In 1992, Venerable Huili embarked on a journey to Africa. He established the first "Amitofo Care Center" (ACC) in Malawi during 2004, dedicated to caring for African vulnerable children and where more than 85% of world's HIV-positive children live. Today, many years later, the founder continues with his compassionate practice of Buddhism in Africa traveling to all corners of Africa, and helping countless precious young lives. Nowadays, he is known as the “African monk” or “Monk dad” in the eyes of thousands of children.

Christmas Special

The year ends tonight and our tomorrow starts the next year. The cold will stay tonight, and spring will come again. Christmas is an important festival for Africa’s busy spring and autumn harvest, a long holiday to see the old memories pass by and to welcome the new. With the event of the Christmas holiday, the staff of eSwatini vulnerable children campus hoped that they could relieve their tight work schedule by using the holiday’s to enjoy their leisure time. In order to thank the staff for the past year despite the internal and external troubles, they can still stick to their posts so that the shelter care center can operate as before guarded against the threat of the coronavirus to strengthen the children’s academic work. When there is a shortage of helping hands the dedicated support of local staff has shared and distributed the burden and pressure. At this time of joy, the end of the year our shelter care center especially prepared a scrumptious Christmas dinner and lucky draw. With the background music rendering a festive atmosphere, the raffle numbers were announced one by one and cheers of excitement and sighs of disappointment continued to fall. The showing of the prizes had everyone’s nervous mood pushed around the atmosphere of the event to a peak. When the first prize winner was announced, the excitement and thankfulness of the winners were beyond words. While there was a lot of discussion of the special award, the winners stepped onto the stage with anxiety and excitement.

The shelter center director showed a playful innocent smile and announced the content of the special award: Wearing a Christmas wreath for people to take photos “The winners who hadn’t come over were dumbfounded on the spot. After understanding and digesting this message, she smiled again and happily thought of various poses for people to take photos. At the end of the party, many faculty members came to the Christmas wreath to take photos. Only the winners know that the special prize is “out of the ordinary” and it is truly “special.” It made a deep impression on them. Immediately after the performance of the faculty and staff, everyone shook their bodies with the music, food, dance, laughter, and a happy party was intertwined. Before noon, the staff hurriedly returned to their posts. There is no other reason. It is the day when the school children return to their hometown to meet their relatives. After many days, they can return to the native tribe to show what they learned in the school and interact with their relatives. With glowing eagerness to wear autumn’s winds, the day of returning home finally arrives, new clothes, snacks and food are all prepared. When the engine sounds seemed distant, the bus left, and the children returned home.

In a joyous atmosphere, the eSwatini Campus has passed the year safely and smoothly. Looking back on this year's various joys, anger, separations, and unions, each person's life is left with the footprints of history, and a page in the history of ACC is also written. We hope that all will be smooth and each one of us in the coming year are safe.
The founder of ACC Venerable Master Huili, visited various hospitals successively in November and December. He wasn't afraid of the continuation of the pandemic, and even worked hard to travel to Malawi, Lesotho, Swadini, Mozambique and arrived in Namibia recently. He took this opportunity to invite our board members to hold the third board meeting this year. The participants included the founder Hui Li, Mr. Hendrich Steven Ndume, Mr. Rickey Tjienda, the former president of the Taiwan Chamber of Commerce, Xiao Xiangru and his wife, Minru Dean, the principal of Yuanjue School Ms. Emmerentia Motsang, Zoey and Mr. Teacher Yu Xin. Master Huili first gave a speech and expressed his gratitude to all directors for their continuous care and support to the hospital during the pandemic. ACC provides educational opportunities and platforms and we hope that Africa can keep up with the progress of the world and the times, and we will continue to support them to complete their university venture and improve their skills.

The dean used a detailed PPT to report the results of the work review and future work plans of the school district this year. The school affairs in education and conservation, personnel administration, engineering construction, charitable donations, CBO issuance and other major items have tried their best to achieve the expected results. I am also grateful that in the turmoil of the pandemic everyone has done their part and all employees and teachers have cooperated with government policies in addition many difficult processes have been overcome step by step. The principal reported on the overall annual performance of the school's teachers and students. First of all, I would like to thank ACC and the directors for providing such an educational environment. The children are all on track and the teacher qualifications may be not as strong, but the teaching enthusiasm is more than enough to meet the government's standards. Regulations, systems and government officials' evaluation of ACC Yuanjue School is higher than that of public schools, which is reassuring.

Although the pandemic has affected the suspension of classes for one semester, we have still reached the teaching progress expected. Although only one semester has been spent at school this year, we hope to keep improving next year. This year's passing rate reached 87.7%. Of the 160 children, only 17 had stayed behind. The progression deserves a thorough applause. Thank you everyone. To our support, ACC thanks you all for providing a high-quality school environment and all necessary resources.

In August this year, the Minister of Education's team visited and the second Ministry of Education inspectors inspected the teaching records throughout the day. Fortunately, the principal's education records are well prepared on weekdays and can face various queries forcefully and calmly. Ms. Motsang has made great progress in improving the teaching standards of local teachers and solving school problems. I am grateful to the principal and please continue to work hard.

Finally, I would also like to thank all overseas volunteers and teachers for continuing their responsibilities for work and teaching in such a difficult year. The spirit is admirable.