will be held at the Presbyterian Bible College, Hsinchu, Taiwan, on Saturday, June 1, at 10:00 a.m. when the participants of TIRFF will make a statement – “Taiwan Declaration”.

You are warmly invited to attend.

Co-hosts:

1. China Aid Association

2. Heritage Foundation

3. Presbyterian Church in Taiwan

4. Taiwan Association for China Human Rights

Co-sponsors:

1. Freedom House

2. International Religious Freedom Roundtable/Secretariat

3. Center for Religious Liberty (Family Research Council)

4. Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation

Time: May 30 (Thu) – June 1 (Sat), 2019

Location: Presbyterian Bible College, 56, Gaofeng Rd., East Dist., Hsinchu City, Taiwan

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