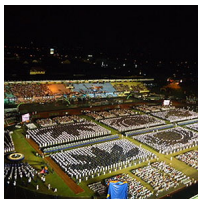


Grand Public Participates in Buddha's Birthday Festivities

Written by Tzu Chi Foundation, Philippines
Wednesday, 16 May 2012 17:06



About 15,000 people gathered in a threefold celebration of the Tzu Chi Foundation, Philippines for its 46th global founding anniversary, Mother's Day and the birthday of Buddhism's great teacher, Gautama Buddha.

Marikina City hosted the event at the Marikina Sports Park last May 13. It was participated in by Chinese and Filipino Tzu Chi volunteers, staff, beneficiaries, donors, invited guests, religious leaders, Marikina City officials, representatives from Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

While most of the attendees were predominantly Catholics, the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation continuously fostered great love that transcends all boundaries in race, creed, and status in society.

The event featured a remarkable human formation of Tzu Chi's significant symbols such as its official logo, Bodhi leaf and a lotus flower.



"We are grateful for the fortitude shown by our volunteers despite the series of long rehearsals and heavy rains. I am very happy that they have stood by us patiently till the conclusion of this event," Tzu Chi Philippines' chief executive officer Alfredo Li said. Also, Li said the event aimed at spreading "truth, goodness, and beauty" of sincere piety which the Buddha shared to the world.

The Buddha's birthday was celebrated through the Buddha-bathing ceremony to pay homage to the Enlightened One and to cleanse people's minds and hearts. Participants held the ritual by bowing, tapping on scented water and offering flower to the Buddha.

Meanwhile, the 46th global anniversary of Buddhist group was marked by a rice relief to 9, 825 indigent families who mostly came in Marikina, a city that has been a beneficiary of Tzu Chi's projects since Typhoon Ondoy (Ketsana) in 2009. All recipients received a 20-kilo sack of rice imported through TECO. The rice relief project started since July last year in partnership with the DSWD.

Marikina City Mayor Del De Guzman said the organization has been their constant partner for the many developments of the city and its people, hence announcing every second Sunday of May as Tzu Chi Day there. "Tzu Chi has significantly helped change the lives of many Marikeños. It is our small way to state our gratefulness to their continuous kindness and generosity," he said.

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