

Mr. Xiao Chun Ling, (Taiwan)

(b101100145@tmu.edu.tw)



I am 22 years old and I study medicine at Taipei Medical University, Taipei, Taiwan. I have been an active participant of international competitions such as the International Scientific Olympiads and Asian Medical Students' Conference Scientific Paper Competition. One of the most memorable experiences I have was being invited over by the Royal Swedish Academy of Science to witness the Nobel Prize Awarding Ceremony 2011 in Stockholm, Sweden. However, at that time I was not satisfied because I have yet to achieve the goal of changing the world for the better, be it large or subtle.

In line with my ambition of being a medical doctor, the issue which concerns me most is the involvement and contribution of physicians in the work towards world peace. I have practiced community development within medical humanities study modules in school but I believe there are still more horizons to be transcended. The experience, however, of truly contributing as a part of a larger picture to the society leads me to believe that physicians are obligated to work incessantly for the betterment of mankind. By no means would this indicate that we ought to work in isolation. It is of the essence that every person from different backgrounds acts in tandem to creating a better tomorrow.

It is in this belief I started to participate actively in various service organizations in my university years, such as the Green Cross Association (GCA-TMU), Medical Humanities Society, Ethics Practicum Coursework and more. Peace to me then was still an abstract idea which I have only yearned for but not building towards it. I dream of a world where there should be minimal conflicts and is devoid of persecution, war and oppression. Freedom would be the one thing people treasure most and would live for. But what kinds of *freedom* does one have to define in order to strive toward? Freedom from diseases, from fear, from hazards or what else? I believe I am bound to find the answers as I fight for my aspirations.

In contemplating the answer, I have joined international discussion through participating in the 2012 Asian Medical Students' Conference in Manila, The Philippines on Health Disparity and the 2012 East Asian Medical Students' Conference in Tokyo, Japan on Disaster Medicine Management. I am privileged to learn and practice with my peers from all around the globe in defining problems as well as solutions. While global collaboration can be difficult at times in reality, it is still the best approach to achieving our common vision of prosperity and peace. The processes of working together, learning as a team and making different mistakes which all but contribute to our success are empowerment in each and every one of us. The only natural move is then to act on our visions and dreams as global citizens.

As a medical student, I strive to cultivate through emphatic awareness the keen sensitivity to human suffering. In realization of conflicts, injustices, poverty, atrocities and the like around the world, I found that many issues arise from one underlying reason – undermining of social justice for all. How shall we achieve peace when there is a wide global population still living in extreme poverty, under US\$1 per day? How shall we attain our imagined world of togetherness when wars ravage and inequality threatens the very foundation of justice? When all these concerns combine, I knew I have to act in a swift and effective manner. These roads lead to my joining the 6th Youth Peace Ambassador (YPA) International in Bangkok, Thailand. The following are my visions in contributing to world peace:

- To build a world free of mortality from preventable diseases
- To ensure that no inequity of any nature and measure can hinder people from accessing basic healthcare
- To seek resolution amongst conflicts through strong but neutral stand against violence or oppression
- To strive for social justice in the aspects of basic human rights, freedom and sustainable world development