

# Taiwan president to donate a month's salary for Turkey relief efforts

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**Online Desk:** Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen and Vice President William Lai will each donate a month's salary for Turkish earthquake relief efforts, the presidential office said on Thursday, adding to existing aid already sent by the island. Tsai and Lai, who is widely expected to stand for the presidency in elections due next year, "hope to do their part to help Turkey rebuild its homeland as soon as possible", the presidential office said in a statement, reports Reuters.

Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday admitted there were problems with his government's initial response to the quake, as the combined reported death toll in Turkey and neighbouring Syria rose past 12,000. Last year, Tsai and Lai also both donated one month's salary to aid humanitarian relief efforts for war-torn Ukraine. Tsai earns around T\$400,000 (\$13,300) a month. Taiwan, which frequently suffers earthquakes itself, has already announced \$2 million in disaster relief and has sent two rescue teams to Turkey to help in search efforts for survivors.

Tsai spoke by video call to some of Taiwan's team on the ground on Wednesday. "I would like to thank all the members for not being afraid of difficulties and going all out so that Taiwan and Turkey can help each other," she wrote on her Facebook page. Turkey joined international efforts and sent rescuers to Taiwan in 1999 after a massive earthquake killed more than 2,000 people. Turkey, like most countries, has no diplomatic relations with Chinese-claimed Taiwan, but the two maintain de facto embassies in each other's capitals and there are direct flights between Istanbul and Taipei.