

Canadian Trade Office in Taipei

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Dear Michael Stainton, Alwyn Austin and members of the Mackay Symposium Organizing Committee,

It is my great pleasure to offer the congratulations of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei on the occasion of the MacKay 125th Anniversary Symposium organized by the Joint Centre for Asia Pacific Studies. This Symposium will be an excellent occasion to introduce to more people in Canada the remarkable story of this truly outstanding Canadian.

Here in Taiwan, George Leslie MacKay is remembered with fondness and respect around the island. His contributions in the fields of health, education, language and religion have had a lasting and profound impact. For Canadians living in or doing business with Taiwan, Dr. MacKay's legacy has provided a strong foundation of goodwill among Taiwanese people toward Canada.

Over the last year, the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei has been involved in several activities to commemorate Dr. MacKay's extraordinary life in Taiwan. Last May, the MacKay Memorial Concert, organized jointly by the Canadian Society in Taiwan and the Taiwanese-Canadian Association in Canada, collected over \$14,000 in donations to contribute to an aboriginal library south of Hualien.

In March of this year, a series of events was held in Taiwan to mark the 125th anniversary of Dr. MacKay's arrival at Tamsui, with support from the Canadian Trade Office. The MacKay Memorial Hospital in Taipei organized a symposium on health care at which the President of the University of Alberta, Dr. Rod Frazer, delivered a paper on "Lessons learned in Canada's Health Care System". The Presbyterian Church of Taiwan and the Northern Synod held several conferences in Mackay's 'home town' of Tamshui and at the Taiwan Theological Seminary in Taipei to discuss MacKay's work. Through our office, the Presbyterian church invited Verna Kirkness, professor emeritus of the University of British Columbia, to discuss aboriginal education and culture. Professor Kirkness also travelled to Hualien where she made presentations at Dong Hwa University and to aboriginal groups at the Theological seminary.

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