

# TAIPEI

A Twinkling Return to the  
Concrete Jungle

Where Taipei Meets Ehime:

Let's Set off From Songshan and  
Experience the City by Bike!



**Reviving the Glory of Youth –  
the 1950s to the 1970s**

The Golden Age of Audio

A Hundred-Year-Old Station Brings  
Back its Glory:

**Xinbeitou, an Outpost of  
History and Tourism**



# TAIPEI

SUMMER

2017

Vol. 08

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# Taipei's Summer Glory on Display!

In August, summery Taipei will host the highest-level international sports event ever seen in Taiwan – the Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade. Over 150 countries will gather at this grand event, and over 7,000 students will participate in different sports. The venues will encompass 5 urban areas: Taipei City, New Taipei City, Taoyuan City, Hsinchu County and Hsinchu City. This exciting 12-day sports fest is just around the corner!

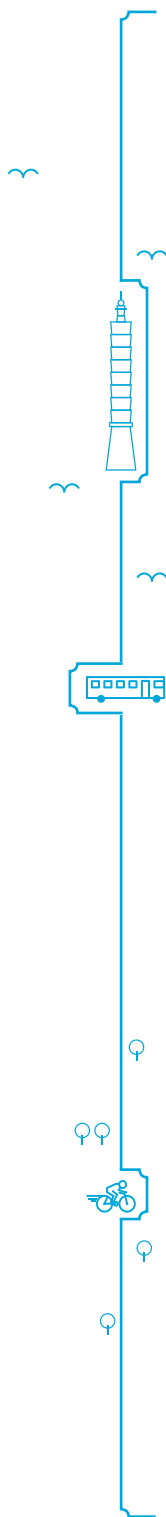
Taipei City's dynamic tourism is in bloom everywhere! In 2016, the City signed a memorandum with Ehime Ken, Japan to promote mutual friendly relations and cooperation. The two cities are now promoting bicycling as a way of exchanging cross-cultural ties. Also, in 2016, Taipei became sister city to the capital of Ecuador, Quito, and hopes to learn much from that city's multi-cultural charm. In order to promote Taiwan in Southeast Asia, Taipei has identified five "Reasons Why Everyone Should Visit Taipei" and established three themed routes, including "Fashion Shopping" shopping route, "Old Town, New Experience," about enjoying the good old days, and "Live Slow, Travel Light," which focuses on scenery. With so many travel choices available, we hope the people of the world will put Taipei on their itinerary.

After a steamy hot summer day, walking around a park with its cool night breezes will seem an appealing idea, and you may encounter twinkling lights on your perambulation past some dark wet spot. After a long journey of restoration, fireflies have now reappeared at the foot of Xianjiyan, and Taipei City has decided to reinvent itself as a "City of Fireflies." It will do this by restoring the insects in three areas where they thrived in the past: Rongxing Garden Park, Muzha Park and Daan Park. The hope is that these little twinklers, forced into suburban areas for decades, will come back to Taipei City.

The new Taipei is stunning, and the old Taipei makes you want to linger in the good old days. The southern part of the North Gate neighborhood, which includes Zhonghua Road, Bo'ai Road, Kaifong Street, Hankou Street, and Yanping South Road was once the stomping ground for stores selling sound systems, photographic equipment and other electronic gear – a paradise for AV aficionados. This neighborhood overflows with memories of the good old days! What's more, Taipei's only preserved old train station, Xinbeitou Station has returned, with repair and assembly work just completed in March. This is a typical Japanese wooden structure and features engraved brackets under the eaves and dormers on the roof. Journey through time and space to relive the glory of Taiwan's special old station!

You won't want to miss the year's most anticipated arts banquet either! Three summertime creative feasts, including Taipei Children's Arts Festival, Taipei Arts Festival and the Taipei Fringe Festival will showcase the marvelous talents of Taiwanese and international artists, enriching this city and providing engrossing experiences for all ages.

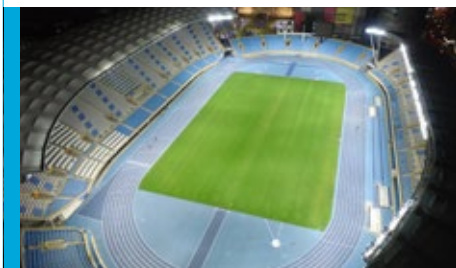
**Are you ready to embrace this marvelous summer of 2017 in Taipei? The City is waiting for you!**



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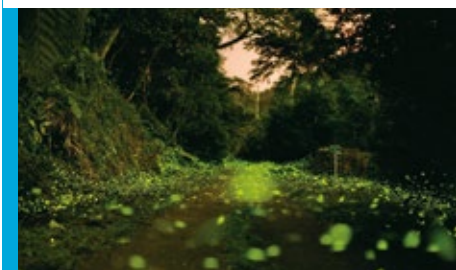
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### Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government

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This magazine was printed with environmentally friendly soy ink.

The Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade welcomes Bravo, the powerful and courageous Formosan black bear, as its ambassador. Victory is represented in the design of the Games' gold medal, which shows athletes challenging themselves and pursuing excellence.

(Photo: Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)



## Count Down to Universiade!

# Sports Frenzy Hits Everyone; Come Experience Taipei's Radiance

**Article** | Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government

**Photos** | Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government,  
Taipei 2017 Universiade Organizing Committee, Wang Nengyou

The Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade, the highest-level international sports event ever seen in Taiwan, is about to take place in summery Taipei, a city on the blue oceanside. Top athletes will be gathering in this metropolis surrounded by mountains and sea. The sports-crazed locals are ready! Are you?

(Photo: Taipei 2017 Universiade Organizing Committee)

## Making Taipei a Sports Mad Town

“Universiade” is derived from the two words: “University” and “Olympiade.” This event is being hosted by the International University Sports Federation (FISU), which holds multi-sport competitions for university athletes around the globe. Summer and winter Universiades are staged on a two-year cycle, hosted by a different city each time.

As an acclaimed international city, Taipei has the requisite safe environment for travelers, a convenient transportation network, and friendly, hospitable people. For over 10 years, Taipei has been striving to host the Universiade, and this year we finally made it. This athletic gala is the largest event Taipei has ever hosted, and will surely be a prime destination for university students from all over the world. Over 7,000 students will take part in 22 sports. It is not just

a competition for the young athletes, but also a grand spectacle for everyone! Every proud Taipeier surely hopes this event establishes our great city as a true Mecca of sports.

## Top Athletes From Different Countries Gather, Communicating Without Boundaries

Over twelve days in August 2017, the Taipei region will host the Universiade at 60 venues spread over 5 urban areas: Taipei City, New Taipei City ( 新北市 ), Taoyuan City ( 桃園市 ), Hsinchu County ( 新竹縣 ) and Hsinchu City ( 新竹市 ). The roster will include 14 compulsory, 7 optional and one demonstration sport. Over 150 countries will participate in this event, and it is our fondest wish that by this opportunity, we will generate a great international cultural exchange. The athletic village



(Photo: Taipei 2017 Universiade Organizing Committee)





# 2017 臺北世界大學運動會 29<sup>TH</sup> SUMMER UNIVERSIADE



The design of logo is based on the shape of letter U (Universiade, United, University), representing the inspirational power of the young generation. The five bright colors symbolize international harmony and friendship.

Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade official website:



will be based at Linkou Public Housing, with 23 buildings in total. After the event closes, these will be returned to the public, and thereafter provide homes for about 3,300 families.

To elevate the public profile of Taipei City and the Universiade, and attract tourists to experience this friendly and multi-cultural city, Taipei City Government has advertised the games in foreign media and also at many big sports events in Taiwan and overseas. These venues include AIPS (Association Internationale De La Presse Sportive), SportAccord, and the 2016 Rio Olympics. It is believed that exchange between athletes is a sure fire way to promote Taipei City and the event. In addition, Universiade-related information and advertising has been and is being released in major Asian cities.

Besides promoting the Universiade in city advertising and at international sports events, there has been blanket coverage on TV, radio, the Internet, in brochures, and on outdoor billboards. Taipei City Government's staff have all dedicated themselves to boosting this event, and ensuring that the maximum

Time Course	August 19 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2017 (12 days)
Host	International University Sports Federation (FISU)
Organizing Committee	Taipei 2017 Universiade Organizing Committee
Venues	Taipei Track and Field Stadium and other venues in Taipei City, New Taipei City, Taoyuan City, Hsinchu County and Hsinchu City.
Sports Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 14 compulsory sports: Athletics, Basketball, Diving, Fencing, Football, Artistic Gymnastics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Judo, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Tennis, Volleyball, Water Polo</li> <li>▶ 7 optional sports: Archery, Baseball, Badminton, Golf, Roller Sports, Weightlifting, Wushu</li> <li>▶ 1 demonstration sport: Billiards</li> </ul>
Number of Participants	About 7,000 athletes from 150 countries



number of people learn about it and getting involved. Bravo, the ambassador, will attend many activities for the Universiade and, at the same time, advocate for Formosan black bear conservation.

## Countdown to Universiade! Taiwan Steps up on the International Stage

The 2017 Taipei Universiade is approaching its countdown period. More than just an exciting international sports competition, the event will place Taiwan's profuse multi-cultural advantages center stage! The most important promotion of the event's early stage will be the torch relay, which will be run from May to August, 2017. The flame was originally lit in Paris, France, and will pass through 3 or 4 cities before coming to Taiwan, where it will visit different cities. As it travels, the torch will symbolize the spirit of the event and provide the perfect opportunity for promoting Taiwan's culture to the world.

Teams from about 160 different countries will gather at the athletes' compound, and a village opening ceremony will be held on August 12<sup>th</sup>. While checking into the village, athletes will be greeted by a unique performance of Taiwanese dancing. This will also be home to a variety of cultural experiences, exhibitions and performances, and virtual reality spaces introducing three ethnic groups: Taiwan's indigenous people, the Minnan ( 閩南 ) and the Hakka ( 客家 ). In the cool night breeze of summer, there'll be DJs spinning tunes for the competitors to unwind and dance to, and the whole ambience is designed to make them feel at home and participate in the charms of Taiwanese culture.

The Taipei 2017 Universiade is around the corner. We'd like to invite people from all over to learn about and experience Taipei, starting now! Mark your calendar for the summer of 2017. Come feel the youth, energy, health, passion and friendliness of Taipei City! 🏠



Situated on the Tamsui River bank, Dadaocheng Wharf is beautiful day and night. It has been attracting domestic and foreign tourists for many years. (Photo: Wang Nengyou)



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# A Twinkling Return to the Concrete Jungle

Guo looks forward to seeing fireflies twinkling in Taipei again, creating an Eco-therapy city with a vibrant ecology. (Photo: Huang Chienpin)

## Searching for Fireflies

Article | Tu Xinyi

Photos | Huang Chienpin, Wang Yijie



“As far as I know, of all the world’s high-population cities, Taipei is one of only a couple to get fireflies to return again,” says the Director of Friends of Daan Forest Park Foundation (財團法人大安森林公園之友基金會), Guo Chengmeng (郭城孟) with pride and gratification in his eyes.

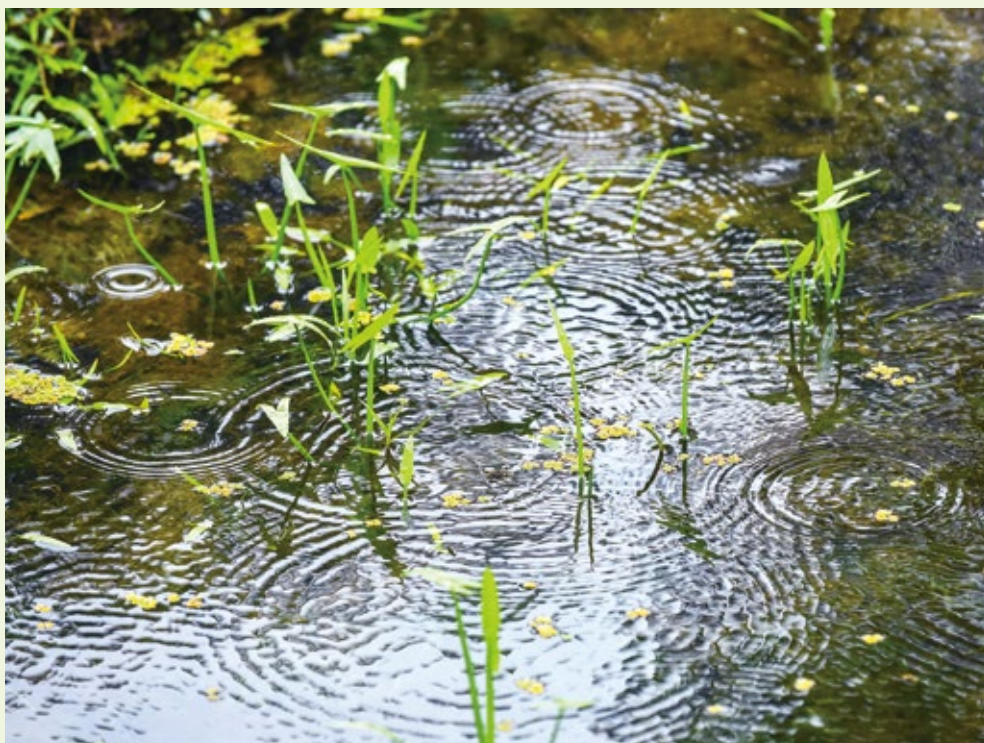
In 2014, a group of Taiwanese experts and scholars introduced the Taiwanese firefly restoration project at the International Firefly Festival in Florida, USA, and everything they said stunned people the world over. There might have been other firefly conservation achievements elsewhere, but to reintroduce a long-gone population is almost impossible, especially in cities. It basically requires a miracle, but Taipei has made it happen.

## Restoration in Bloom – Bringing Back the Flickering Nights of 25 Years Ago

“Wherever you look in Taipei, the long road always ends in green mountains.” Guo has been to many places, such as New York, Shanghai, Berlin, Switzerland, Paris and London, but he believes Taipei has the best potential to be an eco-therapy city.

Taipei was once a lake which, later on, Han people cultivated into a system of continuous rice fields, with fireflies flying freely. Ying Qiao (螢橋), which literally means “firefly bridge,” in the Zhongzheng District is proof positive that fireflies once existed here. Urban

The clear water of Liougong Canal helps bring fireflies back to Rongxing Garden Park.  
(Photo: Huang Chienpin)







The firefly restoration eco-pool in Rongxing Garden Park. (Photo: Huang Chienpin)



After a long process of restoration, signs of fireflies have appeared in Taipei again. (Photo: Wang Yijie)

development and the concrete jungle destroyed the insect's habitat, and it gradually moved into the mountains. Rongxing Garden Park (榮星花園公園), in spring and fall, for example, had a little corner of faintly flashing green lights. But when the former habitat was destroyed by human beings, mosquitoes and bugs came to outnumber the fireflies. People got to know it as a stinky ditch without noticing what a real treasure it had been.

Over 20 years ago, Yang Pingshi (楊平世), honorary professor of entomology at National Taiwan University (國立台灣大學), successfully reintroduced fireflies to the area. Now, talking about it, he can't help but sigh. "Back then, the government



Professor Yang introduces the firefly's growth habits. (Photo: Huang Chienpin)



Rongxing Garden Park's information board lets people learn more about fireflies. (Photo: Huang Chienpin)

was planning on having the pond filled and leveled. But when I went there, I saw fireflies and thought that, if the pond were filled, those fireflies would be gone forever.” So he started the restoration process, keeping Liougong Canal’s (瑤公圳) water clear. And lo-and-behold, fireflies started to fly around Rongxing Garden Park again. In recent years, however, the total number has declined due to human activity and Rongxing Garden Park is a microcosm of what has happened to fireflies all over Taipei. It seems unlikely that more than

a few dozen survive. The ones in Daan Park (大安森林公園) disappeared 25 years ago.

For so many years, people have looked forward to bringing fireflies back to this city. But, in addition to just hoping, people are now starting to take real action. Finally, we can see little twinkles in the underbrush of this modern city. Let us all hope that when the next season comes the air will be filled with these cheery flyers. ㊦



# Searching for the Glow of Memory

With Habitat Improved  
and Rebuilt, Ecological  
Restoration Has Succeeded

Article | Tu Xinyi   Photos | Fang Huade, Wu Jiaxiong, Huang Chienpin

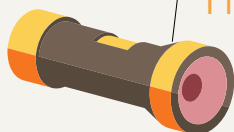
With expert devotion  
to restoration work,  
Taiwan topped many  
countries to host the  
2017 International  
Firefly Festival. (Photo:  
Fang Huade)



Bring the fireflies back to Taipei was purely accidental.

Standing at the foot of Xianjiyan (仙跡岩) in Wenshan District, Friends of Daan Forest Park Foundation Vice-Director, Kaven Chen (陳鴻楷), smiles and says, “This is where everything started. Originally, the landowner just hoped our team would solve the mosquito and bug problem here.” It turned out that Chen spotted fireflies at this location, which set him on a journey of saving and restoring the glowing little insects.

## Common Taiwanese Fireflies and Their Features



### *Aquatica ficta*

This is the most common aquatic species in Taiwan. Their eggs are yellow but turn black before hatching. There are yellow lines along the insect's edge between two elytra and its light flash is yellow. Thus, it's been named “Huang Yuan Yin” in Chinese, which means the firefly with a yellow edge. (Photo: Wu Jiaxiong)

### *Luciola cerata*

This species outnumbers all others in Taiwan. They have an orange breast and black wings, and flash a yellow-green light. They live at low and medium mountain levels. (Photo: Wu Jiaxiong)

### *Curtos costipennis*

These appear between April and August each year. The photogenic organs on the breast and elytra are both orange yellow. The wingtips and whole body are black. (Photo: Wu Jiaxiong)

### *Luciola kagiana*

Their most notable feature is their red pronotum. They love damp and dark places in the mountains. Their flash is orange red in color and fires with rapid frequency and for a long time. (Photo: Fang Huade)

### *Luciola satoi*

They have a pink pronotum and are similar to *Luciola kagiana* except for their smaller size. Their flash is orange red as well. (Photo: Wu Jiaxiong)

### *Luciola anceyi*

These fireflies have an orange yellow body with a black head, and their forewing tips have black spots. They love to fly up to higher levels in the woods at night; they are active in the daytime as well, visiting flowers and mating. (Photo: Wu Jiaxiong)

## Creating a Habitat To Encourage the Fireflies' Return

In 2012, Chen was entrusted with this project and started doing ecological research. During basic survey work, he spotted twinkling fireflies that had long been missing. He recorded about three different species; though very few of each, it made him excited nonetheless. If fireflies were restored at the foot of Xianjiyan, it would mean that a symbol of brightness had been brought back to Taipei. And that would be a great thing!

But he also realized that the land owner probably had plans to build on such a big lot. “But I still wanted to try and convince him,” Chen says, “and, as it turned out, he totally supported our firefly protection ambitions.” Chen went ahead and assembled a professional team to start the restoration. One of the team members, the entomologist, Dr. Wu Jiaxiong (吳加雄), is one of the few experts studying the firefly in northern Taiwan. Wu explained that firefly restoration doesn't simply mean breeding and release. “Releasing them like that would kill them. Fireflies need clean water, low light pollution, and a proper place for mating and laying eggs. The first step of restoring fireflies must be restoring their habitat.” The team began the process of reactivating the Xianjiyan habitat, but in that neighborhood there was a school under construction and even excess bright light from a neighboring night school. Luckily, with a little friendly persuasion, both schools agreed to cooperate, and even put in appropriation requests for curtains!

In addition to this problem, the team had to face the challenge of Mother Nature. Two destructive typhoons were just the beginning; a local crustacean named *Geothelphusa miyazakii* proved tricky, too. Remembering the situation as funny and annoying

### Firefly Watching Guidelines

#### Seasons:

Spring (April to May) and Fall (September to October)

#### Terrestrial Fireflies

Location: Hushan Creek Trail (虎山溪步道)

Species: *Luciola cerata*, *Luciola kagiana*,  
*Luciola satoi*, *Luciola anceyi*

#### Aquatic Fireflies

Locations: Rongxing Garden Park, Muzha Park, Daan Park

Species: *Aquatica ficta*



at the same time, Wu recalls, “This kind of crab destroys the waterproof strata we had worked so hard to build, but we didn't want to harm the creatures. So, we spent some time capturing the crabs with shrimp pots and then relocating them.” In the fall of 2013, the revived habitat was finally finished, and they proceeded with the first release. Wu says that when firefly restoration happened in Japan, they initially released just the adult ones, which resulted in repeated failure; it took 16 years to find a solution. “In Taipei, we decided to release adults and any young ones capable of defending themselves together. In the spring of 2014, preliminary results showed that six kinds of fireflies had been successfully returned.”



Vice-Director Kaven Chen (right) and Dr. Wu Jiaxiong (left) have devoted themselves to bringing fireflies back to Taipei. (Photo: Huang Chienpin)

## Industry and Academy Work Hand In Hand – Local People Contribute With Love

Once the restoration at the foot of Xianjiyan had succeeded, Taipei City Government moved on to other locations which had supported fireflies in the past. The aim was to create a “city of fireflies,” and Rongxing Garden Park, Muzha Park (木柵公園) and Daan Park were all picked as venues for restoration. The hope was that fireflies that had been forced into suburban areas for decades would come back to Taipei City.

The Friends of Daan Forest Park Foundation has worked with the Parks and Street Lights Office Public Works Department, Taipei City Government (台北市政府工務局公園路燈工程管理處), and has duplicated the successful Xianjiyan experience in these three areas. But each park has its own conditions, which made the restoration process extremely hard. Using Muzha Park as an example, Wu says it took a whole year just to clear out the exotic species of animals and plants, and a lot of silt. “You can’t get big machinery in there; so over one thousand volunteers from Wenshan Community College helped dig and haul out bags of silt and exotic plants using simple elbow grease.”



Professor Yang Pingshi (right) introduces Rongxing Garden Park's restoration eco-pool to park volunteers. (Photo: Huang Chienpin)

### Reminders

- 1 Wear long-sleeved clothing and pants to avoid insect bites.
- 2 While watching fireflies, talk quietly and watch your step.
- 3 Do not use red cellophane to cover a white LED flashlight! The LED will still be harmful to fireflies. Using red cellophane to cover an incandescent bulb flashlight is fine, as this doesn't harm fireflies. Please note that the three firefly restoration parks have all installed lighting that provides visibility but will not harm fireflies; so you don't need to worry.
- 4 Please do not release animals or plants into the eco-pools. This may result in destroying the firefly's habitat.
- 5 Please do not reach out to catch fireflies; just enjoy their twinkling beauty.



The LED lights in Daan Park reduce harm to fireflies. (Photo: Huang Chienpin)



It was the same situation at Rongxing Garden Park. Yang Pingshi had successfully restored fireflies there before, now he's back to supervise this project. Local people, volunteers and school kids were recruited and, working together, three thousand individuals did the job in just over six months.

Situated right downtown, Daan Park had to overcome the troubling issue of light pollution. With many years of experience in LED development, Everlight (億光電子工業股份有限公司), and in particular its farm-born CEO, Robert Yei (葉寅夫) and his wife, Susie Chien (簡文秀) tackled the challenge after learning about urban light pollution. Researching various scientific studies, they found that in America in the 1980's, ERG tests were conducted on fireflies. The results showed that fireflies are photosensitive to ultraviolet and green light especially. But, according to Dr. Wu, a wavelength of 590nm on the red spectrum will not disturb fireflies as much, and can be used for nighttime lighting. New special lights,

instead of being mass produced, were hand developed, and provided totally free for the restoration project. "For LED manufacturers, it's easy enough to produce a wavelength of any nanometer," Chien says. "This study was done 30 years ago, but no one had ever put it into practice. Now it's been successfully applied in Taiwan, which shows we have a great sense of ecological conservation, and this is something we should be proud of."

With downtown firefly restoration successfully accomplished, Taiwan was chosen over Australia and Mainland China to host the International Firefly Festival this year. To help people see the importance of restoration and how they can support and cherish fireflies, volunteers have been posted near the eco-pools of these three parks. They are able and willing to answer visitors' questions at all times. In this way, ecological knowledge can become part of the ongoing education of Taiwan, and fireflies will stay here and flourish forever! 📌



# Map of Firefly Viewpoints

## How to Get to the Six Firefly Viewpoints?

- A)** Take bus 108, 109, 110, 230, 260, or R5 to Yangmingshan (陽明山), and transfer to bus 9 to Bamboo Lake (竹子湖). **B)** Take MRT Danshui Line (捷運淡水線) to Beitou station (北投站), and transfer to bus S9 to Bamboo Lake. **C)** Take MRT Danshui Line to Shipai Station (石牌站), and transfer to bus S8 to Bamboo Lake. **D)** Take bus 131, which travels a circular route between Yangmingshan Second Parking Lot and Bamboo Lake. **E)** Take Royal Bus (Taipei to Jinshan Line) to Bamboo Lake Police Station.
- Take bus S8, S9, 108, 1717 and get off at Bamboo Lake Police Station (竹子湖派出所站), walk for about 300 meters to the entrance of Shuicheliao Trail (水車寮步道), right next to the parking lot of Hutian Elementary School (湖田國小).
- Take bus 255 and get off at Dalunwei Mountain Stop (大崙尾山站), it connects to the entrance of Cuishan Trail (翠山步道).
- Take MRT Wenhui Line (文湖線) to Neihu station (內湖站), Dahu Park Station (大湖公園站), or take bus 287, 284, 278, 617, 630, 620 and get off at Dahu Park Stop. Follow Ln. 131, Dahu Street, Dahu Village (大湖山莊), and after passing Dahu Elementary School, you'll arrive at the riverside park.
- Starting from MRT Houshanpi Station (後山埤站), follow Zhongpo South Road (中坡南路) towards Fude Street (福德街), walk for about 20 minutes, and you'll arrive at the Tshuei Temple (慈惠堂) hiking gate on Ln. 251, Fude Street. Take bus 46, 257, 263, Xinyi Main Line and get off at Fengtian Temple Stop (奉天宮站), and follow Ln. 221, Fude Street to Chin Kwang Temple (真光禪寺登山口) hiking gate. Or take bus 257, 263, B10, Xinyi Main Line and get off at Fude Primary School stop (福德國小站), and follow Ln. 251, Fude Street. You'll soon arrive at the Tshuei Temple hiking gate.
- Take MRT Bannan Line (板南線) to Kunyang Station (昆陽站), transfer to bus S5, and get off at the Tea Processing Demonstration Center stop (茶葉製造示範站), then walk to Guei Hua Ting (桂花亭; Sweet Osmanthus Pavilion).

For more information, please check with Taipei City Public Transportation Office's Real-Time Bus Information System.



# A Song of Light, Hope and Love in the World:

## *Song of the Firefly*



**Article** | Tu Xinyi

**Photos** | Susie Chien, Huang chienpin, Fang Huade

The wife of Everlight's CEO, Ms. Susie Chien, is the chairwoman of the Everlight Cultural Foundation and a well-known vocalist. When she learned that Taiwan had successfully brought back fireflies and will host the International Firefly Festival, she suggested a theme song for the event be written.

### Let the Light of Love Bloom One Twinkle at a Time

Ms. Chien has won two first prizes and four gold medals at international vocal competitions. She was also an elementary school teacher for 19 years, where she discovered that there were barely any Taiwanese children's songs. "We all wanted the song for this

festival to be easy for everyone to sing – men and women, seniors and youth. Also, we wanted verses in Mandarin Chinese, Taiwanese and in English. We want the world to hear Taiwan's vitality through its music!"

Between May and September of last year, 511 songs related to the firefly were submitted for the contest. First prize went to the one composed by Chen Dongxian (陳東賢) with lyrics by Yu Guoguang (余國光). Susie Chien herself then produced the song. "Normally, a song is produced with 16 tracks, 50 top! But we added so many vocal and symphony orchestra tracks that we ended up with 104!" Chien demands a lot of herself and was under so much pressure producing this song that her nose wouldn't stop bleeding for a week during Chinese New Year. She often found herself waking up in the middle of the night and getting out of bed to revise details. This is a song that strained her heart and mind, but it didn't disappoint her in the end. She says positively, "This is the most satisfying song of my life."



Taipei City Mayor Wen-je Ko (middle) attended the "Come and Walk on Mud" activity at the planned site for the small eco-pool at Daan Park. (Photo: Susie Chien)



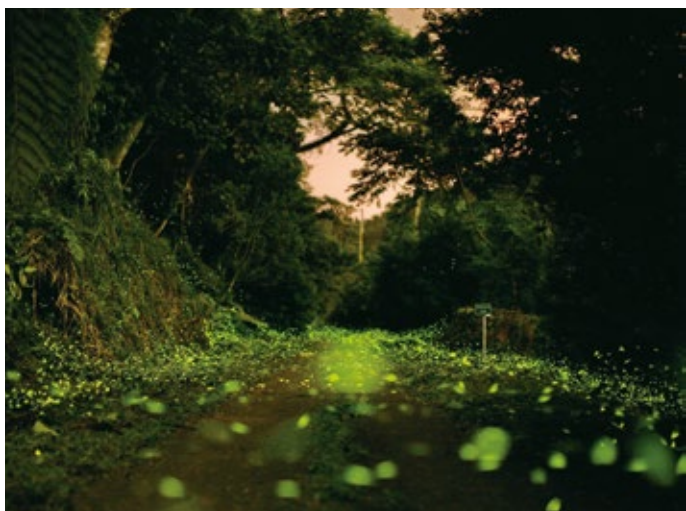
The firefly ecological restoration pool in Muzha Park.  
(Photo: Huang Chienpin)

She recalls that when the song was finished, she played it for her grandson and asked him, “How does it make you feel?” The boy replied earnestly, “I feel happiness and hope, and we need to protect the earth.” “This is exactly what I want,” Chien says with a smile. “Restoring fireflies successfully is a sign of an advanced country. I’d like to show the world how much effort Taiwan has contributed to loving and protecting this land.”



### *Song of the Firefly*

- Firefly, firefly, twinkling light, full of happiness
- Firefly, firefly, dance all around, with love of this land
- Firefly, fly fly fly, guard our lovely land
- Firefly, fly fly fly, bring affection to life, embellish romantic times
- A little light, a little dream, a little love, a little hope
- Firefly, shining in the sky, you light up my life
- A little light, a little dream, a little love, a little hope
- Firefly, shining in the sky, light up the world's love



With the efforts of experts and scholars, long-disappeared fireflies have now returned to Taipei.  
(Photo: Fang Huade)

From the love of land owners, schools, experts and scholars, local volunteers and private businesses, fireflies have finally returned to the concrete jungle of Taipei City, twinkling their tiny but bright lights. Swarms of the little flyers glowing green or yellowy orange will be floating over our town this spring, so far having attracted 28 countries to sign up for a visit. Let us hope this wonderful luminescence will be a beacon guiding Taipei toward its goal to be an eco-therapy city. 🌱



### **“Song of the Firefly” CD for Free**

Please contact Everlight Cultural Foundation:  
(02)2685-6688 ext. 7300 and 7297



# Where Taipei Meets Ehime

*Let's Set off From Songshan and  
Experience the City by Bike!*




Article / Photos | Secretariat, Taipei City Government

Last May 18<sup>th</sup>, Taipei City and Ehime Ken, Japan signed a memorandum to promote friendly relations and cooperation between themselves. One of the most refreshing ideas was to initiate and promote an exchange of bicycling culture in each city.



## Riding the Wind-Swapping Urban Culture

To boost the new cycling program and related tourist activities, the governor of Ehime, Tokihiro Nakamura came to Taiwan on March 9<sup>th</sup> this year for a 6-day cycling tour of Taiwan, setting off from the designated “sister train station,” Songshan, which is also a station name in Ehime.

Since 2012, Governor Nakamura has visited Taiwan frequently and believes the best way to experience the scenery and get to know any city is on a bike. Ehime is blessed with the beautiful Setouchi Shimanami Kaido Expressway, and Taipei has riverside bikeways. This time, he led a group of ardent cyclists on a circuit of Taiwan and was thrilled by the experience. He hopes to develop this exchange of cycling, tourism and leisure activity between these two cities well into the future. 

The governor of Ehime, Tokihiro Nakamura (first on the left), experiences the beauty of Taiwan by bicycle. (Photo: Secretariat, Taipei City Government)





# Meet Taipei's New Sister City: Quito


*Experience the Multi-cultural Charms of Ecuador*

Article / Photos | Secretariat, Taipei City Government

Quito contains countless cultural treasures, many of which were included in the UN's first list of world heritage sites. (Photo: Secretariat, Taipei City Government)







Since September 2014, Taipei City and Quito, the capital of Ecuador, have been in constant communication. Last year, in separate ceremonies at each metropolis, an agreement was signed making Quito Taipei's latest sister city.

### **Building a Friendly Sisterhood With Quito, Ecuador**

In February 2014, the present mayor of Quito, Mauricio Rodas Espinel, visited Taiwan as chairman of the United Society Plus Action Party, and was deeply impressed by Taipei City's development. In May of that year, he became mayor of Quito and a strong booster of the two cities becoming sisters. Consequently an agreement with Taipei was formed, and a partnership forged without state-level diplomatic ties.

Quito was built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and now covers 4,230 square kilometers with a population of about 2.67 million people. It survived a devastating earthquake in 1917 and is still the best preserved and least changed historical center in Latin America. Built on Inca ruins, this city has 30 baroque cathedrals and abbeys. Being a mixture of Spanish, Italian, Moorish, Flemish, and indigenous art, this has become known as the Quito Baroque style. With its rich humanity and history, this is a beautiful city well worth exploring. 📍



# Taiwan Steps up in the World, and Brings the World to Taiwan

*Activate Taipei's Tourism; Let the World See Taipei*

Article | Tu Xinyi

Photos | Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government

The best way to promote Taiwanese tourism is to step up and take action. At the end of March this year, Taipei Mayor Wen-je Ko( 柯文哲 ) visited Malaysia, Thailand and India on tours of various cities. In addition to inviting people from Southeast Asia to visit Taiwan, he also discovered things Taipei can learn about and exchange with those countries.



Taipei Mayor Ko and Advisor to the Minister of Culture of Thailand have a good chat.  
(Photo: Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)







Ko brings Taiwanese traditional glove puppets to Malaysia in a gesture of cultural exchange. (Photo: Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)



Bravo comes along with Ko to promote the Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade. (Photo: Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)



## Promoting Taiwan In Southeast Asia Requires Action Now!

In recent times, the number of Southeast Asian tourists visiting Taiwan has grown every year. Take Thailand as an example: since Taiwan introduced the Tourist Visa Exemption for Thailand in August 2016, there's been an almost 80% increase in Thai tourists visiting Taiwan monthly. Taiwan is currently the seventh most popular destination for Muslims' among non-Islamic countries, and also one of the top spots for Malaysian tourists. The world's second most populated country, India, is also a target country for Taiwanese tourism.

To promote Taiwan to Southeast Asians, and to let the world see the real Taiwan, Ko led city government staff and various tourism, culture, education, technology, and venture capital representatives to Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, and Delhi, holding the "Fun Taipei City Tourism Promotion Event" to promote Taipei.

## Five Main Reasons to Create an Intimate Visiting Experience

As the capital city, Taipei works especially hard on

tourism and has listed five "Reasons Why Everyone Should Visit Taipei" including "A 24/7 gourmet experience" "Where tradition meets innovation – new cultural experiences" "Visit Taipei Easy Go!" "Enjoy Fun Shopping" and "Travel Light and Carefree." Three themed routes have been established as well, including "Fashion Shopping," "Old Town, New Experience" to enjoy the good old days, and "Live Slow, Travel Light" for scenery. It is the hope that tourists from other countries will use these suggestions to enjoy the fun of Taipei at a leisurely pace.

In addition to providing super package deals to attract Southeast Asian tourists to Taiwan, the Taipei City Government is also paying special attention to the needs of Muslim tourists and creating a Muslim-friendly environment. Not only will they enjoy certified Halal gourmet food on the flight, but there are also *Fun Taipei Muslim Guidebooks* provided, which allow Muslims to experience Taipei in a way that displays our friendliness and our devotion to tourism.

"Taiwan Steps up in the World, and Brings the World to Taiwan; Let the World See Taiwan!" is not just a slogan, but also a goal Taipei Mayor Wen-je Ko wants to use to take Taipei tourism to a new level and make it a capital city that is a tourist magnet. 📌

# 2017 Eid al-Fitr in Taipei

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

Eid al-Fitr is the most important holiday for Muslims, just like Chinese New Year is to Chinese. It's a time for the family to get together.

## Making Taipei a Second Hometown for Muslims

Eid al-Fitr comes after one month of Ramadan, in which Muslims fast by day to show their devotion to Allah. Eid al-Fitr marks the end of fasting, and on this day, Muslims will gather to offer prayers and enjoy food.

About one quarter of the world's population is Muslim, and around three hundred thousand of them live in Taiwan. To attract Muslim tourists here, and to provide services for new Muslim residents, the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government, will hold an Eid al-Fitr celebration on June 25<sup>th</sup> at Taipei Travel Plaza ( 行旅廣場 ) near the main railway station. There will be performances by Indonesian superstars, migrant worker bands, and a halal market where participants can shop for goodies. One interesting thing is that, like ethnic Chinese at Lunar New Year, Muslims also have a tradition of giving away red envelopes on Eid al-Fitr, and, this year, there'll be a "Mystery Guest" doing the honors!

We sincerely hope this Eid al-Fitr celebration will help people get to know more about Islamic culture, and make Taipei a more welcoming city and a second home for Muslims. 🇹🇼





(Photo: Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)







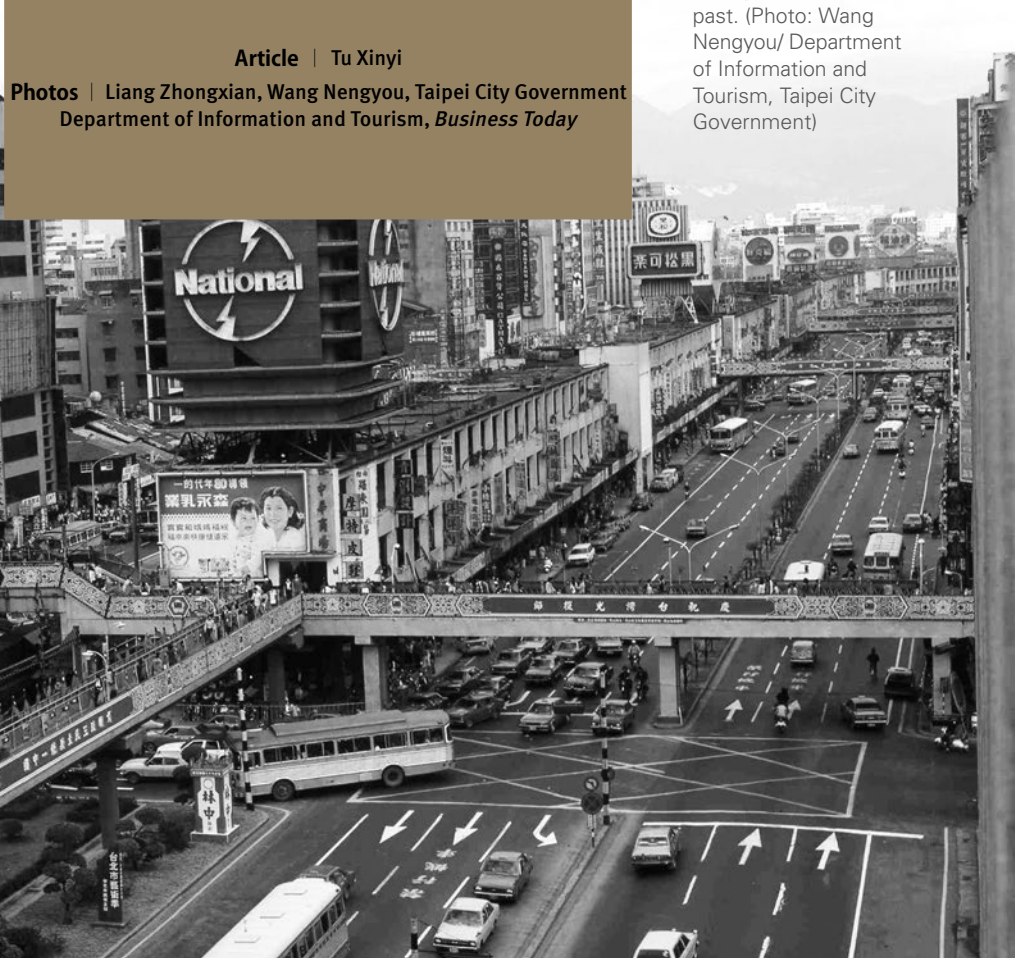
Reviving the Glory of Youth –  
the 1950s to the 1970s

## *The Golden Age of Audio*

Article | Tu Xinyi

Photos | Liang Zhongxian, Wang Nengyou, Taipei City Government  
Department of Information and Tourism, *Business Today*

Zhonghua Mall in the  
past. (Photo: Wang  
Nengyou/ Department  
of Information and  
Tourism, Taipei City  
Government)







For many people, Taipei is chock full of memories of the good old days. In the southern neighborhood of North Gate (北門), which includes Zhonghua Road (中華路), Bo'ai Road (博愛路), Kaifong Street (開封街), Hankou Street (漢口街), and Yanping South Road (延平南路) used to gather many stores selling sound systems and electronic and photographic equipment – an undeniable paradise for AV aficionados. As the years roll on, it's worthwhile for everyone to remember or discover the past and changes of this neighborhood.

## Built Up and Torn Down: The Once Prosperous Zhonghua Mall

By 1961, just a little over 8 months after construction began, Zhonghua Mall (中華商場) had established itself as the most famous landmark in Taipei, and would go on to become part of this city's collective memory. The complex was comprised of eight connected three-storey buildings named after the eight traditional virtues, "Zhong," "Xiao," "Ren," "Ai," "Xin," "Yi," "He," and "Ping." The names might have been traditional, but what they were selling was strictly cutting edge for the time.

There were 1,644 tenants at the Mall, each occupying a two-ping divided space. Every shop had its own special atmosphere to keep people lingering. Whether one desired tantalizing food from a variety of regions, the latest fashions in clothes, music old or new – whatever you wanted they had it! But without a doubt the most popular items at the mall were the stereo systems and other



Electronic shops nowadays.  
(Photo: Liang Zhongxian)



Electronics district in the past. (Photo: Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)



Electronics district nowadays.  
(Photo: Wang Nengyou)

electronics. Back in the day, if Taipeiers wanted to buy a stereo or a particular household appliance, the first places they would think of would be Buildings Zhong and Xiao at Zhonghua Mall.

PinCha Audio (品嘉音響) owner, Zeng Wenqing (曾文清) originally came from Nantou (南投) to seek his fortune in Taipei. Remembering the old days at Zhonghua Mall brings a glow of youth to his face as he says, “When I was young, I often went to Buildings Zhong and Xiao. If you were a budding collector of the latest electronics, these were the places to visit.” At that time, if you mentioned Hai Li Electronics (海利電子), Hong Yuing Audio (鴻運音響), or Yue Yin Tang (樂音堂) to an electronics aficionado, he/she would no doubt go on and on about all the great stuff those stores had.



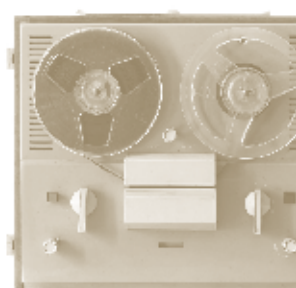




The old Zhonghua Mall was full of new and fashionable products, causing people to crowd in. (Photo: Wang Nengyou)



With Zhonghua Mall torn down, Zhonghua Road is now the main traffic route in Taipei City. (Photo: *Business Today*)



Zhonghua Mall in the past  
(Photo: Wang Nengyou)



Six overpasses connected the buildings. Vendors who couldn't afford to rent a place in the mall would put a stand on the overpass or under a nearby arcade, and among them were some expert repair men. At its peak, there were over 200 stores in the mall and its adjoining neighborhood, making it the biggest audio and electronics district in Taiwan.

In the march of progress, every city tears down buildings and rebuilds neighborhoods, and Taipei is certainly no exception. After 31 glorious years, the Zhonghua Mall finally had to go the way of the wrecker's ball. The old mall stores relocated to Zhonghua Road, Kaifong Street and the Yanping South Road, but kept their businesses going. Thus, the prosperity of Zhonghua Mall lives on today!

## Old Glory Remade by New Thinking

By the winter of 1992, Chunghua Mall had been torn down completely as part of urban development. The connected buildings were gone, as were the neon signs that had blinked and glowed for so many countless nights. The geographical location would settle into a deadly quietness, while nearby Zhonghua Road carried where Buildings Zhong and Xiao left off – being the preeminent sales center for sound systems and home appliance components.

The CEO of North Gate Electronics (北門電器), Huang Zhennan (黃振南) didn't own a place in the old mall, but opened the first audio store in the North Gate business district along Zhonghua Road. He notes that after Zhonghua Mall closed down, some stores did move away, but adds: "We all benefit from benign competition, and despite the elimination of

the market mechanism, there are still over 30 old-brand audio stores standing here."

Just as the older generation learned how to survive in a competitive market, the second wave of entrepreneurs grew up with the memory of electronics being updated continuously. From the simple radio to the Walkman, the CD player and on to the latest digital stream of today – technology keeps moving on, and these entrepreneurs have taken on the responsibility of activating business with their new thinking.



The director of New Chunghua Road Audio and Electronics Street Association, Huang Yiting believes that a multigenerational effort can bring back the glory of the past. (Photo: Liang Zhongxian)



The owner of North Gate Audio, Huang Zhennan came to Taipei from Yunlin seeking his fortune when he was young. (Photo: Liang Zhongxian)





Many stores on the new Chunghua Road audio and electronics street have passed on to the second and third generations. (Photo: Liang Zhongxian)

For example, Lan Yuting (藍于婷) took over the Shining Audio (翔韻音響) store from her folks and continues to develop new ideas, such as hosting free speeches about music, teaching school kids how to DIY speakers, even filming the first 360-degree panorama of North Gate! Zhang Tingjia (張庭嘉), from Image Audio (映象音響), wants to break the mold of the traditional store. She employs her people skills to invite street artists to paint the business district's murals, where tourists often check in and post pictures on Facebook. This way, visitors get a chance to see this audio and electronics street hidden in the heart of Taipei.

According to Director of the New Zhonghua

Road Audio and Electronics Street Association (新中華路影音電器街促進會), Huang Yiting (黃意婷), Taipei City has been strongly promoting the redevelopment of west Taipei recently, bringing vast crowds to the area. During the Taipei Lantern Festival for example, she heard young passersby exclaiming: "There IS an audio and electronics street in Taipei!" This simple affirmation warmed her heart deeply.

The heyday of Zhonghua Mall might be gone with the demolished buildings, and it may be disappearing from the collective memory. But the surviving stores still employ new ways and new thinking, and will continue to create and recreate into an even brighter future. 📍

## A Hundred-Year-Old Station Brings Back its Glory:

# Xinbeitou, an Outpost of History and Tourism

Article / Photos | Taipei Culture Foundation

In the Japanese era, the rulers wanted to develop a hot spring industry in the Xinbeitou (新北投) area, therefore in 1916 (Taisho-5 nen), they built a branch rail line, which terminated at Shinhokuto Station, later renamed: Xinbeitou Train Station. Later Xinbeitou was adopted for the name of the neighborhood as a whole.

### A Station That Reveals the Human and Cultural Side of Beitou

Xinbeitou Station used to be the final stop along the Beitou branch of TRA's Tamsui Line. But when TRA closed the line 29 years ago, the station was retired and moved to Taiwan Folk Village (台灣民俗村) in Changhua (彰化). It's a typical Japanese wooden structure and features engraved brackets under the eaves and dormers on the roof.

In recent years, an awareness of cultural heritage and a desire for preservation has risen. Consequently Taipei City Government and various civic groups have been working together to bring the station home. After many twists and turns,





Xinbeitou Station in the Japanese era  
(Photo: copy from Wu Junyi's collection)

the latest owner, Ri-Rong Property Consultancy Firm realizing how much Taipei citizens wished to bring the old building back, agreed to donate Xinbeitou Train Station to Taipei City. The repair and assembly work was completed in March this year, and, to date, this is the only preserved old train station in Taipei.

To thank people from all walks of life for their help and effort, the Department of Cultural Affairs (文化局), the Taipei Culture Foundation (台北市文化基金會), Taipei Rapid Transit Corporation (台北捷運公司) and local Beitou residents have planned a series of exciting opening events, and everyone is welcome to come experience the charms as “A Hundred-Year-Old Station Brings Back Its Glory.” 📍



XINBEITOU

## Xinbeitou Station's Opening Events

Special Exhibition of “Shinhokuto  
Station in Memory: Xinbeitou  
Station's Departure and Return”

4/1 (Sat)~8/31 (Thu), Tue~Sun,  
10:00~18:00

### Station Speeches

May~December, once a month on a  
date TBA.

Location:  
Xinbeitou Station.  
For more information, see





## Fun by the River!

### ◆ Treat Yourself at Taipei's Riverside Parks ◆

Article | Lin Yingzu

Photos | Huang Chienpin, Chic-Jen Yan



Dajia Riverside Park: The sandbox and other playground equipment provide a happy and warm family paradise.  
(Photo: Huang Chienpin)

Taipei has 29 riverside parks. Connected by river, green space and bike paths, each of these has its own special features reflecting its local ambience. Together these blissful oases have helped develop a new look for the city.

### Dajia Riverside Park – A Space for Families

The sunset is the same as always, and the river rolls on, but the design of Taipei's riverside parks is new and fresh, and the distance from people's hearts grows shorter. In 2014, after Taipei Mayor Wen-je Ko took office, he started listening to the vox populi and began boosting riverside projects aggressively to enhance overall park quality, stating "We do the best we can, but we can always do better." Situated on the left bank

by Dazhi Bridge (大直橋), Dajia Riverside Park (大佳河濱公園) is a good example.

"Dad, I found a dinosaur!" "Come look, I've built a house!" On weekends, you'll hear kids shouting and laughing like this if you come to Dajia, which aims to be a "parents and children's fun park." There is all kinds of playground equipment here, such as slides, swings, and splash fountains, but the most popular one is undoubtedly the giant sandbox.

A few years ago, a social welfare group asked: "Could you do something so disabled children can enjoy this place as well?" The Taipei City Public Works Department kept it in mind, and after a series of discussions with experts and scholars, it was decided to make playground equipment



more inclusive. The first step was building the sandbox, and just before Children's Day, April 2017, the biggest one ever seen in Taiwan was finally completed. The box has extra-wide slides to accommodate both parents and children, rock climbing facilities, an area for examining dinosaur fossils, and some special equipment such as excavators and sand tables, so disabled kids can enjoy the place too!

The sandbox is just a beginning. In the future, Dajia Riverside Park's playground facilities are going to be improved even more inclusive, thus meeting and surpassing enhancement expectations.

## Sweet Love in Chengmei Riverside Park

After you pass Dajia Park, along the upper reaches of Keelung River, you'll see the big red Rainbow Bridge spanning the banks. This is

Chengmei Riverside Park ( 成美河濱公園 ) – a rendezvous for lovers.

By day, the smitten can bike over asphalt inscribed with expressions of love in different languages, or they can stroll hand-in-hand over the Rainbow Bridge. At night, lover and beloved can treat each other to snacks at nearby Raohe Street Night Market ( 饒河街夜市 ). Goodies in hand, these enamored can then find a love-designed stone bench by the river and watch the neon light show on the Rainbow Bridge and the Luminous Water Corridor ( 光之水廊 ), formed by lights projected from both banks of the river. They whisper sweet nothings to each other and drink in the atmosphere of love!

Many sweethearts will make a special trip here and fasten a "love lock" to the bridge. Wishing their love will never be "unlocked," some of them dramatically throw the keys into the river!



Chengmei Riverside Park: Chengmei is a love-themed park imbued with a sweet atmosphere. (Photo: Huang Chienpin)

Considering that the key's metal might pollute said waterway, the Public Works Department requests people to leave their keys in the Mailbox of Love by the riverside. Their love will remain locked, but river ecology will be preserved from metal pollution. Let's keep Chengmei Riverside Park a sacred place where love is nurtured and leads the way in protecting the environment!

## Guting Riverside Park – The Spot for Wedding Photos

If Chengmei Park symbolizes the beginning of love's journey, then Guting Riverside Park (古亭河濱公園) must be the sacred hall of blossoming love.

Whether summer or winter, Guting Riverside Park is often decked in flowers – scarlet sages, purple angelonia, bright orange medallions, and entrancing swaying cosmos. With nearby Taipei Water Park (自來水博物館) already a popular photo venue, and its blessedly green lawn, Guting Riverside Park has become one of the best places for nuptial photos in the city.

The park's designers incorporated the ideas of engaged couples, wedding gown purveyors and photographers, and built installations such as the Love Arch, the Happy Bell Tower, the Blue and White Windmill, the Music Bandstand and Double Happiness as possible shooting locations. After construction done and the renovated park opened, photographers reported with a smile, “Engaged couples have a fun time taking the wedding photos, but a hard time selecting the ones to keep! They are all too beautiful to give up!”



Guting Riverside Park: Connected to the Taipei Water Park, Guting is a popular location for wedding photos. (Photo: Chic-Jen Yan)





## A Treasure Trove of History and Culture – Yanping Riverside Park

If you bike along Highland Beach between Zhongxiao Bridge ( 忠孝橋 ) and Zhongzhou Water Pump Station ( 中洲抽水站 ), you'll see a large mosaic mural depicting the streets of Dadaocheng ( 大稻埕 ). That means you've arrived at Yanping Riverside Park ( 延平河濱公園 ).

On the water gate, golden characters proclaiming “Dadaocheng Wharf”( 大稻埕碼頭 ) in Chinese are worn with age. Here, glorious history lives on in memory. There's a mini Tanshan sailboat built to scale on the pier. It tells the history of Dadaocheng, the old trade center of Northern Taiwan.

Beside being a witness to history and culture, the “Wind Art Feature Wall” adds a new look to the old town area. This sheet metal facade moves in the

Yanping Riverside Park: Yanping Park combines the history and culture of Dadaocheng in a special blend of significance and atmosphere. (Photo: Huang Chienpin)

wind with “TAIPEI” written on it, and has already started attracting bikers to come and take pictures. So you might hear: “Lift your hand higher” or “Count to three and jump!” Precious memories of Old Taipei and the new generation are preserved in photos like that.

Riverside parks offer a leisure alternative for Taipeiers. They provide a vast area, green spaces, different themed scenery, and a river ambience—all while assisting in ecological protection and flood prevention. These are living, breathing spaces in the crowded city, oases recreation where people can enjoy satisfying and pleasant times. 📍





## *Sweet Melodies on the Water Bank*

### ◆ “2017 Taipei Sounds From the River” Music to Pluck Your Heartstrings ◆

Article | Liu Yulin

Photos | Yi-rung Shiu, Gao Zanzian

The river is an important artery of any city, one that often generates unique events and festivals, and is the foundation of sites that no one should miss. Through the efforts of the Taipei City Government, our beautiful and scenic riverbanks have been transformed into must-see vistas. These are places where one can ride a bike, experience water sports, and embrace a leisurely lifestyle.

### **Music on the Riverbanks Showcases Taipei Culture and History**

Since the Japanese era, Dadaocheng has been a center for political, economic, and social development in Taipei, and for music in all of Taiwan. From the 1940's to the 1960's, many record producers and retailers set themselves up in Dadaocheng with LP production happening in Santengpo (三重埔) across the Tamsui River (淡水河), and a thriving record distribution center was born. Famous singers and movie stars often showed up to perform and promoted their films at neighborhood theaters, with large crowds attracted by their sparkling “star” appeal.



(Photo: Gao Zanzian)





"2017 Taipei Sounds From the River" will present exciting concerts and fireworks. (Photo: Yi-rung Shiu)

The rivers of Taipei have inspired many Taiwanese pop songs including *Sunset at Tamsui* (淡水暮色) and *Tamsui Riverside* (淡水河邊) by Hong Yifeng (洪一峰), *Is It Real?* (有影無) by Chen Lei (陳雷), *Same Moonlight* (一樣的月光) by Julie Su (蘇芮), *Tamsui River* (淡水河) by Tom Chang (張雨生), *Men's Talk* by Stella Chang (張清芳), *Fireworks at Tamsui Riverside* (淡水河邊的煙火) by Zheng Zhihua (鄭智化), and *I'm Hurt* (淡水河邊) by Penny Tai (戴佩妮). All these ballads reflect both the love and the sadness of Taipei.

## Music at Riverside Lights up Midsummer Nights


For many people, music is the main source of happiness in our lives. "Taipei Sounds From the River" (台北河岸音樂季) combines music performance with features of urban riverside culture, thus launching a feast of exploration, with sweet sounds and a happy atmosphere flowing everywhere.

This year, the Department of Information and Tourism of Taipei City Government plans a series of themed concerts and markets, each based on a particular park's local culture and history. From late June to the end of August, every Saturday night,

there'll be concerts of hit songs from various eras – the first at Yanping Riverside Park on Dadaocheng Wharf, and the last, the Songs of Youth Concert (青春舞曲演唱會), on August 26<sup>th</sup> as a scaled-up Chinese Valentine's Day celebration, with singers such as Joyce Chu (四葉草), Wa Wa (金智娟), MATZKA, and Kousuke Atari (中孝介) performing. A spectacular fireworks show will make the perfect ending to the festivities!

## 'Riverside Kids Fun Party' Brings Fun in July!

Hoping to attract people of all ages, the Department of Information and Tourism of Taipei City Government will stage Riverside Kids Fun Party at Dajia Riverside Park from July 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> this year. There will be tons of fun to look forward to, including water play on gigantic air mattresses, exciting art performances, fun games for kids, and other events appealing to the whole family.

This year, with music and excitement enriching life along the summery riverbanks of Taipei, we want to invite you to let the river embrace you. With the beautiful Tamsui and Keelung Rivers shimmering in the sunset, let's enjoy the songs of youth and have a fun summer! 

# Mr. Mario Ste-Marie

## Executive Director, Canadian Trade Office in Taipei

Article | Rick Charette

Photos | Chia-Ying Yang

*Long ago – 2008 – a man from a faraway northern land arrived in Taipei, part of a government investment-promotion team. This was his first time in Ilha Formosa, the “Beautiful Island,” so-named by passing Portuguese mariners in the early 1500s. This man’s people affectionately call their own homeland the “Great White North,” and after his short time in Taipei he went away thinking Taiwan was a mighty fine place as well.*

His name – Mario Ste-Marie. His homeland – Canada. And as it happens, he has happily spent significantly more time in Taiwan since that visit. Mr. Ste-Marie is the Executive Director of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei (CTOT; 加拿大駐台北貿易辦事處).

After diplomatic postings in New Delhi and Sydney, he says he was very thankful and “felt blessed to be offered the Taipei posting, because Sydney and Taipei are the two most in-demand, most popular postings in Oceania/Asia. Today, I am on my third consecutive overseas posting, which is quite a rarity in the foreign service.”

In 2008 his stay was very brief, just a few days. His impression was of “a very busy place, with a lot of scooters and really good food,” and he was “impressed by the high level of technological advancement.”

### What the CTOT Does



“My key role is to raise Canada’s profile, and to deepen Canada-Taiwan friendship and collaboration.”

Executive Director Ste-Marie states there are about 60,000 Canadians in Taiwan, most dual citizens, and the CTOT provides them services – the 4<sup>th</sup> – largest Canadian expatriate community in the world, he says. The CTOT also has an important commercial team, facilitating cooperation between Canadian-Taiwanese companies. “I’m very proud to say that the impressive Tuned Mass Damper in Taipei 101 (a tourist attraction on its own) is Canadian technology. Canada’s Bombardier is also involved in the Taipei Metro. Another role is promoting Canada-Taiwan people-to-people relationships, through education, tourism, etc. Tourism is increasing strongly in both directions. The CTOT also work’s with the Taiwan government on shared issues – energy, aging societies, and so on.







(Photo: Chia-Ying Yang)

## Taipei – Plum Posting

Explaining what makes Taipei such a sought-after posting, Ste-Marie says that, “First of all, the city is very likable. If you look at the other major capitals in Asia, there’s not many where you could be living right in the city and pollution is not a big problem. Also, everything works. It’s a city of course, so there will be heavy traffic. But the infrastructure is there, with great public transportation that is easy to navigate.”

“And people are nice. They’re not pushy. And even though you’re in a big city, you don’t feel stressed. If you take the Taipei Metro– and I do – people wait

in queue. Everyone is very polite and disciplined, making life more pleasant. And even if you don’t speak the language, people will help you, even if they don’t speak English. That’s a very big plus. This is also an open society, it’s a democracy, people’s rights are respected, and it’s a very safe city too.” Ste-Marie comments how in global rankings Taipei is ranked one of the safest cities around the world.

“Plus, of course, Taipei has a very good reputation for quality restaurants. So there’s no risk of getting sick. The climate is also very pleasant. Yes, you have two or three months of rain, but there are other regional places where it’s six months.”

And from Taipei, with a flight of just two or three hours and you can be in many different (attractive) destinations – Tokyo, Manila, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing.

“All of these things together, especially if you have kids – it’s perfect.”

## Impressions Then, Impressions Now

Comparing his impressions from back in 2008 with those formed during his Taipei posting, Ste-Marie says that, “Of course, you still have the great food, and the scooters. But it’s the people that have had the strongest impression on me. That is the key asset of Taiwan. The people are very polite, and very welcoming. Perhaps this is an inheritance from the Japanese era (Japan ruled Taiwan as a colony 1895-1945). But at the same time, I’ve found the local people very expressive; they tell you what they think. That is a big plus.”

“Another thing that has made the strongest impression on me here is the work ethic. I’ve discussed this with colleagues based in other countries. The people of Taiwan are very hard-working and dedicated. All my counterparts in other locations say the same thing, supporting this.”

He states that the same view is held in the private sector. “For example, people with a company based in Canton (廣州) have told me that they need three people in mainland China to do the same amount of work that one person does here. Local employees demonstrate a strong interest in being efficient, and producing results.”

He likes how, though in a bustling metropolis, it is easy to find places to relax. “I like the way the city is built, with main roads creating grids and smaller streets and lanes leading within. In these areas are small parks, so although in a big city, it’s easy to find quiet oases where the sounds of traffic are gone. This is very

intelligent, building ‘islands of quiet’ in slower areas, which attract charming shops, cafes, and eateries.”

By coincidence, Ste-Marie took up his Taipei posting just before the last major election. “It was impressive to see, in this young democracy, how comparatively peaceful the process was. Afterwards, the transition process was also relatively peaceful. Throughout, before and after, there were demonstrations, but all was quite orderly. I have been impressed by the freedom of expression, and how it has been established over such a relatively short period.” Taiwan is a shining example for other countries, he says, especially in this region.

## Lifestyle Differences – Back Home vs Big-City Taipei

“People eat out a lot more here than in Canada,” he has noted. “There are far more good options available that are not too expensive. It seems one reason for this is the smaller size of homes here, so restaurants serve as a social meeting place. Another thing I like about the lifestyle here is that you walk a lot more. In any city in Canada you must have a car, even for simple things like getting milk or bread. Here, there’s always a 7-Eleven a minute or two away on foot.”

As well as satisfaction of almost all other daily-life necessities, he adds. For a large city, the cost of living is relatively low. Ste-Marie had planned to purchase a car after taking up his Taipei posting, but quickly found there was no need, and simply hires a vehicle whenever he and his wife travel elsewhere around the island.

## When in Taipei – City-Experience Musts

There are a few things visitors should do if they really want to enjoy this city, says Ste-Marie. “Jump on a bike. My wife and I love diving into the different



lane/alley neighborhoods, uncovering family-owned eateries, cafes, and shops. This city deserves ‘discovery by bike,’ and the YouBike (public bike-rental) system makes this easy.” He is also a fan of the city’s extensive riverside bike-path system, which is dotted with bike-rental points.

“We really enjoy the local family-run restaurants,” he says. “Very friendly, and very proud of their food. As well, I strongly recommend trying Taiwan’s street food. And be adventurous. Night markets have all kinds of treats to explore.” Just recently he was introduced to the joys of pig-blood pudding, which has a pleasant mochi-like chewiness.

He is as well a hiking enthusiast, and takes advantage of the perimeter mountains and trails so close to the city core, many looking right down into the Taipei Basin. “Hiking is easy here. You can be up in the surrounding mountains in just 30 minutes. Taipei life means easy access to nature, surprising for a city this size, with lots of nice hikes. A nice day is a visit to the Taipei Zoo (台北市立動物園), then a Maokong Gondola (貓空纜車) ride up into the hills.” Maokong is a tea-plantation area with many attractive teahouses.

For outings with groups rather than just on one’s own – especially with friends – he has another recommendation. “If with other people, a fine way to spend a night is a movie in Ximending (西門町; an area known for its venerable cluster of theaters and pedestrian-only shopping streets), followed by a bit of browsing and people-watching, and finished with a relaxing foot massage in a local massage parlor.”

## Urban Planning Ideas From a World Traveler

Ste-Marie states that his suggestions on future Taipei urban planning pathways are admittedly based on his own biases – i.e., his leisure-time preferences. “Taipei has a good public transportation system, and good bike paths. But I believe these should be developed even more. These are major attractions for the city internationally. I also think that buying train tickets, etc., can be made easier, because though there are different methods that make things easier for local people, navigating these options, like the ibon system at 7-Eleven outlets, is still beyond people that don’t have a strong grasp of Chinese.”

Taipei, he reiterates, is one of the most livable and likeable cities in Asia. “A major city, and especially a capital city,” he states, “has strong attractive power to draw people to a country. There is great potential to create strong Taipei brand identity,” and he believes this should be a key focus for the central government, not just the Taipei government, on the international marketing stage. 🇹🇼



## Happy Birthday / Bonne Fête, Canada!



This is a big year for the young country, born July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1867 from the confederation of a number of British colonies. The CTOT is celebrating the country’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a rich harvest of special activities through the year. At a “Canada 150” press conference held May 24<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Ste-Marie announced Air Canada’s resumption of Vancouver-Taipei flights after a 14-year hiatus, and the opening of a Roots Taiwan flagship store in the Taipei 101 Mall, the iconic Canadian firm’s 115<sup>th</sup> Taiwan outlet. On July 1 is the annual CANADA DAY! Celebration at Taipei Hakka Cultural Park (台北市客家文化主題公園), and the annual Mackay Charity Ball is in October. For more information, visit the CTOT website ([www.canada.org.tw](http://www.canada.org.tw)).



(Photo: Chia-Ying Yang)



# Fresh From the Ocean Deep

## Enjoy Taipei's Tasty Oyster Dishes

Article | Jiao Tong

Photos | Jiao Tong, Chic-Jen Yan

Boiled oyster with sauce by Budai Fresh Oyster Eatery. (Photo: Jiao Tong)

During my 10 odd years working for *China Times* (中國時報), I often enjoyed the oysters at Budai Fresh Oyster Eatery (布袋鮮の蚵) and Chen Ji Intestine & Oyster Noodle Eatery (陳記腸蚵專業麵線), both situated by Huajiang Bridge (華江橋).

### Savory With Irresistible Umami

At Budai Fresh Oyster Eatery, food is served on metal dishes, and the oysters are bigger, fatter



and fresher than the ones you'll find at other street food stands. Whether it's the oyster omelette (蚵仔煎), oyster soup (蚵仔湯), or boiled oysters with sauce (乾拌蚵), all are delectable! The way they make oyster soup is pretty standard for Taiwan – with ginger, basil, fried shallots, and celery for seasoning, but it is the juiciness of the oysters that makes the soup so tasty. Don't mention boiled oysters with sauce! The restaurant uses extra eggs to thicken their oyster omelettes instead of adding potato starch. I have always thought most oyster omelette eateries use too much potato starch,







which is the accepted practice, but I believe this ends up reducing the flavor.

Next door is Chen Ji Intestine & Oyster Noodle Eatery, which also provides juicy oysters and braised intestines with an intoxicating aroma and a chewy texture. The fairy Chang'e is painted on their sign outside, which is kind of an auditory pun since her name sounds like the words for intestine and oyster: "chang ke." Here, the intestine and oyster vermicelli (腸蚵麵線) is always scrumptious. The two main ingredients are cooked separately, but end up in the same bowl. This results in each one presenting its best taste qualities, yet the two blend together perfectly!

## Good Taste Delivered From the Place of Origin

The main reason Dongshih Shun Ji (東石順記) makes such great seafood congee (海產粥),

oyster fried rice (蚵仔炒飯) and oyster omelettes is the quality of their oysters. The seafood congee contains shrimp, fish, clams and squid – rich ingredients to bring a solid satisfaction at the end of the meal. Oyster fried rice is harder to make than other fried rice dishes, because an oyster releases its juice during the cooking, which makes it harder to control the moistness of the rice.

Oyster fried rice by Dongshih Shun Ji. (Photo: Chic-Jen Yan)



### Budai Fresh Oyster Eatery 布袋鮮の蚵

📍 198, Sec. 3, Heping W. Rd.  
(near Huajiang Bridge)  
和平西路 3 段 198 號  
(近華江橋)

☎ (02)2308-3463

### Chen Ji Intestine & Oyster Noodle Eatery 陳記腸蚵專業麵線

📍 166, Sec. 3, Heping W. Rd.  
和平西路 3 段 166 號

☎ (02)2304-1979

### Dongshih Shun Ji 東石順記

📍 104, Xichang St.  
西昌街 104 號

☎ (02)2381-3535

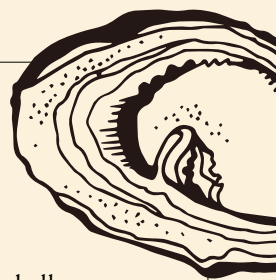
All it takes is one tiny mishap and the result is a mushy slop!

The owner of the eatery is from the town of Dongshih, Chiayi (嘉義東石), which produces tons of oysters, hence the store's name. All the



Seafood congee by Dongshih Shun Ji. (Photo: Chic-Jen Yan)

oysters are delivered fresh from his hometown every day. At the front of the restaurant is the cooking stand where milkfish belly is lined up neatly alongside clams, shrimp, squid and oysters – all waiting to be put in the pan. The clank of cookware seem to herald the upcoming feast! Sometimes, I order sautéed milkfish belly; it's a big piece, specially selected by the owner. There's a lot of fat in the belly, so it tastes and smells better sautéed or roasted rather than boiled in my opinion. I quite often cook it myself, sautéed with a little lemon zest added at the end. Of course, with my deep affection for fish heads, I often buy some of these to braise at home too. For my daughter, this is the taste that will always remind her of her Dad. 🍲



This article is an excerpt from *Tastes of Taipei's Old City Areas* (味道臺北舊城區), published by the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government (台北市政府觀光傳播局). Its author Jiao Tong has spent more than a decade carrying out in-depth explorations and research into food. He has visited the Monka (艋舺), Dadaocheng and Dalongdong (大龍峒) areas, spending nearly half a year sampling different foods and beverages at hundreds of eateries, and he ultimately selected 167 of them to take travelers on an exploration of Taipei's traditional cuisine.

### ***Tastes of Taipei's Old City Areas***

Author: Jiao Tong / Price: NT\$250 / Available at major bookstores throughout Taiwan.





# Tea Tasting in Taipei

## Savor a Sip in Dadaocheng

Article | Wang Ruifen

Photos | Wang Tea, Gao Chuanqi



Tasting and selecting tea.  
(Photo: Wang Tea)



Tea refining process.  
(Photo: Wang Tea)



(Photo: Gao Chuanqi)

In 1860, an open trading port was established at Tamsui (淡水), and Dadaocheng, just up the river, was connected to the outside world. Foreigners brought in new ideas and products, and local people started to explore the globe with wide eyes, discovering new business opportunities in the process. This is how the Dadaocheng tea trade started, and from 1869 to 1895, the industry was at its peak. Crates of tea were stacked high on the dock and stayed there only as long as it took the longshoremen to load them onto ships. At that time, Dadaocheng exceeded all other ports in Taiwan in volume of tea exported, which placed it at the head of the most important distribution channel in the country.

### The Tea Trade Brings Honor to Taiwan

When referring to the Dadaocheng tea trade, one can never omit two main characters: John Dodd and Lee Chunsheng (李春生). After the port of Tamsui opened, foreign businessmen came to Taiwan seeking goods, and among them was English businessman, John Dodd who first ventured into the northern mountains in search of camphor. But he noticed that the soil, climate and environment there were highly suitable for tea cultivation, so he hired Lee, who had worked in the Xiamen (廈門), China tea business to be his comprador, and together they started a new tea enterprise in northern Taiwan.



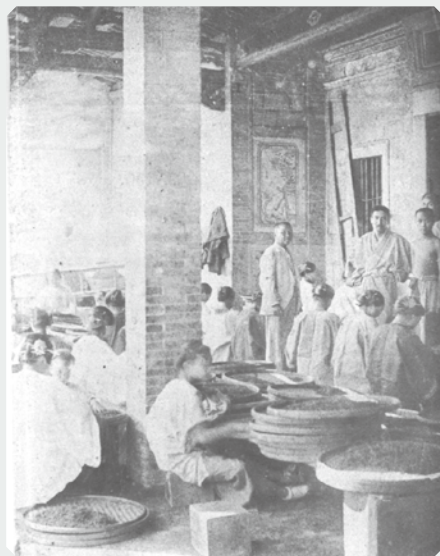
Sitting around the table packing tea.  
(Photo: Gao Chuanqi)

In earlier times, tea processing required a lot of elbow grease. (Photo: Gao Chuanqi)

In order to get local farmers to grow tea on a mass scale, Dodd imported oolong ( 烏龍 ) seedlings from the renowned tea county, Anxi ( 安溪 ) in the Chinese province of Fujian ( 福建省 ), and sold them on credit. He also offered the planters horticultural advice. Later on, when he wanted to improve the tea's quality, he invested in special production equipment, hired tea masters from Fujian, and produced high-class oolong tea in Dadaocheng. In 1869, Dodd loaded almost 130,000 kilos onto two big sailboats and shipped them to New York, where the tea was a big hit and launched the Taiwanese market in the West. Formosa Tea soon became known the world over, attracting other foreign businessmen to come set up shop in Dadaocheng.

## The Scent of Tea Filled the Dadaocheng Air

Situated alongside the Tamsui River, Guide Street ( 貴德街 ) was built by two rich Taiwanese entrepreneurs, Lee Chunsheng and Lin Wei Yuan ( 林維源 ). It became known as a tea street, and was famous for its western-style buildings. Many foreigners settled here, but the western architecture was home to rich Formosans as well. With tea shops popping up everywhere, the air was always redolent with a delicate bouquet whenever tea was being produced, and that made Dadaocheng the most fragrant district in Taipei!



(Photo: Gao Chuanqi)

After a few decades of active tea trading, Dadaocheng had made its name and business expanded rapidly. The neighborhood around Dihua Street ( 迪化街 ), Ganzhou Street ( 甘州街 ), and Minsheng West Road ( 民生西路 ) became the place for tea merchants to gather. At its peak, there were over 200 tea shops in the neighborhood, and this spectacular tea emporium carried on through the Japanese era. Today, the glory days are over, but there are still many old businesses producing leaves of the highest quality, and passing the culture of Taiwanese tea on to the next generation. 🍵





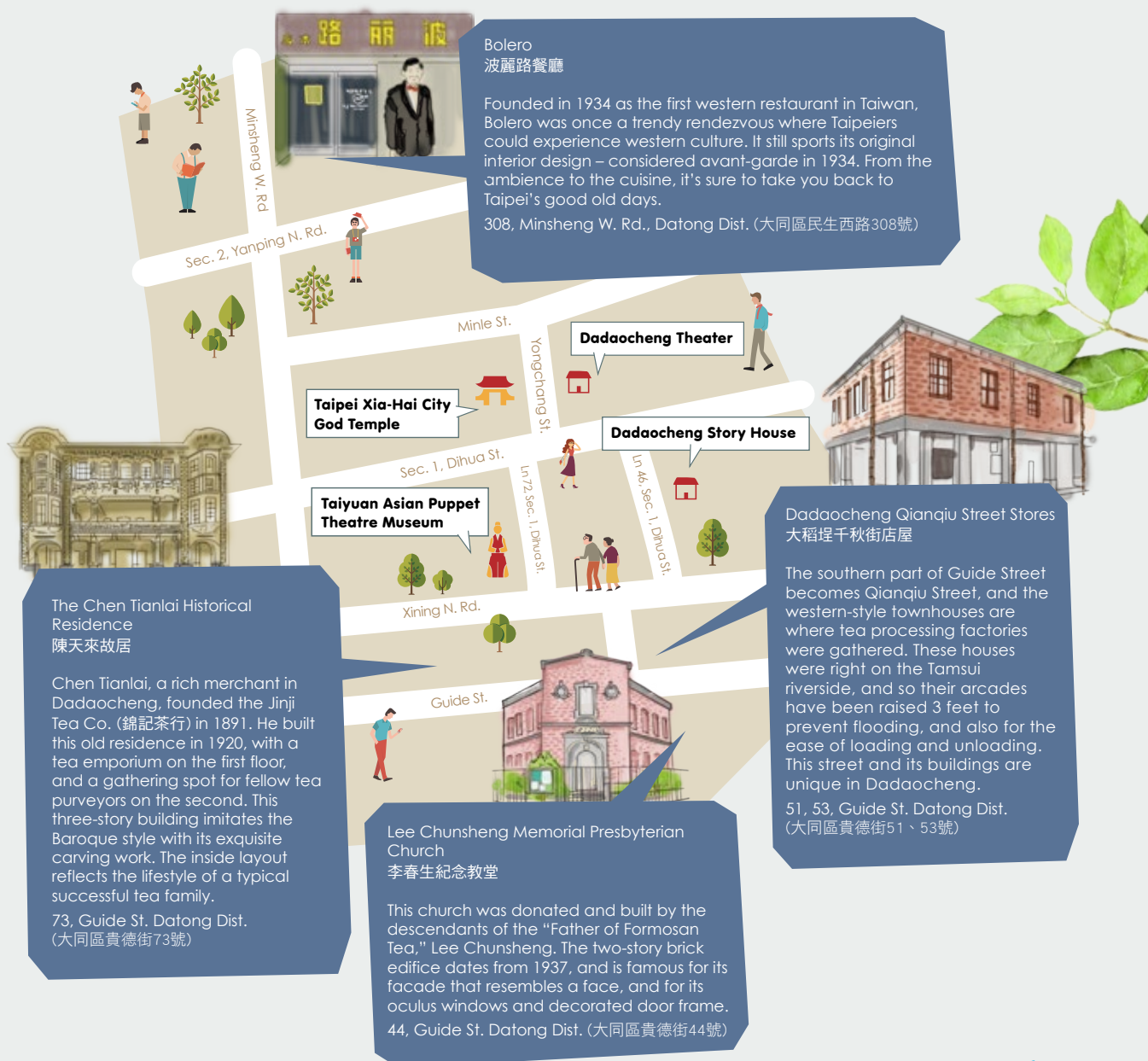
Picking out tea stalks by hand.  
(Photo: Wang Tea)



Selecting tea using a spinning machine.  
(Photo: Gao Chuanqi)



Weighing the tea. (Photo: Wang Tea)



# The Happiness Philosophy of Soba Noodles

## Exclusive Interview With Ikawa Masaki, Owner of Xing Hu Soba Noodles

Article | Chiang Hsinying    Photos | Shi Chuntai

If ramen noodles can be compared to the beat of a lively pop song, and udon noodles to the warm memories of a late night movie, then soba noodles, which are simple and of deep meaning, can be likened to a poem. Chinese poet Bai Juyi (白居易), who lived during the Tang dynasty (唐朝), has a scene in his work *Village Night* (村夜): “From a field of fall grass that has experienced snow and frost comes the subtle chirping of insects.” At that moment, no one is walking along the paths connecting the village fields. The poet stands in front of his door looking over the land. Under the moonlight, a sea of buckwheat appears like snow covering the ground. This simple line from a poem describes many aspects of buckwheat, which is cultivated in fall. This same view can be enjoyed each year from October through December in Changhua County’s Erlin Town (二林鎮). However, if you want to taste the poetic quality of buckwheat noodles, you must visit the Japanese soba noodle master – Ikawa Masaki – in the kitchen of his restaurant, Xing Hu Soba Noodles (幸呼蕎麥麵屋).



(Photo: Shi Chuntai)





Unlike dry convenience store soba noodles, fresh noodles are boiled for only about a minute. As 100% buckwheat noodles have low elasticity, they must be cooked for just the right amount of time. If not, they easily lose their elasticity and aroma. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)



The cooked noodles are immediately placed in ice water. Then they are stirred quickly and gently to remove any sticky residue and to preserve a delicate texture. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)



After cooking and cooling, the soba noodles are placed on a bamboo tray. This is the most common and classic way of serving them, and it allows the flavor to be fully savored. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)

## From Tokyo to Taipei, Rolling Up His Sleeves and Entering the Kitchen

Each Friday afternoon around two o'clock, the lunch crowd along Taipei's Guangfu South Road (光復南路) begins to thin. Xing Hu Soba Noodles still has four or five tables of customers. In the kitchen, Ikawa is busily boiling then lightly rinsing noodles, before putting them on plates, all in one seamless motion. The Taiwanese often think of the typical Japanese restaurant as somewhat hidden and not well lit. In contrast, the interior of Xing Hu Soba Noodles is refined and bright. From the street, one sees inside through a large window, which gives the place an atmosphere of approachability. The taste and style of the design are marked by Ikawa's gentleness and sophistication.

"In Japan, young people like the richness, fattiness and novelty of ramen noodles. Around age 30, people

start to feel a physical change and start to prefer udon noodles, which are not as strong in flavor. After 40, they like the healthiness of soba noodles. These are light and don't create a feeling of heaviness," says Ikawa. In actuality, 40 was also a dividing line for Ikawa. The changes he made in his life were much larger than those he made in his taste preferences.

Ten years ago, he came to Taipei as a tourist, and the city made a great impression on him. He says, "Taipei is very convenient. There are many Japanese restaurants on the main streets, and most people can speak a little Japanese." He also noticed that most of the Japanese eateries sold sushi, ramen or udon noodles. There were few selling soba, one of the three main noodle types in Japan. It was mainly convenience stores that stocked cold noodles. He says, "People don't know what is good about soba noodles. Taiwan and Japan are very similar in various aspects, so I feel everyone should be able to accept soba noodles." It was this idea that made him leave his job of

The specialty at Xing Hu Soba Noodles is tempura with 100% buckwheat soba noodles. The fragrance and texture are wonderful. Thin noodles are wrapped around pieces of fish, shrimp and different vegetables, and then deep fried until crispy. This is complemented with Alishan wasabi, which leaves a piquant aftertaste. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)



many years in a food company to travel across the ocean, roll up his sleeves and start a new career with a selection of small, black buckwheat grains.

## Freshly Made Soba Noodles Combine Japanese and Taiwanese Flavors

Ikawa says, “When I was working in a food company, as soon as an order came in, the factory would quickly produce the requested noodles. But, I like the feeling of making soba noodles by hand very much.” Every morning and afternoon, he patiently makes noodles for the lunch and dinner crowds. Buckwheat flour is produced from grains shipped in cold storage from Changhua County’s Erlin Town. These grains are milled to preserve the distinctive aroma of freshly-made 100 percent buckwheat soba noodles. With his experience in food purchasing, Ikawa prefers shopping for local, seasonal ingredients. While the sweetness of Japanese buckwheat hides a touch of bitterness, Taiwan’s warm climate stimulates a fruity fragrance and a sweetness in the buckwheat grown in Erlin. Soba noodles go well with

cherry duck (櫻桃鴨) from Yilan (宜蘭), mango from Aiwu (愛文) or domestically produced pork. Flakes of dried skipjack tuna (柴魚), soy sauce and Alishan (阿里山) grown wasabi are added, creating a blend of cold, hot, salty, sweet, sour and spicy tastes. Strict Japanese methods are used in preparation to ensure the unique flavors of Taiwan.

Buckwheat flour noodles are not as tough as those made from durum. 100% buckwheat flour dough is soft and crumbles easily. Thus, the quality of the soba noodles depends entirely on the touch and experience of the chef if delicious, intact results are to be achieved. Freshly cooked soba noodles are chewy and smooth. They are best eaten quickly to avoid them becoming soft and breaking apart. However, many Taiwanese diners do not really understand how to eat soba. They are accustomed to chatting during meals and some people even pour sauce over the noodles on the bamboo tray. These cultural differences caused a lot of anxiety for Ikawa at first. Fortunately, his wife patiently explained things to each customer. Over time, the diners that have passed through have become more familiar with soba. Thus,

little by little, the memories of difficulty have faded only to be replaced by the sweet feeling of achievement.

In her five years in Taiwan Ikawa's wife, who likes handmade arts and crafts, has spent a lot of time in Taipei's art museums. Ikawa's two favorite things are mangos and the sunset over Tamsui, so perhaps he imagines Taipei in hues of red. He talks in short phrases, using the essence of poetry. Food is the shortest distance between culture and the land. The cultural meaning of soba noodles in Japan is very similar to that of Taiwan's noodles. As they are long and easily break in the mouth, they symbolize longevity and avoiding disaster. Usually, they are eaten on the last day of the year. Ikawa and his wife, like all denizens of Taipei, love New Year's Eve when the restaurant gets very busy with people waiting for the midnight fireworks. The normally quiet Japanese noodle shop takes on a festive atmosphere. Expressions of friendliness and hospitality become condensed, removing barriers of time, space and culture. Whether in Taipei or Tokyo, nothing produces smiles of satisfaction like soba noodles. This is exactly as Ikawa and his wife intended with their restaurant's name, Xing Hu Soba Noodles, which means "Ask for happy soba noodles." 🍜



Ikawa Masaki has lived in Taipei for five years, and although not fluent in Chinese, he is still able to communicate. Before the interview, he prepared paper, pen and tablet computer so that when not able to express himself in words, he could just draw a picture or use body language. He is clearly enthusiastic toward people and soba noodles. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)



幸呼蕎麥麵

Xing Hu Soba Noodles



📍 34, Ln. 260, Guangfu South Road, Daan District  
(大安區光復南路 260 巷 34 號)

🕒 11:30~14:30; 17:30~21:30

(Photo: Shi Chuntai)



It's soooooo hot.... In Taiwan the summer is as hot as Xiolongbao's steamer! But don't worry, there's a drink just perfect for that heat: watermelon milk! What? Watermelon and milk?? No matter how surprised you are, do give it a try. This drink is made with sweet watermelon; just have one sip, and the refreshing tang will make you forget all about the dog days.



# 台湾の西瓜

## Taiwanese Watermelons

By the way, in Japan, the watermelons are usually round, but in Taiwan they are oval shaped and super sized. Have a bite, and let the luscious watermelon juice fill your mouth. In our steamy heat, the watermelons are especially delicious, and once you start eating them, you'll find it hard to stop. This is a summer only delicacy – don't miss it!

Written / Illustrated by Teacher Iku (Iku Sato)

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Spinda

# 2017 *Taipei Children's Arts Festival, Taipei Arts Festival, and Taipei Fringe Festival*

## A Dynamic Mid-Summer of the Arts

Article | Taipei Culture Foundation

Photos | Ani Antonova, Jerry Shulman, Zin Ge, Bruce Jackson, HandsOff Workers & PDLab

The most anticipated arts banquet of Taipei's midsummer is about to start! Three summer arts feasts, including Taipei Children's Arts Festival (台北兒童藝術節), Taipei Arts Festival (台北藝術節), and the Taipei Fringe Festival (台北藝穗節) will showcase marvelous programs by Taiwanese and foreign artists, enriching this city and providing aesthetically-rich experiences for all ages.

With dancing and music, *Happy Farm* weaves a tapestry of merry voices. The vocals are like echoes of nature, stimulating passionate tempos in the blood. (Photo: Ani Antonova)



## The Favorite Summer Activity for Children and Parents Alike – Taipei Children's Arts Festival

This year's Taipei Children's Arts Festival is called "Beyond Boundaries" and will feature programs related to the theme of helping people break out of old molds and develop outwards. The festival includes *Constelaciones* (燦爛宇宙), a dance program inspired by the bright colors of Miro's paintings; *Lula Del Ray* (露拉出走中), a play that combines shadow puppets with real humans; *Carousel des Moutons* (飛天鋼琴), a duet that combines circus acts and music; and *Happy Farm* (快樂農莊), a presentation of some African music and culture that has not often been seen before. In addition, there are programs to trigger people's thinking, such as *A Beginning, After Everything Is Finished* (開始，在一切結束之後),

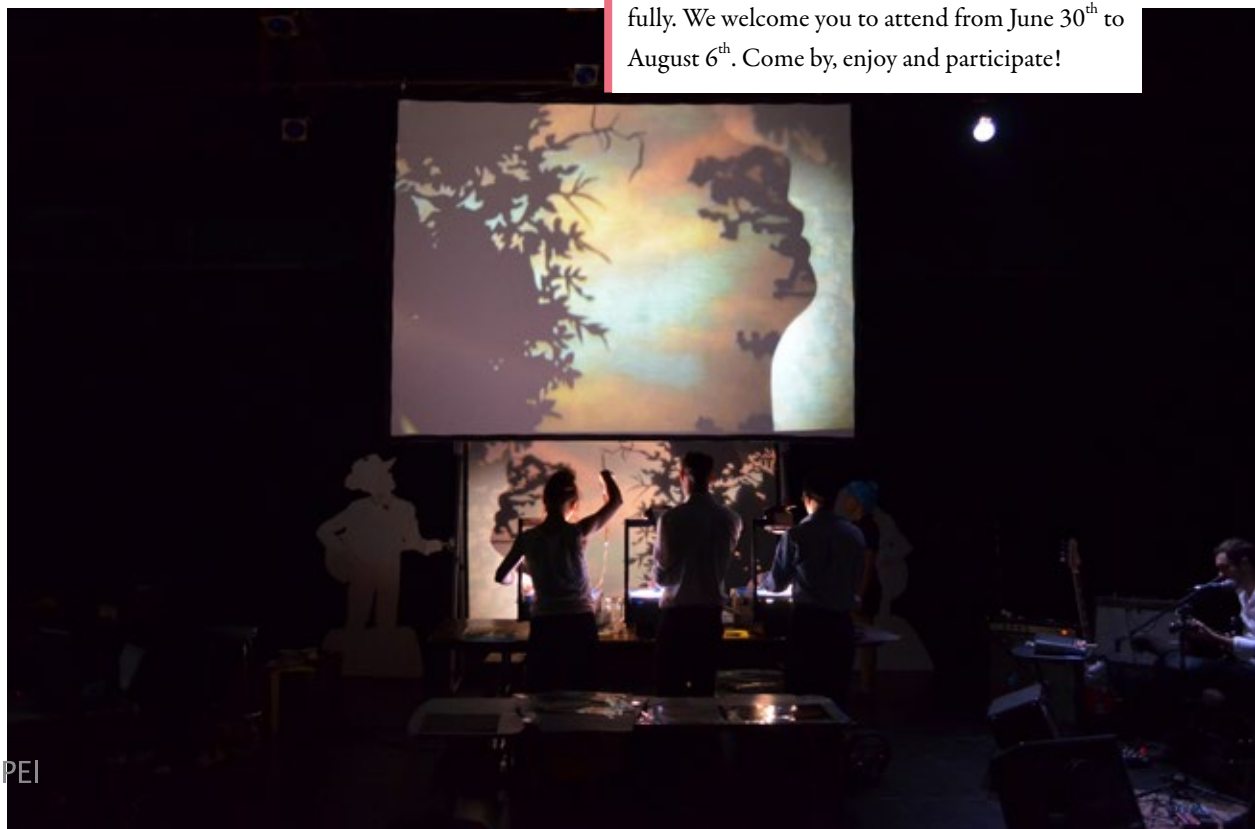
Combining cinematic technique with live performance and shadow puppetry, *Lula Del Ray* tells a deep and affecting growing up story. (Photo: Jerry Shulman)

Taipei Children's  
Arts Festival



which confronts environmental issues, and *My Father's Father's Father's Treasure* (爸爸的爸爸的爸爸的寶藏), about matters related to family education. A most popular play of recent years has been, *Buchettino* (拇指小英雄), an international co-production produced by an Italian director and his avant-garde contemporary theater group. This play breaks down boundaries between adult and children's drama, giving grownups something to think about.

What's more, the festival will stage free performances at outdoor and community venues in different parts of Taipei. For example, the interactive installation art piece, *Shocking and Amazing* (大驚·小怪) will be presented in Bopiliao (剝皮寮). This is a work that is truly "hands on" and the artist expects the audience to use their brains (and hands) and participate fully. We welcome you to attend from June 30<sup>th</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>. Come by, enjoy and participate!







Performed by 20 outstanding actors, including Wang Chuan, Chu Hungchang, and Hsieh Yingshiuan from Taiwanese theater groups, and the Japanese director, Hirada Oriza, *Taipei Notes* explores human's survival issues of the near future. (Photo: Zin Ge)

## World Art Trending in Taipei – Taipei Arts Festival

This will be Year 19 for the Taipei Arts Festival, and the theme is: “The City and its Future.” The dates are from August 7<sup>th</sup> to September 17<sup>th</sup>. According to artistic director, Keng Yiwei (耿一偉), the lineup will promote two-way synchronization and communication between Taipei and other international cities. He notes, “Just as big cities have international airports to connect with the world, the arts festival is a kind of cultural international airport.”

This arts festival will astonish audiences with 11 extraordinary programs, including *THE B-SIDE*, by The Wooster Group from USA, which will reinterpret the music album, *Negro Folklore From Texas State Prisons*. This will be the show's world premiere, right here in Taipei! Deutsches Theater Berlin will perform the much-talked-about classic, *Waiting for Godot*.

Taipei Arts Festival

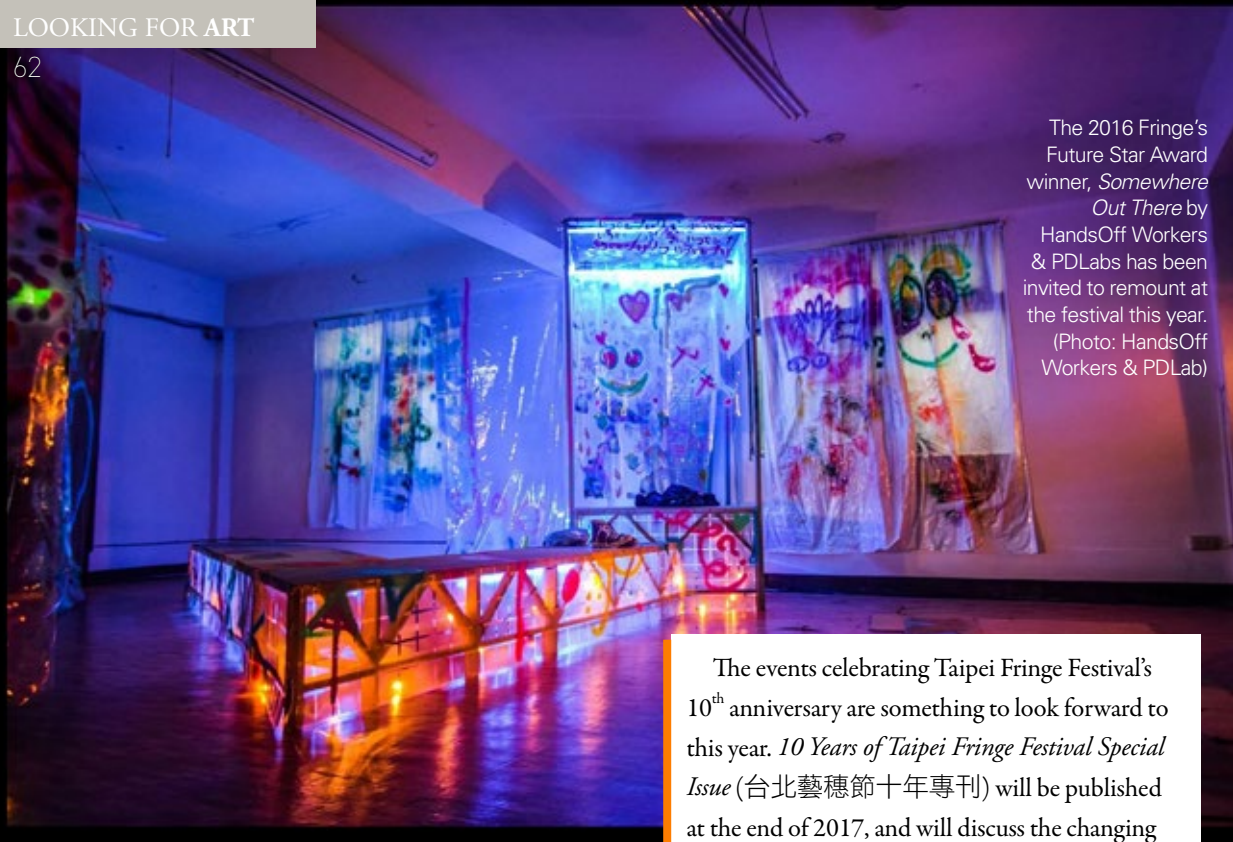


As an exercise in international co-production, Taipei Arts Festival and Dance München have co-produced *Ethnic Minority*, staged by the most popular choreographer from Mainland China, Yang Zhen (楊朕). This piece interprets the dances of revolutionary games. Taiwan's Voleur du Feu (盜火劇團) and TPAM in Yokohama will co-present *Taipei Notes* (台北筆記), directed by Japan's Hirada Oriza, which cleverly observes world politics through the lens of museum comedy.

Keng believes that “If you keep the world in your heart, the world will be with you wherever you are.” We can only hope that these cross-city creative programs and performances will make Taipei Arts Festival a window into the world's creative trends, while letting the ambience and spirit of the arts spread all over Taipei.

The avant-garde Wooster Group from USA comes to Taiwan for the first time, to perform their new play, *THE B-SIDE*, inspired by the music album, *Negro Folklore From Texas State Prisons*. (Photo: Bruce Jackson)





The 2016 Fringe's Future Star Award winner, *Somewhere Out There* by HandsOff Workers & PDLabs has been invited to remount at the festival this year. (Photo: HandsOff Workers & PDLab)

## Ten Marvelous Years of Unleashed Creativity – Taipei Fringe Festival

Originally from Edinburgh, Scotland, the Fringe Festival concept came to Taipei 10 years ago guided by the principles of free experimentation without screening by organizing authorities. The “Fringe” is a performance platform where new artists can express themselves freely. A favorite feature of the Taipei Fringe Festival is the chance to see performances in all kinds of unconventional spaces. Examples of such locations are: Huajiang Resettled Tenement Communities (華江整宅), a social housing complex where you can wander around for over one kilometer soaking up the atmosphere of old Taipei; Sin Hong Choon Trade Company (新芳春茶行), a tea shop in Dadaocheng with a history of almost 100 years; the Dadaocheng yacht with its views of the passing Damsuei riverside; Guling Street Avant-Garde Theatre (牯嶺街小劇場), the icon of Taiwan’s little theaters; and even a kindergarten, a clinic dating from the Japanese Era, and an abandoned temple.

The events celebrating Taipei Fringe Festival’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary are something to look forward to this year. *10 Years of Taipei Fringe Festival Special Issue* (台北藝穗節十年專刊) will be published at the end of 2017, and will discuss the changing context of the Festival over the past decade and the development of the city’s arts scene. There are also two extra programs planned: the Fringe Festival “friendly performance group” will put on an evening of comedy and variety; entitled “Gala Night” (藝穗歡慶夜) – laughing with tears guaranteed! And besides that, two Fringe Awards first prize winners from Festivals past will be remounted. Koh Choon Eiw (高俊耀), representing the middle-aged generation will present *Seven Kinds of Silence: Anger* (七種靜默：忿怒), while the younger set will be reflected by HandsOff Workers & PDLab’s (手放開工作團隊 & 追困實驗室) *Somewhere Out There* (冥王星).

From August 20<sup>th</sup> through September 10<sup>th</sup>, the 10<sup>th</sup> Taipei Fringe Festival will bring 159 different programs of every style performed in 36 types of venue. Welcome everyone to attend this feast and share these mind-blowing performances! 📺



Taipei Fringe Festival →

## Travel Information

For traveling between Taipei and Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, whether by inexpensive, high-quality shuttle, safe and fast taxi, high-grade professional airport limo service, or the brand new Taoyuan Airport MRT, 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

### Taoyuan Airport MRT

#### Service locations:

A12 Airport Terminal 1 Station &  
A13 Airport Terminal 2 Station

**One-way fare:** NT\$160



### 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)218-12345

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

#### NOTICE

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

For more information, call 1999 or visit <http://english.rdec.gov.taipei/>





## 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. Foreigner 24-hour General Inquiry Hotline: 0800-024-111

## NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Unit	Tel
Taipei City Govt. Citizen Hotline	1999 (02-2720-8889 outside Taipei City)
English Directory Service	106
IDD Telephone Service Hotline	0800-080-100 ext.9
Time-of-Day Service	117
Weather Service	166
Traffic Reports	168
Tourism Bureau (MOTC) 24-Hour Toll-Free Travel Information Hotline	0800-011-765
Tourism Bureau (MOTC) Toll-Free Traveler Complaints Hotline	0800-211-734
International Community Service Hotline	0800-024-111
Tourism Bureau Information Counter, Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport	Terminal 1: (03)398-2194 Terminal 2: (03)398-3341
Bureau of Foreign Trade	(02)2351-0271
Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA)	(02)2725-5200
Taiwan Visitors Association	(02)2594-3261
The Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Taipei	(02)2522-2163
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(02)2348-2999
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Citizens Hotline	(02)2380-5678
Police Broadcasting Station	(02)2388-8099
English Hotline for Taxi Service	0800-055-850 ext.2
Consumer Service Center Hotline	1950
Bureau of National Health Insurance Information Hotline	0500-030-598
AIDS Information Hotline	0800-888-995

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

※ Entries in brown columns indicate service in English provided

## LIST OF TAIPEI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

### Taipei Main Station

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

### Songshan Airport

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

### MRT Ximen Station

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

### MRT Jiantan Station

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

### MRT Beitou Station

(02)2894-6923  
1, Guangming Rd.

### MRT Taipei 101/World Trade Center Station

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

### Plum Garden Visitor Center

(02)2897-2647  
6, Zhongshan Rd.

### Miramar Entertainment Park Visitor Center

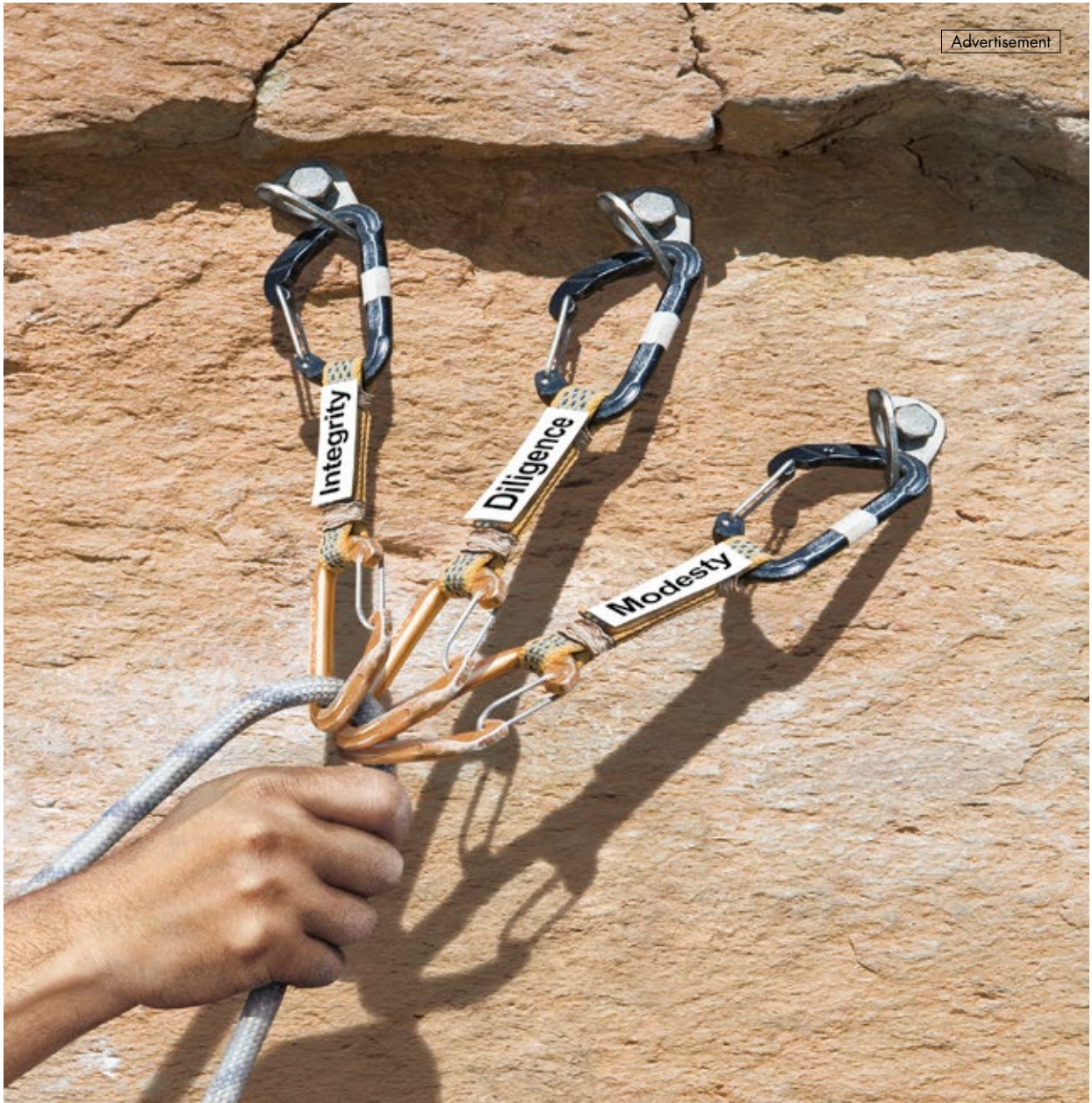
(02)8501-2762  
20, Jingye 3<sup>rd</sup> Rd

### Gondola Maokong Station

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

### Dadaochang Visitor Center

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



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