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Good morning Katherine, Mr. and Mrs. Commale (cum-ALL-ay), CEO Chen (陳美鈴), Mr. Hao (郝廣才), teachers and students.

I want to specially welcome Katherine and her family today. Before you came, I took some time to look over your wonderful family story again.

Over 10 years ago, a little girl, just 5 years old, was inspired by a public television documentary, and decided to raise funds for mosquito nets to protect millions of children in Africa from malaria. This is a story about extraordinary compassion, courage, and the power of action.

We also have many students with us today who are active in public service campaigns. Like Katherine, they're using compassion, courage, and action to explore possibilities for change.

The “No Discrimination” campaign at Jiangong Elementary School (建功國小) is a good example. So is the program at Lin Yuan Elementary School (林園國小) to clean up the rubbish polluting our oceans. At XinTian Education (心田優遊學園), students are going out into the streets to help the homeless. So I hope that in the future, all the students here today will keep the same beliefs, help other people, and create change for a better society.

I want to take this opportunity to share with Katherine a story about how Taiwan conquered malaria. Half a century ago, malaria was a serious challenge in Taiwan.

Fortunately, Taiwan had a group of outstanding public health professionals, including Dr. Lien Jih-ching (連日清), also known as “Dr. Mosquito.” That group set up a comprehensive epidemic prevention system. As a result, by 1965 the World Health Organization announced that Taiwan was the first country to eliminate malaria. And since then, we haven’t had a single indigenous case.

Today, just like our predecessors, we still have a passion for public health and research. So we continue to participate in malaria prevention and treatment projects in areas like Africa and the South Pacific. Unfortunately, our diplomatic space is limited, and that limits our ability to share our experience and expertise in preventing and treating malaria.

Nevertheless, Taiwan will never give up any opportunity to contribute to the world. So we hope that in the future, teams from Taiwan can collaborate with Katherine in Africa, and all over the world, to help humankind combat malaria.

So once again, I'd like to welcome Katherine, Lynda, and Anthony to Taiwan. And I'd also like to thank CEO Chen and Mr. Hao for making this meeting possible.

Thank you.