

The image of Pakistani Islam in Taiwan

Another major subset of foreign Muslims that exhibit a distinctive image of Islam to Taiwan are Pakistani Muslims. It is estimated that around 300 Pakistani Muslims live in Taiwan and most of them are merchants or restaurant owners. They can speak fluent Chinese and most have Taiwanese spouses.⁴⁶ There is also a Pakistani association that serves other Pakistani immigrants in need.⁴⁷ It seems that the Pakistani in Taiwan have commonalities with other Pakistani who live in Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea. Most of the Pakistani in these three places marry local ladies, speak the local language, and establish small Pakistani communities and associations.

The intermarriage between Pakistani and Taiwanese ladies means that Pakistani are considered 'Taiwanese new immigrants' (台灣新住民). This term refers to foreigners who obtain ROC nationality through the intermarriage. The populations of new Taiwanese immigrants has recently become the second largest minority in Taiwan and they contribute to Taiwanese society; Pakistani are no exception. For example, a Pakistani and his Taiwanese wife intended to do *dawah* in Taiwan in response to an *ayat* 'They who believe and do righteous deeds-those are the companions of Paradise; they will abide therein eternally' (2:82). Thus the way that they do *dawah* is related to providing social services for non-Muslims in need. They have chosen Taitung county, - the eastern part of Taiwan, - as their destination since 2012. Taitung county is where many aborigine people live; most aboriginal people in Taitung lack educational and material resources. The couple run a halal restaurant and engage in social works in Taitung. Every weekend they drive to remote tribes to deliver free homemade pizzas to aborigine children or they provide tutorial-style education to these children after school. They expect to show the true spirit of Islam to local non-Muslims through their action rather than only talking. The image of Islam that they exhibit is rare in Taiwan; we seldom see other Muslims in Taiwan with the determination to serve non-Muslims in need in the long term.⁴⁸

The image of Indonesian Islam in Taiwan

Taiwan's Indonesian Muslims can be divided into two groups: migrant workers who serve in household works, construction sites and factories that require an intensive labour force and students who study in Taiwan's universities with scholarship support. Many Taiwanese receive their image of Islam from Indonesian Muslims more than any other ethnic Muslims. The image of Islam that Indonesian migrant Muslim workers exhibit has limitations; working environments curb their awareness of Islam and Indonesian migrant workers only have the mobility to display an image of Islam on a few occasions such as the celebration of Eid al-Fitr. However, their celebration

⁴⁶ 'Pakistani and Taiwanese couples form an association for serving Pakistani fellows,' *Liberty Times Net*, 20 September 2014 <<http://news.ltn.com.tw/news/life/breakingnews/1111501>> (accessed on 1 December 2017).

⁴⁷ 'The first Pakistani social community in Taiwan,' *The Epoch Times*, 22 September 2014, <<http://www.epochtimes.com/b5/14/9/22/n4254697.htm>> (accessed on 1 December 2017)

⁴⁸ Regarding the details of how the couple engaged in social services, please refer to the paper. Saleh Yu, 'A preliminary research on a Muslim couple's charity work in Taitung,' Taiwan Society for Anthropology and Ethnology conference in 2015.