

Remarks at the Opening Ceremony of the Exhibition

SHOAH – How Was it Humanly Possible?

The Human Rights Education Center in the

National Tainan Girls' Senior High School – 13.9.21

National Tainan Girls' Senior High School Principal Zheng Wenyi

Teacher Yang Sufang,

Head of musical class teacher Lin and teacher Guo,

Prof. Shouu-Huey Chang, Wenzao Ursuline University,

Teachers and students,

At the outset, I would like to apologize for not attending the ceremony, due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 situation. I do hope that I will have another opportunity to visit the high school in the future.

The Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei attaches great importance to the issue of Holocaust remembrance and education in Taiwan.

We are devoted to telling the story of those who perished and those who survived this momentous event in the history of the Jewish people and humanity as a whole.

It is in that context that we have teamed up with "Yad Vashem - The World Holocaust Remembrance Center" in Jerusalem, to reproduce and translate to Mandarin its Exhibition: "SHOAH – How Was it Humanly Possible?", so we can showcase it across Taiwan.

After successfully exhibited at the National Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall in Taipei, in the Kaoshiung History Museum and in many universities, today we are privileged to show it at the prestigious venue of the National Tainan Girls' Senior High School.

This occasion is a very special one, because it is connected to the teachers workshop that started yesterday on the issue of Holocaust remembrance education, done in cooperation between "Yad Vashem" and the Human Rights Education Center of the high school.

Eighty-eight years have passed since the rise to power of the Nazi regime in Germany - the event marking the beginning of the murderous acts and organized persecution of Jews across Europe.

Eighty-eight years have passed and to this day, a full explanation has yet to be reached for the colossal tragedy that took place.

"How was it Humanly Possible?" – asks the title of the exhibition, and it remains a painful question that we still ponder over till this very day.

We do hope that through visiting the exhibition some answers could be given, or at least it will drive you to learn more and to expand your knowledge about the Holocaust.

About 192,000 Holocaust survivors live in Israel today; they are getting older, their numbers are dwindling. Soon, very few of them will be able to tell their stories in person. It is therefore of outmost importance to preserve these accounts for generations to come.

We must remember ourselves and remind others.

Today's event couldn't be realized without the efforts of many.

First and foremost, the wonderful team of the National Tainan Girls' Senior High School: Principal Zheng Wenyi, teacher Yang Sufang ,Head of musical class teacher Lin and teacher Guo.

Prof. Shou-Huey Chang from Wenzao Ursuline University, who devoted her time and efforts to the issue of Holocaust education in Taiwan.

I would also like to thank "Yad Vashem" for the professional guidance, for closely working with us on this exhibition and for their partnership.

Special thanks to our office's wonderful, committed staff who worked tirelessly to put on this important event.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for coming here today. It is my hope that today's event will help in clarifying and explaining that most heinous event which saw the systematic annihilation of six million Jews by the Nazis and their supporters.

I hope that all of those who will visit the exhibition will take with them more answers than questions and with many lessons learned on how to prevent such atrocities from ever - god forbid - happening again.

Thank you

(※中文譯稿由三年四班曾毓安同學翻譯，特此感謝)

首先，我想先為受限於新冠肺炎疫情而無法親自出席典禮表達歉意。我衷心希望將來能有機會拜訪台南女中。

駐台北以色列經濟文化辦事處高度重視台灣的大屠殺紀念與教育議題。

我們致力於講述在猶太民族和人類歷史上此一重大事件中的遇難者和倖存者的故事。

在這樣的背景之下，我們與耶路撒冷的“以色列猶太大屠殺紀念館合作，將其展覽：“SHOAH – How Was it Humanly possible?” (SHOAH-人類最惡之時) 重新製作並翻譯成中文，使我們得以在台灣各地展出。

在台北國父紀念館、高雄歷史博物館和多所大學成功展出後，今天我們很榮幸能在知名的國立台南女中展出。

這是一場非常特別的活動，因為它是昨日揭開序幕的大屠殺教育教師研習的延續。該研習是由以色列猶太大屠殺紀念館和台南女中人權教育資源中心共同舉辦。

自納粹在德國奪取政權以來已經過了八十八年。此事件象徵著橫跨全歐洲的猶太人屠殺和組織性迫害的開始。

八十八年過去了，而直到今天，這場大悲劇的發生仍然沒有一個完整的解釋。

“How was it Humanly Possible?” 展覽的標題提出了這個問句。直到今天，這仍然是一個我們持續思考的痛苦問題。

我們非常希望觀展者能夠透過參觀展覽得到一些答案，或者至少促使他們了解更多，並增加對大屠殺的認識。

現今約有 192,000 名大屠殺倖存者生活在以色列；他們正在老去，他們的人數正在減少。不久後，還能夠親口講述他們故事的人將變得屈指可數。因此，為後世保存這些記述是至關緊要的。

我們必須銘記在心並警惕他人。

今天的活動，是許多人努力的結晶。

首先是台南女中的優秀團隊：鄭文儀校長、楊素芳老師、音樂班林宜貞組長及郭怡君老師。

還有來自文藻外語大學的張守慧教授，為台灣在大屠殺議題的教育上奉獻了時間與精力。

我還要感謝以色列猶太大屠殺紀念館的專業指導，謝謝他們在這次展覽中與我們的密切合作及夥伴關係。

特別感謝我們辦公室優秀又敬業的員工，他們為了舉辦這場重要活動孜孜不倦的付出。

最後，我要感謝大家今天來到這裡。我希望今天的活動有助於闡釋與說明納粹及其支持者計畫性屠殺六百萬猶太人這個令人髮指的事件。

我希望比起疑惑，觀展者能獲得更多的是答案，以及能夠——願上帝保佑——避免這類暴行再度上演的教訓。

謝謝大家。