

# TAIPEI

SPRING  
2016

Vol. 03

台北



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# Taipei's Ever Changing Face

Over hundreds of years of reclamation and development, the face of Taipei has been ever-changing. This year, during the Lunar New Year holidays, the city government efficiently dismantled the Zhongxiao Bridge access-road overpass in just a six-day period, restoring the old walled city's 1884-built Cheng-En Gate, better known as Beimen, to its full visual glory. This project also brought the Taipei Post Office and railway museum within the panorama, creating iconic new Taipei imagery. Future work will craft an image in the style of a Taipei triumphal arch, reshaping the city skyline.

To promote the city's hosting of Velo-city Global 2016 and the 2017 Summer Universiade, Taipei Mayor Wen-je Ko set off on a grand personal quest. Dubbed the "One-Day Taipei to Kaohsiung Cycling Challenge," he set out on bicycle from Taipei's Guandu Temple, riding 300 kilometers in 19 hours, 52 minutes on January 9<sup>th</sup>. One month later, during the February 28<sup>th</sup> Peace Memorial Day long weekend, Ko took up a new challenge, this time cycling between two lighthouses. On the morning of February 27<sup>th</sup>, he set out from Taiwan's northernmost Fuguijiao Lighthouse. Unfazed by the wind and rain, he arrived at Taiwan's southernmost Eluanbi Lighthouse 28 hours later, completing 520 kilometers on bicycle. His goal was to encourage all of us to bravely follow our dreams, and to realize that we can each make the impossible possible.

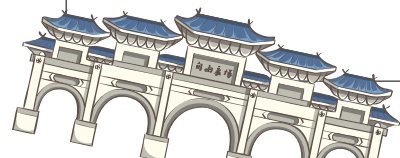
Sports stimulate enthusiasm and boost morale. In this issue of TAIPEI, we present a special report on ace pitcher Wei-Yin Chen, who is playing in America's MLB. Chen talks about his impressions of Taipei and favorite memories from his youth. We also introduce Tai Tzu-ying, currently ranked number three in the world in women's badminton, and Huang Shih-feng, silver-medal winner in the men's javelin throw at last year's Summer Universiade in Guangju. Hopes are high for even more brilliant performances in Taipei's upcoming Summer Universiade, which is certain to position Taiwan in the global spotlight.

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Taipei MRT system. Each day, MRT trains shuttle to and fro across mountain-framed basin landscape, allowing riders a diversity of perspectives, both visual and emotional. For this issue we have invited well-known travel experts to introduce shooting locations from classic domestic films. Movies such as *Brother Liu and Brother Wang on the Roads in Taiwan*, *Turn Left, Turn Right*, and *Forever Love* were shot in Beitou, in the past called the "Hollywood of Taiwanese cinema." The box-office smash *Café.Waiting.Love* was indeed shot at a café of the same name on Yishou Street. In *Our Times*, the outdoor rink where characters Hsu Tai-yu and Truly Lin practiced roller-skating is in Muzha Park. Roam this city and you are certain to encounter many scenes that are touching and that inspire fond memories.

In addition to the advantages of convenient transportation, the capital city's hustle and bustle, as well as its rich cultural heritage, attracts foreign budget travelers and travelers from other areas of Taiwan. In recent years, many licensed youth hostels have sprung up, giving these visitors accommodation choices that are both economical and safe. The Department of Information and Tourism under Taipei City Government advises visitors to go online to check its listings of legal facilities before booking to ensure protection of their consumer rights.

There's nothing that whets the appetite better than touring a city's food landscapes! In this issue is a guide to famous food sellers in Nanmen Market and around Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall. Jerky, ham, and *xiaolongbao* are all must-try delicacies. Elsewhere, Yongkang Street's Smoothie House offers rich and flavorful shaved-ice confections, and the quaint and quiet eatery QingTian 76 is a restful place that provides much food for thought.

The face of Taipei is a smiling one, warm and welcoming to all. This is a place of uniqueness and unrivaled diversity. Come and linger, slowly savoring its advantages!



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**Deputy Editors in Chief** I-yen Wang  
**Editors** Julia Szu-tu  
Davy Cheng  
**Integrated Marketing** Shu-Mei Chuang  
Yenhsin Lee  
**Translators** Cheryl Robbins  
Rick Charette  
Phil Sweeney  
**Artwork Designer & Production** 4Point Design Co., Ltd.  
**Tel** (02)2321-5942  
**Fax** (02)2321-5944

Department of Information and Tourism,  
Taipei City Government  
**Add** 4F, 1, City Hall Rd., Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.  
**Tel** 1999 (02-2720-8889 outside Taipei City);  
ext. 2029, 7564  
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## Taipei City Government

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# Focusing World Attention on Taiwan Through Sports: 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade Badminton Competitor Tai Tzu-ying

Article \_\_ Li-Chin Hsu  
Photos \_\_ Badminton Photo

“I hope that I can stand on the Olympic Games awards platform to receive a medal for Taiwan,” says the confident Tai Tzu-ying (戴資穎), Taiwan’s youngest “badminton queen”. She also hopes that she can bring her standard level of play to the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade, to keep the badminton championship trophy in Taiwan.

## Learning From Those More Experienced Since Childhood, Making It to the Top Internationally

Tai is young, but has had a commanding presence since she was a child. She has developed skills in the sport of badminton that are “beyond her years”. When in the sixth grade, she won the second-division championship at the national badminton ranking tournament, and became the youngest person in Taiwan’s history to play in the first division. Starting from 2009 she began entering international tournaments, and has won medals in such events as the US Open Grand Prix Gold, BWF World Superseries Finals, and 2015 Summer Universiade. In August of 2015 she was ranked number three in the world in women’s badminton.

How is it that Tai has achieved so much at such a young age? The answer is somewhat unexpected. When she



was small, her parents encouraged her to compete against those older than her to overcome the fear of losing. At first, Tai’s parents took her and her sister to play badminton as a healthy hobby. Later on, on weekends they visited various badminton courts to have her learn from those more experienced. Tai’s father believed that if he allowed his daughter to play against those

with more experience she would not be held back by the emotional ups and downs associated with winning and losing. “When I was very little I would play badminton with my mother and father, and would often join competitions around Taiwan with players that were older than me,” says Tai. “Whenever I lost, I took it as a chance to learn, and I



accumulated a lot of experience and skills. I also learned that in each competition it is necessary to do my best, and that enjoying the process is more important than the outcome.” Tai believes advantage gained from a competitor’s slip-up is not as good as squarely defeating an equally matched opponent, which brings more of a feeling of accomplishment.

## Support of Family, Focus on Her Sport

Her success has come not only from her hard work. She has been fortunate to have the support of her entire family. The day before a competition, all of her family members mobilize to help prepare her equipment. They also come to the games to cheer her

on – even her grandmother. In 2013, her father and mother served as her coaches for a competition in Malaysia, accompanying her abroad. In 2015 her father, Tai Nan-kai (戴楠凱), who currently serves as secretary-general of the Kaohsiung City Badminton Committee (高雄市羽球委員會), received her Sports Elite Award for Best Female Athlete on her behalf. That day was his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, and it can be said that this daughter gave her father the best possible birthday gift. He says that, “These days, sports is the best way of bringing Taiwanese people together, and one of the ways of letting the world see Taiwan. I hope that Tzu-ying will continue to bring glory to this nation.”

1. Tai is young, but has a commanding presence. Currently, she is ranked third in the world in women’s badminton.
2. In 2014, Tai Tzu-ying won the Hong Kong Open with her superb technique. This was the third badminton Super Series championship for the then 20-year-old.

Tai says that there was a time when she would envy others at her age who could go out and play after school. They did not have to work hard at practice. This made her not want to play badminton. However, when she did stop, she felt that “her life had no focus”. After this, she was even more determined to compete. Recently injured in a tournament, her current training program involves recuperating from her injuries and covering the basics. In addition, before trying to improve it she is working to maintain her current ranking and record, or, in other words, “first keeping the current place” before making use of her strong mindset to face further competition. She wants to perform her best at the Olympic Games and at the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade, and is happy that Taipei will be the host city for the 2017 Summer Universiade, because for her this means she “can have good accommodation and eat well,” and can just focus on the competition. She adds that, “I hope that I can keep the championship trophy in Taiwan.”



## Taiwan's New Generation Javelin Thrower: Aiming for the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade

Article \_\_ Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government  
Photos \_\_ Huang Shih-feng

The javelin rises above the track in a graceful arc and lands beautifully outside the 80-meter line. At last year's Summer Universiade, held in Gwangju, South Korea, Huang Shih-feng (黃士峰), a student in the Graduate Institute of Sports Training at the University of Taipei (台北市立大學競技運動訓練研究所), earned a silver medal for this throw. He says that at the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade he hopes to make up for the regret of not achieving a gold medal.

Huang is the national record holder for the men's javelin throw. At a young age, he was already producing brilliant results. He has won three gold medals at the World School Athletics Championship in Estonia, World Youth Championships in Athletics in Italy, and Gymnasiade in Doha, Qatar, respectively, and has also been recognized with Taiwan's Sports Elite Award for Best Male Athlete.

In 2013, at the Kaohsiung Cup National Middle School Track

and Field Competition and Open Tournament, he broke the national record with a throw of 79.84 meters. At the end of that year, at the Tianjin East Asian Games, he threw the javelin 82.11 meters, once again breaking the national record and this time his own record as well. Although he came across one occasion in which he was not at his best, at last year's Gwangju Summer Universiade he quickly recovered to give another brilliant performance.



### A Difference of 44 Centimeters – The Regret of Gwangju

On his second attempt at last year's Gwangju Summer Universiade, Huang threw his javelin 81.27 meters. During the competition he had split a toenail on his left foot, causing him pain when he ran, and in the end a distance of only 44 centimeters separated him from the gold. Huang says that, "I felt that I could have done better. I didn't use all of my strength on the last few throws."

At the Gwangju Summer Universiade, the winner of the men's javelin throw was decided in the first two throws. A competitor from Estonia set the benchmark for the gold medal on his first throw. Huang won silver with his second throw. The audience tensed up as each throw was made, watching the beautiful arching patterns. It was a very exciting competition.

### Best Male Athlete of 2015 – Going All Out for the Rio Olympic Games and Taipei Summer Universiade

Huang says that in June last year at

1. Huang Shih-feng dreams of a gold medal at the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade.
2. After a year of hard work, Huang Shih-feng was recognized with the Sports Elite Award for Best Male Athlete in 2015.

the Asian Athletics Championships in Wuhan, China, although his performance was not as good as at the Summer Universiade, he still threw his javelin 79.74 meters to clinch the gold and qualify for a place in the IAAF World Championships in Beijing. He also has the opportunity to qualify for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. However, what is unimaginable is that at the IAAF World Championships in August, Huang was off his game. Out of three throws, two were disqualified due to rule violations. The only successful throw reached a distance of 75.72 meters. Even with this setback at the IAAF World Championships, his impressive record over the full year earned him the 2015 Sports Elite Award for Best Male Athlete.

This year, Huang is working hard to meet the Olympic qualifying standard of 83 meters. In the first half of the year there are five Olympic qualifying competitions. "I hope that I can meet the Olympic qualifying standard of 83 meters," he says, "then fully devote myself to preparing for the Rio Olympic Games, and after that the Taipei Summer Universiade next year." Chinese-Taipei javelin coach Xue Shengrong (薛聖融) says that Huang has consistently achieved a distance of over 80 meters,

especially during practice sessions. However, practice and competition are different, and it is necessary to adapt to changing circumstances. "At the Taipei Summer Universiade," Xue says, "he will be familiar with the climate, surroundings and people. I think that Shih-feng will be able to perform even better."

Huang has gained experience in major competitions, and his technique has matured. He is considered one of the favorites for a medal at the Taipei Summer Universiade. Having already participated in two Universiades, he hopes that he can better his performance in front of his home crowd, and that this third time participating in a Universiade will be the most memorable. [T](#)

For more information on  
the 2017 Taipei Summer  
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# MLB Pitcher Wei-Yin Chen: Youthful and Romantic Memories of Taipei

Article — Howard Chen  
Photos — Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government

“Every time I come to Taipei, I feel that this city is different.” This statement was made by MLB (Major League Baseball) left-handed pitcher Wei-Yin Chen (陳偉殷). In addition to an expression of admiration, he sees this city from a perspective different from that of the many who have become accustomed to Taipei living.

Fresh from signing a contract with the Miami Marlins, he has succeeded Chien-Ming Wang (王建民) in keeping Taiwanese fans glued to their television sets late at night to cheer him on to glory for Taiwan.

On the field, Chen maintains his game face. But when he talks about Taipei, a smile spreads across his face. “By way of comparison, Japan and now the US are places where I work. To some extent that makes it more difficult for me to switch emotions. Thus, I am very happy when I can come to Taipei, because Taipei is a place that allows me to relax.”

## Taipei, Place of Victory and Modern City

If it can be said that “giving it one’s all” is Chen’s motto in baseball, it is

not difficult to guess that Chen’s first impressions of Taipei involve this sport.

“I remember participating in high-school baseball league games during my second year in high school,” Chen says. “Our team took a bus trip north, and in the end, in Taipei, we won that year’s league championship. The memories of Taipei from that year are still with me.” At that time Chen was a starting pitcher, and a key team member. After graduating from junior high school he decided to attend Kaoyuan Technology & Commerce

Vocational High School (高苑工商), which has produced a number of outstanding pitchers and is highly competitive, to prove himself. The honors won in his second year of high school, therefore, resulted in deep and long-lasting impressions of Taipei.

“In the past,” he adds, “when I participated in competitions in Taipei, I would often discover that there were many things that I came to understand only by being in Taipei. I felt that I was too backward. After all, Taipei is different from other cities.”

During last year’s New Year’s Eve Countdown Party, Wei-Yin Chen (right 3) joined Taipei Mayor Wen-je Ko and his wife in welcoming the New Year. (Photo: Pan Junlin)

After graduation, Chen began his professional baseball career, moving to Japan and then to the US. Playing both home and away games, he has visited many cities, and has often heard the saying that the “moon is rounder in other countries”. But Chen does not agree.

He says that every time he comes to Taipei, he feels that this city has many distinguishing features, such as shopping areas that are well designed, whether they are restored historical complexes or modern buildings, for example Taipei 101, department stores, and cultural-creative parks. This diversity of styles cannot be seen in Japan or the US. Moreover, Taipei 101, which has come to be associated with New Year’s Eve fireworks, is the source of a moving memory for Chen.

## Watching Fireworks on Tiding Boulevard, Romantic Taipei Memory

“I remember there was one year that we wanted to watch the 101 fireworks display on New Year’s Eve,” he recalls. “I drove with my family, and we had reached Tiding Boulevard (堤頂大道) on our way towards Taipei 101. But there was a traffic jam. We could not get there before the countdown. So we watched the fireworks together with all of the

other people stuck in traffic on Tiding Boulevard.”

Tiding Boulevard is located in Neihu District along the Keelung River (基隆河). Although it is six kilometers away from Xinyi District, the 500-meter-tall Taipei 101 still occupies a commanding position. “Everyone says that it is better to be closer,” he says. “But, watching the fireworks from Tiding Boulevard, we felt that we were able to see everything. It was very beautiful. Being able to ring in the New Year with my family, the feeling was very different.”

## Nostalgic Flavors, Happy Family Time

Convenience and booming prosperity have long been defining Taipei City characteristics. Chen has lived abroad for a long time, including in Nagoya, Japan and Baltimore, USA. He feels that Taipei does not pale in comparison to the cities of Japan and the US. “Although Nagoya is a good place to live, and is quiet and beautiful, it is not as convenient. Unlike Taipei, with its metro system that extends in all directions. You don’t need to worry about finding something to eat or drink or fun to do.

“The US and Japan are different,” he says. “Many restaurants close early.



From Tiding Boulevard, Wei-Yin Chen saw the full, dazzling Taipei 101 fireworks display. (Photo: Gao Zanzian)

When you are at home, sometimes you will suddenly want to eat something and you really don't know what to do. In Taipei, at any time of the day or night you can find something to eat."

Eating is a kind of habit or custom. It not only serves to satisfy hunger, but also to bring enjoyment. When talking about his favorite foods, Chen has a long list. "I love to eat Japanese food. So, when I am in Taipei there are several restaurants that serve food to my liking, such as Kikugawa (菊川) and Sushi Jubei (鮨十兵衛) in the East District. Whenever I return to Taipei I go there."

In addition to food, Chen, whose younger son just turned two, says that spending time with his children when he is in Taipei is very important. The Taipei Zoo (台北市立動物園) is a favorite place to visit for the whole family.

"My older son likes animals very much, so I will take him to the Taipei

Zoo. When he sees the animals, he gets very excited. Giraffes, elephants, and pandas can all be seen in Taipei. Although my younger son doesn't understand what he is seeing, he will smile and laugh when he sees how excited his older brother is."

### Sowing Good Seeds, Looking to the Future

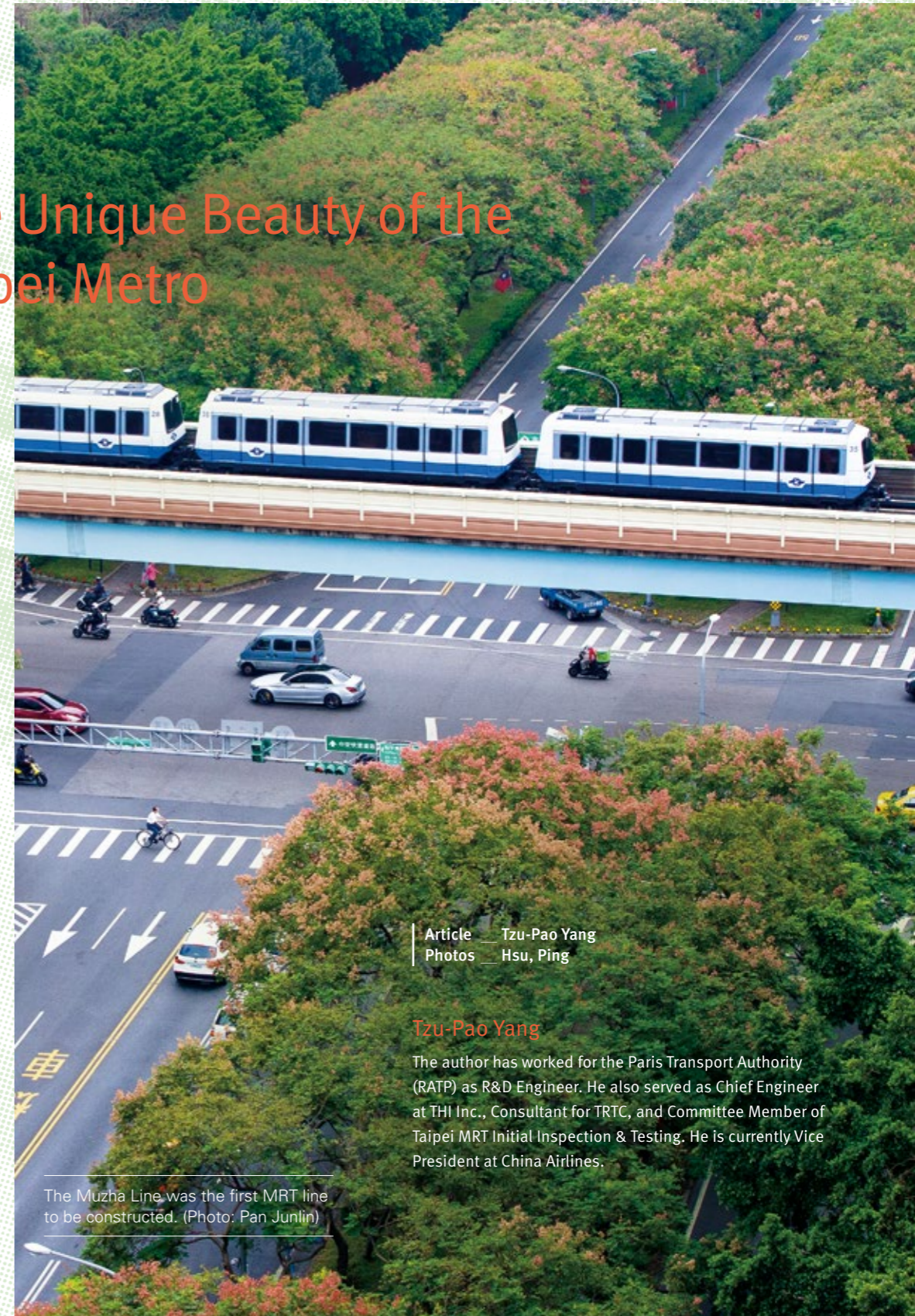
As a major league ace and top sports star in Taiwan, Chen hopes that, in addition to good health and for everything to go smoothly in the new year, he can spend more time with his two sons. When asked whether his sons will follow in his footsteps and become baseball players, Chen answers that he is giving them space to develop their own interests. As a father, being able to watch them grow up healthy is most important.

When talking about the development of Taipei's sports atmosphere, Chen refers to the example of American

education in terms of cultivating an interest in sports from a young age. "Now, everyone thinks that sports are just a way to keep fit and healthy. But if you cultivate the habit of playing sports from childhood, in addition to improving the physical health of children, it allows them to first watch and participate. This cultivates interest and forms habits."

Most likely, this year he will not be able to celebrate the Lunar New Year in Taiwan. He must return to the other side of the Pacific Ocean for spring training and to prepare for the upcoming season. With his joining of the Miami Marlins, he will continue to lead Taiwan's next wave of baseball fever. Yet while he will be physically in the US, his heart will continue to be in the place that he misses, Taiwan, and in Taipei that has provided unforgettable memories. [T](#)

## The Unique Beauty of the Taipei Metro



Article — Tzu-Pao Yang  
Photos — Hsu, Ping

### Tzu-Pao Yang

The author has worked for the Paris Transport Authority (RATP) as R&D Engineer. He also served as Chief Engineer at THI Inc., Consultant for TRTC, and Committee Member of Taipei MRT Initial Inspection & Testing. He is currently Vice President at China Airlines.

The Muzha Line was the first MRT line to be constructed. (Photo: Pan Junlin)

In terms of global mass rapid transit systems, the Taipei Metro, or simply the MRT, which turns 20 this March, is a relative newcomer. The world's first city to boast a rapid transit system was London. In 1863, it inaugurated the first line of the Metropolitan Underground Railway. This was followed by the New York Subway in 1868 and the Subterraneo de Buenos Aires in South America in 1913. In 1927, the Tokyo Subway became the first of its kind in Asia. North Africa's initial operating route was the Metro Anfaq al-Qahirah, which opened in 1987. The MRT is the 124<sup>th</sup> subway system to be built, making it one of the youngest among the major cities in the world.



### MRT: Youthful and of Distinctive Character

The MRT is quite new. This is a fact. However, although it is young, it still has its own distinctive character. If we are willing to dig a bit deeper, we will discover that it also has depth and a unique power to fascinate.

Compared to the experience of passengers in Europe and North America, the MRT is a rare example of a public transportation system with sustained popularity and vitality. Of course, there are peak periods and off-peak periods in terms of numbers of passengers, but the difference is not as marked as in other "advanced" cities. During the Japanese era, the blueprint for the planning of Taipei's development was more or less decided. Although, there was an

influence of European and North American urban planning concepts, such as zoning, the Japanese had a certain level of tolerance toward the mixing of residential and commercial areas. Zoning was not strictly enforced and mixing of zones was sometimes even given tacit approval. From another perspective, Taiwan's urban management has always been based on the practice of "legal at the local level." Over time, this has resulted in the formation of night markets and nightclubs, and these sorts of activity areas are in a little bit of a regulatory grey area. In the past, they were denounced as city development "problems." But, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the new ideas of this era have reminded us to open our eyes

and realize that what was originally thought of as "varied" or "mixed blood" is actually healthy for a city. If a city has people participating in various activities from early to late and if people are using the transportation network for various purposes from early to late, then the average user rate is high and the costs are low, resulting in more prosperity and opportunities.

### Gorgeous Scenes, Hills and Waterways Along the MRT

Prosperity and opportunity also come from Taipei's geographical advantages. Taipei is both well situated and surrounded by hills and water. With the opening of the MRT, now no more than a

45-minute ride is required to leave behind the hubbub of the city and experience nature, such as river banks, seashores and hills. Residents of other advanced cities who spend every day commuting in a mire of traffic cannot imagine that after work, if the residents of Taipei are up to it, all they have to do is hop on the MRT for an outing. Then, after three-fourths of an hour, they can be in a high place looking down on our city and reciting the lines of Cheng Chou-yu (鄭愁予)'s emotional poem.

Irreplaceable, unique scenes pass outside the windows. My personal preference is for the Tamsui Line (淡水線). After leaving the four-

station underground section from the Taipei Main Station, there is a quick ascent onto an elevated section past Minquan Road. From here, it is possible to admire scenes of hillsides and water surrounding the Yuanshan (圓山), Jiantan (劍潭), Zhishan (芝山), Beitou (北投), and Guandu (關渡) stations. At Hongshulin (紅樹林), the elevated section gradually transforms into a ground-level section which runs all the way to the terminal station, Tamsui. There is dramatic variation in the heights of the various sections, lighting, views, scenery and moods, much like the changeability of urban life.

1. Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the MRT is very young, but it possesses unique characteristics and depth. (Photo: 4point design)
2. Some MRT lines travel along hillsides and waterways providing convenient access to nature. This is a picture of Daan Park.
3. Cultural and scenic attractions along the MRT's periphery are worthwhile places to visit. (Photo: 4point design)



4

*Taipei City bathes in the afterglow of her basin (which is the biggest bathtub for exiles). Neon lights float in the sky, resembling the kind of laziness that comes after a bath. And, the Big Dipper, one by one, buttons up the night on the left. Oh, at this moment, a flock of crows in disarray comes into distant view. Misperceived, buildings are confused for cloaked hills and waterways.*

Cheng Chou-yu (鄭愁予)



5



6

## History and Culture of the MRT

If we think about it carefully, in addition to geography and scenes of hills and water, the MRT brings history and culture to our lives. From 1920 to 1925, Japanese artist Gobara Koto (1887-1965) created exquisite gouache paintings of Taipei's major scenic spots. These included some of Taipei's 12 famous scenes of that time, such as Bitan (碧潭) along the Xindian River (新店溪), the Tamsui River (淡水河), Guanyin Mountain (觀音山), Mingchi Bridge (明治橋), Taipei Botanical Garden (台北植物園), Taipei New Park (台北新

公園), water source site, Longshan Temple and Office of the Governor-General of Taiwan (總督府). Today, we can ride the MRT to visit these historical places, as well as other scenic spots, both old and new, such as the Beitou hot springs area, Taipei Zoo, National Taiwan University (國立台灣大學) campus, Daan Park (大安森林公園), Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, Dadaocheng (大稻埕), Xiaobitan (小碧潭) and Dahu Park (大湖公園). That is most likely the reason that the MRT is busy both on weekdays and weekends. Perhaps the mood is different, but there is not so much of a discrepancy between

passenger numbers on crowded weekdays and empty weekends as there is in many other cities.

Public artwork is located in the Station Front Metro Mall (站前地下街) that is worth taking the time to appreciate. At the end of 1993, during the construction of the Nangang Line (南港線), the remains of part of the Taipei City walls which was completed in 1884, during the Qing dynasty, were discovered. At that time, it was decided not to salvage the site, but instead to use display window methods to preserve it. Under the four themes of "The Story of Old

Taipei", "Search for the Beginnings of the City Gates", "The Beauty of an Old City Revealed" and "The Secrets of City Wall Construction", these relics of Taipei's old city walls are presented to the public. In addition, artists were invited to create works using these city wall materials. The result was a public art installation entitled "Li Zheng Chong Xi-Cheng En Jing Fu (麗正崇熙·承恩景福)". This is a good place to ponder events of past and present. This is the starting point of imagination.

From my point of view, the MRT is rich in history, memories and

fascinating stories. To give an example, the name of the Qilian Station (唶哩岸站) along the Tamsui Line comes from the pronunciation of "ki-zing-an" from the indigenous Basay tribe. This was the name of the location during the time of Dutch rule. Following the arrival of the Kuomintang to Taiwan, the name was changed to *Linong* (立農) and *Jili* (吉利). The use of Qilian is a restoration of the former name and a warm gesture toward redressing history.

Another example is the Xianse Temple Station (先嗇宮站) along the Xinzhuang Line (新莊線). Near this

4. Irreplaceable, unique scenes pass outside the windows of the MRT trains.
5. The numbers of MRT passengers remain fairly constant on weekdays and weekends. This is something that few cities experience.
6. History and stories can be found everywhere along the MRT system. The Qilian Station is just one example.

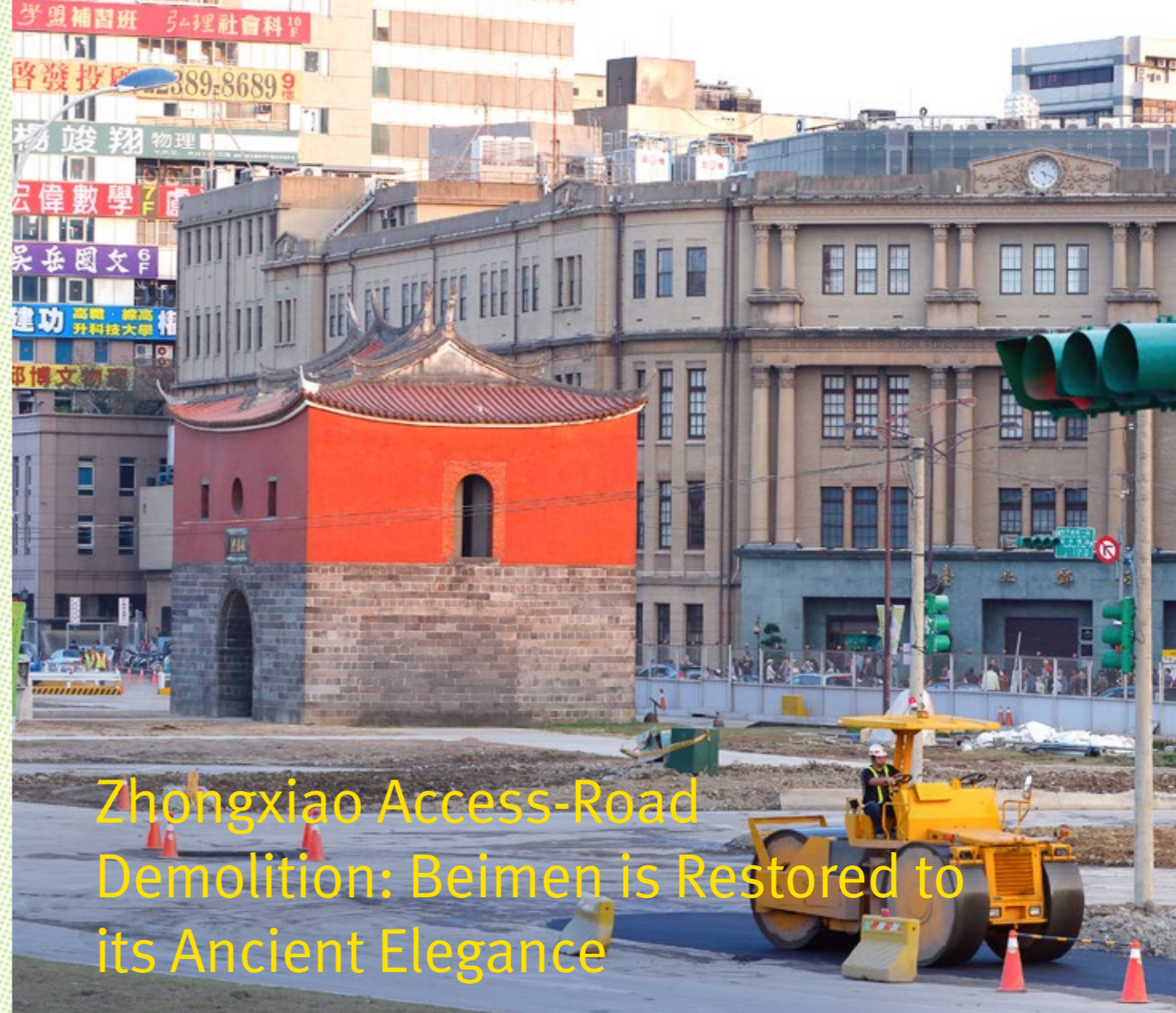


station is an old temple, dedicated to the worship of Shennong Dadi (神農大帝) and built during the Qing dynasty. Its original name was Wu Gu Wang Temple (五穀王廟). The word “gu” here is a synonym for grain, as Shennong tested many herbs and is referred to as the Emperor of the Five Grains. During the Japanese era, the name was changed to the more genteel Xianse Temple. However, locals have continued to call it the Wu Gu Wang Temple. Not only is the bus stop named Wu Gu Wang, but this is also the current place name. Such a reform in the name of the MRT station is allegedly in response to the opinions of some of the elders, and this is something that is worth pondering.

In addition, there are Jiangzicui (江子翠), Liuzhangli (六張犁), Huzhou (葫洲) and Luzhou (蘆洲), etc. These are distinguishing features of the MRT and also parts of Taipei’s and Taiwan’s history.

This March, the MRT celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At the age of 20 it is considered very young. It is not among the first rapid transit systems to be built, but it does possess a sense of history. Due to its cultural and geographical characteristics, it also possesses many unique characteristics. These distinguishing aspects are part of the unique beauty that is worth cherishing and embracing. [T](#)

7. The “Li Zheng Chong Xi–Cheng En Jing Fu” public art installation is worth taking the time to stop and admire.



## Zhongxiao Access-Road Demolition: Beimen is Restored to its Ancient Elegance

Article — Russell  
 Photos — Daniel M Shih  
 New Construction Office, Public Works Department, Taipei City Government

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Taipei’s 132-year-old Beimen, or North Gate, formally called the Cheng-En Gate, was finally restored to its ancient elegance after having been partially hidden from view by the Zhongxiao Bridge access-road overpass for 39 years. On February 7<sup>th</sup> the Taipei City Government began demolition of the overpass, with an eight-day work period originally scheduled. However, as a result of the diligent joint efforts of the public sector and contractors, in a display of high efficiency the demolition was completed two days ahead of schedule, on February 11<sup>th</sup>.



### The Sun Shines Once Again on Beimen – Invincible “Golden Shield”

Public Works Department Commissioner Cheng-sheng Pong emphasized at the time that the overpass demolition is an important first step in the implementation of the Taipei City Government’s West District Gateway Project. If the Beimen Plaza can be restored, it will both awaken the public’s historical and cultural memory and create the image of a national gateway to Taipei City. Commissioner Pong also stated that the overpass demolition was a project of the highest degree of difficulty, mainly because of the high number of nearby historical

sites and the location of local roads. Consequently, a “big crew and many machines” strategy was employed to quicken the pace of the project, with nearly two thousand workers trading demolition-work and traffic-control shifts around the clock to enable its early completion.

Prior to the resolution of moving the Taiwan Railways line underground, the level crossing at this location caused a road-traffic bottleneck. Construction of the Zhongxiao Bridge overpass was therefore commenced in 1978. However, this caused visual obstruction of Beimen. The Taipei City Government has in fact formulated plans to demolish the

overpass on four occasions in the past, most recently in 2011, with 2016 considered the best time to carry out the project, due to scheduled completion of traffic facilities in the vicinity. After taking office in 2014, and in coordination with the West District Gateway Project, Taipei Mayor Wen-je Ko selected the Chinese New Year period, when traffic volume is at its lowest, as the time to execute the project.

On January 6<sup>th</sup> the contractors began the preliminary tasks involved in dismantling the bridge, including placing fences around the bridge area and digging out shrubbery from the partition islands. The overpass to the



Zhongxiao Bridge was a total of 750 meters in length, and reached a height of 35 meters. Because the bridge surface was at a distance of only 60 centimeters from Beimen, due to concerns that the gate might be damaged by gravel spray a mechanical cutting method was used. In addition, steel plates were placed around the gate in order to reduce shaking of the ground by falling clods of earth, and a protective steel-frame partition dubbed the “Golden Shield” was set up outside the gate.

In addition, every four hours safety inspections were carried out on the cultural assets in the Beimen vicinity, such as the Taipei Beimen



1. Due to the high number of historical sites and the location of local roads, the overpass demolition was a project of the highest degree of difficulty. (Photo: Daniel M Shih)
2. A “big crew and many machines” strategy was employed to quicken the pace of the project to enable its early completion. (Photo: Daniel M Shih)
3. Zhongxiao Bridge: Thanks for the excellent work by all of the employees who worked hard on the sped-up removal project during the Chinese New Year! (Photo: New Construction Office, Public Works Department, Taipei City Government)



The Beimen Access Road Removal is the first step in the “West District Gateway Project.”  
(Photo: Daniel M Shih)

Post Office, Mitsui Warehouse, and railway museum, checking for cracks and tilting and collecting data. Fortunately, during the demonstration process there were no problems.


### West District Gateway Project – Creating a National Gateway Image

During the period of removal, traffic regulations were put in place, including completely blocking westbound traffic on Zhongxiao West Road, leaving one lane open for eastbound traffic, blocking south- and northbound traffic from Xining North Road to Chongqing South Road along Zhongxiao West Road, and sealing off and detouring highway passenger buses and urban

buses. Because the removal work was undertaken during the Chinese New Year, the traffic controls did not have a significant effect on overall traffic. However, post-removal road restoration work is now being carried out, to be completed in November, and the public is advised to change their travel routes to cross the Tamsui River using Zhongxing Bridge or Taipei Bridge instead.

The removal of the Zhongxiao Bridge access-road overpass is an important first step in the implementation of the West District Gateway Project. It will be followed by adjustments to area roads and public transportation lines along with the revival of Beimen Plaza. Furthermore, in tandem

with the opening of the Taoyuan International Airport MRT line and the commencement of Taipei Main Station (A1) station operations, the plaza outside of Taipei Main Station will be transformed, with a national gateway image shaped. As well, culture- and industry-oriented thinking will henceforth be included in the overall land usage and regulation in western Taipei.

There is an abundance of old-city historical assets from the Qing Dynasty, Japanese era, and Republic of China era in the area surrounding Taipei Main Station. With the retirement and removal of the Zhongxiao Bridge access-road overpass, Beimen has been restored to its full elegance, and whether serving as a symbolic gateway to the capital city or attracting the gaze of domestic and foreign tourists, it adds splendidly to the richness of Taipei City’s historical texture, and is bright and glittering first step towards excellence for the Taipei City Government. 

# The Dream of One Old Man: North to South in a Day, the Impossible Made Possible

Article — Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government  
Photos — Pan Junlin

## How long has it been since you have dared to dream?

Dreaming is easy. All you have to do is move your lips, and it is as if visiting the heavens or the depths of the oceans is a walk in the park. However, dreams are often squashed by harsh reality. That is when the excuses begin. More often than not, dreams are like kindling in which the fire has gone out, unknowingly extinguished.

At five o’clock in the morning on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 56-year-old Taipei Mayor Wen-je Ko visited Taipei’s Guandu Temple (關渡宮) to ask for blessings, then did some warm-up exercises in the riverside plaza before departing Taipei on a more than 300-kilometer bike ride that lasted 19 hours and 52 minutes, ending with his arrival in Kaohsiung. Many people have expressed bewilderment about this, and have asked him why he wanted to do such a crazy thing. He always answers with just a smile. But, in his heart, his hope is that this display of willpower can help Taiwan’s people to reclaim their confidence, explaining by saying, “The characteristics of maritime nations are that they take risks and overcome difficulties. The only difference between success and failure is willpower.”



## One-Day Taipei-to-Kaohsiung Challenge, Entire Staff on Board

The origin of this “one-day Taipei to Kaohsiung cycling challenge” (一日北高·雙城挑戰) was a meeting to discuss how to market Velo-city Global 2016 and the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade. Ko proposed cycling between the far north’s Fugui Cape Lighthouse (富貴角燈塔) and far south’s Eluanbi Lighthouse (鵝鑾鼻燈塔) in one day. The staff members in attendance tried to discourage this plan, believing that it was far too ambitious. However, Ko did not fully give in. After heeding advice, he modified his plan to two cities in one day. This was how the Taipei-to-Kaohsiung cycling challenge developed.

Staff members first implemented a systematic plan and route survey. After this, a cycling coach from the Taipei City Cycling Association (台北市自由車協會) was introduced by the Taipei City Government’s Department of Transportation (台北市政府交通局), to provide Ko and those accompanying him regular professional training. The mayor used the breaks in his busy schedule to carry out strength training in a room next to his office, and trained regularly, three times per week, one to two hours each time. His trainer praised Ko as one of his best students, always first to arrive and last to leave. In addition to his regular training, the mayor insisted on using the stairs to reach his office, on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of Taipei City Hall. Climbing so

many flights of stairs requires unusual willpower.

## With Trust In and Respect For Expertise, There Is No Mission Impossible

Riding a distance of 380 kilometers means spending a lot of time on a bicycle seat. Sore buttocks is one difficulty that had to be overcome. In addition to wearing cycling shorts, Ko paid attention to his coach’s expert advice, such as on which sections of the route required gear changes as well as shifts in sitting position and pedaling frequency. He paid close attention during all of the training drills, not daring to deviate in the slightest. From these small details, it is not difficult to understand that Ko is a person who trusts expertise and respects



1-2. Taipei Mayor Wen-je Ko hopes that his display of willpower in completing this one-day, two-city cycling challenge will help Taiwan’s people to reclaim their confidence.


3. Taipei Mayor Wen-je Ko, says that, “If you ask me what Taiwan needs, in actuality Taiwan needs hope. This hope comes from the confidence in taking risks and overcoming difficulties.”

**People become great when they dream. So start chasing your dream now!**

professionals and, thus, was able to complete this “mission impossible.”

During this trip, among the people who volunteered to ride along, the one who most inspired Ko was a victim of the 2014 Kaohsiung gas explosions. He brought his bicycle to Taipei the night before the trip, and rode with Ko the entire way. After undergoing physical therapy for a full year, he has been gradually recovering. During this trip the pain from his injuries was indescribable, but he managed to overcome it, and was able to keep up because he believed that if Ko could do it, he could do it.

Ko hopes that, after January 9<sup>th</sup>, whenever anyone hits a wall when chasing a dream and there doesn’t seem to be any way to succeed, they think about an older fellow who persevered even when the whole world did not believe in him.

“You ask me: What does Taiwan need?” says Ko, “Actually, Taiwan needs hope. This hope comes from the confidence to take risks and overcome difficulties.” The future of a city is determined by the willpower of its residents. 

### Epilogue

One month later, during the February 28<sup>th</sup> Peace Memorial Day long weekend, Taipei Mayor Wen-je Ko took up a new challenge, this time cycling between two lighthouses. On the morning of February 27<sup>th</sup>, he set out from Taiwan’s northernmost Fuguijiao Lighthouse. Unfazed by the wind and rain, he arrived at Taiwan’s southernmost Eluanbi Lighthouse 28 hours later, completing 520 kilometers on bicycle. This earned him the title of “strongest old man of his age on Earth”.

# Twin Taipei Cities Cooperation Platform: Achievements in Food Safety and Species Conservation

Article \_ Wallace Chang  
Photos \_ Department of Health, Taipei City Government

Taipei City and New Taipei City are shared living areas. Thus, diet, work, living and entertainment in these “twin Taipei cities” are closely linked. A cooperation and exchange platform between the two cities has been established. In the past five years, much has been achieved through nearly 100 collaborative projects, creating a model for regional integration. Last year, the results were even more impressive, including the joint establishment of Food Tracer Taipei. This is a food ingredients registration platform, that allows for transparency in the food supply chain. The general public can now obtain information about the origin of foods at any time for peace of mind. In addition, the Taipei Zoo and the Agriculture Department, New Taipei City Government (新北市政府農業局) have been working together to restore Taipei’s grass frog populations. This rapidly disappearing species has been designated a category II rare and valuable species. Eggs obtained from this species’ habitat have been successfully raised, producing more than 200 juveniles, which is helping



the species, nicknamed “thunder god frog”, to experience a resurgence.

## Legal Basis Established: Institutionalization of Food Ingredients Registration Platform

Following numerous food scandals in recent years, there has been a significant decline in the public’s trust of Taiwan’s foods. To expand the scope of food supply information transparency, Taipei City Government’s Department of Health (台北市政府衛生局) has provided guidance to an increasing number of vendors to encourage them to reveal the sources of their food ingredients. In addition, the

two cities have collaborated on the development of Food Tracer Taipei.

According to the Department of Health, with the construction of this platform, the public can search for information regarding brands, place of production, sources of packaging materials and calories of ingredients in school lunches, marketplace produce, night market foods, campus foodstuffs, beverages and ice-creams, souvenir foods, baby foods and government employee cafeterias.

The Department of Health also notes that the Taipei City Self-governing Regulations for Food Safety (台北市食品安全自治條例) form



the legal basis for the food ingredients registration platform, which has allowed for the institutionalization, transparency and sustainability of this platform. In addition, the Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare’s (衛生福利部食品藥物管理署) database on the nutrient composition of foods in Taiwan served as a reference. Records of foods are classified into 18 categories, covering 75 nutrients and a total of 1,346 foods. Through the efforts of the Department of Health and the Department of Education,

Taipei City Government (台北市政府教育局), consistency in the naming of food ingredients has reached 85 percent in the school lunch section.

Food Tracer Taipei has been quite effective. The Department of Health notes that during an incident involving tea-based drinks, information about Stornaway Black Tea (英國藍紅茶) could be immediately attained through a search. The listed supplier was Chou Chieh Enterprise (洲界公司) and the listed production area was Sri Lanka. In addition to these instantaneous

The Taipei Zoo is responsible for conservation and propagation of the Taipei grass frog. The Agriculture Department, New Taipei City Government is tasked with habitat survey and improvement. (Photo: Liu Jiawen)



Under joint efforts of the twin Taipei cities, populations of the endangered Taipei grass frog are being restored. (Photo: Gao Zanzhan)

search results, the information obtained was quickly passed to the Taipei District Prosecutors Office (台北地檢署) for use in its investigation. In another incident involving Kong Yen black vinegar (工研烏醋), this platform was used to confirm that three schools had received problem products.

### Frog Population Restoration: Focus on Elevation of Survival Rates

There is a severe overlap in the activity areas of the Taipei grass frog, nicknamed the “thunder god frog”,

and areas of human habitation. In the 1970s, its area of distribution was western Taiwan; however, with increasing land usage, its habitat shrank. Now, there are only a few scattered groups remaining. Due to habitat destruction and overuse of pesticides and herbicides, this species is endangered. To save the Taipei grass frog, the Taipei Zoo and the Agriculture Department, New Taipei City Government have been cooperating to restore the Taipei grass frog population. The Taipei Zoo is responsible for species conservation and stable population increase, and

the Agriculture Department is tasked with carrying out habitat surveys and environmental improvements. Through the two cities’ collaborative platform mechanism, there have been concrete achievements in the restoration of the Taipei grass frog populations.

Chang Ming-hsiung (張明雄), Taipei Zoo associate researcher, says that the zoo staff has successfully bred the Taipei grass frog, caring for it at each stage of its life cycle from eggs to tadpoles to juveniles. It is hoped that a survival rate of more than 60 percent from the juvenile stage to the adult stage can be achieved, as this is key. If the survival rate of the Taipei grass frog is high and it is able to continue to propagate, the result will be the complete conservation of the species with reintroduction of core groups into the original habitat.

Chang notes that in its effort to increase the wild populations and distribution range, the Taipei Zoo has referenced international species conservation experience and integration models. Reintroduction of this species into its original habitat is the objective. Simultaneous promotion of ex-situ conservation propagation and in-situ habitat survey and conservation education is also being carried out. By working together with New Taipei City to understand the environmental conditions in its habitat and through the implementation of habitat improvements and restoration, it is hoped that in the not too far future this frog will have a new lease on life in Greater Taipei. [T](#)

## One-day Springtime Tour Itinerary: Exploring Taipei’s Film Locations

Article — Chung Wen-Ping  
Photos — Jilin Yang



Sample kaiseki cuisine or experience afternoon tea in the quaint atmosphere of the Beitou Museum.



1

Over the past few years, Taiwanese movies and idol dramas have become all the rage. In addition to creating strong box office sales, film locations have become gathering places for fans intent on following the stars. This especially holds true for those depicted in romantic films and love stories. Fans seek to follow in the footsteps of their favorite leading man and leading lady, recapturing memories of heart wrenching dialogue by placing themselves in an identical setting. Lingering in the same atmosphere, it is possible to imagine the emotional twists and turns of the main characters. This has led to the creation of a new travel trend. Rich in culture and cultural diversity, there are a number of

places that directors have found well suited to their scripts, and thus have been used as film locations. Taking advantage of the warmer weather that comes with spring, the sights visited by movie lovers can be explored. The fictional stories portrayed on the silver screen can be transformed into a real-life romantic one-day getaway for two. Hand in hand, follow the stars!

9:00~12:30

### Visit Taiwan's Version of Hollywood – Follow in the Footsteps of Movie Fans in Beitou

Around the 1960s, when Taiwanese-language films were

popular, Beitou (北投), a hot springs resort area, served as a natural filming location. It was often selected by directors as a filming site for films such as for *The Guitar of Hot Spring Township* (溫泉鄉的吉他) and *Brother Liu and Brother Wang on the Roads in Taiwan* (王哥柳哥遊台灣). At one time, it possessed the highest concentration of film crews in Taiwan and was called the “Hollywood of Taiwanese cinema”.

*Forever Love* (阿嬤的夢中情人) pays tribute to the golden age of Taiwanese films. In the movie, Mei-Yue (美月) sits on the back of Chi-Sheng (奇生)'s motorcycle in this version of “boy meets girl”. They ride past one of the scenic spots



2

of Beitou–Hell Valley (地獄谷). However, this is not Geothermal Valley (地熱谷), also known by its former name of Hell Valley. It is Lihuang (Sulfur) Valley (硫磺谷), located a short distance from urban areas. It is famed for its terrain, which is a mix of pyroclastic rock and sedimentary rock. The entire hillside appears to be a steaming kettle year-round. Towering clouds of steam spew out from cracks and geysers, making it seem like a fog-filled version of a barren desert. One can imagine the scene in which the female lead Amber An (安心亞) is on the back of the male lead Blue Lan (藍正龍)'s motorcycle as they ride through thick fog. It is indeed filled with adventurous romance.

Heading back to the center of Beitou, the atmosphere of this hundred-year-old hot springs area is quiet and pleasant. In the movie, *The Killer Who Never Kills* (殺手歐陽盆栽), this is where the gangster, who goes by the nickname Tricky, has a heart-to-heart talk with his protégé. In the TV drama *Skip-Beat!* (華麗的挑戰), Korean superstar Lee Dong Hae and female lead Ivy Chen (陳意涵) grew up in this area of hot springs hotels, and filming was done at the vintage Beitou Museum (北投文物館). The predecessor of this museum was the Kazan Hotel (佳山旅館) which was constructed in 1921. At that time, it was the finest hot springs resort in Beitou. During its renovation, special care was taken

1. The overall architectural detail of the Beitou Museum makes it a representative example of Japanese-style wooden architecture.
2. Geothermal Valley can be easily reached. All year round it is shrouded in steam and fog, creating a fantasyland setting.

to retain its original appearance, down to the finest details, such as the doors, windows and staircases. In addition, the garden landscapes were completely preserved. The result is a very attractive site that can be considered a representative example of Japanese-style wooden architecture in Taiwan.

等  
一 個 人  
咖 啡

Café-Waiting-Love



3

*Welcome to The Happy Days* (五星級魚干女) is part of the *Metro of Love* (台北愛情捷運) film series, and it is scheduled to hit movie screens in March. Also filmed in Beitou, the gentle and refined direction of Gavin Lin (林孝謙) is a perfect complement to the healing style of the hot springs area. A historic hot springs hotel is facing closure, and a young woman, drab in appearance, is filled with determination to help her grandmother revive the hotel. A stylish young American man

arrives in Taiwan who then takes the MRT to Beitou and searches for an opportunity to work in exchange for room and board. What kind of story will unfold as they unite to save this hotel? Beitou's secret and not-so-secret scenic attractions are revealed through the eyes of this director. These sites include the Beitou Branch of the Taipei Public Library (台北市立圖書館北投分館), Geothermal Valley, Beitou Park (北投公園) and Beitou Market (北投市場). Visiting the filming locations of Beitou is a profound journey for perceiving the

local warmth, and it provides the opportunity to see anew the unique charm and beauty of this place.

Beitou Park has become famous due to its appearance in a recent film, an adaptation of a work by graphic artist Jimmy Liao (幾米), entitled *Turn Left, Turn Right* (向左走向右走). Although the main characters, played by Takeshi Kaneshiro (金城武) and Gigi Leung (梁詠琪), live in the same building, they never seem to meet. The first time they set eyes on each other is at a fountain in Beitou

Park. A manuscript that Leung's character is working on is blown into the fountain by a strong gust of wind, and Kaneshiro's character jumps into the water to rescue it. Sparks immediately fly between the two, but a sudden storm separates them. The ensuing rain makes their telephone numbers written on slips of paper for one another illegible. What follows is a beautiful, yet melancholy, period of longing, and it becomes a must-visit sacred place for Jimmy Liao. In the highly popular Taiwanese drama, *In Time With You* (我可能不會



4

3. It almost seems as if a rich aroma of coffee is wafting from the screen in the movie *Café.Waiting.Love*.

4. *Café.Waiting.Love* has preserved the furnishings and decoration of the eponymous movie, attracting fans who want to relive the experience of the film.

愛你), the main characters Cheng You-Qing (程又青) and Lee Da-Ren (李大仁) are seen squabbling at school, and this scene was filmed at Taipei Municipal Fuxing Senior High School (復興高中). This campus has long been a part of this area, known as the “Hollywood of Taiwanese cinema” and its star status has not waned. It has provided inspiration for generations of filmmakers, and a relaxed stroll here is sure to be a fulfilling experience.

13:00~17:00

### Explore Muzha's Café. Waiting.Love and Recall Moments from *Our Times*

In 2014, the film *Café.Waiting.Love* (等一個人咖啡) earned more than NT\$100 million at the box office in just six short days. With the

release of this film, Taipei City, which was already filled with the fragrant aroma of coffee, experienced another wave of “coffee addiction”. In this film, a coffee shop appears in a small lane across from Taipei Jingmei Girls High School (景美女中). This is an actual, operating coffee shop, and it retains the same furnishings and decorations as in the film. Many fans come to pay their respects to the female main character Siying (思螢) and Abusi (阿不思), the barista who can blend any type of coffee to order, as well as the mysterious and beautiful owner and the main male characters A-tuo (曾元拓) and Zeyu (楊澤于). Here, fans imagine this unforgettable line from the movie: “Everyone is waiting for someone, waiting for that one person who will see that you are different from everyone else.” The coffee, therefore, takes on a different flavor from that of every other coffee.

5. The skating rink in Muzha Park is the setting for one of the classic romantic scenes in *Our Times*.
6. From Jiannan Mountain, there are views of a slowly revolving, colorful Ferris wheel under enchanting moonlight.



5



6

The creative menu is an extension of the movie. Fans adore ordering strange sounding coffee concoctions with unique flavors, such as those of the *Café.Waiting.Love* series. Examples include “Coffee for Real Man”, “In Love, the Mistress is the One Who is Unloved” and “Overwhelming Sadness of Duel on the Huashan Mountain”. It is just like experiencing the extraordinary coffee brewing talents of Abusi, and they can be paired with the “Girls’ Friend Red Bean” waffle, the “Courage is Needed to Express Your Feelings” brunch set, the smoked salmon sandwich or the Greek salami panini. It is said that this is a place where people who have been hiding their feelings for a special someone are filled with the courage to reveal them!

After finishing your coffee, the next stop on your movie itinerary should be a trip to Muzha Park (木柵公園). The skating rink in this park is the setting for a classic romantic scene from the movie *Our Times* (我的少女時代). Muzha Park was constructed in 1980, and it includes a lakeside loop trail, pavilions, a children’s playground, and a skating rink. It is a community park with a comprehensive set of facilities. In this film, Hsu Tai-yu (徐太宇) brings Truly Lin (林真心) to this park at night to teach her how to skate. As Lin listens to a recording that Hsu give her, she looks up at the star-filled sky, thinking of Hsu who almost seems to be beside her. These scenes were filmed here, and during the filming, the production team installed lighting

to create the effect of twinkling stars and an air of romance. Although these lights have been removed, it is still possible to walk around the skating rink and create your own version of the *Our Times* romance.


18:00~

### Search for Lee Da-Ren and Cheng You-Qing



Cold comes early in the evening and brings with it a fine drizzle. However, that does not keep away the crowds of people on Jiannan Mountain (劍南山) in Dazhi. The visitors are mostly fans of the TV drama *In Time With You* and have come to visit one of its filming

locations. Visitors can head up the mountain from Jiannan Road to Jiannan Butterfly Garden (劍南蝶園), and then, continue their ascent to where the nightscapes become more and more vivid. This is where Lee Da-Ren and Cheng You-Qing came to drink beer and admire the nighttime views. In the dark of night, the slowly revolving, colorful Ferris wheel and moonlight above, as well as the flowing lights of the traffic along Tiding Boulevard, are gorgeous sights to behold. Many people have said that it was only after seeing this TV drama that they discovered that there is such a beautiful spot from which to view Taipei at night, other than Yangmingshan and Maokong. Moreover, Jiannan Mountain is

within walking distance of the MRT Jianan Road Station (捷運劍南路站), which makes it an even friendlier and more accessible destination for night views.

Visitors can seize the opportunity to experience bright and beautiful springtime scenes, stroll through parks, sip coffee and admire nighttime city views, just like in the movies. On your travel map, just mark those places that are most moving to you and go there to make your own fond memories! 



#### Beitou Museum 北投文物館

 32, Youya Road  
 (02)2891-2318



#### Beitou Park 北投公園

 2, Zhongshan Road


#### Taipei Municipal Fuxing Senior High School 復興高中

 70, Fuxing 4th Road  
 (02)2891-4131

#### Café.Waiting.Love 等一個人咖啡

 1, Ln. 44, Yishou Street  
 (02)2936-0596

#### Muzha Park 木柵公園

 50, Sec. 4, Xinlong Road



# Youth Hostels: Legal, Affordable Accommodation for International Travelers

Article \_\_ Li-Chin Hsu  
Photos \_\_ Xu Yukai

With the rise of Taipei City's tourism industry, there is increasing demand for accommodation. According to statistics, as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 there were 502 hotels of all price levels in Taipei City. Among them, there is no lack of affordable hotels with rooms at NT\$1,500 and below per night. For travelers from Taiwan and abroad, youth hostels are a good choice, and there is ample supply.

"We are not selling accommodation. We are managing the friendliness of Taiwan's people." Xiao Zongren (蕭宗仁), general manager of Homey Hostel (紅米國際青年旅館), says that this is his and his younger sister's intention in creating this establishment. He

also notes that he is grateful for his decision to manage this youth hostel. Xiao originally worked in the finance industry, which is all about money, and after dealing with cold, hard numbers, he decided to enter the youth-hostel industry, which is all about people. Each day, he has the opportunity to meet tourists and backpackers from all over the world, and has made a lot of friends in his effort to promote Taiwan through people-to-people diplomacy. All of this has all brought him a great sense of achievement. He happily notes that he makes friends through the sightseeing information and services, as well as accommodation, offered by Homey Hostel, and he provides these friends with a more authentic experience of Taipei. Many travelers on return trips to Taipei come back to Homey Hostel with their own friends or family members. Says

Xiao: "Homey Hostel is their home in Taipei."

Homey Hostel is located near the Taipei Main Station, and has 150 beds. About 95 percent of its guests are foreign backpackers. Xiao explains that, "The vitality of a city's tourism industry can best be felt in its hostels." He gives a guided tour of Homey Hostel introducing its features, including its spacious, bright, and highly innovative lobby, shared kitchen, shared bathrooms with separate wet and dry areas, IC key cards, and brightly colored, eye-catching beds and cabinets. Every bed has a personal reading lamp and universal wall socket. Personal lockers are provided, with USB charger ports. There is even a female dorm. Signs are in Chinese, English, Japanese, and Korean. In addition, travel tips are provided

in different languages, such as on recommended attractions, specialty products, night-market foods, and night views, which guests can look over at their leisure. Guests can place food in the shared refrigerator. If for personal use, they can attach a sticker with their name; if they would like to share the food, they can attach a green sticker – a very thoughtful service. Theme parties are often held to provide entertainment, attracting many of the outgoing and friendly backpackers.

"I am very happy that Homey Hostel is a window for many foreign backpackers to learn about Taipei," says Xiao. "And I'm proud that Taiwan has so many places that attract tourists.

I hope that Homey can continue to improve, and even become one of the top ten youth hostels in the world." Xiao reminds tourists of the importance of staying in a legal hostel or hotel. "If able to receive a license to operate, this means that the building, safety, fire-prevention measures, cleanliness, insurance, and escape routes have all passed inspection. It also indicates that the management is serious about running the establishment. By choosing this type of place, travelers can relax and enjoy themselves." Xiao hopes that by providing a safe "shared enjoyment," affordable living environment, guests can use the money they save on accommodation to experience the beauty of Taipei and Taiwan.

The Taipei City Government's Department of Information and Tourism (台北市政府觀光傳播局) notes that Taipei City possesses many accommodation options that are clean, conveniently located, and affordable, to satisfy the diverse needs of travelers. A list of the city's legal accommodation can be found on the Travel Taipei Website (台北旅遊網) and TaiwanStay Website (台灣旅宿網). When making a reservation, it is best to check the hotel's or hostel's registration number. Visitors should avoid staying in an illegal short-term rental, even if it seems convenient or inexpensive, to ensure their safety, the safety of their property, and their consumer rights. [T](#)

1. The bright, spacious, and colorful lobby allows guests to feel the passion and vitality of this hostel.
2. The windows are filled with the wonderful memories of travelers from all over the world.



**Homey Hostel**  
紅米國際青年旅館  
7F, 180, Chang'an W. Road  
(長安西路 180 號 7 樓)  
[www.homeyhostel.com](http://www.homeyhostel.com)

 **Travel Taipei Website**  
台北旅遊網  
[www.travel.taipei](http://www.travel.taipei)

 **TaiwanStay Website**  
台灣旅宿網  
[taiwanstay.net.tw](http://taiwanstay.net.tw)



Professional Farmer Shop:

## Providing a Variety of Safe Taiwan – produced Foods

Article — Ku Chia Hsin  
Photos — Taipei Agricultural Products Marketing Corp.

Black tea is a specialty in Sun Moon Lake's Yuchi Township (日月潭魚池鄉), Nantou County (南投縣). Majia noodles and XO sauce are specialties of Kinmen (金門) and fragrant lotus flowers are a specialty of Baihe District (白河區), Tainan City (台南市). However, it is not necessary for Taipei residents to travel around to buy agricultural specialty products from various regions of Taiwan. All they have to do is visit the Professional Farmer (農的傳人) shop of the Taipei Agricultural Products Marketing Corp. (台北農產運銷股份有限公司), where they can purchase agricultural

specialty products from all over Taiwan that meet national standards. Thus, this is not only a place to purchase foods that are certified safe, but also to experience an overview of Taiwan's agricultural products and culinary culture.

The Taipei Agricultural Products Marketing Corp. is jointly owned by the Taipei City Government, the Executive Yuan (行政院) and various farmers associations and transport companies. It operates and manages Taipei's first and second fruit and vegetable wholesale markets. Currently, it is Taiwan's largest wholesale produce platform, and it handles 1,600 metric tons of vegetables and 700 metric tons of fruit daily. It opens before dawn each day, and via

auction, within two or three hours all of the produce is distributed to retailers throughout Greater Taipei who provide it to consumers. The scope of distribution has also been expanded to include satellite cities and towns in Taoyuan and Yilan, and a total of approximately five million consumers are served.

### Promoting Taiwan's Agricultural Specialty Products and Ensuring Food Safety Checks

In recent years, there seems to have been an endless stream of food safety scandals; therefore, providing Taipei residents with healthy and safe foods has become a pressing issue. Lu Quanli (路全利), chief secretary of the Taipei

Agricultural Products Marketing Corp., says that the Second Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Market has a modern laboratory for testing pesticide residue in fruits and vegetables. Every day, 250 random samples are tested. Those that do not meet the standards are confiscated and destroyed to ensure that they do not enter the market.

The Professional Farmer is located next to the Second Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Market. In terms of food safety, it emphasizes stocking agricultural specialty products from various farmers' associations of each county, city, township and town. The local farmers' associations carry out the first level of checks. In addition to basic registration documents, product manufacturers must present certification from all of the relevant testing agencies before their products can be sold in the shop. Every weekend, various farmers' associations are invited to design different themes to help consumers to better understand Taiwan's agricultural specialty product culture and safety inspection system.

### Organic Certification: Convenient Online Shopping and Delivery Service

To strengthen promotion of fresh and safe products, in September of last year (2015), the Taipei Agricultural Products Marketing Corp. established its own organic fruit and vegetable brand, Fragrant Fruits and Vegetables (蔬果飄香). Lu emphasizes that as the leader in Taiwan's wholesale markets, the Taipei Agricultural Products Marketing Corp. should take the first step in the comprehensive promotion



1. Every day, the Taipei Agricultural Products Marketing Corp. handles 1,600 metric tons of vegetables and 700 metric tons of fruit for five million consumers.
2. Taipei's first and second fruit and vegetable wholesale markets open before dawn every morning. Within two or three hours, all of the fruits and vegetables are auctioned off for distribution to various parts of Greater Taipei.
3. In September of last year (2015), the Taipei Agricultural Products Marketing Corp. established its own organic brand, Fragrant Fruits and Vegetables, fresh, safe and healthy foods are its flagship products. (Photo: Ku Chia Hsin)

of organic fruits and vegetables. Certified organic fruits and vegetables should be brought together and in this way an adequate supply can be ensured for all of Taiwan. In the future, supplies for school lunches in Taipei City elementary and junior high schools will also be sustainable.

The Taipei Agricultural Products Marketing Corp. also promotes monthly and yearly organic fruit and vegetable home delivery services to the general public. Lu says that home delivery service is a rising trend. The public can choose from more than 80 types of organic fruits and vegetables. A purchase of NT\$800 includes six types of leafy vegetables and six types of rootstalks, which can be used to make three to four meals for a family of four. In terms of agricultural specialty

products, with the availability of online marketing, consumers can make purchases through PostMall (郵政商城) or other platforms and have their orders delivered to their door. In this time of intense market competition, the Taipei Agricultural Products Marketing Corp. is providing Taipei City residents with agricultural specialty products from all over Taiwan and serving as a guardian of the public's health. 📍

# With Strings Attached: Puppet Theater Expert Robin Ruizendaal Revels in the Culture of Taipei

Article — Cheryl Robbins  
Photos — Li Kaiming



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Entering a narrow, historical building on Xining North Street, between Dihua Street and Dadaocheng Wharf (大稻埕碼頭), you step onto well worn, but still dark and polished, wood floor. To the left is an open space, a small, cluttered workshop where a puppet maker carries out his craft. A narrow wooden staircase leads to the exhibition areas of the Taiyuan Asian Puppet Theatre Museum (台原亞洲偶戲博物館). The adjacent Nadou Theatre (納豆劇場) comes alive with the sounds of children laughing and applauding. These are the stomping grounds of Dr. Robin Ruizendaal.

Ruizendaal serves as the director of the Taiyuan Asian Puppet Theatre Museum and artistic director of the Taiyuan Puppet Theatre Company (台原亞洲偶戲團), both based in Taipei. Originally from the Netherlands, this city has been his home for more than two decades. He fell in love with it on his first visit here in 1990 to carry out field studies for his doctoral dissertation. In 1993, after receiving his degree, he returned, determined to build a career and life here.

## From Study to Lifelong Passion

What started out as something of a fluke has turned into a lifelong

passion. In 1986, he was enrolled in a doctoral degree program in Chinese Studies at Leiden University in the Netherlands. As part of this program he was expected to spend time in China researching a specific topic. He already had an interest in drama and went to the library in search of relevant information and inspiration. “What I found was that puppet theater was everywhere,” he says, “I became fascinated with learning about traditional marionette theater and using it as a way to research Chinese culture.” While at Xiamen University, he saw his first traditional Chinese puppet show. He notes that, “After that, I followed four puppet theatre



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1. Robin Ruizendaal, originally from the Netherlands, is a puppet theater expert based in Taipei.
2. On the first floor of the Taiyuan Asian Puppet Theatre Museum, a master puppet maker works in an open studio area.
3. Components of puppets are ready to be assembled by the loving hands of a master puppet maker.

changing for the better.” He also notes that there is much freedom, as well as high level of acceptance among residents of new trends and people from different backgrounds.

## Willing Participant in the Revitalization of Dadaocheng

If there is one part of Taipei of which he is especially fond, it is Dadaocheng, where the museum and puppet theater are based. A century ago, this was a prosperous commercial riverside area. As such, it has long been home to traditional performing arts groups, such as puppet theater companies that stage shows at temples, entertaining the gods and the public. Ruizendaal notes that he planned his move to this area 18 years ago, as this is where the city and its culture originated.

He adds that he is very pleased with the revitalization efforts that have taken place in this area and proud to have been a part of them, but not just from the aspect of preserving and fostering Taiwanese puppetry. Since the beginning, the Taiyuan Arts and Culture Foundation has been involved in promoting Taiwanese culture and the history of this part of the city. One of the projects the foundation has participated in is the establishment

companies working in the countryside and interviewed four performers who were educated in the 1930s.” This shaped his dissertation, which focused on traditional marionette theater over a 60-year-period in southern China, mostly Fujian Province, with some fieldwork in Taiwan.

Armed with expertise, Chinese and some Taiwanese language proficiency, as well as a love of Taipei, he settled here, continuing to follow his passion. In 2001, Ruizendaal, in collaboration with Dr. Paul C.F. Lin (林經甫), founder of the Taiyuan Arts and Culture Foundation (台原藝術文化基金會) and himself an avid traditional puppet collector, established a center to develop puppet theater exhibitions and performances.

In November 2005, that center moved to its current location, two historical buildings side by side that, respectively, house the museum and the 100-seat multi-purpose Nadou Theatre. Thinking back on these accomplishments, Ruizendaal says that he is truly grateful to Taiwan and Taipei for providing him with the opportunities to further his career in puppet theater. He adds that, “Taipei is the center of culture and development in Taiwan. It is the place to be.”

But, it is not only the culture that he loves about Taipei, as he rattles off a list of the city’s advantages. “There is good food, good weather, good nightlife. This city is alive 24 hours a day. It is an open society that is constantly



create a fun and exciting environment. “There needs to be a 3D experience. It has to be see-through, as if you are part of the performance or backstage crew.” He has broken through conventional museum display methods of objects behind glass, developing interactive and DIY activities. As exhibition visitors cross the spectrum from local schoolchildren to tourists and specialists from around the world, each exhibit incorporates multiple layers of knowledge from the basic to the expert. He explains that, “Each exhibition has to have a good academic base, but still needs to be accessible and interactive.”

In his position as artistic director of the Taiyuan Puppet Theatre Company he writes and directs many of the shows. To date, this company has performed over 30 different productions in over 50 countries, with some productions requiring two to three years of preparation, especially those geared toward adults. One upcoming example is a production of *Carmen*, based on the opera of the same name, to take place in Shanghai. Children’s shows require relatively less time and make up the bulk of the productions. In each of the company’s works, Ruizendaal strives to retain the unique features of Taiwanese puppetry while incorporating modern elements and the latest international performance trends. Both Taiwanese and foreign actors and musicians can be involved, allowing for a diversity of subject matter, from local to international, as well as a diversity of languages from Mandarin and Taiwanese Hokkien to English and Italian.

of the Chinese New Year market along adjacent Dihua Street, which has become a popular shopping and tourist destination before this important holiday. Ruizendaal says that, “It’s great to see the positive transformation of this area.” He adds that, “Old shops, for example pharmacies and traditional shops, stay in this area and any holes are filled by quality shops run by people who are idealistic.”

### One Person, Many Roles

Speaking of idealistic people, Ruizendaal notes that there is a full time puppet maker on staff at the

museum. There is also a costume maker who serves as the museum’s head of conservation. “We all have four or five jobs,” he says with a chuckle. This seems like a perfect definition of passion. One of his many jobs is to curate two exhibitions per year, including those shown in the museum and that travel to other cities in Taiwan and abroad. The museum maintains a large collection, mostly of Asian puppets and objects related to Asian puppet traditions. In addition, fieldwork is continuously being carried out in Taiwan and throughout Asia. Thus, there is much material from which to draw. He notes that, in terms of exhibitions, he seeks to



With more than two decades of research and practical experience, Ruizendaal is a leading figure in Taiwan’s puppet theater circles, including academic ones. Thus, he has been instrumental in bringing scholars of puppet theater to Taipei. For example, in December of last year, he played a major role in organizing a *Potehi* (glove puppet theater) in Southeast Asia and Taiwan international conference (東南亞與台灣布袋戲國際研討會) at the Taipei National University of the Arts (國立台北藝術大學), with an accompanying exhibition at the museum.

### Optimistic About the Future of a Traditional Art Form

Taiwanese puppet theater is a traditional art form, but is it a dying one? Ruizendaal does not think so and he is quick to state the reasons for his optimism. “The government has been very helpful in this respect. The Ministry of Education (教育部) has launched a puppet theater educational program. All elementary

school students across the island are expected to watch a puppet theater performance.” He adds that preservation of puppet theater is important in maintaining Taiwanese identity. “It’s really part of Taiwanese culture.” With currently about 300 puppet theater companies operating in Taiwan it seems as if this art form is here to stay.

He notes that after World War II, puppet shows thrived. As television became popular and shows were created for this medium, puppet theater took off in the 1970s. More recently, its popularity has been ensured with the rise of the Cosplay subculture.

Ruizendaal has found Taipei to be a place of opportunity, where people can follow their passion and succeed. It is a place to experience both modern trends and the preservation and revitalization of traditions, not just in puppet theater, but across a full spectrum of industries and the arts.

4. Housed in a historical building in Dadaocheng, the surroundings of the Taiyuan Asian Puppet Theatre Museum complement the displays.
5. Robin Ruizendaal is passionate about his work in Asian puppet theater research, performance and exhibition planning.
6. At the Taiyuan Asian Puppet Theatre Museum, a diversity of puppet traditions is introduced.

### Taiyuan Asian Puppet Theatre Museum

- 79, Xining N. Rd.
- (02)2556-8909
- Tue~Sun 10:00~17:00
- [www.taipeipuppet.com](http://www.taipeipuppet.com)
- Adults NT\$80; Children NT\$50. Reservations for theater performances can be made for groups of 20 or more.

# Interpreting His Adopted Hometown Through Music: Masaki Baba's Sounds of Taipei

Article — Kao Looky, Chiang Hsinying  
Photos — Dandelion Music Communications

*The me before 50, compared to the me after 50, is as though from a previous life.*

—Masaki Baba

## From Diplomat to Performer Two Forms of Communication, In a Life Lived True

In May 2007, Masaki Baba came to Taiwan to take up his new post, Director of Cultural Affairs at the Interchange Association (Japan) Taipei Office. His time was spent organizing myriad exchange activities, conducting scholarship interviews, cutting ribbons at a multitude of events, and giving speeches, all part of his role as a Taiwan-Japan cultural communication bridge. Each morning, sporting suit and tie and riding the metro to work, Masaki would stop at the same sandwich vendor along the way to buy his breakfast. Rain or shine, the lady who ran the stand

would say “Have a good day” to him. Each time this happened, it was like a little grain of happiness being built up. He was later inspired to write a song, entitled “*A Little Grain of Happiness*” (一毫米的幸福), expressing the idea that true happiness builds up daily in drips and drops. Says Masaki: “Misfortune is an impactful event, but things will change with time. Happiness is a kind of energy and strength, and this can be tempered and increased through training.”

When he was young, Masaki discovered he had an interest in music, as well as talent. However,

during his university years he became discouraged, entering many singing competitions but enjoying little success. After entering society, his busyness with diplomatic work soon made him forget he was once so keen on music. Then, to his surprise, upon coming to live in Taipei he found himself writing a new song about once a month about his experiences, expressing his feelings about Taiwan’s rich natural environment and local customs. Reflecting on this outburst of inspired creativity, he smiles and says: “Perhaps I was meant for Taipei.”

Giving up the generous salary and benefits of a career diplomat



to become an independent creative artist has meant a major life change for Masaki. After being posted in Taiwan for about a year, one day he came across an article on a blog that was entitled “When You Were 20, What Kind of Person Did You Dream of Being? When You’re 60, What Kind of Person Do You Think You’ll Be?” He stopped to think about his own case, and said to himself, “When I was 20 I thought about being a singer. At 60, what will I be doing?” At this moment a tableau appeared before his eyes. Masaki saw himself at an unknown elementary school/nursing home, playing a guitar and happily singing for the old folks and children. Everyone was joyously singing along, their smiling faces vivid. Suddenly, he realized what he really wanted to do –

to sing and be happy, to share and be happy. “My life before 50, compared to who I am today, is like a past life,” he says. “The little bits of happiness that accumulated during those days led to who I am today, but today I am walking a different life path.”

## Singer-Songwriter and Actor to Writer – An Odd Old Japanese Man’s Non-Traditional Cultural Participation

Masaki’s best-known musical work is the theme song *By the Sea* (很靠近海), created for the 2012 Taiwan film *Touch of the Light* (逆光飛翔), in which he also made a cameo appearance in a small role. The Japanese pronunciation of the characters in his family name (馬場) is “baba,” the same as the Taiwanese

1. Masaki Baba in Linsen Park (Photo: Kao Looky)
2. Drama’s Hotel performed Romance Bookstore in Dadaocheng’s Thinkers’ Theatre.

pronunciation for “father/dad” (爸爸), some Taiwanese friends call him “Baba-san” (爸爸桑). Masaki uses the power of song to travel “round-island” (環島), interweaving Taiwan’s famous scenic sights into his lyrics. For example, in one of his tunes, “Hot Springs Village Beitou” (溫泉鄉·北投), one section goes thus: “Tangshou Guanyin, Budong Mingwang, Geothermal Valley / Music wafts to one’s ears, stirring



cherished memories / This is Beitou, this place is Beitou / Hot-spring spa for two.” Using a nostalgic traditional *nakashi* (那卡西) singing style, his reinterpretation creates a new Taiwan sound. The average Taiwan resident is likely unfamiliar with Beitou’s Tangshou Guanyin (湯守觀音) and Budong Mingwang (不動明王); Masaki’s warm singing gives people the chance to get to know these two deities. “My hope is that Japanese people can learn more about Taiwan through my songs,” he says, “and if they help my Taiwan friends to get reacquainted with their island, all the better.”

In 2014, Masaki’s close friend Johnny Matsuda, an actor, director, and playwright, formed the Taiwan troupe Drama’s Hotel (戲劇大飯店). Masaki and comedy entertainer Kenji Kasai joined up, and last year in

September the troupe performed the stage comedy *Book Store Romance* (浪漫書店) on Dihua Street. Bringing the spirit of Japanese-style comedy to the traditional/modern mix of Dihua Street created a wholly new mix-and-match type of comedy. Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, and other voices were melded. Chuckling, Masaki states that “The senior actor Michio says I have style, with a real flair for acting!” More recently, he’s moved from the big screen and big stage of movies and theatre to the small screen of television, and become ever more recognizable. He’s done a Japan promotion-week commercial for Carrefour and Daikin air-conditioning and air purifier commercials, and played the hot-headed, explosive Japanese noodle master in a Vedan instant-noodles ad. He also played Japanese artist Kotou Kuohara in the television drama series *Purple Dadaocheng*. (紫色大

稻埕). The former buttoned-up diplomat has become a real showman! Beyond this, he has represented a Japanese magazine for interviews with producer Te-Sheng Wei (魏德聖), director Boya Umin introducing the film *KANO*, and music-score composer Cheer Chen (陳綺貞). Says Masaki: “It seems I’ve done a lot of different things, but the foundation common to all is that I’m a performer. I love Taiwan, and I want to express its beauty.”

### Taipei – Dreams of a Promised Land

So, where is “home” for Masaki Baba? Though born in Sendai, he only lived there for just over a year before a series of moves began, with time in Shizuoka and Saitama, college years at Hokkaido University, a move to Tokyo upon being hired by The Japan Foundation (under the



Ministry of Foreign Affairs), postings in Beijing, Sydney in Australia... After these many years, Taipei is the city he has lived in longest, and the place for which he has the deepest feeling of “hometown.” Beyond his theatre-troupe partners Kenji Kasai and Johnny Matsuda, Masaki also keeps in regular touch with a group of other Japanese friends who love Taiwan, including Yuka Aoki (青木由香), author of *The Best Taiwan* (最好的台灣), and Junichi Kinoshita (木下諄一), author of *Notes on Taiwan Days* (隨筆台灣日子). “Different people introduce Taiwan on different levels, using text and photographs,” says Masaki. “I hope that I can use song to express the feelings that I have for Taiwan.”

After ten years, Taipei is today a place of many cultural-creative shops and comely cafes, and Masaki

*Promised Land Corners brimming with human warmth,  
Promised Land Gentle, moist subtropical breezes wreath my body.  
Parting from and encountering, interwoven and superimposed is the me of today.  
Under a brilliant sky, all and everything is connected.  
Promised Land My soft humming is drowned in the roar  
of the motorbike battle arrays,  
Promised Land And I too slowly, slowly disappear into the streetscape.*

—Masaki Baba

is pleased to see how Taiwan’s young people have the courage to express their opinions, and work to change the political map. His favorite Taipei places, beyond Dadaocheng, with its fusion of the old-time and the innovative, and Yangmingshan, with its completely different landscapes through the four seasons, is the National Taiwan University campus, which fills him with nostalgia for his alma mater, the University of Hokkaido. He loves hunting for different walking

routes to explore, and has lately developed a keen affection for YouBike city adventures. And even though he’s still not accustomed to the Taipei weather – “hot and sticky summers, cold and damp winters that feel colder than in Japan” – he creatively describes the subtropical winds as warmheartedness that wraps itself around your body, and says that the city’s noisy scooter/motorcycle “battle-array parades” have imperceptibly become a part of the backdrop to his daily routine. ㊦

3. Masaki Baba in the “Daikin Tale of the Cold Palace” commercial, playing General Tokugawa (second from left)
4. Masaki Baba (middle) in the Sanlih E-Television drama series *Purple Dadaocheng*, playing artist Xuehu Guo’s painting teacher Kotou Kuohara



On Nanmen Market's first floor are regional specialty items, Chinese New Year foods, and cured meats. During Taiwan's three big traditional festivals shoppers come in droves.



After downloading COCOAR2 on App store/Google play, scan the image on the left.

※ Promotional Video –  
Gourmet Taipei – Follow Me!  
Let's Go Digging in Taipei's  
Culinary Treasure Vault!

30-second version



60-second version



## Nanmen Market + CKS Memorial Hall: Central Taipei Food Adventure

Article — Jin Kanglan  
Photos — Gao Zanzian



(Photo: Wang Nengyou)

Food has become a most enticing alternative attraction in Taipei. The beauty of the visuals reaches the retina with stimulation of the appetite, followed by the taste buds. People lose themselves, immersed in the experience, intoxicated. This, it can be said, is among the ultimate of many of life's little joys experienced by the people of Taipei. Numerous local delicacies have achieved an international reputation, such as *xiaolongbao* (小籠包), mango shaved ice, and beef noodles. Each serves as a marketing tool for Taiwan tourism. In the city's Zhongzheng and Daan districts are many well-known shops, attracting foreign travelers in a steady stream. Choose a day, head out with an empty stomach, and engage in a deep exploration of this area's delicious foods.

### Nanmen Market – Chinese Cuisine Treasure Vault

Sellers on the first floor of Nanmen Market (南門市場) offer regional specialty items, Chinese New Year foods, hams and other cured meats, and cooked foods. During Taiwan's three big traditional festivals – Chinese New Year, Dragon Boat Festival, and Mid-Autumn Festival – a sea of people flows through, squeezed together tightly. The bright lighting augments the festive hubbub, allowing the foods sold here to seem like gold dust glowing in brilliance, making shoppers want to sweep up everything they see to take home.

Upon entering the market, my eyes were immediately drawn to Wanyouquan Hand-crafted Jinhua Hams



(萬有全手工金華火腿), as this vendor's counter is piled high with whole-leg hams. After a moment of marveling at the impressive sight, the inspiration came to buy one to take home to share with family. In Taiwan older folk has a special fondness for Jinhua hams, and each taste brings back a flood of food memories. After consideration, a chunk of Jinhua ham to use in soup was a fine choice, which adds great flavor to the stock. The vendor now offers vacuum-packing and home-delivery services, enabling foodies who formerly lived too far away to satisfy their craving.

In the center of the market's first floor is "Jerky Express" (快車肉乾). Seen from a distance, it looks like a colorful candy store. In actuality, these are Taiwan's most traditional snack treats. The jerky is paper-thin, a mere 0.01 cm. So thin it is light permeable, as well as crispy and fragrant, with a sweet/savory flavor mix, but not greasy. It is one of the delectable items that foreign travelers use to verify the tastiness of Taiwan's food.

Known near and far, Dalian Foods (大連食品行) is a treasure vault of regional specialty items and home-

style food treasures. We were greeted with a dazzling array of candied and preserved fruits on display, stopping us in our tracks. The warm-hearted owner incessantly plied shoppers with free samples, such as dried red guava, unsweetened dried Irwin mango, charbroiled dried pineapple, dried Dahu (大湖) strawberries and dried pomelo, and people are reluctant to

move on. The proud owner stated that in addition to his normal practice of adjusting flavors to match patron preferences, as well as coming up with innovative new offerings, he now pays close attention to health and nutrition while inventing new products. This ensures that his customers enjoy both the taste of his products and peace of mind.

1. Wanyouquan Hand-crafted Jinhua Hams is stacked with whole-leg hams, an image that makes people's mouth water.
2. Dalian Foods is a treasure trove of regional specialty items and home-style cuisine.



At Yichang Yufang (億長御坊), recognized as the “World’s Best Vendor”, all dishes, no matter whether deep-fried, stir-fried, stewed, steamed, or cold dressed, were often seen on the table in the homes of grandparents. Each contains nostalgia as a key ingredient, and is worth tasting. According to the owner, although everything is freshly cooked and can be eaten on the spot, many foreign travelers attracted to the stand by the aromas and take them back to hotel to enjoy.

### CKS Memorial Hall Environs – Famed, Hidden-away Xiaolongbao Eateries

Exiting Nanmen Market and crossing Roosevelt Road will bring you to one of Taipei’s famed landmarks – the National Chiang Kai-shek (CKS) Memorial Hall. Located in the heart of the city, the roof of the towering, stately structure is modeled after that of Beijing’s Temple of Heaven and its structure after an Egyptian pyramid. On either side of the grounds in front

of the hall are the National Theater (國家戲劇院) and National Concert Hall (國家音樂廳), solemn and majestic works of architecture in ancient Chinese-palace style. This is a must-visit destination for domestic and foreign tourists.

The CKS Memorial Hall is not just a place to visit for its exceptional architecture. Nearby you’ll find exceptional culinary creations. Taiwan’s *xiaolongbao* enjoy unbounded international renown, and



3. Yichang Yufang, recognized as the World’s Best Vendor, offers a myriad of home-style dishes.
4. Hangzhou Xiaolongbao House’s *xiaolongbao*, mixed vegetable and meat pot stickers, and shrimp shiaomai are all must-order dishes.



a weekday noon visit to Din Tai Fung (鼎泰豐) restaurant on Yongkang Street will give you a powerful demonstration of their tremendous popularity. However, it is not only Din Tai Fung’s *xiaolongbao* that are in hot demand. Hangzhou Xiaolongbao House (杭州小籠湯包), by the memorial hall on Hangzhou South Road, is another must-visit for travelers. Its *xiaolongbao* are filled with rich broth.

Two other signature dishes, the golden-yellow crispy mixed vegetable and meat pot stickers and translucent, glistening shrimp *shiaomai* (燒賣), are also must-try dishes.

In the grid of lanes and alleys near Hangzhou Xiaolongbao is another eatery with a stellar reputation, Shengyuan XiaoLongBao (盛園絲瓜小籠湯包), which invariably brimming

with diners. Friends that had come with me recommended the signature dish, *xiaolongbao* with Chinese squash. The tender emerald-green squash nicely complements the thin skin and tasty broth surges forth with each bite. Each mouthful demanded another – it is difficult to stop yourself from eating these delicious dumplings. 1

### Transportation

#### Nanmen Market:

📍 8, Sec. 1, Roosevelt Rd. (MRT CKS Memorial Hall Station, Exit 2, just outside the exit)

#### Hangzhou Xiaolongbao House:

📍 17, Sec. 2, Hangzhou S. Rd. (MRT Dongmen Station, Exit 3, walk approximately 6 minutes)

#### Shengyuan XiaoLongBao:

📍 1, Ln. 25, Sec. 2, Hangzhou S. Rd. (MRT Dongmen Station, Exit 3, walk approximately 6 minutes)



1

## Taipei's Boundless Culinary Creativity: Mango Shaved Ice Is a Must for Tourists

Article \_\_ Jin Kanglan  
Photos \_\_ Gao Zanzian

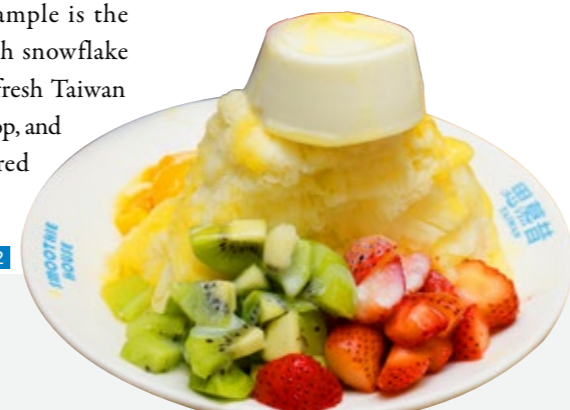
### Yongkang Street Mango Shaved Ice: Hallowed Ground for Foodies

Even when the wind is blowing and the rain is falling, or when the weather is biting cold, there is a steady flow of travelers at 15 Yongkang Street. This shop is filled with those enthusiastic about consuming a heaping bowl of mango shaved ice. In the past, this was the location of the famed Yongkang 15 shaved-ice shop. Today, it is home to

Smoothie House (思慕昔). Though the facade and interior may have changed, and to a certain degree the taste, what has remained the same is this shop's tremendous popularity.

Taiwanese possess boundless culinary creativity. A prime example is the blending of mango with snowflake ice. A medley of other fresh Taiwan fruits is then heaped on top, and the concoction is covered

with rich, mellow panna cotta. It looks amazing and tastes even better, with a moist, creamy texture that is pure delight.



2

### QingTian 76 – The Stories of the Past Brew a Sweet Melody

The building that is today home to QingTian 76 (青田七六) was originally one of the residential housing units provided for National Taiwan University (then the Taihoku Imperial University) faculty members during the Japanese era. It was originally built for Japanese professor Masashi Adachi. Later it became the residence of Professor Ma Tingying (馬廷英), father of renowned writer Liang Xuan (亮軒). In recent times, it has undergone a transformation, and is today a quiet, secluded restaurant. It is hard to imagine that a place such as this – a work of Japanese architecture so simple and rustic, yet so memorable – can exist in the heart of busy Taipei. The restaurant, which serves refined seasonal desserts and foods, is a great place to sit back and relax.

Masashi Adachi was a professor in Taihoku Imperial University's School of Agriculture and Forestry, engaged in the study of soil microbiology. He made many important contributions to Taiwan's cane-sugar industry. In commemoration, QingTian 76 has specially introduced a unique beverage called "Sugarcane Wine" (蔗之醇), a sweet collision of iced drip coffee and natural sugarcane juice with a wholly original taste. 1

### Transportation

Smoothie House (main branch):

📍 MRT Dongmen Station, Exit 5, walk approximately 5 minutes

QingTian 76:

📍 MRT Dongmen Station, Exit 5, walk approximately 15 minutes



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4



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1. Smoothie House, located 15 Yongkang St., is a Taipei must-visit mango shaved ice shop with both local and international travelers.
2. Mango shaved ice, accompanied by a chorus of fresh fruits and capped with fresh panna cotta, is an experience not soon forgotten.
3. The QingTian 76 menu is filled up with sophisticated seasonal desserts and foods, irresistible companions for whiling away an afternoon.
4. Sugarcane Wine is a marriage of coffee and sugarcane juice that results in a unique taste-bud experience.
5. QingTian 76, a tucked-away spot within the city core, serves up a dining space perfect for quiet relaxation. (Photo by Pan Junlin)

# Design Capital Taipei 2016: Explosion of Activities Everywhere

Article — Eric Hu  
Photos — Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government

This year is Taipei's year to formally serve as World Design Capital. After three years of hard work and laying of groundwork, design is not only being incorporated into local communities, but is also stepping out internationally. The micro-transformation of landscapes and street corners has made Taipei a place of endless, pleasant surprises. International-class design-promotion exhibitions have attracted more people to view this city and its designs.

From homes to food markets, communities, campuses, streets and city, each corner is a canvas for aesthetic creativity, none off-limits or restricted. This includes environmental beautification, incorporation of design thinking, improvement of service processes and innovation in public works. A free-ranging array of activities – small such as classes, lectures, experiential activities, and design workshops and large such as forums, exhibitions, and public art installations – all are

part of life in this city. Each brings appreciation for the value of design in everyday life, and a feeling for the city's transformation.

## Taipei – World Design Capital

The World Design Capital (WDC) program, sponsored by the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (Icsid), is worldwide. The WDC selection

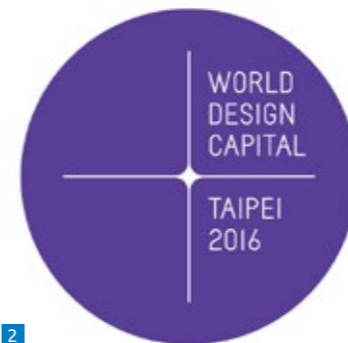
process is staged once every two years. To date, the choices have included Italy's Torino in 2008, South Korea's Seoul in 2010, Finland's Helsinki in 2012, South Africa's Capetown in 2014, and Taiwan's Taipei in 2016.

The Icsid jury does not decide on WDC winners solely based on whether they actively create suitable design-industry development



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1. Through World Design Capital Taipei 2016, design is being brought into every corner of daily life and creating pleasant surprises everywhere you turn.
2. The WDC Taipei 2016 logo features two lines that form a cross in the center, with a star of light, symbolizing the city's comprehensive and diverse development.
3. Taipei used "dragon-scale bound scrolls" in the design of its official Bid Book, demonstrating its competitive ambition in seeking WDC status.



2

environments. Also key are whether they understand how to utilize design concepts, focus on major issues facing the city, set up public solution-input channels, and develop a city-appropriate vision and model.

Taipei's design prowess runs deep. The city ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in global design competitiveness. Its industrial design chain is the envy of the world, and it has racked up over 2,100 awards in the world's premier international design competitions, notably Germany's iF and red dot, Japan's G-Mark, and America's IDEA competitions.



3

## Logo Image of Unique Symbolism, Purple Represents Radiant Charm

The WDC Taipei 2016 logo is simple yet deep and unique in meaning. It features a structured intersection of latitude and longitude lines, symbolizing the combination of rationale and emotion, and marking the coordinates of the livable city of Taipei among international cities. The beaming cross-shaped star of light at the center represents the direction of the city's future development, and Taipei's core spirit, developing comprehensively and with great diversity, transforming the power of design into living cells for urban regeneration and injecting richer creative vitality into this city.

As World Design Capital 2016, Taipei has chosen purple as its signature color. Purple is created by blending red, yellow, and blue, which respectively symbolize passion and vitality, culture and creativity, and

smart technology. It possesses the dual charm of being richly bold and classically elegant, clearly representing Taipei as a design capital that has emerged from the interweaving of cultural and human development with advanced science and technology, and fully symbolizes diversity of development and incessant striving for improvement.

Taipei City started its quest to become World Design City at the end of 2012. Its unique Bid Book, made up of "dragon-scale binding" (龍鱗裝) scrolls and Bid Video were the secret weapons in its winning campaign. They were separately recognized with red dot and iF awards. The distinctive dragon-scale binding method is based on ancient Chinese bookbinding methods, with modern design elements incorporated. The binding method evokes the appearance of the scales of a Chinese dragon, an auspicious sacred creature in Chinese culture. The pages are glued by one



4

edge to a backing scroll, and when a scroll is spread out it presents a complete image, with each turn of the page offering a new surprise.

The cover of Bid Book Scroll I features an inscription of 16 Chinese characters composed by celebrated Taiwan calligrapher Tong Yang-Tze (董陽孜). The meaning of this inscription is that, “Like cutting and filing, like chiseling and polishing; like gold or tin, like a jade tablet or a jade disk.” It alludes to the adaptive spirit of continually pondering, reflecting, and striving to improve.

### Surrounded by Ingenuity – Solving Social Problems by Design

The core spirit of WDC Taipei 2016 is “social design”. This refers to the use of design thinking in solving the social issues that the city faces and creating a livable city via “people first” design. In the face of limited resources, and with public interest as the core premise, design is incorporated into government policy to solve social problems or local difficulties.

In the past, most design has focused on novel, attractive external appearance. Nowadays, it has entered everyday

life. Designers are no longer merely concerned with creating a dazzling appearance, or designing products that meet specific functions. Instead, they want to make use of limited resources to create unlimited possibilities. As World Design Capital Taipei 2016, the hope is that design can assume a deeper role in daily life. From a small shop sign to community development of street corners, lanes and alleys, the rejuvenation of old residences, and even facing an aging society and necessary countermeasures – each is one of myriad of examples where social design thinking can be used for improvement.



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4. The Bid Book dragon-scale binding is based on ancient Chinese scroll-book methods. When laid out flat, the scrolls present a complete image, and each turn of the page offers a new surprise.

5. The Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government invited the renowned Japanese social-design brand SLOW LABEL to organize an exhibition in Taipei, bringing the physically challenged and designers together to create works and unleashing inspiring aesthetic creativity.

6. As World Design Capital Taipei 2016, the hope is that design elements can assume a deeper role in daily life.

7. The Meet Taipei: Design and other local initiatives are planting the seeds of design in every citizen’s heart.

Since 2012, the Taipei City Government has launched a series of Public Policy by Design projects, using government bodies as incubators for the innovation strength of design thinking and inviting designers, specialists, and citizens from all walks of life to work together. To date, more than 40,799 design workers and specialists across disciplines have participated. For example, through the staging of workshops, forums, and other methods, direct communication and interchange has been fostered between members of the public and designers. This deepens the experience with and understanding of the meaning of social design, stimulates rethinking of the relationship between Taipei and the world, and enables citizens to bring about social change through design participation.



8. For the Public Policy by Design projects, professionals from all walks of life are invited to work in coordination to experience the meaning of social design.
9. This year, Taipei is serving as World Design Capital 2016, creating an international stage on which to display its powerful surge of design energy.
10. Taipei is bursting with design energy. Its design competitiveness is ranked 13<sup>th</sup> globally.



### Continuous Events, Taipei Design is Everywhere

This year, Taipei City has been staging and will continue to stage a series of large-scale events that range from the international to the distinctively local in character. These include the WDC New Year's Eve of Design, Design Gala, International Design House Exhibition, International Design

Policy Conference, International Design Week Forum, Network of Cities Meeting, and Convocation Ceremony, collectively showcasing the city's diversity.

First up was January's WDC New Year's Eve of Design, incorporating a morning concert to welcome the first sunrise of the New Year and



related design activities, raising the curtain on World Design Capital 2016. Next up is the WDC Design Gala in March, a grand international awards event that will blend Taiwan's own design characteristics with the presentation of major domestic design awards, as well as Icsid's World Design Impact Prize. The gala will include Designers' Avenue of Stars, special banquet, and stage show. From the clothing to the visuals and from the tastes to the sounds, the gala will showcase the special character and energy of Taiwan design.

The next five major events in the calendar line-up are the WDC International Design Policy Conference, WDC International Design House Exhibition, WDC International Design Week Forum, WDC Network of Cities

Meeting, and WDC Convocation Ceremony. Designers and urban policy decision-makers from around the globe have been invited to the first four, to share their innovative ideas and visions for future urban development. This will establish a platform for the exchange of views and facilitate discussion on how to use design to solve urban development issues. Winding up, the WDC Convocation Ceremony will formally mark the handing over of World Design Capital to the next selected city – Mexico City. Taipei's results and achievements will be shared, marking the perfect ending to this grand international event.

Beyond the above-described international signature events, each month a series of special local events

is being staged that encourage public participation. Examples include the Taiwan Design Expo (台灣設計展), Meet Taipei: Design (台北街角遇見設計), Creative EXPO Taiwan (台灣文博會), and Taipei Culture Passport (台北文化護照). The hope is that the seeds of design will be planted in the heart of every citizen. In serving as World Design Capital, the relationship between Taipei and the world is being rethought. Taipei is no longer just a factory to the world, but a livable city with humanistic spirit. Every citizen of Taipei plays a key role in social design, and this World Design Capital year is the beginning. Linkages are being initiated and, together, change is being created, injecting an endless supply of the power of change into this ever-evolving metropolis. [T](#)

## Department of Economic Development as Matchmaker: Helping Transform Brand Designs

Article \_\_ Xiu Min  
Photos \_\_ Department of Economic Development, Taipei City Government

This is the sixth year of the Taipei Design Corner (設計角落風華再現) program of Taipei City Government's Department of Economic Development (台北市政府產業發展局). In a change from the simple matchmaking process between design teams and shops of the past, for the first time the focus has been on brand design transformation engineering. Ten traditional shops with a long history have been revamped, breathing new life into the city and providing it with a new atmosphere.

### Lamsamyick's Fashion Transformation, Taiwan Flavor at Baodao Meatballs

The heritage Lamsamyick (林三益) brand was established in 1917. This family-owned company was originally engaged in the manufacture of Chinese writing brushes. Under its fourth generation management, a shift has been made to cosmetic

brushes, and the innovative LSY brand has been successfully established. Unfortunately, the original store remained dedicated to the display of traditional writing brushes. The absence of cosmetic brushes made it seem out of tune with the brand's new fashion chic. For its makeover, the design team chose an "ink rhyme" theme for the shop front. Ink color was chosen for the space and signboard, strengthening the brand image. This was set off by ivory-white exterior walls, in a fusion of classic and chic.



This and the use of antique furniture for the display of cosmetic brushes have attracted a new customer base, bringing fresh new elegance to a century-old brand.

Baodao Meatballs (寶島肉圓) is a past national Taiwanese meatball champion, defeating eateries from Changhua (彰化), where the Taiwanese meatball originated. The restaurant's name, which means "island of treasure", brims with old-time "Taiwan flavor," but the interior décor was thoroughly



1. The signboard and ivory-colored exterior of the refashioned Lamsamyick shop present an image of chic.
2. The century-old Lamsamyick brand was originally represented with a traditional shop front.
3. The freehand rounded lines of the Baodao Meatballs sign present a fresh new "Taiwan flavor."

modern, breaking the mold for such snack-vendor eateries but failing to highlight its special features. The designers changed the somewhat serious, old-fashioned calligraphy on the shop sign in favor of freehand rounded lines and added a cute portrait of the owner Mama Lian (連媽媽) warmly greeting everyone. In addition, the shop sign itself, as well as the kitchen entrance cloth curtains, wood-veneer wall paneling, and hanging plaques for displaying menu items and prices, were all revamped to provide a fresh new "Taiwan flavor".

### Chatei's Aromatic Aesthetics, Extra Warmth at Ivi Daily Shop

The owner of Chatei Limited Company (喜堂茶業), A-Liang (阿亮), is a veritable tea evangelist, devoted to the promotion of Taiwan tea culture. He periodically stages tea parties and tea-sealing gatherings, cooperating with performing arts troupes. However, his interior display space was extremely cluttered, overwhelming the eye, especially for

first-time visitors. Transformation of the space was Chatei's most urgent task, to bring order and ensure clear definition of individual areas, and, at the same time, introduce functionality and aesthetics. Elegant fabric curtains emphasize the aesthetics of the brand and clearly separate the display, sales, lecture, DIY activity, and office areas. Their visual permeability presents a textured spatial beauty.

Ivi, the founder of Ivi Daily Shop (囍愛商行), was originally an art editor. Her passion for cooking inspired her to switch to the food and beverage industry. From the beginning she has brought the aesthetic eye of a designer to her endeavors, insisting on the best and never using second-rate ingredients. She mastered all aspects of fine cuisine. The reward was the winning over of customers' stomachs and hearts. However, due to the high cost of her ingredients and to reduce her rent pressure she moved into a space on the second floor of an older building on Changchun Road (長春路) at the beginning of last year.

However, hidden away in this old place of somewhat jumbled and disorderly design, people would either not notice the eatery or would hesitate to come in. The remodeling design team gave it an image of a warm place to gather with good friends to eat good food, installing a European-style awning and flower boxes outside the shop window, and beautifying the old structure with plants to create a more vibrant air. Inside, a tabletop windowsill was installed, creating an exclusive quiet space for patrons dining alone. In addition, a sign and wall-mounted bulletin board were added at the stairway entrance, welcoming all to come up.

This more than 4-month phase of the Taipei Design Corner has come to a close, but the splendid design results await your personal inspection. Visit these businesses to see for yourself the small changes taking shape on Taipei's street corners, experiencing how design brings beauty to life. For more information on the Taipei Design Corner initiative, visit [www.taipeixdesign.org.tw](http://www.taipeixdesign.org.tw).

## Travel Information

For traveling between Taipei and Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, whether by inexpensive, high-quality shuttle, safe and fast taxi, or high-grade professional airport limo service, you're spoiled for choice in satisfying your particular time and budget.

### Taxi

#### Service locations:

North of the Arrivals Hall of Terminal I and South of the Arrivals Hall of Terminal II

#### One-way fare:

Meter count plus 15%, with freeway tolls extra; average fare to Taipei around NT\$1,100.

#### Terminal I Arrivals Hall taxi-service counter

Tel:(03)398-2832

#### Terminal II Arrivals Hall taxi-service counter

Tel:(03)398-3599

### Passenger Shuttle Bus

#### Service locations:

Southwest of the Arrivals Hall of Terminal I (exterior vehicle pickup corridor) and northeast of the Arrivals Hall of Terminal II (exterior vehicle pickup corridor)

#### Shuttle-service companies:

Kuo-Kuang Motor Transportation, Evergreen Bus, Free Go Express, Citi Air Bus

#### One-way fare: NT\$85~145

#### Travel time:

40~60 minutes depending on routes (60~90 minutes for Citi Air Bus, which has more stops)

#### Schedule: Every 15~20 minutes

### Metro Taipei

Service Hours: 06:00~24:00; 24-Hour Customer Service Hotline: (02)2181-2345

Ticket	Price
 One-Way Trip	NT\$20-65
 Easy Card	Initial purchase: NT\$500 (incl. NT\$400 applicable to transit fares and NT\$100 deposit). The card provides discounts on transit fares and can also be used for small purchases at convenience stores and other designated shops.
 iPass	Metro station information counters are only authorized to sell the General Adult Card, which is sold outright without any deposit or credit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility: Ordinary passengers.</li> <li>• Price: NT\$100 (without deposit).</li> <li>• Availability: Select stores, online, all Taipei Metro stations.</li> <li>• Metro discount: 20% discount on each trip.</li> <li>• Transfer discount: Passengers who use a General Adult Card to transfer from the metro to a bus or vice versa within one hour will receive an NT\$8 discount.</li> </ul>
 Day Pass	NT\$150
 Taipei Pass	The Taipei Pass is activated upon first use on bus or metro ticket readers and valid for unlimited use till expiration. The Taipei Pass can be purchased at all Metro stations, and is used on the Taipei Metro and on Taipei and New Taipei City public buses (with Taipei Pass stickers showing). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One-Day Pass: NT\$180</li> <li>Two-Day Pass: NT\$310</li> <li>Three-Day Pass: NT\$440</li> <li>Five-Day Pass: NT\$700</li> <li>Maokong Gondola One-Day Pass: NT\$350</li> </ul>
 Taipei Metro Pass	24hr: NT\$180 48hr: NT\$280 72hr: NT\$380

#### NOTICE

In order to facilitate inquiries by the public, the city government has set up the 1999 Taipei Citizen Hotline. Whether by telephone, cell phone, or Voice over IP (payphone excluded), dial 1999 for free access. There is a time limit, with service personnel restricted to 10-minute service availability, and a 10-minute limit on call transfers. Callers are asked to make the most efficient use of this resource, making all calls as brief as possible. For more information, call 1999 or visit [www.rdec.taipei.gov.tw](http://www.rdec.taipei.gov.tw)



## TAIWAN EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Police / 110

Crimes, traffic accidents, and other incidents for which police assistance is needed

### Fire and Emergency / 119

Fire, injury or accident, or other urgent matters for which emergency relief is needed

### Women and Children Protection Hotline / 113 ext.1

24-hour emergency, legal information, and psychological services for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse.

## NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Unit Tel.	No.
Taipei City Govt. Citizen Hotline	1999 (02)2720-8889
English Directory Service	106
IDD Telephone Service Hotline	0800-080-100 ext.9
Time-of-Day Service	117
Weather Service	166
Traffic Reports	168
Tourism Bureau (MOTC) 24-Hour Toll-Free Travel Information Hotline	0800-011-765
Tourism Bureau (MOTC) Toll-Free Traveler Complaints Hotline	0800-211-734
International Community Service Hotline	0800-024-111
Tourism Bureau Information Counter, Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport	Terminal 1: (03)398-2194 Terminal 2: (03)398-3341
Bureau of Foreign Trade	(02)2351-0271
Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA)	(02)2725-5200
Taiwan Visitors Association	(02)2594-3261
The Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Taipei	(02)2522-2163
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(02)2348-2999
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Citizens Hotline	(02)2380-5678
Police Broadcasting Station	(02)2388-8099
English Hotline for Taxi Service	0800-055-850 ext.2
Consumer Service Center Hotline	1950
Bureau of National Health Insurance Information Hotline	0500-030-598
AIDS Information Hotline	0800-888-995

Source for Above Information:

Information For Foreigners Service / Tel: 0800-024-111  
Tourism Bureau, Ministry of Transportation and Communications  
Tel: (02)2349-1500

※ Entries in brown columns indicate service in English provided

## LIST OF TAIPEI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

### Taipei Main Station

(02)2312-3256  
1F, 3, Beiping W. Rd.

### Songshan Airport

(02)2546-4741  
340-10, Dunhua N. Rd.

### MRT Ximen Station

(02)2375-3096  
B1, 32-1, Baoqing Rd.

### MRT Jiantan Station

(02)2883-0313 65  
65, Sec. 5, Zhongshan N. Rd.

### MRT Beitou Station

(02)2894-6923  
1, Guangming Rd.

### MRT Taipei 101/World Trade Center Station

(02)2758-6593  
B1, 20, Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd.

### Plum Garden Visitor Center

(02)2897-2647  
6, Zhongshan Rd.

### Miramar Entertainment Park Visitor Center

(02)8501-2762  
20, Jingye 3<sup>rd</sup> Rd

### Maokong Gondola Maokong Station

(02)2937-8563  
35, Ln. 38, Sec. 3, Zhinan Rd.  
(Exit area, Maokong Station)

### Dadaochang Visitor Center

(02)2559-6802  
44, Sec. 1, Dihua St.

# Attractions in This Issue

## A Beitou Museum 北投文物館

📍 32, Youya Rd.  
(幽雅路 32 號)  
☎ 02-2891-2318

## B Beitou Park 北投公園

📍 2, Zhongshan Rd.  
(中山路 2 號)

## C Taipei Municipal Fuxing Senior High School 復興高中

📍 70, Fuxing 4<sup>th</sup> Rd.  
(復興四路 70 號)  
☎ 02-2891-4131

## D Café. Waiting. Love 等一個人咖啡

📍 1, Ln. 44, Yishou St.  
(一壽街 44 巷 1 號)  
☎ 02-2936-0596

## E Mucha Park 木柵公園

📍 50, Sec. 4, Xinglong Rd.  
(興隆路 4 段 50 號)

## F Homey Hostel 紅米國際青年旅館

📍 7F, 180, Chang'an W. Road  
(長安西路 180 號 7 樓)  
🌐 www.homeyhostel.com

## G Nanmen Market 南門市場

📍 8, Sec. 1, Roosevelt Rd. (MRT CKS Memorial Hall Station, Exit 2, just outside the exit)  
(羅斯福路 1 段 8 號; 捷運中正紀念堂站 2 號出口, 出站即抵)

## H Hangzhou Xiaolongbao 杭州小籠湯包

📍 17, Sec. 2, Hangzhou S. Rd. (MRT Dongmen Station, Exit 3, walk approximately 6 minutes)  
(杭州南路 2 段 17 號; 捷運東門站 3 號出口, 步行約 6 分鐘)

## I Shengyuan XiaoLongBao 盛園絲瓜小籠湯包

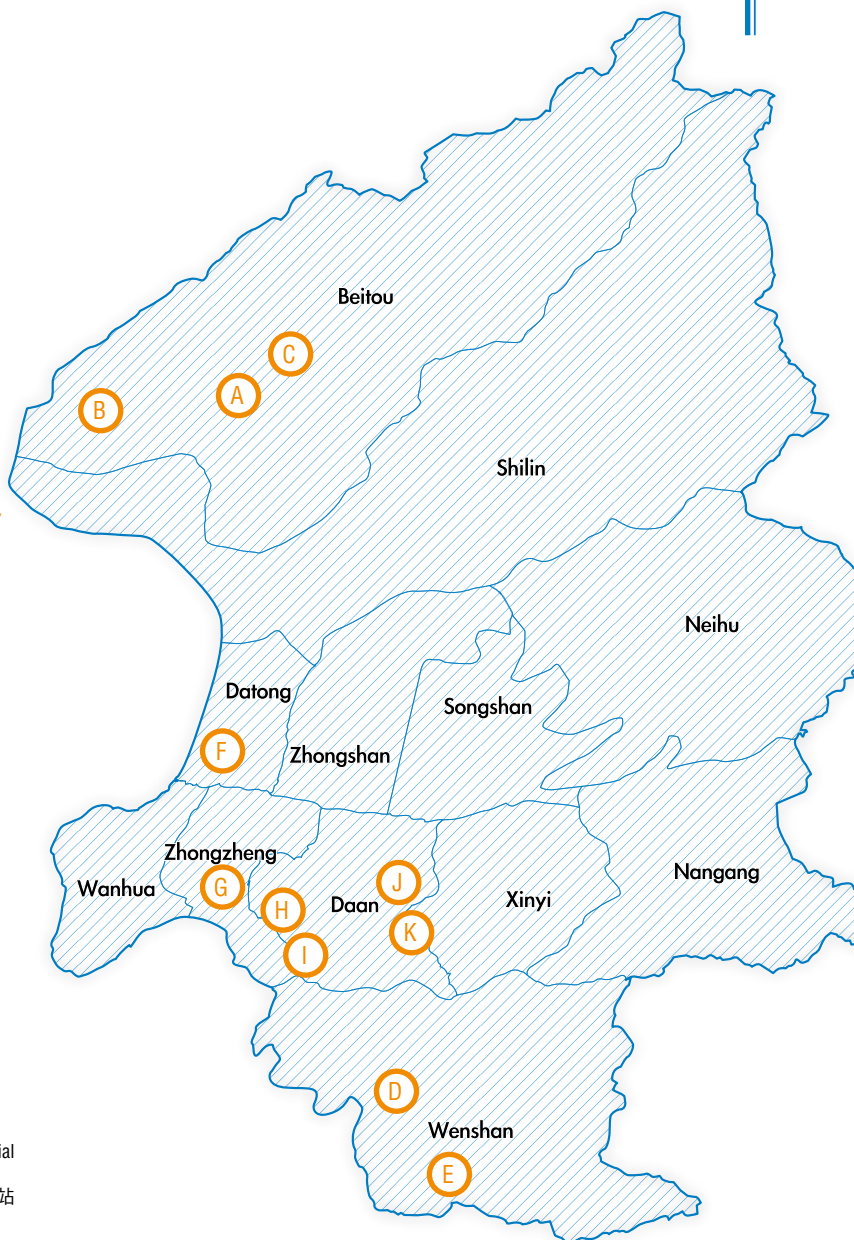
📍 1, Ln. 25, Sec. 2, Hangzhou S. Rd. (MRT Dongmen Station, Exit 3, walk approximately 6 minutes)  
(杭州南路 2 段 25 巷 1 號; 捷運東門站 3 號出口, 步行約 6 分鐘)

## J Smoothie House (main branch) 思慕昔本館

📍 MRT Dongmen Station, Exit 5, walk approximately 5 minutes  
(捷運東門站 5 號出口, 步行約 5 分鐘)

## K QingTian 76 青田七六

📍 MRT Dongmen Station, Exit 5, walk approximately 15 minutes  
(捷運東門站 5 號出口, 步行約 15 分鐘)



# 2016 EcoFair

生態博覽會



## Activity Time



4/30 09:30~18:00

5/01 09:30~17:00

## Activity Location



Daan Park

Children's Stage and Surrounding Lawn

## Daan Forest Park



Ecological Waltz

Ecological Exploration

Ecological Painting

Ecological Kaleidoscope

Ecological Cinema

Directing Unit



Taipei City Government

Hosts



Parks and Street Lights  
Office, Public Works  
Department, Taipei City



Public Works  
Department,  
Taipei City Government

Organizer



Friends of Daan Forest  
Park Foundation



Friends of Daan  
Forest Park Foundation

Scan QR CODE  
for more  
information

● 2016 EcoFair Fan Page  
[www.facebook.com/daanecofair](http://www.facebook.com/daanecofair)

● Ecological Painting  
Age 12 and below  
Students' Painting Competition  
<http://goo.gl/cPm2Be>

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用一生關注台灣的美國人

# 葛超智特展

American, George H. Kerr,  
dedicated his whole life to Taiwan.



Discovery Center of Taipei : 2F Special Exhibition Hall

**2016.02.24 ~ 05.22**

09:00 ~ 17:00 (Mondays and national holidays are closed)

Website <http://discovery.gov.taipei>

Taipei Citizen Hotline 1999 (02-27208889 outside Taipei City) Ext. 8630

Travel.Taipei [www.travel.taipei](http://www.travel.taipei)

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