

International Religious Freedom and Cultural Exchange at the Church of Scientology in Taiwan

KAOHSIUNG, KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN, April 13, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Kaohsiung is located by the southern bay of Taiwan and neighbours Tainan and Pingtung. It is Taiwan's second-largest city and is only 1.5 hours from the capital Taipei by High-Speed Rail. According to different websites, Kaohsiung has the most beautiful harbour view and is full of surprises with its city charm and ecological culture. It is also known for its abundance of natural and cultural resources, farms, forests, mountains and hot springs, suitable for multi-day trips to experience the warmth of southern Taiwan.

"And if that would not be enough to be in love with Kaohsiung, it hosts probably one of the most multi-religious cities, with temple and house of worship of almost any type of religion you could think of", said Ivan Arjona, President of the European Office of the Church of [Scientology](https://www.scientology.org) for Public Affairs and Human Rights,

"I believe it has been very enriching for all of us to visit different places of worship such as our church in Kaohsiung, Buddhist temples, Tai Ji Men centres, Mosques, Taoist temples and others".

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Human Rights must be made a fact, not an idealistic dream."

L. Ron Hubbard

This was all part of an international delegation of experts

on religion as well as religious freedom and human rights activists, who spend 10 days visiting Taiwan (especially Taipei and Kaohsiung), from April 2 to April 11, to deliver a series of conferences about the international scene of religious freedom, including Europe, Asia and America. These symposiums took place at different universities such as the National Taiwan University and the Aletheia University, and meetings were held with the President of the Parliament of Taiwan, the National Human Rights Museum, the President of the Control Yuan(



Part of the International delegation after a tour in the Church of Scientology of Kaohsiung.

which is a sort of Ombudsman Office which has among its roles to control and correct any leftover corruptions from past or present), commissioners from the National Human Rights Commission of Taiwan, and others.

The delegation included followers of the Catholic Church, Scientology, Islam, and different other Christian and Hindu traditions, as well as Massimo Introvigne from CESNUR, Prof. Donald Westbrook from the United States, and different religious freedom activists from Human Rights Without Frontiers, CAP Freedom of Conscience, FOREF, Soteria International, and more. The visit also included meetings at the Taipei Times, Mirror TV and others, with whom the delegation exchanged views, concerns and ideas on how to further improve [Freedom of Religion](#) or Belief globally and also in Taiwan.

At the different meetings with the officials, Ivan Arjona thanked the Taiwanese authorities for the open cooperation with the Church of Scientology in fields such as religious freedom but especially on the campaigns that infuse education on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights all over Taiwan, a campaign that must be further continued and straightened so that the people of Taiwan and all neighbours can further enjoy the practice of Human Rights, and as Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard said, "must be made a fact, not an idealistic dream".

On April 10, the delegation of experts on freedom of religion toured the Church of Scientology in Kaohsiung and exchanged views on how Scientology was operating in Taiwan, fostering interfaith



Delegation inside the Church of Scientology



Taiwan chapel Delegation watching Scientology TV



Taiwan - Representatives of Church of Scientology present book of Ideal Churches of Scientology to President of the Parliament of Taiwan

exchanges and participating in the country's efforts to make Taiwan one of the most democratic spaces in Asia.

Scientology in Taiwan

While in Taiwan since 1995, the Church of Scientology opened its 13 story Ideal Church building On December 7, 2013, making it the first one of its kind in Asia. A full documentary about this Church in Kaohsiung can be watched on Scientology TV.

The [inauguration](#) held even deeper significance for the fact L. Ron Hubbard, as a young man, trekked across Asia pursuing fundamental questions on the origins of Man and the ultimate source of life. He explored remote cultures and arcane wisdom, during which he also gained entrance to forbidden Buddhist lamaseries in China's Western Hills. It was these many firsthand encounters with Eastern religious traditions which spurred his subsequent research into the human mind and spirit, and ultimately led to the founding of the Scientology religion. Crowning the Kaohsiung grand opening was the first visit to Taiwan by Mr. David Miscavige, ecclesiastical leader of the Scientology religion. Mr. Miscavige led the dedication.

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