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Central Emergency Operation Center Typhoon Fung-Wong Press Release

Cabinet Strategy Group

President Ma Inspects the Central Emergency Operation Center Orders Disaster Prevention Preparatory Work to be Strengthened

President Ma is concerned about Typhoon Fung-wong and, at 09:00 today (20), he paid an inspection visit to the Central Emergency Operation Center to acquire an understanding of disaster prevention and rescue preparations. On his visit he was accompanied by Premier Jiang Yi-huah, Vice Premier Mao Chi-kuo, and Central Emergency Operation Center Commander Minister of the Interior Chen Wei-zen. President Ma spoke to Pingtung County, Kaohsiung City and Taitung emergency operation centers by video link and reminded the local governments to be sure to complete preventive evacuation work before nightfall, and also instructed central ministries and the military to promptly give local governments assistance when needed.

During the video conference, deputy magistrate of Pingtung County Chung Chia-ping pointed out that a ship had been found drifting one nautical mile off Jialeshui in Pingtung County and is a threat to the ocean ecology, requesting central government support to deal with the situation. Checks showed that the ship is a written off Mongolian-owned cargo ship that has drifted from Manila in the Philippines to Taiwanese waters. After the work meeting, acting on the instructions of President Ma and Premier Jiang, Vice-Premier Mao called together the MOTC, EPA, CGA and the COA for discussions; he gave the MOTC responsibility for overseeing this case and instructed that close contacts be maintained with Pingtung County Government. The Coastguard Administration will continue to monitor the position and movement of the vessel. The MOTC will be in charge of contacting the owners and checking if the vessel is leaking oil; if there are concerns about sea pollution, then the EPA will take charge of the clean-up operation.