



Emergent Medical Actions Right After the Giant Quake

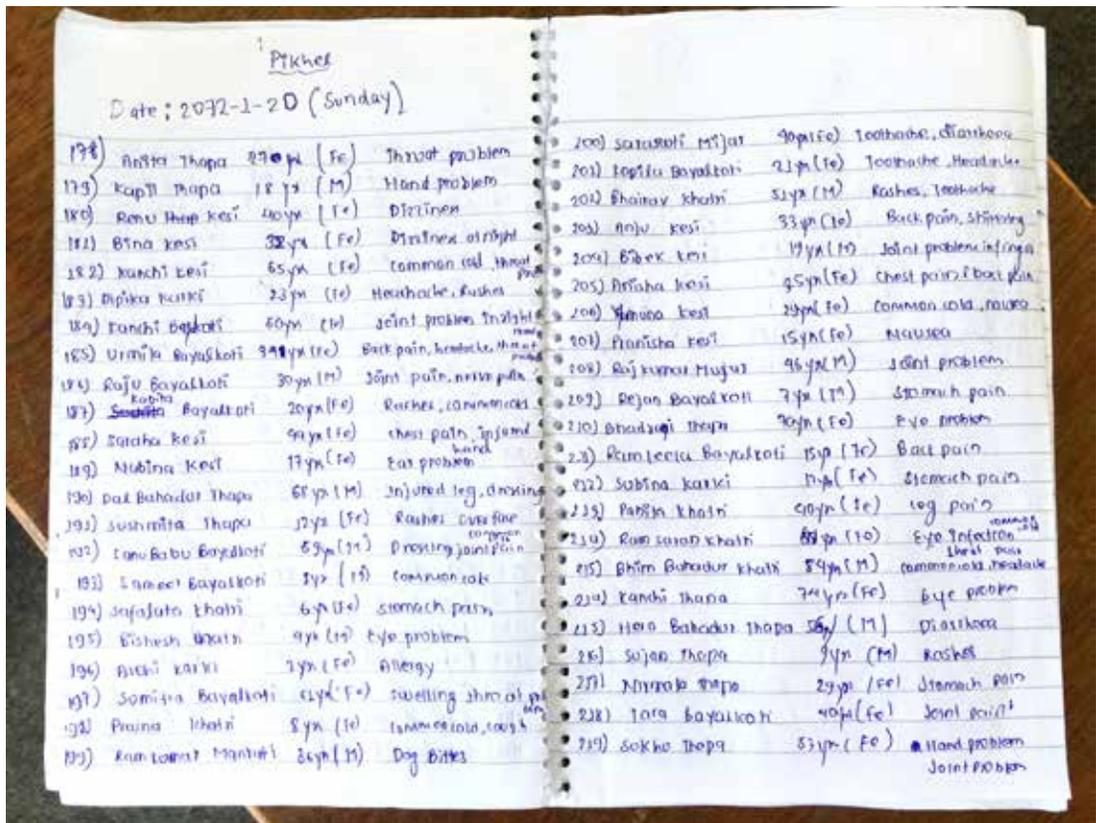
By Zi-Yi He and Shun-Pin Yang
Photo by: Rui-Xin Luo

Dr. Yi-Kung Lee, director of the Emergency Department of Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital [TCH], got a call, from Vice Superintendent Jin-Cherng Chen, inviting him to join the first batch of Tzu Chi medical relief team to Nepal on April 26, 2015. Fully supported by the whole family in the previous actions of free clinics overseas, director Lee nodded promptly over the phone.

Right after stepping on the land of Nepal, four medical members of the relief team began the jobs of surveying disaster, making coordination, administering medication and management of the supplying. Dr. Yi-Kung Lee pointed out that the fore-runners of the relief team should

Dr. Yi-Kung Lee is checking the wounds of a lady. The local nurse, in the background, with a helmet on for fear of another quake.





The name, age and condition of the patients were carefully filled in the book by the TIMA medical team. Photo provided by Dr. Yi-Kung Lee

capable of being multifunctional and multitasking to be able to jostling between roles as actors in foreground and supporting actors in background. That is why the medical members of the first batch TIMA relief team have been senior attending physicians with over 20 years of experience.

Undertaking the touring medical services, Dr. Lee had to work inside the hot tents for nearly 10 hours each day. The clothes covering his body were wet and dried alternately so fast that his skin seemed to act as a producer

of salt grains.

As the medical and charity works were to be practiced concurrently, the relief team had to know the boundary of the affected area and to build up the connecting network for the coming batches of relief teams. The springboard had to be built from scratch. "I'm grateful to have this opportunity. My prior experiences are all readily applicable in this mission to Nepal," accounted Dr. Yi-Kung Lee.

Dr. Lee, together with Plastic Surgeon Chien-Hsing Wang of Hualien



TCH, were responsible for the tasks of touring medication and the supplies needed by the clinic stations. After returning to the hotel in the evenings, Dr. Lee, in charge of the nearly 1,000KG medical supplies in 93 cabins, had to make an inventory for the next day while prepare supplements to meet the situations that were changing all the time.

“The hearts of the Nepal people are crystal-clean and the nursing personnel are enterprising,” Dr. Lee praised. As the schooling was suspended, lots of the students of the nursing schools joined the volunteers to help interpret and take care of their own folks.

“All the communication has to be conveyed through the interpreters to transform the medication into the simplest notion to the patients and my thought had to be simplified to avoid the practices in Taiwan routine,” noted Dr. Yi-Kung Lee. He also mentioned that as the medical resources were scarce in the affected areas, the doctors in the TIMA relief team had to give the optimal care to the local people under the constraint of limited resources.

For example, when a girl with a broken bone was brought by her father to ask for help, Dr. Lee contingently

Plastic Surgeon Chien-Hsing Wang is curing a Nepalese injured by electrical shock.

employed the slab cut from the carton holding the medical material as the makeshift fixing slab and transferred the pre-treated girl to the hospital for further treatment.

May 5, 2015 was the last day of team member of the first batch to carry out medication mission in Nepal. To insure that the experiences, SOP and established PR can be relayed, director Chang-Hong Lin (Taichung





Dr. Yi-Kung Lee presented each future nurse with a piece of Jing Si Aphorism prepared by himself, and interpreted each and every one verbally with a sincere hope that the Tzu Chi spirit will prevail in the Kingdom of Buddha eternally.

TCH) stayed to join the coming batch. Also, the TIMA team members donated the various medical stuff and bone elements after suitable consolidation.

Returning back to Taiwan after nearly ten days of relief mission to Nepal, Dr. Yi-Kung Lee was grateful, “It’s an amazing grace to learn so much from tangoing through the

whole process of surveying the affected areas, doing administrative coordination internally, coordinating with the government agencies, doing the touring medication and the inventory of the medical material.” I have learned a lot from getting involved in the overall mission, Dr. Yi-Kung Lee added.