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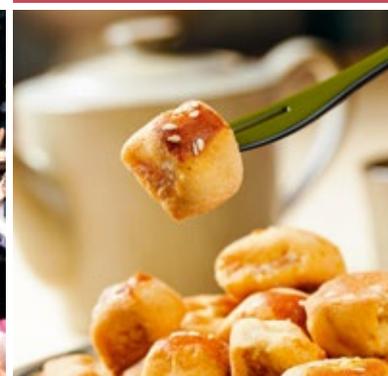
Taipei Natives Relish Local Flavors Day and Night

Moving Toward a Garden City:

Active Planning of More Farming
Green Spaces

Virtual Performances and Interactive Installations –

Commemorate the Life of Teresa Teng



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Story of Taipei, Taipei's Stories

Taipei is both a classical and modern city. Everywhere there is beauty, providing inspiration for many literary writings. Stroll along thoroughfares, lanes and alleys to encounter historical beauty. Saunter through areas of natural elegance embraced by mountain and water landscapes. We invite you to experience all of this together!

This year, based on the concepts of “open government and civic participation,” the Taipei City Government transformed budget numbers into images for the first time to give the public a clear understanding of them and allow them to participate in public affairs, jointly promoting the city’s continued progress. In order to revive Bangka’s “glory days,” the city government integrated transportation, education, guided tours and social welfare to implement a comprehensive plan and organize “Bangka Historical Tours.” These tours, held on weekends, bring you into contact with both the old and the new, recalling an age of unpredictable change a century ago. At the same time, they introduce local food specialties and increase the allure of revitalized Wanhua.

Based on Taipei City’s convenient YouBike service and friendly cycling environment, it fought for and won the right to host next year’s Velo-city Global Conference. This event will be connected with the Taipei International Cycle Show and Tour de Taiwan to present the strength of Taiwan’s bicycle industry. “Bravo,” the Formosan black bear mascot for the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade, was also officially revealed. The slogan “For You, For Youth” conveys Taipei’s youthfulness and vitality to the world and is a welcome to athletes from around the globe.

Over the past few decades, Teresa Teng’s songs have held a legendary position, as if nothing could ever replace them. Her voice, sweet and gentle, is full of heartfelt emotion, symbolizing the old days of “Sweet as Honey”. The Discovery Center of Taipei is presenting “The Return of Teresa Teng Memorial Exhibition.” In addition to displaying items related to her life, such as album covers, a *qipao* worn during a performance, postage stamps and posters, a Hollywood visual effects production house has been invited to use virtual reality technology to recreate Teng’s charming demeanor.

Dadaocheng’s row house architecture and historical atmosphere are testament to Taipei’s development and prosperity. In this century-old settlement, creative and cultural industries are bringing new life and connecting with the traditional to create a different cultural style. In October of this year, the *Tua-Tiu-Tiann* International Festival of Art was organized by a civic group. Through art, exhibitions, performances, and marketing activities, the dreams of many young people are condensed in one place. Local culture is slowly being revived, with stories of the old city on everyone’s lips. With the addition of many new city elements, an even richer Taipei Story is being compiled.



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Open Government and Civic Participation: City Residents Guide Taipei's Future

Article: Le Le

Photos: Pan Junlin

Do you know where your tax payments go? Do you feel that the government's use of its annual budget is a "black box operation"? Would you like to be involved in government budget decisions? To fulfill the spirit of "open and transparent government with civic participation," the Taipei City Government has transformed its budget data into images which allow those unfamiliar with accounting procedures to understand how money is distributed. In addition, under the concepts of participatory budgeting and civic participation and serving as the first example of participatory budgeting, a public assembly hall has been established, breathing new life into a city-designated historic building.

Taiwan's First "Understandable Budget" With Chicken Cutlets and Pearl Milk Tea as Units of Measure

The annual budget of the Taipei City Government is more than NTD 160 billion. City residents may not have a good understanding of how large this number is or how this budget is used. Providing such an understanding is key to promoting civic participation.

For this purpose, the Taipei City Government has collaborated with civic groups to turn these numbers into images and has even used nutritional lunches, braised pork with rice (滷肉飯) and pearl milk tea (珍珠奶茶) as "units" that allows the size of the budget to be easily understood. In addition, a message board has been set up with "delete" and "add" buttons for city residents to express their opinions regarding the city government's budget. As it turns out, budgets can be fun.



Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je has been in attendance at every outdoor town hall meeting, listening to the opinions and suggestions of residents regarding the environment in which they live.

Citizens Participate in the Decision Process

Transforming the budget data into images is one thing, but implementation is quite another. To allow the public to familiarize themselves with the concepts of participatory budgeting and the procedures and formats for submitting a proposal, the Taipei City Government has organized explanatory sessions and workshops in each of the administrative districts. This year, the Neihu Public Assembly Hall (內湖公民會館) was chosen as a test site. Opinions from the public were collected and architectural designers and district residents were invited to participate in discussions. Public opinion served as a reference for the renovation of the public assembly hall, as well as for activity and event planning. This was the first time that the Taipei City Government had implemented participatory budgeting.

In addition to making the general budget public, the Taipei City Government has increased public access to other information. Since Taipei Mayor Ko

City of Stories

The former appearance of Guangfu Bridge. (Photo: Department of Social Welfare, Taipei City Government)

When “Bangka (艋舺)” is mentioned, do you think of the name of a popular Taiwanese movie, wealthy and youthful Ximending (西門町), snake soup along Huaxi Street, or Bopiliao Historic Block (剝皮寮歷史街區)? Perhaps Bangka is best described as a mix of old and new, replicated and renewed, and ancient and contemporary...

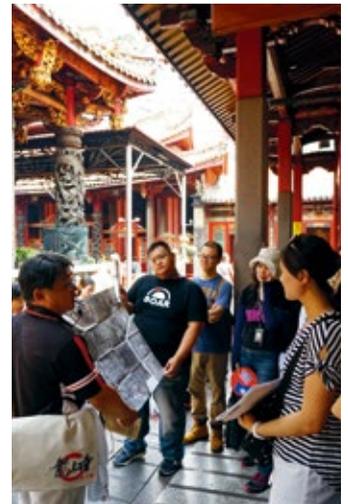
“First Tainan (台南), second Lukang (鹿港), third Bangka” is a saying that is used to explain the importance of Wanhua to Taiwan’s early development. Bangka forms a section of the Wanhua District, which covers an area of 8.852 square kilometers and includes 36 Li and 722 neighborhoods. The Tamsui River (淡水河) and Xindian River (新店溪) run through and on the opposite banks of these rivers are Zhonghe, Yonghe and Banqiao districts. It is connected via the Huazhong Bridge (華中橋), the Guangfu Bridge (光復橋) the Huajiang Bridge (華江橋) and the Wanban Bridge (萬板大橋), as well as a recently converted railroad bridge, the Huacui Bridge (華翠大橋). Furthermore, all of these bridges are linked to the Huanhe Expressway (環河快速道路), making transportation very convenient.

Wanhua has a history of prosperity and decline. Over time, a number of areas have

become old communities. Important issues in these communities include preserving Wanhua’s past, planning transportation and tourism routes and highlighting the significance of historical relics, to incorporate local historical materials, popular culture, traditional knowledge and social welfare services planning. Another issue is finding ways to match up historical stories with international publicity to rid Wanhua of its image as an area where the homeless congregate.

Planning Field Trips for Taipei City Elementary Schools

Children are natural vehicles for absorbing and disseminating knowledge. Narratives told by children make the city’s culture more imaginative. The integration of local guides and local education can enable Wanhua’s history to take root. This will make the city’s tourism more than just tourism, and through the children’s “Mafalda” comic strip-like vision Bangka’s original vitality can be revived.



On-site visits and in-depth tours help the public to gain an understanding of Bangka’s hundreds of years of glamour. (Photo: Gao Zanzian, Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)

Planning Local Cultural Tourism Routes

To help the public gain a new impression and understanding of Bangka, the Taipei City Government's Department of Information and Tourism (台北市政府觀光傳播局) held a series of ten "Bangka Historical Tours" (艋舺迺透透) beginning in August. Local cultural worker Kao Chuan-chi (高傳棋) took tourists on a journey through Bangka's history and cultural characteristics to discover its historic sites, industries, gourmet and traditional shops.

Establishing a Visitor Center

The city government plans to establish a visitor center and use the rich life experience of volunteer tour guides to lead tourists on a route through famous attractions such as Longshan Temple (龍山寺), Herb Alley (青草巷), used goods market and Bopiliao Historic Block to give them a glimpse of Bangka's beauty and glamour.

Planning of Festivals: Revitalization of Industry

All kinds of festivals and events can drive a steady stream of domestic and foreign tourists. Concentrating on the power of development will enable tourists to fall in love with the stories of Bangka. In addition, integrating Bangka's shopping districts with the development of the underground bazaar, strengthening its image through landscaping and decoration, carefully establishing uniquely themed attractions, and displaying the diverse characteristics of the shopping districts will attract domestic and foreign tourists to continue the revitalization of its industries.



Leaving the classroom to go on field trips. Through guided tours, Wanhua's culture is taking root.
(Photo: Department of Social Welfare, Taipei City Government)

Planning a Friendly Transportation Environment

Doing away with obstacles on sidewalks and arcades is part of the effort to provide a friendly and barrier-free environment. The feasibility of cross-embankment pedestrian bridges is under evaluation. Such bridges will allow cyclists and those in wheelchairs to more easily explore all of Wanhua.

Taipei Bangka Park Project

Providing a friendly, supportive environment for the homeless and addressing the causes of homelessness will lead to the cleaning up of Bangka Park (艋舺公園), as well as the improving of safety and rekindling of Bangka's glamour.

Taking Stock of Welfare Needs: Establishing a Diversity of Services

Newborn babies, gray-haired elderly people, new immigrant mothers, and homeless people who have weathered many storms... These are the people who need welfare assistance in Bangka. Continuously taking stock of these local groups' welfare needs and establishing diverse social welfare services will enable the smiles of Taipei City residents to emerge at every corner. 1

Building A Friendly Tourism Environment, Elevating the Allure of Taipei's Tourism and Recreation

Article: Peggy Yu Photos: Pan Junlin

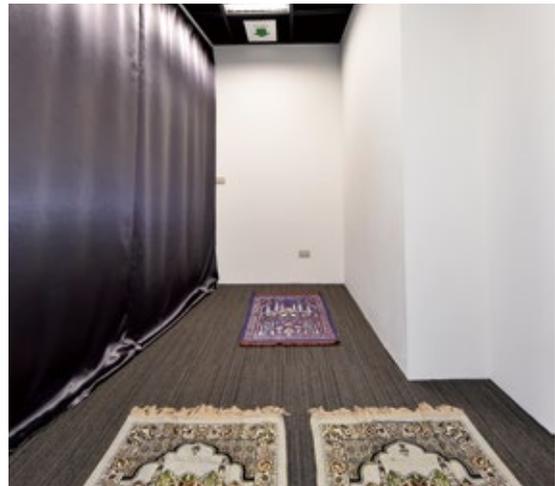
A city's vitality is shaped by a friendly tourism environment, thoughtful visitor information services, and unique recreational spots. This year, the Taipei City Government launched its first-ever Muslim-friendly tourist facilities and continued its efforts to create a friendly tourism environment. Visitor Information Centers have been set up around Taipei, creating a far-reaching information network and providing travel-related publications that tourists can take with them. Tourists will find that they are able to travel anywhere in the city very conveniently. In addition, through a series of riverside activities and old city area tours, domestic and foreign travelers alike can experience the age-old charms of this water-loving city.

Creating a Friendly Tourism Environment

There are approximately two billion Muslims worldwide. Among them, some 100 million are regular travelers. However, only 180,000 have



The "School Trip Handbook" allows students from Japan on school trips to easily understand Taipei's culture. (Photo: Liu Jiawen)



The second floor of the Discovery Center of Taipei is now equipped with a Muslim prayer room, to create a more friendly tourism environment. (Photo: Xu Yirong)

visited Taiwan. Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je has thought long and hard about how to showcase the city's diversity. As a result, Taipei is being promoted as a destination for Muslim travelers and is creating a Muslim-friendly tourism environment.

The Taipei City Government has led by example in these efforts, setting up a prayer room on the second floor of the Discovery Center of Taipei (台北探索館). This room is equipped with three prayer rugs and faces west, toward Mecca. The city government also renovated the bathrooms to install spray nozzles or bidet toilets, facilitating pre-prayer ablutions for visiting Muslims.

Yu-yen Chien (簡余晏), commissioner of the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government, has been one of the main people responsible for the push to make Taipei a Muslim-friendly city. Chien explains that when walking through the Taipei Main Station (台北車站), she



The Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government invited Malaysian actress Yana Samsudin and her director husband to Taipei to promote this city as a Muslim-friendly destination. (Photo: Pan Junlin)



Taipei's Visitor Information Centers provide tourists with thoughtful service. (Photo: Gao Zanzian)

would often see a number of Muslims sitting in the lobby. Upon asking, she learned that it was partly due to the convenience of the location and its air-conditioning, but also partly due to the clear direction markers within the station, making it easy for them to determine which direction is west. This served as inspiration for the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government, to actively promote Taipei to Muslim travelers, including inviting popular Malaysian actress Yana Samsudin and her director husband to Taipei to shoot a segment for her travel show. In addition, at the largest travel fair in Malaysia, Taipei's green transportation options and independent travel itineraries were showcased.

In response to the large numbers of Japanese visitors to Taiwan, the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government, has implemented a series of promotional activities. For example, Japanese author Katakura Yoshifumi and graphic design master tAkorA collaborated to produce the School Trip Handbook, which is colorful and bright and covers practical and interesting topics. It is a complete departure from general tourist guides and allows Japanese students coming to Taiwan for school trips to easily understand Taipei's features and lifestyle.

Two Online Resources Provide Friendly Tourism Information Services

To serve as the nation's friendly capital, Taipei City's Visitor Information Centers provide the

most comprehensive and diverse services available. Located throughout the city, they provide a dense service network, assisting visitors in their search for information on dining, accommodation, transportation, attractions, shopping and entertainment. This year, Taipei City's Visitor Information Centers earned first place in the special municipality category on evaluation of Taiwan Tourism Bureau, Ministry of Transportation and Communications (交通部觀光局).

On top of this, no matter where tourists are in the city, they can connect to the Travel.Taipei Website or download the Fun Travel in Taipei app. They can search for information about popular tourist destinations, as well as dining and shopping options. This year the Travel.Taipei Website has received 4.6 million hits, which is a 23 percent increase compared to the same period last year. In addition, the latest information can be received through the Taipei City Government's Line account. This year, following content optimization efforts and the organizing of various interesting online Q&A sessions, the number of followers has broken through the 500,000 mark, with a growth rate of more than 65 percent.

Diverse Publications, Comprehensive Marketing of Taipei

To vividly describe Taipei life and to meet the needs of readers, this year many of the city government's publications have undergone changes. For example, Taipei Pictorial (台北畫刊) was

streamlined and given a fresh, new look in April. Bimonthly publication Discover Taipei, published in English and Japanese for international travelers, was renamed Taipei and became quarterly publication in September. It remains an important channel for foreigners to learn about the city. In October, the Colorful Spectacular Taipei (精彩台北) brochure was revamped and renamed Fun Taipei quarterly handbook. Available in four languages, Chinese, English, Japanese and Korean, it presents the latest Taipei travel information.

Creating Memories Along the Rivers and in the Old City

This year, the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government, together with the Department of Sports (體育局) and the Hydraulic Engineering Office, Public Works Department (工務局水利處), organized and expanded the 2015 Taipei Riverside Festival (2015 台北河岸音樂季). A series of riverside events such as the Dadaocheng Music Valentine's Day (大稻埕音樂情人節) were held. Through music, cultural and creative markets, fireworks, river tours and waterborne and



Old city areas are home to many cultural and historic sites, and has become a focal point for tourism promotion by the Taipei City Government this year. (Photo: Pan Junlin)

splash-related activities, the image and charm of Taipei's riversides were presented.

In addition to riverside tourism, have you discovered the new faces of the old city areas that have developed over this year? In the past, most visitors to Taipei would simply choose the most well-known destinations, such as Taipei 101 and the National Palace Museum, while older parts of the city, such as Bangka, Beimen (北門) and Dadaocheng fell by the wayside due to lack of historical visibility and promotion, despite their cultural significance. To address this, the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government, launched a campaign to comprehensively promote "old city areas." This included



Due to revitalization of its rivers, Taipei's riverside parks have become a leading choice for recreation among Taipei residents. (Photo: Pan Junlin)

guided tours of Bangka on weekends and holidays that show city residents and both domestic and foreign visitors the nostalgic features of the historic areas of Taipei. Even Ko joined one of these tours, helping to promote local traditional destinations.

Taipei's Changes as Seen From City Hall

Bustling Xinyi District is a must-see area for visitors to Taipei. But did you know that in addition to the department stores and Taipei 101, Taipei City Hall houses a hidden attraction? Located on the right side upon entering the Taipei City Hall from the west entrance is Taiwan's first city museum – the Discovery Center of Taipei.

The Discovery Center of Taipei is Taiwan's first successful example of a city government archive transformed into a modern museum. This year, this center has organized “The Taipei Railway Exhibition (台北鐵支路特展)” and “The Return of Teresa Teng Memorial Exhibition (鄧麗君文物紀念展)”, which include a variety of displays of cultural objects and interesting interactive digital technology. In December the number of visitors is expected to exceed 300,000, marking an all-time high in the 14-year history of this center.

Overseeing Accommodation Safety and Viewing Choices in Taipei

As of the end of September of this year, the number of international visitors grew by 4.11 percent compared to the same period last year, with more than 7.55 million visitors coming to Taiwan. Due to an increasing demand for quality accommodation, 37 general hotels and tourist hotels opened in Taipei City this year. To safeguard the safety and rights of tourists staying in the city, the Department of Information and Tourism,



The Discovery Center of Taipei holds various types of special exhibitions which attract crowds of visitors.

Taipei City Government, cracked down on 52 illegal hotels this year. At the same time, it encouraged older hotels to develop their unique features and to innovate their operations. After taking up their posts, the new city government team has assisted 17 day-rental studio apartments in obtaining legal accommodation status.

Moreover, to provide the public with high quality film entertainment, the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government, has actively worked to elevate the digitalization of cable television in Taipei City. From the end of 2014 to the end of 2015, the rate of digitalization rose from 85.9 percent to more than 93 percent. This department has also provided guidance to new entrants into the digital programming industry to help them to smoothly begin broadcasting operations. In terms of movie theaters, this department has promoted the revision of the Motion Picture Act to remove the regulation requiring the showing of government advertisements and has urged movie theaters to increase the proportion of online ticket sales.

From creating a more friendly tourism environment to providing thoughtful visitor services and promoting riverside and old city tourism, and in combination with timely publicity and policy support, Taipei is reaching the goal of integrating tourism, recreation and mass media. The result is the development of Taipei into a tourist paradise that forever takes the lead. **T**

Moving Toward a Garden City: Active Planning of More Farming Green Spaces

Article: Xiu Min

Photos: Gao Zanzhan

With the extreme climate, draining of energy resources and increasing population, the world is on the brink of a food crisis. People in countries all over the world are using their own methods to cultivate food. In international cities, such as London, Paris, Vancouver, San Francisco, Seattle, New York, Boston and Tokyo, people are tilling the land and growing crops in vacant lots next to skyscrapers and implementing various edible landscape policies.

Since taking office, Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je has worked to transform Taipei into a garden city. City residents are provided with land and guidance for planting and harvesting crops to experience the joy of urban farming.

Growing Food Brings a Sense of Achievement

Ko, who has a medical background, believes that coming into direct contact with plants and the land is a good way of improving physical and psychological healing. At the Wenshan Self-financed Senior Center (文山區老人自費安養中心), 34 senior citizens tend to a rooftop garden. With assistance from the Department of Economic Development (產業發展局), Taipei City Government, this rooftop garden has undergone expansion and volunteers have



City residents of all ages can farm in this cement jungle. They can be gardeners in a real-life version of the online game Happy Farm. (Photo: Gao Zanzhan)

implemented horticulture training. Wu Meizhao (吳梅兆) has been working in this rooftop garden for the past five years. She says that it allows her to get exercise and enjoy sampling fresh vegetables. Growing vegetables is like raising children; it brings about a great sense of achievement. In the new garden, plants have been placed on shelves so that elderly gardeners can easily tend to them without having to bend down.

The Department of Civil Affairs (民政局), Taipei City Government has also taken inventory of unused land and public spaces in some neighborhoods that can be transformed into green spaces for farming. The Shilin District Office (士林區公所) gave consideration to both the availability of city-owned land and the willingness of residents to get involved. A vacant lot next to the Tianshan Green Space (天山綠地) in Tianshan Li (天山里) was chosen to serve as a farm. Following discussions and proposals from the neighborhood residents, it was



Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je believes that coming in contact with plants and the land can foster physical and psychological healing. Since taking office, he has worked hard to transform Taipei into a garden city. (Photo: Gao Zanzian)

nicknamed “Smile Farm (微笑農場).” Chen Yonghong (陳永鴻), chief of Tianshan Li, notes that Smile Farm opened on September 2nd, and the residents took the initiative to carry out planting, watering and pest and disease prevention. Every time the neighborhood residents gather together for discussions, there is a feeling of happiness and enthusiasm. It is as if they have returned to their childhood days growing up on a farm.

Students Roll Up Their Sleeves and Tend to the Fields

In order to give the children living in this urban area an appreciation and awareness of local foods, the Department of Education (教育局), Taipei City Government has formulated the “little farm project (小田園計畫).” The original idea was to include one school from each administrative district. However, there was unanticipated enthusiasm, and 230 schools received approval and entered the trial phase. Yingqiao Elementary School (螢橋國小) was the first to plant paddy rice. Since March, under the guidance of the principal and teachers, students in the middle and higher grades have planted rice, as well as sweet potatoes, pumpkins and papaya. After one semester of diligent care, the rice was ready for harvest during the summer vacation. The school specially



Around public parks, the city government has established farm therapy areas with elevated planting troughs designed for use by the elderly and the disabled. (Photo: Gao Zanzian)

organized a program for the fifth and sixth grade students to experience harvesting, threshing and drying of rice as a means of passing on an understanding of “the hard work of farmers that goes into putting each grain of rice on their plates.”

Under the promotional efforts of Ko’s city government team, city residents both old and young can engage themselves in farming in this concrete jungle which is a real-life version of the online game Happy Farm. In many places in this cement city, green plants are growing and flowers are blooming. Taipei is once again modeling itself as a capital of sustainable ecological development, meaning that this was not just a policy put down on paper. **T**

Schools are implementing their own garden city plans in order to allow children growing up in this urban area to cultivate crops and recognize local foods. (Photo: Liu Jiawen)



Smart Electricity Savings: Government and Private Sector Working Together

Article: Xiu Min

Photos: Department of Environmental Protection, Taipei City Government

“Mr. Mayor, please let me by! Going up means climbing the stairs, and if not should I go by boat?”

This line is from a promotional film. This year, the Department of Environmental Protection (環境保護局), Taipei City Government has designated smart electricity savings as one of its primary policy goals, and Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je has initiated a movement to promote an electricity saving culture. Internet celebrities such as Fan Zhou Ge (泛舟哥) and Jiao Mai Ge (叫賣哥) participated in the filming of a fun ad campaign to encourage city residents to use elevators less, echoing Taipei’s new electricity saving culture. The film was posted on YouTube and viewed more than 200,000 times, generating a positive response. Many people realize that sitting in an office for long hours is not beneficial to their health and are therefore taking the stairs.

Smart Electricity Savings Requires the Joint Effort of the City Government and Private Sector

As a means of increasing the efficacy of energy savings efforts, Ko led the heads of the city government’s departments in an announcement of energy saving policies which aim to create a two percent savings (278 million degrees) in electricity use. However, these goals cannot be reached solely by the government; therefore, enterprises and city residents must also be involved. The Taipei City Government has established the smart electricity savings project

promotional task force, which provides subsidies to communities that install electricity saving LED lights. In addition, the following nine major working groups have been designated: government agencies, public works, industry, transportation, culture and education, medical care, districts and neighborhoods, creative industries and advertising and media. For each of these nine working groups, a city government department head has been assigned as coordinator to encourage full civic participation in electricity savings projects.

Taking the working groups as an example, in addition to continually working to change all of the streetlights to LED and modify streetlight



On top of Taipei City Hall, the first solar-powered generator provides immediate electricity. (Photo: Hsu, Ping)

operating models, the times that the lights are turned on and off in riverside parks are adjusted. The culture and education working group focuses on the management of indoor energy savings among large-scale exhibition and performance centers. It also encourages large cram schools to participate in an electricity savings rewards program. The district and neighborhood working group provides a training program on methods for reducing electricity use, and city residents who complete the program are eligible to receive energy-efficient appliances. Subsidies are also provided to public housing residents in the amount of NT\$20 for every degree of electricity saved in comparison with the previous year. The industry working group provides guidance to retail stores to reduce leakage of cool air from air conditioners to the outside and to replace high energy consuming incandescent lights.

The Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Social Welfare (社會局), Taipei City Government are working together to promote the “low-income family energy resources welfare service.” The Department of Social Welfare screens qualified candidates and creates a name list. The Department of Environmental Protection commissions a professional service team to conduct on-site evaluations and install

energy-saving lighting. This service gives consideration to energy savings, social welfare and electricity fee reductions. In addition, to encourage communities to save electricity, the Department of Environmental Protection focuses on public area lighting in communities, providing subsidies for replacement with energy efficient lighting. It is hoped that efficiency of electricity and energy resource use in public areas will increase and electricity used in buildings will decrease to achieve energy savings and carbon footprint reductions.

Year-Round Energy Savings and Carbon Emission Reduction Tips

The Department of Economic Development, Taipei City Government reminds people that energy savings efforts are not limited to any one season of the year. There are many winter energy saving tips while using heater. For example, heater settings can be adjusted. A decrease of one degree Celsius results in a six percent reduction in electricity consumption. In addition, an electrical space heater consumes three times the amount of electricity of a combination air conditioner and heater. The size of the space should also be considered when choosing a product. If an entire room is to be heated, a combination air conditioner and heater will save more electricity, especially if the filter is cleaned regularly.

Urban development is an ongoing effort. However, when working to meet modern needs, it is necessary to stop and take a moment to think about what we are doing. Are we putting our homes where our children and grandchildren will live in danger? Regardless of whether we are creating a garden city or implementing an electricity saving and low carbon emitting green energy lifestyle, we are working to instill the ideal of a “sustainable acre of land” in this urban area. At the same time that we are enjoying convenience, let’s keep Taipei in sustainably good condition. **T**



As a means of initiating an electricity savings culture, Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je and Fan Zhou Ge worked together to create a promotional film, entitled “Taipei’s New Electricity Savings Culture.” (Photo: Department of Environmental Protection, Taipei City Government)

Velo-city Global Conference to Take Place in Taipei Next March

Article: Jiang Yongyou

Photos: Department of Transportation, Taipei City Government

The pride of Taiwan, Taipei announces a first in Asia! Due to its YouBike system and bicycle-friendly environment, Taipei stood out among the many green cities last year and became the first Asian city awarded the honor of hosting the next Velo-city Global cycling conference. In February of next year, delegates from 50 countries will meet in Taiwan to rekindle its international reputation as a “bicycle kingdom.”

Velo-city Global is a large multinational cycling conference organized by the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF). Each year, a green and environmentally-friendly city is selected to host the event. In previous years, cities such as Amsterdam, Holland, Vancouver, Canada, Nantes, France, Adelaide, Australia, and Vienna, Austria have served as hosts. Velo-city Global is a lively and diverse conference that attracts global bicycle enthusiasts in many fields, such as engineering, planning, architecture, research, policy, and education for discussions and exchanges on topics, such as the joint promotion of bicycle tourism, urban development, design policies, etc.

In May of last year, at the ECF event, Taipei sought to be the host city for Velo-city Global. Some city representatives questioned whether Taipei would be a suitable location for cycling development because of its rainy subtropical climate and complex transportation environment.



Taipei has a very comfortable and safe bicycling environment and has been selected as the first Asian city to host Velo-city Global.

However, after coming to understand that Taipei has a fine bicycling environment and has successfully implemented the YouBike public bicycle system, representatives from every country were impressed and agreed that Taipei should be the first city in Asia to host Velo-city Global.

Velo-city Global 2016 will be held from February 27th to March 1st next year in conjunction with the world famous Taipei International Cycle Show and the Tour de Taiwan. It will also integrate the IBDC and d&ci awards in the holding of a bicycle design exhibition. The conference will welcome delegates from 50 cities, including Tokyo, Seoul, Copenhagen, Amsterdam and Helsinki. The Taipei City Government will also collaborate with the Ministry of Economic Affairs (經濟部), the Tourism Bureau of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (交通部觀光局), the Sports Administration of the Ministry of Education (教育部體育署), industry members and NGOs.



Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je personally led a cycling tour around Taipei for four hours along a nearly 70-kilometer route.

To welcome the members of the cycling community to this international event, the Sports Administration of the Ministry of Education organized a selection process for the top ten bike paths in Taiwan. Taipei's riverside bikeways, which were created with the goal of becoming world-class accessible cycling routes, were among those selected and won Taiwan's only special accessibility award.

To promote Velo-city Global 2016, in addition to appearing at international press conferences with ECF Secretary-General Bernhard Ensink, representatives from participating countries, Giant founder and chairman King Liu, and other important industry representatives, government officials and scholars, Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je personally led a cycling tour of Taipei along a nearly 70-kilometer route that took about four hours to finish. Since he is not accustomed to cycling, when finished the ride, the pain set in, as he exclaimed that, "My buttocks really hurt!"

The main conference theme for Velo-city Global 2016 next year is "Evolution of Cycling," and the five sub-themes are urban transitions, moving lifestyles, sustainable economy, sharing societies, and design in motion. It is estimated that this event will attract 1,000 cycling enthusiasts from countries all over the world and a total

of more than 6,000 people who will jointly participate in a series of events. The Department of Transportation (交通局), Taipei City Government notes that by hosting Velo-city Global, Taipei City hopes to create a safer and more comfortable bicycle-friendly environment. It also hopes to move towards being a bicycle-friendly city while demonstrating the strength of Taiwan's bicycle industry to the world, to drive the economic development of the bicycle industry.

The core topics on the agenda for the four-day conference will be "sustainable urban development," "cycling and lifestyle," "economy and industry," and "design". Approximately 20 noteworthy speakers will be invited from Japan, Belgium, Denmark, and India. In addition, there will be 50 discussion sessions covering topics related to the field of smart transportation, such as cycling and smart cities, technological design, and software applications, to create new technology for the future of transportation. There will also be seminars with representatives from Chinese cities, such as Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Hangzhou, so that cities on both sides of the Taiwan Strait can learn from one another and promote opportunities for exchanges and collaborations related to cycling. T



Velo-city Global 2016 will be held next year from February 27th to March 1st. Delegates from 50 cities around the world will join in this event.

Improving Neighborhood Lane and Alley Traffic Chaos: Getting Around Taipei Becomes Easier

Article, Photos: Wallace Chang



With the implementation of an NTD 5 fee for the first 30 minutes of YouBike rental, bicycles have become more readily available. (Photo: Wallace Chang)

In the past, when walking down a narrow alley, from time to time a car or a scooter would roar by and cause you to break into a cold sweat. Or, after a hard day of work, upon driving home, you found all of the alleys and roads had painted red lines or were occupied by vehicles parked for a long period of time. You then drove around the area near your home for an hour without finding a parking space. That was enough to drive anyone crazy or create frustration.

This dangerous situation in which pedestrians and vehicles compete for space was once considered a difficult challenge to resolve. However, after taking office, Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je took up the fight to improve the city's traffic. For instance, he boldly removed the bus lane on Zhongxiao West Road. Focusing on street corners, lanes and alleys, he specifically proposed the Neighborhood Transportation Environment Improvement Project. Xinying Li (新營

里) in Zhongzheng District was chosen as the first model neighborhood. Favorable feedback has been received following the completion of improvements in August of this year. In fact, the overall satisfaction rate among neighborhood residents is as high as 83 percent, and it has become a bright spot in the city government's transportation policies. In addition, 93 public parking lots around Taipei City now provide one hour of free parking to taxi drivers so that they can take breaks. With the enactment of a new YouBike pricing policy which has led to a reduction in turnover rate, city residents now find it easier to rent a bicycle.

Resolving the Disorder Caused by Illegal Parking

In the past, major and secondary transportation arteries were the focus of city government transportation improvement measures. The Neighborhood Transportation Environment Improvement Project makes use of the Li as a unit. For each Li a specialized plan is developed based on a deep understanding of the lanes and alleys and other local conditions, with measures suited to that particular neighborhood. In April of this year, Xinying Li of Zhongzheng District was chosen as the model neighborhood for this project. With the concepts of human-oriented transportation as a starting point, priority was given to the creation of delineated pedestrian paths in this Li's alleyways, where feasible, to provide a safe pedestrian environment and to break away from the past situation in which pedestrians had to always be on guard against passing scooters and cars. Once pedestrian and vehicle lanes were delineated, excess space in alleyways was planned for scooter and car parking, creating regulated and ordered parking. In addition, no parking zones for scooters and



The establishment of marked pedestrian paths allows city residents to feel at ease when walking along lanes. (Photo: Department of Transportation, Taipei City Government)

bicycles along arcades were implemented or arcades were made level with pedestrian paths. At the same time, a survey of the necessity for vehicle barriers was conducted to provide obstacle-free, unimpeded passage.

To avoid hindering fire engines during firefighting and rescue operations, some red lines in lanes and alleys were repainted yellow, with temporary stopping allowed during the day for loading and unloading of passengers and goods and parking allowed between 8 pm and 7 am. At alley intersections, based on relevant traffic regulations, red lines were shortened from ten meters to five meters. The excess area was transformed into scooter parking. Thus, the number of parking spaces for scooters did not decrease, but rather increased. After the completion of these improvements, the Taipei City Government's Department of Transportation conducted a public survey. The results indicated that 87.5 percent of residents approved of the pedestrian paths, and overall satisfaction with the improvements in Xinying Li reached 83 percent.

He Guorong, head of Xinying Li, says that during the Neighborhood Transportation Environment Improvement Project an appropriate number of red lines were changed to yellow lines which allowed for short-term parking. This not only eliminated the myth of painting red lines to prevent parking violations, but also deterred drivers from parking in marked pedestrian paths, resolving the disorder from illegally parked cars. At the same time, space has been allocated to both pedestrians and vehicles, and a barrier-free environment has been created. With the Li as the implementation unit, local residents are able to carry out discussions and work together to implement improvements, reducing waste, and even more, resolving the chaos of illegally parked vehicles, thereby fulfilling multiple purposes.

Zhang Shengwan, Division Chief of the Traffic Regulation Division (治理科科长張生萬) of the Department of Transportation, Taipei City Government, points out that the city government has actively been working to improve the transportation environment by upgrading street parking spaces, red and yellow lines, signs and trench covers, and repaving road surfaces. The objective of the Neighborhood Transportation Environment Improvement Project is to slowly expand lines and surfaces from specific points. In the first wave of this project, 30 Li were eager to be involved. As of the end of October of this year, 49 Li have been included. The objective is to complete improvements in 30 Li before the end of this year and in all 456 Li by 2020.



Taxi drivers can enjoy one hour of free parking in public parking structures and underground parking lots. (Photo: Wallace Chang)

Public Parking Lots Provide Space for Taxi Drivers to “Recharge” Before Hitting the Roads

In 2007, Taipei City began providing 30-minute free parking to taxi drivers in public parking structures and underground parking lots in order to provide them with a place to take a break. However, the usage rate was somewhat low. After taking office, Ko immediately made a change, extending the amount of free parking time from the original 30 minutes to one hour, and clear signage is provided at the entrance to each of these parking facilities. Taxi drivers only need to follow the instructions on the signs when entering these parking lots to enjoy one hour of free parking. The parking areas also provide mobile communications service; therefore, drivers do not need to fear that they will miss out on phone calls from potential customers.



Riding a YouBike has become a regular part of life in Taipei City. (Photo: Wang Nengyou)

The drivers themselves feel that this policy is very helpful. For example, Mr. Li says that before this policy change, he would feel very tired from having to drive all day because it was not very easy to find a place to rest. Now, no matter whether he wants to take an afternoon nap or get something to eat, he can find a parking lot and have enough time to “fully recharge” before heading out on the road to pick up passengers. He no longer has to be anxious about receiving a ticket even if he just stops to eat.

The Department of Transportation, Taipei City Government, emphasizes that the city government’s ultimate goal is to reduce the number of empty taxis on the roads in Taipei City and to gradually increase free parking areas for taxis. This can bring about reductions in both air pollution due to car exhaust and working hours for taxi drivers.

High Public Acceptance of YouBike User Fee System

Riding a YouBike has become a regular part of life in Taipei City. To allow for the sustainable development of Taipei City’s public bicycle rental service, YouBike, the Department of Transportation, Taipei City Government conducted a telephone survey of city residents, the results of which revealed widespread support for a new user payment policy. Therefore, from April 1st of this year, the first 30-minute free use policy was replaced with an NTD 5 charge.

Based on demand models estimated by the Department of Transportation, Taipei City Government, usage is expected to drop to 70 percent following implementation of the policy. However, the daily turnover rate for each bicycle decreased from 10.8 to 8.15, or about 75 percent of the rate before



Taipei's riverside bikeways have been named one of Taiwan's top ten bike paths. (Photo: Pan Junlin)

implementation. This indicates that with the introduction of this new pricing policy, those who really need to rent a bicycle will be able to do so. In addition, the monthly subsidies for this program provided by the city government will decline from NTD 17.83 million to NTD 7.91 million, creating an average annual savings of NTD 119.04 million.

In April of this year, the Department of Transportation, Taipei City Government established the YouBike Suggestions for Adding Station Platform to gather suggestions from the public regarding new stations. A total of 2,200 places have been suggested for adding YouBike stations, and based on evaluations of space and demand, the Department of Transportation, Taipei City Government has selected 53 priority sites to add YouBike stations that will enable YouBike to become more thoroughly intertwined with city life.

Currently, 196 YouBike rental stations

have been established. The ultimate goal is to set up 400 stations. When that goal is accomplished, there will be a YouBike rental station within 350 meters of any location in Taipei City. It is estimated that beginning next year, the YouBike system will expand by 50 to 60 stations yearly with the 400 station mark to be reached in 2018.

Top Ten Bike Paths

The Sports Administration of the Ministry of Education (教育部體育署) organized the first-ever selection process for Taiwan's top 10 bike paths. Taipei City's riverside bikeways were chosen due to their friendly and thoughtful design, which resulted in Taipei City receiving Taiwan's only special award for accessibility. Liu Jiayou, Chief of the Transportation Management Division (運輸管理科科长劉嘉祐) of the Department of Transportation, notes that Taipei's riverside bike paths are located in close proximity to many of Taipei residents' daily life activity areas. They combine



Cycling along riverside bikeways is both healthy and safe. (Photo: Wang Nengyou)

nature and ecology, culture and history and recreation and fun, as well as many of the city's fine foods and dining spots. Furthermore, they connect 28 riverside parks, totaling a distance of 112 kilometers and passing through Dajia Riverside Park (大佳河濱公園), Hua Zhong Campsite (華中露營場), Guandu Dadaocheng Historical Park (關渡大稻埕歷史公園) and Shezidao Ecological Wetlands (社子島生態溼地).

Liu says that a one day tour of these bikeways requires cycling more than 100 kilometers. Moreover, each of the bicycle rental stations provides free maintenance service, drinking water and emergency rescue services. Moreover, hand-operated bicycles can be rented to allow those with physical disabilities to experience the pleasure of a bike ride.

Mr. Ma, a frequent YouBike user, says that following the implementation of the new YouBike pricing policy it is easier to rent a bicycle. YouBike is not just for



Upon assuming office, the new city government team took up the fight to reduce traffic chaos, planning various transportation improvement policies. (Photo: Wang Nengyou)

cycling to and from work on weekdays, but also for enjoying the riverside bikeways on weekends. Only a small amount of money is required to partake in a leisurely and carefree getaway.

Getting around Taipei is easy! Taipei prides itself on convenient transportation. From improvements in the transportation environment at the neighbourhood level and resolving the chaos resulting from illegally parked vehicles, to providing convenient places for taxi drivers to rest and implementing the YouBike pricing policy reform, Taipei's transportation environment has risen to a whole new level. 

2017 Taipei Summer Universiade Formosan Black Bear Mascot is Unveiled

Article Peggy Yu

Photos Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government

The 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade slogan, mascot and logo were formally revealed on September 30th. The mascot is the Formosan black bear (台灣黑熊), an endemic species chosen by public vote. The Chinese part of the logo makes use of the character for north (北) in the name Taipei (台北) to extend the image of the city. The English part of the logo includes the slogan “For You, For Youth,” which expresses Taipei’s friendliness to the world and encourages everyone to get involved in the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade.

Formosan Black Bear Mascot to Cheer on Participating Athletes

A press conference was held on the morning of September 30th in the City Hall Square of Taipei City Hall to introduce the slogan, mascot and logo for the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade. In addition to Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je, Ho Jow-fei (何卓飛), director-general of the Sports Administration of the Ministry of Education, Han-sun Chiang, president of the Chinese Taipei University Sports Federation (中華民國大專院校體育總會會長江漢聲), and other dignitaries jointly launched the event. As a prelude, Ko and baseball player Tsao Yu-ning (曹佑寧) threw and caught a ball, which



Young athletes such as (from right) Tsao Yu-ning, Lu Yen-ching (呂彥青), Wu Chia-ying (吳佳穎) and Wang Sin-ting (王欣婷) show their support for the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade. (Photo: Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)

brought anticipation to a high point for the unveiling of the Formosan black bear mascot.

In his remarks, Ko noted that Taiwan’s team ranked 10th in total points among more than 100 countries participating in this year’s Summer Universiade held in Gwangju, South Korea. He also expressed his hopes that with continued training and home advantage, Taiwan’s team would rise in the ranks to 7th in total points at the 2017 Universiade.

By Organizing the Summer Universiade, Taipei Shows Its Athletic Side

Ko stated that the Summer Universiade is the second most important world sporting competition, just behind the

Olympic Games. The purpose of organizing this event is not only to allow athletes to compete, but also to improve Taipei City's facilities and services, and the logo and mascot were developed to promote Taipei City. Once the Summer Universiade ends, Taipei will have to reflect on the type of city it hopes to become by spending money on and mobilizing human resources for this event. He also anticipates that the various departments and units of the Taipei City Government will promote sports and athletic activities.

Yu Ming-lung (游明龍), the mascot and logo designer, noted that this is the first time that the Universiade has had a logo that incorporates Chinese elements. The Chinese character for north was combined with the international organization designation, the curved shape of the "U" that represents university. The shape of the logo makes it appear as if it is sprinting forward, symbolizing the ability to run faster and farther. Furthermore, the color scheme is comprised of the five colors of the Olympic Games to symbolize worldwide participation.

Yu pointed out that the Formosan black bear is depicted in dark shades of black and gray, and its characteristic white V-shaped mark has been transformed into a gold medal. The mascot and logo designs underwent many modifications, and in August of this year, they received approval from Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (FISU). Over the next two years, this Formosan black bear will make many appearances.

Ko also invited the public to attend the Summer Universiade in order to enable Taipei to become an even greater city and to cheer on the athletes! 



2017 臺北世界大學運動會
29TH SUMMER UNIVERSIADE



Taipei Summer Universiade mascot and logo designer Yu Ming-lung displays the designs created by his team. (Photo: Peggy Yu)



Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je throws a pitch to launch the unveiling of the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade mascot and logo. (Photo: Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)

Bangka Old Town Yesterday and Today

Article: Chung Wen-Ping

Photos: Jilin Yang



The Longshan Temple is not only the first large temple to be built in Bangka, but is also an exceedingly famous tourist destination.

(Photo: Jilin Yang)

What are some of the historical sites associated with Bangka? Longshan Temple, Herb Alley, Bopiliao, and the food stalls in Xinfu Market (新富市場) are some examples. Bangka is the former name of Wanhua, and due to its favorable position near the mouth of the Tamsui River, it was the third largest city in Taiwan during the Qing Dynasty (清代), following Tainan and Lukang. It was also the starting point for the development of Taipei. Today, it is a place where traces remain of its former glamour and glory, such as ancient temples, streets, markets, and shops. Its many historical and cultural features, which have existed for hundreds of years, make it easy to spend a whole day here.



For more than 270 years, the crowds of people burning incense at “Taipei’s first famous temple,” the Longshan Temple, have not waned.

(Photo: Jilin Yang)

Bangka Historical Tour

Longshan Temple → Herb Alley → Xinfu Market (Grandma’s Sticky Rice [阿婆油飯], 36 Tangyuan Shop [三六圓仔店], and Sanshui Foods [三水食品行]) → Bopiliao Historic Block (剝皮寮歷史街區) → TaiHo Traditional Biscuit (太和餅舖) → Bangka Fortified Gate (艋舺隘門遺址) and Taipei Jen-Chi Hospital (台北仁濟院).

8:00

9:00

Longshan Temple – Taipei’s Most Famous Pilgrimage Spot

Longshan Temple is Bangka’s largest temple



In recent years, concerns over food safety have once again brought attention to medicinal herbs as nourishing food. (Photo: Jilin Yang)

and a prestigious Taipei City tourist attraction. It was founded in 1738 as an important place for the people of Bangka to gather to pray for blessings and to ask the gods for help in resolving various matters. This was even where local conflicts occurred. From the perspectives of culture and history, the Longshan Temple is located in Taipei's earliest settlement, and its long history epitomizes the development of Taipei City. From the perspective of architecture, the Longshan Temple faces south, and its exterior is in the style of an ancient Chinese palace with careful construction, exquisite carvings, and resplendent and beautiful temple appearance, which makes it second to none in Taipei.

Buttressed by its 270-year history, during which the saying “first Tainan, second Lukang,

third Bangka” came into being and its status as “Taipei’s Number One Temple” the Longshan Temple remains a highly popular destination. Upon walking through the main gate, visitors can view upwardly curving eaves, detailed carvings, and the burning of incense for worship. These have remained completely unchanged. The only difference now is that there are more and more generations and higher numbers of worshippers and even foreigners who come to visit. A local tour guide Kao Chuan-chi laughingly refers to Longshan Temple as a place with divine powers that reach far and wide. Regardless of whether you are seeking wealth, fertility, health, or marriage, there is a temple chamber with a god to give you support. The Longshan Temple is among its devotees a spiritual “general hospital” in which every request for assistance must have a response.



Herb Alley – Rustic Fragrances

Outside Longshan Temple is a narrow 45 meter-long lane with an ancient market left over from the Qing Dynasty era. After worshippers in Longshan Temple requested an herb swab and drew a fortune divination stick, they would buy herbs from the vendors outside the temple. Over time, these vendors formed an herb alley that locals refer to as “Life-Saving Lane.” As swabs were later abolished and Western medicine became more prominent, Herb Alley gradually shrunk. In this lane, dark green plants and herbs can still be seen which holds deep appeal for cultural tourists. Author Lung Ying-Tai (龍應台) once said that it is “rustic but

Longshan Temple

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fragrant.” In this alley, faint sunlight refracts through translucent roofs and the entire space is ventilated by a cool breeze. This is a uniquely designed environment which keeps the herbs fresh, so that they do not easily dry out or rot. In addition to buying herbs to treat ailments, modern people pay attention to food therapy, cosmetic products, and refreshing beverages for cooling off, and each shop has its own special formulas. In recent years food safety incidents have made people feel ill at ease, and tonic herbs are receiving serious attention. Therefore, tonic herbs such as *qingcao* (青草) will not wither, and the old alley will continue to be praised by both tourists who are attracted by its reputation and loyal local customers as the fragrances waft through the air.

10:00
|
11:00

Eating and Drinking Well in Xinfu Market

Although traditional markets do not close until the early afternoon, if you want to buy “Grandma’s Sticky Rice” it is best to arrive early. Eighty years ago, Xinfu Market was the first public market with regulated sanitation standards and modern architecture. With flawless planning, triangular windows, and a strategic location, Grandma’s Sticky Rice has won “The World’s Best Vendor” (天下第一攤) title over the past few years. After the sticky rice is soaked in water for three hours it is cooked over a large fire. Meanwhile, in a large iron pot, mushrooms, shredded streaky pork (五花肉), small dried shrimp, fried onions, and soy sauce are stir fried together. After the sticky rice is completely cooked, it is added to the mixture and stirred so that each grain becomes dark reddish brown. To add flavor, it is kept warm in a bamboo steamer. The



Grandma's Sticky Rice located in the Xinfu Market has won the title of "World's Best Vendor" from the city government over the past several years. (Photo: Jilin Yang)

result is a delectable sticky texture. Grandma also has another unique skill, which is the pouring of sticky rice into a washed pig intestines to make sticky rice sausages. The thin and crispy pig intestines give a multi-layered texture, which makes this a highly sought after delicacy.

The periphery of the market is also crowded with old shops. “36 Tanguan Shop” specializes in steamed taro cakes (芋粿巧), red tortoise cakes (紅龜粿), and *fong-pen* rice cakes (鳳片糕), which are used as food offerings by worshippers. This shop is often filled with tourists and has also begun selling *tangyuan* (湯圓) and shaved ice. The *tangyuan* is made with sticky rice grown near the Zhuoshui River (濁水溪) according to traditional methods. Sticky and chewy rice, sweet soup, and shaved ice are the shop’s signature ingredients.



A stroll through the Bopiliao Historic Block is like going back in time to the glory days of old Bangka.
(Photo: Jilin Yang)

Sanshui Foods is one of the rare traditional shops in the city that retains the practice of stir frying fresh peanuts and hand pressing sesame oil. For the stir-fried (油炒花生) and five spice peanuts (五香花生), they use large peanuts that are round and full. They also sell now seldom-seen peanut egg crisps (蛋酥花生), which are super crunchy and mouth watering. People eat one after another unable to stop themselves!

36 Tanguan Shop

📍 92, Sanshui St.
☎ (02)2306-3765

Sanshui Foods

📍 75, Sec. 3, Heping West Rd.
☎ (02)2306-3785

12:00
|
13:30

Bopiliao Historic Block – Strolling Through Old Style Bangka

The origin of the name Bopiliao is related to a legend of the debarking of trees or the obtaining of animal skins. It took shape during the Qing Dynasty approximately 200 years ago. It is not on just one street but rather a compound formed around Guangzhou Street, Kangding Road, and Kunming Street Preserving Qing Dynasty street scenes, traditional accommodation from the early years of the Republic, elegant facades characteristic of the Japanese era, and modifications from post-Retrocession reconstruction, it is like a miniature composition of Bangka's history.

Owing to its location as an important transportation hub, many celebrities set up their residences and shops here. These



In Bopiliao is condensed the history of Bangka, making it well worth an in-depth exploration. (Photo: Jilin Yang)

included the home of Dr. Lu A-chang (呂阿昌醫生), the vacation home of Zhang Taiyan (章太炎), the Taiyang Book Binding Factory (太陽製本所), the Xiuying Teahouse (秀英茶室), and the Rixiang Hotel (日祥旅社). Strolling around the old streets is like being in old downtown Bangka. Compared with the more famous Dihua Street although Bopiliao is not as grand, it is more completely preserved and thus worth a visit.

14:00
|
14:30

TaiHo Traditional Biscuit – Tasting all Kinds of Cakes and Sweets

Founded in 1946, in the old Taiping Market (太平市場), it is a flashback to half a century ago. From its founding to the present, it has sold items such as *ponkan* cake (膨餅), pineapple balls, and old-fashioned meat pies. Of these snacks, the ponkan cakes are considered to

Bopiliao Historic Block

📍 Intersection of Guangzhou St. and Kangding St.

☎ (02)2236-1704



The pineapple balls have continued to be a popular product at TaiHo Traditional Biscuit from the time of its establishment until today. (Photo: Jilin Yang)



There are many ways to eat ponkan cake. This is one of the characteristic pastries sold at TaiHo Traditional Biscuit. (Photo: Jilin Yang)

be one of the most unique. They are placed inside a crushing bowl and then soaked in hot boiling water. However, they can be upgraded by steeping them in peanut or red bean soup to infuse them with more nutrients and a sweet and full flavor. In eras when supplies were scarce it was a luxury item used as worship offerings at Longshan Temple, breakfast, nighttime snack, and after childbirth.

15:00
|
16:30

Bangka Fortified Gate and Taipei Jen-Chi Hospital

In the movie *Monga* there were a lot of chase and fight scenes. Keen viewers may have noticed an inconspicuous narrow little gate,



The Taipei Jen-Chi Hospital is a precious witness to the development of relief operations in Taipei City. (Photo: Jilin Yang)



The two narrow gates from the early days of Bangka have been torn down, leaving behind only painted bricks. (Photo: Jilin Yang)

especially during these action sequences. Early on, in order to safeguard Bangka, at the meeting point of Guiyang Street and Xichang Street, and on Guangzhou Street Lane 223 two narrow gates were constructed. In the event of fights or intrusions by bandits, the gates could be closed as an immediate defense. Unfortunately, they were demolished many years ago, and all that remains are painted bricks.

People have feelings of regret about the disappearance of antiquities, and so near the narrow gates, the Taipei Jen-Chi Hospital remains as it was. In earlier times, boys were valued more than girls, and infant girls were sometimes drowned or abandoned. A fourth-generation elder of the Lin family from Banqiao (板橋林家), Lin Wei-yuan (林維源) established a child protection bureau in 1866 to rescue abandoned infant girls. In 1870, Chen Peigui (陳培桂) of Tamsui Prefect expanded assistance and made it into an infant hospital, while also establishing a rejuvenation hospital, a foster care center, and a charity hall. During the Japanese era these were combined into a relief asylum for abandoned infants, people with disabilities, and injured elderly. Similar to today's orphanages and elderly care homes, it was a social welfare institution of considerable size at the time and



Next to the old entrance to today's Taipei Jen-Chi Hospital is one of the few remaining historical signs in Bangka. This was the original infant hospital sign. This hospital is a precious witness to the development of relief operations in Taipei City. (Photo: Jilin Yang)

a predecessor to the Taipei Jen-Chi Hospital. Today, this hospital is equipped with an exhibition gallery. Next to the entrance of today's Jen-Chi Hospital is the remnants of the sign to the original infant hospital. It is not only the sole existing historical sign in Bangka, but also a precious witness to the development of relief operations in Taipei City. 📍

TaiHo Traditional Biscuit

📍 300, Kangding Rd.
☎ (02)2306-9629

Jen-Chi Hospital

📍 243, Guangzhou St.

Exploring Hometown History:

Guided Tours of Traditional Bangka and Contemporary Wanhua

Article/Photos: Kao Chuan-chi (senior guide specializing in Taipei's historical areas)

Of Taipei City's 12 administrative districts, Wanhua District does not cover a particularly large area; however, a deep exploration of Wanhua could require two or three days. Wanhua is the hometown of the writer. Every year, there are 50 to 60 guided outdoor activities held here. These activities cover the ecological environment, history and religion, street food, welfare for the homeless, and community building. The author conducts tours based on designated topics. Participants first attend an indoor lecture and then compare and contrast maps of the past with contemporary maps. After leaving the lecture, participants delve deeply into the community spaces and gain a new recognition of Wanhua.

From Traditional Bangka to Contemporary Wanhua

The Bangka (Wanhua) area has experienced over 300 years of development. The community spaces can be roughly divided into the following traditional areas: Ximending in northern Wanhua, Bangka and Xiakan (下崁) in central Wanhua, and Galaya (加蚋仔) and South Airport (南機場) in the south. Each locality has its own historical context and significance.



Vendors sell gold and silver paper at a temple gate in 1930s' Bangka.

These traditional communities have been continually evolving up until the present day and have become circles of cultural life, each with its distinctive personality. For instance, Ximending is geared towards trendy youth culture and movies. Bangka is mainly centered around old street temples and eateries. Taiwan's first officially designated industrial zone was in Xiakan (currently known for its clothing and timepiece wholesalers). Galaya was formerly an agricultural area that primarily produced fragrant crops and bamboo shoots (currently the site of Taiwan's largest wholesale market). Finally, the South Airport was Taiwan's first airport and its largest housing complex for military dependents. The above areas are now divided into the following subdistricts: Ximen (西門), Longshan



Strolling among many shops with a long history in Herb Alley is like visiting Herb Alley in ancient time. (Photo: Gao Zanxian)

(龍山), Dali (大理), Xiyuan (西園), Dongyuan (東園), and Qingnian (青年).

Bangka was the first area to be developed in Taipei, and its prosperous businesses and literary splendor made it one of three most developed places in Taiwan, along with Tainan and Lukang, Changhua (彰化). It also served as an important political economic and cultural center in Taiwan. For nearly 300 years, this prosperous area has weathered challenges, and today Bangka's river and harbor culture, temple architecture, old streets and alleys, and century-old shops are not only a unique part of Taiwan's history but also remain as symbols of Bangka's historical elegance.

Getting to Know Ancient and Modern Bangka

The history of Han Chinese cultivation of Taiwan over the past three to four hundred years can be studied from ancient maps, old photographs, and cultural and historical data left behind by residents of the past plus actual field surveys. These sources of information reveal knowledge on the following five stages: ports, temples, market streets, schools, and communities, and Bangka is naturally no exception. Early ancestors set out from the wharf on the banks of the Tamsui River and chose to begin building temples on higher ground near the riverbanks, such as Longshan Temple, Zushi Temple (祖師廟), and Qingshan Temple (青山王宮). For over a hundred years, a variety of old streets with significance related to birth and death formed in between the temples. For instance, Buddhist supplies were mainly based around Bangka Old Street; whereas golden paper industries and dowries were concentrated on Bangka New Street, and charcoal trading took place at Bopiliao. The oldest local elementary school, Laosong Elementary School (老松國小), was built on unoccupied land near the old temples and old streets during the Japanese era. In addition, public construction works, such as Wanhua Train Station and Xinfu Market (新富市場) were built one after another during this time period. Later, additional rural and urban migrants moved into what was already the bustling old Bangka, and the Fumin (富民), Fuyin (福音), and Qingshan (青山) Li that we see today took shape.

In recent years because of the development of eastern city districts, Bangka has gradually lost its glamour, and experienced stagnant



Recalling the past inspires us to cast our gaze towards Bangka's future. Let's join hands in reengineering Bangka as a bright new spot in Taipei.

growth. Although the bustling prosperity of the past has faded, there are still plentiful sites, old shops, folk culture, and local life wisdom concealed within its streets. Even young people have begun creating accommodation for travelers and exhibitions, and for domestic and foreign tourists it is very much worth a visit.

Bringing Friends Together, Bangka Historical Tours

This year, beginning on August 29th, in addition to leading Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je on a tour of Bangka, the author organized 10 guided tours at designated times on Saturdays and Sundays. At first, there were around 30 participants per tour; later on that number increased to more than 150



A bird's eye view of Bopiliao Historic Block and its unique ambience.

participants per tour. From this experience it is possible to understand that there are many people who are eager to be led by a professional guide on an in-depth tour of a small area.

The ten Bangka Historical Tours followed a route through famous local attractions beginning at the Longshan Temple Underground Shopping Bazaar (龍山寺地下街), and then heading to Bangka Old Street (Current Xiyuan Street), Bangka Park (艋舺公園) and Temple Courtyard Plaza (廟埕廣場), followed by the new construction at Wanhua Train Station, Longshan Temple, Herb Alley, Bangka New Street (Xichang Road), Qing Dynasty-era buildings, well known old shops on Kangding Road, Xinfu Market, Heritage and Culture Education Center of Taipei (台北鄉土教育中心), Laosong Elementary School, Bopiliao Historic Block, Qing Dynasty Bangka Fortified Gate, Huaxi Street Tourist Night Market (華西街觀光夜市), and finally Taipei Jen-Chi Hospital.

Among the attractions listed above, there is no lack of world, Taiwan, and Taipei firsts. For example, celebrating two



sixty-year cycles, Laosong Elementary School is a first-rate, prestigious school. The number of students has resulted in a Guinness World Record. The Longshan Temple Undergound Shopping Bazaar is the street with the highest concentration of professional fortune tellers in the world. Right now construction at the Wanhua Train station is in full swing, and when completed will hold the distinction of being the nation's tallest railway building structure. Bopiliao Historic Block is one of the rare remaining places with more than 100 years of architectural history spanning from the Qing Dynasty to the Japanese

era and the postwar era up to the 1970s. Established in the 1920s, Xinfu Market is currently one of the few remaining modernized old markets.

Led by the author, the Bangka Historical Tours are like traveling through a time tunnel back to Bangka's golden era. The historical sights of Taiwan's hard-working ancestors appear before our eyes. However, in retrospect feelings for the past also inspire us to cast our gaze towards Bangka's future. Let's join hands in reengineering Bangka as a bright new spot in Taipei. 📍

Taipei Natives Relish Local Flavors Day and Night

Article/Photos: Kao Chuan-chi (senior guide specializing in Taipei's historical areas)

Bangka is a historical, cultural, and architectural landscape, with too many types of snacks and delicacies to count. In the past, not many domestic or foreign tourists explored the streets on their own to gain a true understanding of this neighborhood. When the movie *Monga* hit theaters in 2010, it not only introduced Taiwanese people to this old area of Taipei, but also brought a wave of tourism to Wanhua.

In addition to praying for peace, happiness, and success at Longshan Temple, tourists began to visit some of the film's locations, such as the home of gang leader Geta in the Bopiliao Historic Block, the Taiyang Book Binding Factory, the place where members of the “Gang of Princes (太子幫)” were sworn in, Bangka Zushi Temple, the Huaxi Street Tourist Night Market, where gang fights took place, the alley adjacent to the

Bangka's historical and cultural landscapes are abundant and diverse. However, in the past there were not many domestic or foreign tourists who walked this area on their own.





In 2010, the movie *Monga* hit the screens and became a driver of tourism and economic benefits to the Bangka area.

Kushanyuan Hotel (古山園旅社) and Baodou Li (寶斗里), where the male and female leads met and developed feelings for one another. All of these places have become popular attractions.

Hungry – Sampling of Foods Made Famous on Film

After visiting locations from the movie, it's time for a bite to eat. You may want to sample some of the foods that appeared in the film. *Monga* director Doze Niu (鈕承澤) has said that in the movie except for the roast chicken leg which was prepared by crew members, all of the other foods that were depicted were authentic local Bangka snacks and drinks, such as delicious meat congee from Bangka Old Street where people line up to buy it, baked pepper buns (胡椒餅), thick squid soup (魷魚羹), and herbal tea. He also shared stories of hospitality, saying that the local residents and shop owners were very friendly and enthusiastic. They often brought food and



In the 1940's Japanese painter Tateishi Tetsuomi painted street and restaurant scenes of Bangka.

drinks to give to the cast and crew, which Niu found very touching. In fact, the tolerance and passion of Bangka residents has not diminished over the course of 300 years. Due to the release of *Monga*, business at local shops has increased several fold along with the rise in local tourism.

The Collective Living Memory of Taipei Natives

Although central Wanhua's Bangka does not possess nationally famous eateries, such as Ay-Chung Flour-Rice Noodle (阿宗麵



Long ago, Taiwan's food culture mostly developed around temple gates.



Eateries can be found everywhere near Longshan Temple in Bangka offering delicious bargains.

線) or Shanghai Laotienlu (上海老天祿) located in northern Wanhua's Ximending, it does have the highest concentration and quantity of night markets, local snack shops and eateries in all of Taiwan. Among them, there is no lack of delicious snacks that are famed throughout Taipei City.

At any time from five or six o'clock in the morning to two or three o'clock at night you can enjoy a gastronomic feast in Bangka. A good number of the local traditional snacks were developed in the 1920s during the Japanese era or the post-war 1950s with an average of at least six decades of history. Some of the hundred-year-old shops have been established for three or four generations. Bangka is the birthplace of Taipei City, and its local delicacies and flavors are a part of many elderly people's collective memory.

The foods, beverages, and snacks that can be found near the gates of the important temples in Bangka embody the lifestyles and culture of the common people. Early on, the temple gates were centers for finding employment, getting information, and exchanging ideas. From ancient times to the present they have been the sites for numerous food stalls and restaurants filling stomachs and satisfying appetites.



Bangka Historical Tour participants listen in earnest to this author's (wearing black in the middle) explanations. (Photo: Huang Licun)

Culinary Culture at the Temple Gates

From the Qing Dynasty to the present, due to the dispensing of herbal swabs in the history of the Longshan Temple, Herb Alley developed. As traditional cakes were eaten at various folk festivals, in addition to shops selling traditional cakes, those offering popular delicacies and snacks popped up in the area between Longshan Temple and Bangka Park. These include Fuzhou Yuanzu Baked Pepper Bun (福州元祖胡椒餅), 36 Tangyuan Shop, Su Family Meatballs and Oil Cake (蘇家肉圓油粿), Top Royal Vegetarian Dumplings (頂皇家素食水煎包), Liang Xi Hao Squid Soup (兩喜號魷魚羹), Xiangjia Swordfish Rice Flour Noodle Soup (香佳旗魚米粉湯), Songping Chicken (淞品土雞), and Taiho Traditional Biscuit.

There are several other noteworthy eateries near the Bankga Zushi Temple including Pork Rib King (原汁排骨大王), Sunway Restaurant

(三味食堂), Dongxiantang Taiwanese Traditional Drinks (冬仙堂冬瓜茶飲), Sanjusangendo Temple Japanese Restaurant (三十三間堂日本料理), and a traditional store selling *Yugui*, or oil cake (油粿), and pork thick soup (肉羹湯) at the entrance of Zhixing Market (直興市場). Furthermore, Huanghefa Rice Pudding (黃合發米粿店), Yifeizi Noodle Shop (一肥仔麵店), A Tsai Ma's Savory Soup Balls in Sweet Soup (阿猜嬭甜湯鹹圓), Bangka Traditional-style Cold Jelly (艋舺古早味涼粉), and Bangka Salty Congee (艋舺鹹粥) are all located near the Bangka Qingshan Temple (艋舺青山宮).

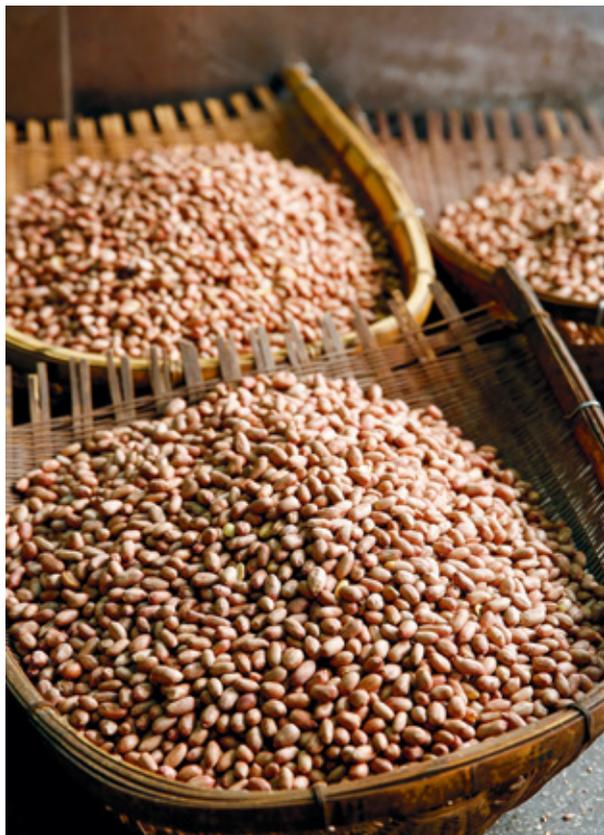
Snacks in the Tourist Night and Traditional Markets

Taiwan's first tourist night market, Huaxi Street Tourist Night Market, is located in Bangka and features a wide assortment of delicious eateries and stalls selling numerous snacks including Tainan Dan Zai Noodles (台南擔仔麵), Xiaowang Steamed Minced

Pork with Pickles in Broth (小王清湯瓜仔肉), Beigang Sweet Soup (北港甜湯), Dading Meat Thick Soup (大鯧肉羹), Snake Meat Soup (蛇肉湯), Changhong Noodle Shop (昶鴻麵店), and Yuanfang Guabao (源芳割包), all of which are tourist favorites.

Near this tourist night market is the famed Guanzhou Street and Wuzhou Street night market, which is home to Huainian Aiyu Jelly (懷念愛玉冰), Dingji Tempura (頂級甜不辣), Longdu Fruit Ice Desserts (龍都冰果室), Fengyuan Pork Noodles with Spare Ribs (豐原排骨麵), Aunt Ajiao Grilled Squid (阿嬌姨烤魷魚), and Baozihao Pig's Knuckle (寶字號豬腳). In the area near the Xinfu Market, which is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year, diners can enjoy local flavors at Ah Po Glutinous Oil Rice (阿婆油飯), Da Fong Fish Ball (大豐魚丸), Kam Wo Sushi Shop (金禾壽司), Wanhe Sashimi (丸合生魚片), and peanuts at Sanshui Foods, all of which feature possess long histories.

That is not all, Bangka's cuisine includes so much more. Near the Bopiliao Historic Block are Zhouji Minced Meat Congee (周記肉粥), Axiu Noodles (阿秀切仔麵) and Jincai Noodles (進財切仔麵), Yixin Goose Meat (一心鵝肉), and Longlai Juice (龍來果汁) all of which are highly recommended by diners. Leaving Bopiliao and walking towards the border of Bangka and Xiakan (下坎) there is a strip of restaurants on Section 3, Heping West Road, including Bangka Ah Long Fried Rice and Noodles (舢舨阿龍炒飯), Rehai Fresh Seafood Restaurant (熱海現撈海鮮店), Li Family Stewed Chicken Palm (李家滷雞腳), Wanhua Chenji Specialty Oyster Noodles (萬華陳記專業蚵仔麵線), Hai Tian Dumplings Shop (海天香餃),



Large and round five-spice peanuts at Sanshui Foods. (Photo: Jilin Yang)

and Budai Fresh Oysters (布袋鮮的蚵), whereas Wanhua Grass Jelly Ice (萬華仙草冰) and Liuzhou Snail Rice Noodle (柳州螺螄粉) are situated on Bangka Boulevard. Therefore, not much effort is needed to find good food in Bangka, and restaurants that are highly recommended by experienced guides can be found every few steps.

Bangka Historical Tour – Sampling Local Foods

To revive Bangka Park, in August and September the Taipei City Government promoted Bangka area tourism and in-depth travel, collaborating with the writer to organize weekend guided tours for Taipei residents and backpackers and to create a



On Sanshui Street, there are still many eateries serving traditional foods and stores selling dry goods.

street map as a guide to exploring Bangka's history and interesting sites.

In addition to exploring Bangka's landscapes, traditional shops and markets, these guided tours allowed participants to sample some of Bangka's delicacies at local favorites such as herbal tea at Tianxun Herb Shop (天順青草行), steamed taro cake (芋粿巧) and herbal rice cake (草仔粿) at 36 Tangyuan Shop, specialty cheese snack at Taiho Traditional Biscuit, stir fried peanuts at Sanshui Foods and Ah Po Glutinous Oil Rice in the Xinfu Market. All of these shops and eateries have several characteristics in common. In addition to long histories, they

have won awards and appeared in numerous newspaper and media reports. The stir fried peanuts at Sanshui Foods have even been selected as in-flight snacks on EVA Airlines and China Airlines.

With more than ten generations of ancestors over 300 years living in Bangka, the writer sincerely looks forward to continued cooperation with the government and private sector to introduce Bangka's genuine beauty to people all over Taiwan and even all over the world, especially the local delicacies and snacks to raise awareness of Taipei's authentic dishes. 📍

Learning About Bangka's Colorful History:

Visiting Huaxi Street's Kushanyuan Hotel

Article: Peggy Yu

Photos: Xu Yirong

Taipei City Mayor Ko Wen-je has recently taken on the role of spokesperson for tourism in Bangka by visiting the “Kushanyuan Hotel”, to seek out a national treasure “He Xianggu (何仙姑).” She learned the art of quilt folding, and informed the public that this hotel is representative of Huaxi Street's history. The Kushanyuan Hotel has undergone modernization while still preserving its 1960s retro design. By holding poetry readings and photography exhibitions and serving as a location in movies such as *Monga*, it has been transformed into a hotel that foreign backpackers hope to stay in while in Taipei.

The hotel features the national treasure “He Xianggu,” who can fold the hotel quilts into 42 different shapes. She states that folded quilts were one of the main characteristics of early Taiwanese hotels. As a way of keeping the hotel orderly, all of the room attendants and cleaning staff were required to know how to properly fold the quilts into various shapes such as swans, women's legs, cacti, bananas, etc.

She says that quilt folding requires a rich imagination because a 10-catty quilt is thick, heavy, and can only be folded into a limited number of angles. Her swan design secured her the top ranking at a quilt folding

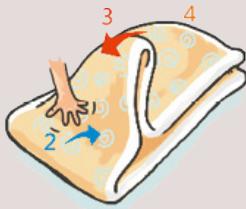


Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je (left) learns quilt folding from He Xianggu (right) (Photo: Xu Yirong)

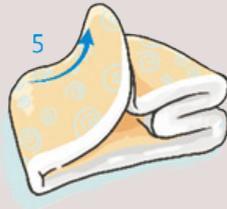
championship. According to the hotel staff, a number of tourists come specifically for the folded quilts and are reluctant to unfold them at bedtime. This just goes to show that folded quilts have become a major attraction of this hotel.

In 1951, according to the Kushanyuan Hotel, folded quilts were fashionable, but now only a small number of hotels have preserved this tradition. In addition to these three-dimensional folded quilt designs, the combination of preserved stone-washed floors, classical inlaid colored glass chandeliers, and simple rooms creates a nostalgic elegance. 

SOP Illustration for Folding Quilt “Swan”



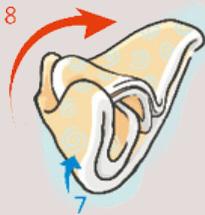
1. Fold the quilt in half.
2. Pull the corner of the top layer of the quilt at an upward angle to create an indentation.
3. Cover the upper layer of the quilt to form a triangle.
4. Fold to the left.



5. Allow the left side of the upper folded layer of the quilt to stand to form a triangle.



6. Wrap and cover the upper right side of the triangle in step 5.



7. Wrap the left side of the quilt in step 6.
8. Roll up the quilt.



Illustration: TIN

| Hotel | Telephone |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 古山園旅社 Kushanyuan Hotel | (02)2306-7408 |
| 松林大旅社 Song Lin Hotel | (02)2338-2233 |
| 直興旅館 JS INN | (02)2381-7021 |
| 帝華旅社 Ti Hwa Hotel | (02)2311-8411 |
| 洛基新仕界大飯店 Green World New World Hotel | (02)2311-8863 |
| 美上美旅館 Mei Shang Mei Hotel | (02)2308-8105 |
| 班客飯店 Hotel Banka | (02)2306-5566 |
| 華冠商旅 Hua Guan Hotel | (02)2361-6076 |
| 華宮旅社 Hua Gong Hotel | (02)2314-2627 |
| 華麗大飯店 Ferrary Hotel | (02)2381-8111 |
| 龍山旅社 Long Shan Hotel | (02)2306-4990 |

* List of Huaxi Street area hotels. For more authorized hotels, go online to Taiwan Stay (taiwanstay.net.tw)

Taipei – Friendly Capital City in the Eyes of Doron Hemo

Article: Lingyuan Yang

Photos: William Lin

Doron Hemo, Director of Economic Affairs, Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei, and his wife Claudia, are an admirable, young couple who resemble Hollywood celebrities. Before Hemo was assigned to his current position, he and his wife had never visited Taiwan. He asked his friends and colleagues who had been to Taiwan about its lifestyle, habits, culture and environment, and everyone told him, “Don’t worry. This is a great place. No problem. You will realize that when you get there.”

Since taking up this post, he and his family have lived in Taipei for more than three years. He has not had any problems adapting. “Up to now there have only been two ‘inconveniences’: I cannot speak Chinese and I am too far from home.” But, from another perspective, people from Taipei do not have these two obstacles. He feels that, for them, growing up here is akin to winning the lottery!

Convenient, Friendly Taipei City

Hemo has observed that Taipei is an extremely friendly city for foreigners. The transportation is very efficient, the living environment is very safe, the cost of living is very low and there is a diversity of great food. In every respect, it is very easy to adapt to life in this international city. “People in Taipei



Doron Hemo says that since taking up this post he has lived in Taipei for more than three years and has not had any problems adapting.



Doron Hemo and his wife Claudia have a harmonious relationship, closely linking work with their private lives in Taipei.

are very hospitable and enthusiastic. If there is a foreigner in need of assistance, even if they cannot speak English, they will eagerly find someone to help.” When he and his wife first arrived in Taipei, they experienced much kindness, which created an immediate fondness for this warm city.



Many Israeli food products are sold in Taipei "city'super" stores.

He especially likes that there are places to enjoy nature in and around Taipei. If he wants to go hiking, view flowers or see the ocean, all of this can be easily reached with a short 30~40-minute drive. With his family, he often samples tea in Maokong (貓空), hikes Xiangshan (象山) and strolls through Yuanshan Taipei Expo Park (圓山花博園區). When friends come to Taipei to visit, Taipei 101, Longshan Temple and night markets are definitely on his and his wife's list of places to take them. These attractions are very representative of Taipei.

Speaking of Taipei's food, Hemo's favorite is *xiaolongbao*. Whenever he has the opportunity to eat out, he does not forget to seek out new xiaolongbao restaurants. This has become one of life's pleasures. Eating *nigiri* has also been

an unforgettable experience. In Israel, there are only sushi rolls, and it is not possible to eat simple nigiri. His wife, Claudia, is a vegetarian, and for her coming to Taipei has been like entering a food paradise. Taipei is not only home to many vegetarian restaurants, but also lacto-ovo vegetarian and raw vegan restaurants, which have allowed her to sample innovative vegetarian cuisine. She often goes to "Miss Green", which serves lacto-ovo vegetarian dishes including burgers, wraps and desserts, all of which are very delicious.

Bringing Israeli Culture and Foods to Taipei

In Taiwan, many people make comparisons of Israel and Taipei, as the two countries are similar in terms of area. Israel is approximately



Doron Hemo's wife Claudia loves the vegetarian burgers, pasta dishes and desserts at Taipei City's "Miss Green" restaurant.



Many Israeli food products are sold in Taipei "city'super" stores.

two-thirds the size of Taiwan, but two-thirds of its land is barren desert. The population of Israel is relatively small at more than eight million. Both countries have also gone through a time of poverty in which there were material shortages. In addition, "innovation" has paved the way for wealth and sophistication. However, in terms of education, there are obvious differences.

Hemo notes that when he exchanges opinions with Taiwanese people, he has discovered that "innovation" among Taiwan's children needs to be encouraged. In Israel, children are taught to "challenge authority." When children come home from school, their parents will not ask them, "What did you learn at school today?" Rather, they will enquire, "What questions did you ask your teacher?" In addition, from the time that they are very

young, Israeli students are taught "not to fear failure." Both are essential conditions for enterprise and scientific invention.

In Taipei, it is now possible to eat authentic Israeli cuisine. Starting in December 2015, the Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei will organize the Israeli Food Show in Taipei, which will feature more than 120 items, and then these items will continually be introduced into Taipei's City'super stores. It is hoped that Taiwanese will gain an understanding of the unique K kosher culture of Judaism, which involves strict food quality control, and that food enthusiasts will enjoy these delicious products. 🇮🇱

Watching Over Taiwan's Great Coffee – Atsuomi Itou

Article: Lingyuan Yang

Photos: William Lin

Taiwanese people love coffee, but very few people know that Taiwan produces world-class coffee. Atsuomi Itou, who came to Taiwan from Japan, discovered the unique taste of Alishan (阿里山) coffee. But, he could not understand why it was not popular in Taiwan. Through his persistent promotional efforts, Alishan coffee has gradually become part of the lives of Taiwanese coffee drinkers and has even gained attention on the international stage.

Unforgettable Alishan Coffee

Itou, who was born in Tokyo, has a strong preference for coffee. He worked at both Starbucks and at a coffee roaster with a long history for nearly 10 years and obtained a Coffee Specialist certification from the Specialty Coffee Association Japan. He had heard about the fine coffee produced in Taiwan and wanted to taste it for himself. Thus, in 2008, on a trip to Taiwan he immediately went to Alishan in search of good quality, local coffee.

“Alishan light roasted coffee is very delicious with an aroma of pineapples and lemon tea and an aftertaste of oolong tea.” Itou recalls the pleasant surprise of sampling Alishan coffee for the first time. It surpassed his expectations. Upon returning to Japan, he began to think about how he could introduce Alishan coffee there. As he could not speak Chinese at the time, he began watching Taiwanese soap operas to learn the language. He also began discussing his plan



Atsuomi Itou enjoys personally brewing coffee for each of his customers every day.

to work in Taiwan with his family. It just so happened that his father had in mind to open a coffee shop in Taiwan. Thus, in 2012, Itou and his father started their first coffee shop, ATTS Coffee, in Banciao, and he continued to promote Alishan coffee, working with a coffee plantation. He also roasted his own coffee beans and asked a Japanese designer to create packaging designs, as part of his efforts to launch the “Alisan Project” brand.

Becoming a Happy Coffee Master in Taipei

In the beginning, Itou set up a stall at the Taipei Songshan Airport (臺北松山機場) for people to taste his coffee. Some Japanese visitors to Taiwan recommended his coffee beans, and he also attempted to open sales channels in Taiwan



Atsuomi Itou is fond of Taiwan's Alishan coffee. Working with a coffee farm he has launched the Alisan Project brand.

and Japan. After a period of hard work, Alisan Project products are now sold in Taipei at Eslite Spectrum Songyan Store (松菸誠品) and Good Cho's (好丘) in 44 South Village (四四南村), as well as in Osaka, Japan.

To provide a place for coffee lovers to taste good, hand roasted coffee, Itou opened Goodman Roaster on Tianyu Street in Tianmu in December 2014. In this coffee shop, Itou specially prepares coffee for each customer. He truly enjoys the process, especially when a customer receives a cup of freshly brewed coffee and exclaims, "It smells so good, so rich." This is the moment he feels the happiest and most touched.

After living in Taipei for more than four years, Itou loves Taipei life. No matter if it's the food, the environment or the culture, there is no aspect that he does not feel he has

become accustomed. "I love to eat wonton the most. I most often go to Wen Zhou Da Hun Tun (温州大餛飩) near Taipei City Hall. Wontons are large, have a rich filling, and are inexpensive." In addition, a stir-fry restaurant on Changan East Road is a must for taking his friends when they visit from Japan. The food is delicious, there is a large selection and the prices are reasonable. It is especially the warm atmosphere that makes diners feel comfortable and happy.

"I chose to have my home and coffee shop on Section 7, Zhongshan North Road in Tianmu because the alleys and lanes are quiet and clean. It is very much like Meguro City in Tokyo, Japan. It makes me feel like I am back in Japan."

Life and coffee have fused together. In addition to working in his shop every day, in his free time Itou visits newly opened or



Good Man Roaster coffee shop sells many coffee-related products.



Atsuomi Ito hopes to introduce Taiwan's great coffee to the world.



Taipei's stir-fry restaurants are must-eat destinations for Atsuomi Ito's friends visiting from Japan.

popular coffee shops in Taipei City, such as Fika Fika Cafe, Single Origin espresso & roast and PAPER ST. COFFEE COMPANY. These coffee shops have their individual styles and unique concepts, which are just waiting to be enjoyed.

“Taiwan has many great things that are worth introducing to Japan and the whole world.” Harboring this idea, Ito continues

to fulfill his Taiwan coffee dream and hopes to share it with the whole world. 📍

Good Man Roaster

📍 110, Tianyu St.

☎ 0983-295-547

🕒 11:00~19:00 (irregular holidays)

Nougat Pancake, Pearl Nougat, and Nougat Cake – Taipei’s Top Three Cakes

Article: Li Ying

Photos: Liu Jia-wen

To highlight “Taipei Cakes”, the pastry industry participated in a competition at the 2015 Taiwan Culinary Exhibition (2015 台灣烘焙美食展). The teams and pastry chefs racked their brains thinking of ways to perfectly combine flour dough with nougat. To create innovative new pastries that are both delicious and attractive, each participant spent more than half a year just for testing.

The creation of “Taipei Cakes” involves integrating confectionary culture with generational trends to forge a perfect link between traditional and contemporary concepts. Consequently, the participating groups pulled out all of the stops in interpreting pastries according to their own inspirations and backgrounds. At the 2015 Taiwan Culinary Exhibition, Yuhuaixin (御華興) won first prize in the “Taipei Cakes” competition. Their Nougat Pancake won the favor of the judges and the highest honor in the competition.

Crispy and Tasty Nougat Pancakes

Miss Su, who is the third generation owner of this old shop, said that her grandfather founded the shop in 1946 to sell traditional pancakes. She also said that the pancake batter is evenly clamped on both sides during baking, and this method of making



“Taiwanese Mango Nougat Candy” features a very flattering color scheme.

(Photo: Taipei Bakery Association)

pancakes has been preserved up until the present day. As pancakes represent entrepreneurial spirit, they are one of the shop’s traditional items and used as the exterior wrapping for “Taipei Cakes.”

Nougat candy was originally very popular with tourists from mainland China, and has been offered in various flavors, such as almond, macadamia nut, and walnut. There was a concern that mixing pancake batter with nougat would be too sweet. After some experimentation, it was decided to substitute trehalose for granulated sugar. As a result, the cost of sugar increased six-fold. In addition, when nougat is exposed to heat it becomes soft and even runny. Therefore, the nougat was wrapped in pancake to allow some of the moist steam from the nougat to be absorbed.



Resembling an egg roll, the “Nougat Pancake” won first prize in the “Taipei Cakes” competition.
(Photo: Gao Zanzhan)

Yuhuahsin’s Taipei Cakes are shaped like egg rolls, and the ingredients combine the fragrance of flour, the crispiness of corn meal, and the mellow and savory taste of milk in a manner that preserves the flavor of “Taipei Cakes”, as well as their moderately firm texture. However, pancakes can only be rolled up when hot; therefore, they require a lot of effort, and their added saltiness makes the flavor of “Taipei Cakes” even more diverse.

Skillfully Adding Pearl Milk Tea Ingredients to Increase Flavor

“Pearl Nougat” created by the second place winner in the “Taipei Cakes” competition, Kuo Yuan Ye (郭元益), caused the judges eyes to light up. Kuo Yuan Ye has been in business for 149 years, and General Manager Lee Kuntung (李坤聰) points out that if you trace the development of pastries in Taiwan you will find that early on they were used for worshipping gods. It was the newly arrived immigrants to Taiwan who prayed to the gods and sought spiritual solace. As a result, there is a close relationship between pastries and the history of Taipei.

It takes a lot of careful thought to create a new product that combines the spirit of tradition with today’s creative spirit. As foreign tourists are very interested in trying Pearl Milk Tea (珍珠奶茶), after multiple discussions it was decided to use pearl milk tea ingredients as the foundation and as popular elements to combine with Kuo Yuan Ye’s traditional characteristics. The result was “Pearl Nougat.” This combination can encourage foreigners unfamiliar with traditional Taiwanese food culture to try Taipei Cakes and gain an understanding of traditional Taiwanese food culture.

The shape of Pearl Nougat is reminiscent of the traditional Green Bean Cake (綠豆糕). However, due to the pearl milk tea ingredients, the texture is completely different. New Zealand butter is used to make a fresh whipped protein-based stuffing, and this is the main material in nougat candy. The melt-in-your-mouth nougat candy is wrapped inside a spongy crust to create a completely new product.



The second prize winner, “Pearl Nougat,” incorporates pearl milk tea ingredients to create a whole new flavor. (Photo: Liu Jiawen)



The size of the third prize “Nougat Cake” makes it easy to pick up and eat at any time. (Photo: Liu Jiawen)

The Image of Fresh Lingers in People’s Minds

Florida Bakery (福利麵包)’s “Nougat Cake” was the third prize winner with a fresh and neat wafer-like appearance. A Florida Bakery employee pointed out that in line with Taipei City’s clean image and to cater to Taipei City residents’ busy schedules, it was decided that first and foremost that these cakes would have to be properly packaged, clean and sanitary. They would also have to be of proper size, so that they could be picked up and enjoyed at any time.

The team put a lot of thought into the filling and decided to add pungent black pepper commonly used in everyday life. During testing they choked on the black pepper many times before successfully producing a nougat cake with a rich and creamy flavor, which is not significantly different from that of regular nougat cakes. However, there is a faint spicy aftertaste with a lot of personality. In addition to adding black pepper, the master chef with 20 years of experience, Wu Huai-ling (吳懷陵), also tried other flavors such as curry powder, sea

salt, prickly ash, and chili pepper in the spirit of innovation.

One participant’s flange cheese cake, entitled “Nougat Mille-feuille,” also won acclaim. Peanut nougat candy was combined with mille-feuille and coated in chocolate in anticipation of winning over younger snack lovers. Another participant created “Taiwanese Mango Nougat Candy” with a very flattering color scheme, earning bonus points for the delicious Taiwanese mango flavor. **T**



The “Nougat Mille-feuille” combines peanut nougat candy with mille-feuille and a chocolate coating. (Photo: Taipei Bakery Association)

Tastes Like Home

Article: Beher Kitchen www.beher.com.tw

Guess where this kitchen is? An electric pot is nowhere to be seen, but there is a Kurdistan¹ frying pan, as well as a sticky rice bamboo steamer from Laos and five different style pestle and mortar sets from India, Mexico, Japan, Indonesia, and Thailand, respectively. There are no cutlery sets, and the wooden and ceramic bowls are all different. This is because they are changed daily for the pleasure of matching them with different foods. This is the kitchen of Naomi Duguid in Toronto, Canada and the secret base from where she has produced seven award-winning cookbooks².

A desire to interact with the world motivated her to change from a career in law to one in photography and writing, in which she moves between text and images. She also enjoys learning belly dancing and shape note singing. Laughingly, she says that maybe she will never perfect all of them, thus she is lucky that she will never be forced into specialization. With the opening up of Tibet, Myanmar, and Iran to the world, she has recorded some of their homemade dishes and has cooked them as a colorful toast to the world. In this way, she has melted away national borders between foods and cultures.

For more than thirty years, she has revealed the foods and regions that are less written. Out of a sense of curiosity, she traversed the Pamir and the Karakoram Mountains by bicycle. In the future she will travel through Southeast Asia by boat with her two sons. Most currently, she leads intensive food-focused tours of the Thailand and Myanmar border region and lectures on food history in University of

A Spoonful of World Flavor

The world is a dynamic kitchen where the people we meet and events we experience become part of the complex flavors of life. While our meals are fragmentary, together they record cultural and social manifestations. We therefore take food as our lens for exploring both the past and present and peering into the future. Besides aiming to cultivate dialogues in food through stories of inspiring professionals and changemakers, we hope to create a channel for the world to engage with Taipei.



In the 1950s, growing up in Ottawa, Canada, labor lawyer Naomi Duguid felt that the North American food culture for so long is very European-focused and pay attention to banquets cuisine only. At a time when her country was under the influence of Europhilia, with her lens and pens, she began to defend traditional cultures and home cooked foods around the world that are less known. Showing a metal spatula that she has had since law school, she shares her obsession with hand kitchen tools. If you can use the palm of your hand to crush garlic why would you need a machine to do it? Open your heart to feel the foods and encounter with people. (Courtesy of Laura Berman)

Beher Kitchen, founded in 2008, seeks to incubate diversity in food and lifestyle and tune into the sources of everyday living. Curating various activities on culinary culture and food origin trips, we hope to teach sustainability and blend aesthetic education into life by sharing the characteristics, creativity, experiences, and movements in food.



Did you know that before chili peppers, potatoes, tomatoes, peanuts and corn from the Americas made their way to other parts of the world, exchanges were already in place between the Persian and Chinese civilizations? These included the introduction of wheat and apricots from Iran to China and the export of mulberry leaves from China. Rice is a staple food of Kurdistan. However, its rice culture differs from that of Iran. Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan all have natural environments similar to that of Guizhou in China. However, the writing and language systems of these three countries are all different. Although having been under Soviet rule, they have preserved their traditions of hospitality. Everywhere you can see fruit trees, cheese and vineyards. In the fall of 2016, Naomi Duguid will release a cookbook ⁵ in which she shares 1001 stories from the lands of Persia. (Courtesy of Naomi Duguid)

Toronto. She would rather be a benevolent and observant traveler than a reporter who excavates the truth. "I'm just trying to see what I see. Stop first, look and start to ask ourselves questions" said Naomi. She feels no need to visit must-see scenic spots or try must-eat dishes. She immerses herself in the unknown using flavor as her anchor with everywhere beckoning as a homeland.

In your cookbooks, the flavor of cuisine does not just come from the ingredients but also from the aromas, colors, sounds, and ambience inside kitchens. Why did you prefer to unfold the stories in this way?

I am most interested in how people feed themselves and their families on a daily basis. We survive as individual and as collective as culture or country. We're all very different and come up with creative ways of living to shape culture. A desire to know how do people live with what they have and why things are the way they are is my starting point. You can also gain an understanding of culture through music, textiles or crafts, but sometimes they are not easy to unearth. However, everybody has to eat food on a daily basis. It is very practical and tangible, and as a result food has become the way that I make inquiries about the world. For example, in Mexico corn tortillas are central to the local way of life, and when I asked how to make them, the women there were shocked that I did not already know. They felt obligated to teach me and correct me. I did not mind this and felt that their generosity was heartwarming and admirable. The desire to help and perfect one another stems from human nature, and

this is especially true among women. This has to be told in order for the story of corn tortillas to be complete.

Simple and no-frills everyday cuisine holds the greatest attachment for people. Which of these foods make you emotional and stimulate your memories?

Let me think about it. There are too many! My earliest memory is of my mother making toast with butter and marmalade. That small trace of bitter flavor was truly satisfying. Besides that, I have a soft spot in my heart for foods made from rice, even leftovers. Just using it for fried rice or frying it with green vegetables and putting a fried egg on top can make it into hearty food. It is also really soothing as breakfast food. Aromas are like doors through which I directly access deep memories. Anytime that I smell burning juniper I cannot help but remember the plumes of smoke during a pilgrimage to Tibet. Similarly, when the spices hit hot oil, I am surrounded by fragrance that brings me back to Bangkok right away. Being able to pay close attention to feelings produced from the sense of smell is a very fortunate thing.

You mentioned your captivation with rice. You have chronicled the Eurasian rice cultures and have visited Taiwan. Can you share with us your impressions of Taipei?

The first time that I visited Taipei was 21 years ago. Although it was only a short four-day visit, I traveled by bus to the tea fields in the city outskirts and



Top: Since 2009, Naomi Duguid has been traveling to the Thai-Myanmar border region to lead food tours and to learn the cuisine of the Shan people from the local women. The students from Western countries are thrown into traditional wet market to shop. They are given a list of ingredients but no recipe to follow. During class, they must be fully in the present using their hands, eyes, ears and mind.

Bottom: Two knives are used simultaneously to mince ingredients (referred to as *laap* in the Thai language) while paying attention to the texture. Pestle and mortar are used to grind pungent ingredients. These are the common food preparation methods of northern Thailand. Only through careful observation and continuous practice, can they become imprinted on one's body and memories. (Courtesy of Naomi Duguid)



From ingredients to kitchen utensils, cooking methods, materials for creating heat, the person cooking, how the food is eaten, and with whom the food is eaten all reflect a type of knowledge that comes from the interaction between humans and the environment. Slowly, this knowledge accumulates to become food culture. The filling of piping hot Mongolian steamed dumplings is mostly mutton complemented by fermented milk curd or pickled vegetables. These differ from Tibetan steamed dumplings (also referred to as momo) which use yak meat for their filling. In 1985, a trip to China inspired Naomi Duguid to leave behind her black gown in the court and visit home kitchens in foreign lands. She traveled to Xinjiang, Mongolia, Yunnan, Guizhou and Tibet and learned about the cuisines in China other than those of the main cities such as Beijing and Shanghai. She and Jeffrey Alford then collaborated on a book entitled *Beyond the Great Wall: Recipes and Travels in the Other China*, in which is described the food landscapes of the minority ethnic people of China. (Courtesy of Naomi Duguid)

strolled around the city center. There were not as many skyscrapers as today and the pace of the city was not rushing. A lot of Westerners had come to Taiwan to study Chinese. I really enjoyed walking on the streets with smell of cooking food everywhere, visiting the temples, and going to each small food stall on a tour of the flavors. I was especially stunned by the rich and dark herbal stews and all the different kinds of remarkable tea! On winter days in Toronto when I have the beef soup that my Taiwanese neighbors make the memories

of these foods are especially vivid. A lot of people say that they want to try authentic Chinese foods, and I believe Taiwan still is one of the best places in the world to eat diversity of amazing Chinese food from all the provinces. 📍

Naomi Duguid:

naomiduguid.flavors.me

Immerse Through Trip:

<http://www.immersethrough.com/>



The darkness of night has not yet receded. Candles bathe Hsipaw Town in the Shan State of Myanmar in a warm glow. In the local market, shoppers silently allow the monks involved in morning prayers to pass. Naomi Duguid visited Myanmar for the first time in the 1980s. Every time she left, she would worry that she would not be allowed back. Since 2010, when the military junta that had been in power for nearly half a century relinquished its power, she has seen a change among the people who are slowly beginning to open up and smile in the public. Traveling by boat along the Mekong River, she has tasted the sour, salty, sweet and spicy flavors of a diverse array of peoples including the Bamar, Shan, Kachin, Karen, and Chin. These stories are unfold in her cookbook entitled *Burma: Rivers of Flavor*. (Courtesy of Naomi Duguid)

● Notes

- 1 Kurdistan: Refers to the territory of the Kurdish people. It is an autonomous zone in a mountainous region which borders on Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria. It has approximately 1.5 times the population of Taiwan and covers an area approximately 10 times the size of Taiwan.
 - 2 Published in recent years, *Burma: Rivers of Flavor* reveals the foods of Myanmar. It received an IACP Cookbook Award and was nominated for a James Beard Award. Of the six cookbooks written in collaboration with Jeffrey Alford, four have been honored with James Beard Awards, also known as the “Oscars of the food world.” In autumn of 2016, she will publish a book about Persian food culture entitled *Taste of Persia: A Cook's Travels Through Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, and Kurdistan*. It will include food-related stories from Iran, Kurdistan, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.
 - 3 *Taste of Persia: A Cook's Travels Through Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, and Kurdistan*.
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Virtual Performances and Interactive Installations – Commemorate the Life of Teresa Teng

Article/Photos: Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government

Every era has someone or something that symbolizes it. Teresa Teng (鄧麗君) is that kind of legendary figure. With a sweet smile and voice to match, she sang songs that brought peace to a restless generation. In recognition of her accomplishments, the Discovery Center of Taipei is showing a virtual performance by Teng on the first floor as part of “The Return of Teresa Teng Memorial Exhibition (何日君再來·鄧麗君文物紀念展).” Using virtual reality technology from the California-based visual effects production house Digital Domain, an Academy Award winner for Scientific and Technical Achievement, Teng’s enchanting character is recreated, to allow fans to relive her performances of such classics as “Sweet as Honey (甜蜜蜜).”

This exhibition marks the 20th anniversary of Teng’s death and is organized by the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government, with special assistance from the Teresa Teng Foundation (財團法人鄧麗君文教基金會). The exhibition runs until January 10th, 2016, on the first and second floors of the Discovery



“The Return of Teresa Teng Memorial Exhibition” runs until January 10th, 2016 at the Discovery Center of Taipei.

Center of Taipei. In addition to preserving valuable artifacts belonging to the singer, the city government will promote related industrial development by building a Teresa Teng memorial hall in cooperation with the Teresa Teng Foundation, so that Teng’s voice never falls silent in this city.

Revisiting a Beautiful Era by Recreating the Classics

Items on display include some of Teng’s favorite clothing and accessories, such as a gemstone necklace given to her by her mother, a black phoenix *qipao* worn at several performances, and the air force uniform Teng donned when performing for



Holographic projection technology is used to recreate the elegant, graceful performances that turned Teresa Teng into a super star.

(Photo: Teresa Teng Foundation).



In the reproduction of classics exhibition area, the clothing and accessories worn by Teresa Teng are on display.

the troops. At the entrance are artworks from the famed Japanese photographer Tenmei Kanoh that are a blend of photography and painting. There are also 43 classic album covers, the complete collection of Teresa Teng commemorative stamps, close to 60 photographs that document Teng's life growing up in Taipei, as well as several items on loan for the first time from Teng's alma mater Luzhou Elementary School (蘆洲國小), such as a large jigsaw puzzle, film posters, and magazine and newspaper articles. There is also a gold vinyl record, which had a worldwide limited production of just 3,000.

The background soundtrack for the second floor features "When Will You Return (何日君

Exhibition Title: "The Return of Teresa Teng Memorial Exhibition"

📅 Through January 10th, 2016

🕒 09:00~17:00, Tues~Sun.

Admission is free (closed on Mondays and national holidays)

📍 Discovery Center of Taipei (1, City Hall Rd., Taipei)

📷 Photography and filming are not allowed in the exhibition areas. Food and drinks, pets, umbrellas, and other hazardous objects are also prohibited.

再來), "I Smile When I See You (一見你就笑)," and "Jing Jing (晶晶)," the latter of which is not only Teng's first original song, but also the theme song to Taiwan's first TV drama series. These many displays bring viewers back in time to that great era when Teng rose to stardom. Additional items include a joint concert performance with the singer Fei Yu-ching (費玉清) and an interactive installation that allows visitors to insert themselves into classic photographs of the singer. These can be uploaded to Facebook to share with friends! 📌

For additional event information, visit the Discovery Center of Taipei website at discovery.gov.taipei or call the 1999 Taipei Citizen Hotline (02-2720-8889 outside Taipei City) extension 8630.

Recreating the Dadaocheng of the 1920s Jou Yi-cheng – Infuses New Life Into Traditional Industries

Article: Jin Kanglan
Photos: Gao Zanzian

A long-term plan has been put in place to revive Dadaocheng's glory days of the 1920s. This plan was initiated by the founder of ArtYard (小藝埕), Jou Yi-cheng (周奕成).

In the film *Twa-Tiu-Tiann*, the character Professor P (played by Chu Ke-liang (豬哥亮)) says that, "That was Taiwan's golden era. Everyone was working hard and everyone was making big money. That was Dadaocheng." In 1921, Chiang Wei-shui (蔣渭水), who is considered "the father of Taiwan's new cultural movement", established the Taiwanese Cultural Association (台灣文化協會) in Dadaocheng. Thus, it is not difficult to imagine how this would have been a place of economic and cultural prosperity.

Hoping to revive some of that prosperity, Jou rented several buildings along Dadaocheng's historic streets. Through a model of joint ownership and operation, he has attracted people in the creative and cultural industries to set up shop in Dadaocheng and infuse the streets with the creativity and vitality of the young generation.



ArtYard founder Jou Yi-cheng has been working to breathe new life into the old streets of Dadaocheng. (Photo: Gao Zanzian)

Building a Micro-enterprise Base to Bring New Ideas to Traditional Businesses

Jou says that Dadaocheng is dependent on the support of the government and the private sector to preserve its unique historical atmosphere and landscape. However, it is not enough just to focus on



Creative stores are hidden among the lanes and alleys bringing pleasant surprises to passersby.

(Photo: Gao Zanzian)

external appearances. Fulfilling Dadaocheng's internal connotation is the only way to restore it to its former glory. During these modern times when traditional industries are experiencing a gradual decline, it is not enough to depend on the original models of operations and management in this once important commercial area. Therefore, Jou's guiding principle is to "attract new vitality and creativity in line with the preservation of old traditions."

This concept formed part of his resolve even before setting up ArtYard. In the future, a base will be established for micro-enterprises related to one of the five traditional industries of Dadaocheng: tea, textiles, agricultural products (traditional Chinese medicine, traditional groceries), drama (traditional opera, puppet theater, *nanguan* and *beiguan* traditional music〔南北管〕) and architecture. The missing link in the chain of supply of each of these industries will be provided by these new entrant entrepreneurs.

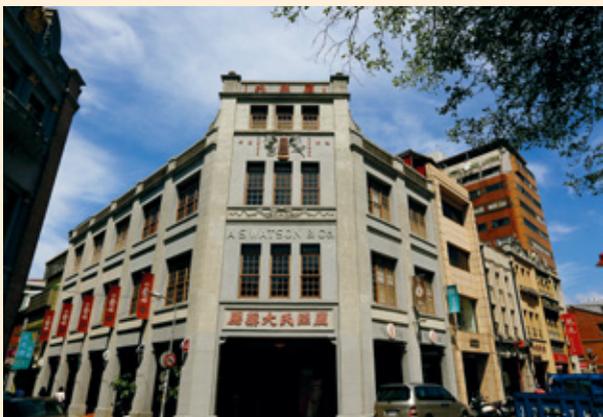
Jou provides an example, saying that, "In terms of the textile industry, Taiwan is the strongest in manufacturing, but not in fabric design. In response to this situation, inBloom (印花樂) fabric design studio opened in Dadaocheng." He adds that, "In terms of tea, Dadaocheng possesses tea sellers, but no teahouses." Therefore South Street Delight (南街得意) opened on the second floor of one of the New ArtYard branches (民藝埕) and the ASW Tea House opened on the second floor of ArtYard to attract more young people and international tourists to sample Taiwan tea.

Collecting Taiwanese Products in One Place and Creating A New Wave of Cultural Revival

In July of this year, Jou's newest creative development project opened. This store is called Taiwan Busan (台灣物產). On its exterior is the preserved Watsons Pharmacy sign inherited from long ago. Behind this little shop is the knowledge that he has

accumulated over many years. Jou says that, “Because I studied international relations, I realize that from the perspective of people-to-people diplomacy, foreigners discover what makes Taiwan such an interesting place through its ‘products.’” For a long time, “Everyone has had similar experiences. Every time that we want to buy a gift we cannot think of something that is truly representative of Taiwan.”

The role of Taiwan Busan is to search out and collect goods from all over Taiwan. Jou points out that, “This gift box will have a theme, for example the beautiful indigenous culture of Taiwan. It will include unique indigenous food items or handicrafts from Nantou (南投), Chiayi (嘉義) and elsewhere.” Jou has invited Taiwanese illustrators and graphic artists to produce Taiwanese goods maps that will enable tourists to gain a better understanding of Taiwan from different perspectives.



On the exterior of Taiwan Busan is preserved the Watsons Pharmacy sign. (Photo: Gao Zanzian)

In one building after another on these historical streets is one creative designer after another working to create a series of unique and exquisite handicrafts. Together, they are building an industrial and cultural hub. Jou hopes that ArtYard can become a destination for cultural talent that embraces a dream. This year, in October, he worked with Zhang Zhelong (張哲龍), director of Thinkers' Theater (思劇場), and Chiang Chao-ken (蔣朝根), the executive director of Chiang Wei-shui's Foundation (蔣渭水文化基金會), to launch the Tua-Tiu-Tiann International Festival of Art (大稻埕國際藝術節) and to create a new wave of cultural revival. 📍



The purpose of Taiwan Busan is not just to sell unique items, but also to allow tourists to gain a deep understanding of the cultural value of the different regions of Taiwan. (Photo: Gao Zanzian)

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"> • Eligibility: Ordinary passengers. • Price: NT\$100 (without deposit). • Availability: Select stores, online, all Taipei Metro stations. • Metro discount: 20% discount on each trip. • 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. |
|  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). One-Day Pass: NT\$180 Two-Day Pass: NT\$310 Three-Day Pass: NT\$440 Five-Day Pass: NT\$700 Maokong Gondola One-Day Pass: NT\$250 |
|  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



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 3rd Rd

Maokong Gondola Maokong Station

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



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