

# News Letter



Taipei Prison, Agency of Correction

The Ministry of Justice

Issue date: January 31, 2019

Contact person: Chai, Chun Hong. Secretary

Contact No.: 03-3206184

---

## In Celebration of the Incoming Year of the Pig, the Taipei Prison

### Expanded the Scope of it's Annual Chinese New Year Family Visit Event

To encourage continual moral and emotional support from family and to relieve inmates' nostalgia for home, the Taipei prison organized a family visit event on the eve of the Chinese New Year holiday, from January 29<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>. The event allowed 378 inmates to receive face-to-face visits from their family members.



Taipei prison warden, HSIEH, KUN-CHI, strongly believes in the importance of the relationship between inmates and their loved ones. Recidivist inmates serving long prison sentences have difficulty qualifying for family visit events. These inmates often need to serve close to half their sentence before meeting their family at these events.

To give these inmates an opportunity to strengthen the bonds with their family and celebrate the Chinese New Year holiday together, the eligibility requirements for this year's Chinese New Year event were relaxed to allow more inmates to attend. The duration of the event was lengthened from 4 sessions in 2 days to 6 sessions in 3 days to accommodate the additional number of eligible inmates



One inmate, surnamed Chu, that attended this event is serving a life sentence for murder. Up until this event he was only able to see his family through the aloofness of thick bulletproof glass reinforced with metal bars. He previously never had the chance to stand face-to-face with his family to exchange hugs and apologize for his actions. Mr. Chu commented “If not for relaxing the requirements to attend this event, inmates serving long sentences, such as myself, would have to wait many years to meet the eligibility requirements. The moment I saw my mother walk into the event today, I couldn’t help but shed many tears, and we cried in each other’s arms.”

The goals of Taipei prison family visit events are to allow inmates to experience the power of love and familial care in order to maintain a positive mentality and outlook. At the same time, the events allow family members to see the Taipei prison facilities and environment and to better understand the lifestyle of their loved ones while they are serving their sentences. We hope to utilize the power of love and care to help inmates find the motivation to start their lives anew once they are released.