

Typhoon Kong-Rey Central Emergency Operation Center Press Release
Cabinet Strategy Group

President Ma Inspects the CEOC and Looks into Flood Reports

President Ma Ying-Jeou places great importance on Typhoon Kong-Rey disaster prevention and emergency rescue efforts and visited the Central Emergency Operation Center (CEOC) at 3PM this afternoon (8/29). Accompanied by the heads of the relevant ministries including premier Chiang Yi-hu and CEOC commander Lee Hong-yuan, President Ma reviewed emergency operations and commended the CEOC personnel on their diligence. The President also conducted video-conferences with the heads of Yunlin County, Chiayi County, Chiayi City, Tainan City, Kaohsiung City and Pingtung County governments to learn about the status of local emergency operations and ask if they require support from the central government.

The President reminded the heads of local governments that while Typhoon Kong-Rey is only a mild typhoon and is now northeast of Taiwan, it has caused serious damage in the southwest, though this was caused by very heavy rainfall within a short period of time so it was natural to be caught unprepared. It also showed that even with modern scientific advances, while we can use technology to predict the path and size of a typhoon, we still cannot accurately predict the duration, location and intensity of rainfall. We must therefore stay alert, "hope for the best but prepare for the worst". The central and local governments must work together to minimize the loss of life and property.

The President also directed the Armed Forces and related units to provide sufficient machinery and manpower to support emergency operations. While the local governments have the situation under control, even though the flooding is beginning to recede with the current rainfall intensity, every

one should remain vigilant. The President emphasized once again that there are still many aspects of extreme climate that we do not fully understand. Proper preparations are therefore essential to minimizing the disaster damage.