With increasing competition from other Asian cities and countries, how well Taipei City meets these challenges and stays ahead is crucial for the city’s continuing development. In 2005, Taipei utilized its natural and historic resources, and harnessed the efforts of the public and private sectors to foster a positive environment for cooperation with its neighboring counties. Under the guiding principle of sustainable development, and by means of regional cooperation, urban redevelopment, community improvement, and public participation, Taipei’s living environment has improved markedly. What is more, by significantly improving the industrial environment and increasing the availability of suitable land, we have made Taipei City more competitive than ever.

These achievements have received wide media coverage. A series of international conferences held by the Department of Urban Development has demonstrated Taipei City’s strengths to nations throughout the world. In this constantly changing world, the Taipei City Government will continue to take the necessary steps and harness the city’s energy to take on and surmount any challenge that other cities from around the world may pose.
In order to elicit Taipei City’s dynamic qualities, the overall aims of city development are to promote leaders characterized by forward thinking to create an urban environment that possesses charm and livability, that nurtures culture and ecology, and promotes cybernetics and safety. However, in view of such irreversible trends as globalization, digitization, sustainability issues and aging, Taipei finds itself challenged on many fronts. These challenges include managing natural resources, addressing threats to the environment, modification of the urban spatial framework, and dealing with fierce competition from cities from around the world. These challenges, significant though they all are, nevertheless present unprecedented opportunities for the city.

People are the basis for urban development. By obtaining the support and backing of the public, the Taipei City Government is not only able to formulate its policies and strategies for the future, but it will be able put those policies and strategies into effect. By elevating its status to that of an international metropolis, Taipei City is poised to play a major role on both a regional and global scale. It has become a “cybernetic city” in the age of informatics. Taipei City will continue to harness the powers of its citizenry and society, while making good use of its natural resources to make of itself a sustainable city.

1. Vision for Taipei City Development

Taipei’s total land area is 271.8 square kilometers. At the end of 2004, the city had 2,616,375 registered inhabitants, with a population density of about 9,626 persons per square kilometer, a density much higher than that of other major cities in Asia. The high population density makes urban planning more difficult and complicated; it both limits Taipei’s development and it characterizes it. Based on our past achievements and likely future trends, the people of Taipei City will work hard to make strides along a variety of fronts, including “globalization, livability, culture, ecology, services, and safety.” They will strive to give the city a competitive edge, to improve the living conditions and quality and to make Taipei a world-class city.

Residential, commercial, industrial, and administrative districts, cultural and educational areas, public facilities, and other urban districts make up 49.3% of Taipei’s total area. Of farmland, scenic and protected areas, accounting for 50.7% of the city’s total area. Primary industries employ only 0.2% of Taipei’s workforce, followed by secondary industries that employ 19.5%. As of June 2005, 80.3% of its workers were employed in tertiary industries (wholesale and retail marketing, restaurants, transportation, business services, etc.). Compared with other major cities in Asia, Taipei is clearly oriented around the service sector.

With our continual efforts to improve Taipei’s overall transportation efficiency, the quality of its environment, its urban makeup, living quality and competitiveness, Taipei City has made the top in the past various international and national city rankings in recent years.

1999 Fortune Magazine votes Taipei the best place to do business in Asia.

1999 Asiaweek votes Taipei Asia’s second most livable city.


2002 The National Policy Foundation finds that Taipei is the most competitive of all of Taiwan’s 23 cities in its “Report on the competitiveness of Taiwan’s cities.”

2004 The July edition of Global Views Monthly Magazine surveys 25 county governments and municipalities in Taiwan, and finds Taipei City ranks number one in four out of the five categories measuring competitiveness: administrative efficiency, enterprise efficiency, advanced technology, economic performance, and infrastructure. Taipei outperformed all other cities, making it Taiwan’s most competitive urban center.

1. A Global City

1) Northern Taiwan Regional Development and Cooperation Initiative

In the era of globalization, development and cooperation between cities and regions are becoming an irreversible trend. To avoid being marginalized, Taiwan and its local governments need to meet these challenges head on by transcending administrative boundaries, fostering cooperative relationships and integrating common resources.

In recent years, the Taipei City Government has actively advocated for the Northern Taiwan Regional Development and Cooperation Initiative, the aim of which is to implement a working mechanism to integrate the resources of Taipei City and its neighboring county and municipal governments in Northern Taiwan, including Yilan County, Keelung City, Taipei County, Taoyuan County, Hsinchu County and Hsinchu City. This Northern Taiwan region covers a total land area of 7,353 square kilometers and has a population of 9.89 million (41% of Taiwan’s total population). The region produces 82.6% of the nation’s electronic industry revenue, and develops the highly skilled workforce associated with it. Hence, compared to other major cities of the world, Northern Taiwan has distinct advantages in terms of manpower and resources.

In order to break away from narrow sectionalist views of individual local governments and integrate resources more effectively, the Taipei City Government invited the heads of Northern Taiwan county governments to sign the initiative “Northern Taiwan Government’s Cooperation Memorandum” to foster closer ties between local authorities on Jan. 12th, 2004. During the ensuring period, numerous discussions and negotiations were conducted, which culminated in the signing of a “Letter of Intent” on Mar. 25th, 2005. The agreement pledged cooperation between the Leisure and Recreation Departments of the seven local governments.

Several months later, on Aug. 5th, 2005, with the Taipei City Government leading the way, the seven county governments jointly proposed the “Northern Taiwan Regional Recreation and Leisure Integrative
2. A Pleasant City

(1) Urban Landscape Beautification

A. Implementation of the Skywalk System

The main purpose of the “Xinyi District Skywalk System” is to create a multi-level walkway network linking the MRT Bannan Line to the Taipei City Hall Station in the north, through the main business and shopping nodes, and future MRT Xinyi Line to the financial center in the south. This will ensure a safe and convenient pathway for pedestrians. As part of this pedestrian walkway network, new footbridges have been constructed which are free of the clumsy appearance often associated with conventional footbridge design. Instead, one sees lightweight and elegant footbridges lining the Xinyi District, integrating LED bulletin boards and transport signaling facilities with the walkway’s horizontal structure. Thus, aesthetic value and functionality come together, adding to the lively ambience of Xinyi District.

B. Street Furniture

The “Taipei City Street Furniture Design, Operation and Management Plan” was devised to create a high quality urban streetscape. Through combined public and private cooperation, the Government can ensure the maintenance of a program sponsored by private enterprise. One company was selected through a legal process to serve as sponsor in 2005.

C. Public Arts

In 2005, the Taipei City Government continued to promote public arts by establishing the Taipei City Public Arts Fund in accordance with the provisions of the “Taipei City Public Arts Promotion Act.” It also hosted the second “Taipei Public Arts Festival-The New World of Datong”.

The second “Taipei Public Arts Festival” was held in conjunction with the Taipei City Government’s North Datong Culture Park. The theme of the festival was “The New World of Datong” and its primary aims were to cultivate a dialogue between the contemporary arts world and traditional culture, and to reinforce a sense of community and identity. The New World of Datong commenced on Oct. 30th, 2004, with the establishment of a community workshop and the opening of an office. In the course of the following six months, over 30 domestic and international artists and local residents were invited to participate in a series of activities to paint a common vision for the community’s future using public arts as their媒介.
A. Accessible Mountain Hiking Trails
Hills and mountainous areas take up over half of Taipei City’s total land area. In order to provide a user-friendlier environment for mountain hikers and climbers, the Department of Urban Development improved the hiking trail signage system, and integrated the public transportation system and hiking trails to form a comprehensive “Taipei Hiking Trail System.” The Department continued to improve and beautify the landscape amenities at each of the hiking trails’ entry points, providing a readily accessible environment for urban residents to get in touch with nature.

B. Hot Spring Area
Volcanic activity has given rise to the many hot springs in suburban Taipei, which in turn has led to the development of the hot spring industry in Beitou, Xingyi Road, and the Yangmingshan areas. The lands in the Xingyi Road hot spring area are comprised mostly of “hillside protection zones”, and for decades, fragmentary development resulted in a disorderly local landscape, excessive waste of the hot spring resources, and the destruction of the local ecology and environment. To bring some semblance of order to this type of development, the Hot Spring Act was announced by the Central Government. This served as a guide to developers to follow regulations. The “Beitou Xingyi Road Hot Spring Area Plan” takes a long-term approach to the hot spring resources and their sustainable development, seeking avoid over development of the land.

C. Tea Drinking in the Maokong Area
The Maokong area, with its great variety of sightseeing spots and tea gardens, has become a popular place for Taipei’s residents to go hiking, drink tea, and enjoy Taipei’s nighttime scenery. In order to provide high-quality leisure venues, nurture tea culture, and protect ecological resources, the area will be rezoned as a “Leisure Industry Special-Purpose Area” and commercial development will proceed in the Maokong area as ecology sustainability permits.

D. Transforming Wenshan District to a Center for Leisure Activities
To coordinate southern Taipei’s public facilities such as the Taipei Zoo, the Fudekeng Exercise Park, and the Maokong leisure industry special purpose area into one coherent district, the “Muzha Rd. Sec. 5 and Adjacent Area Plan” was devised. It rezones land use into “Leisure and Business Districts” and “Residential Districts.” The “Laoquan Neighborhood Plan” places emphasis on the value of sustainable land use and endeavors to create a multi-

(2) Dynamic Recreational Spaces

A. Dynamic Community
In order to reflect upon the progress made in community planning and community participation, as well as to broaden our views of this field, the Taipei City Government hosted the “Community Taipei, 2005: International Conference Series” with “Citizen Participation in Urban Governance” as its theme. The conference series included three main activities, namely a “Dialogue with World City Leaders,” a “Community Workshop,” and an “International Community Planning Forum.” These events provided an ideal venue for international participants to interact and exchange experiences in community planning.

B. Accessible Mountain Hiking Trails
The activities concluded on Apr. 10th, 2005 with the unveiling of artworks by participants, which remained on exhibit until May 10th, 2005. The activity was widely acclaimed for its experimental quality in the local public arts scene, while the “Rebirth of Land” artwork received the Special Award at the Taipei Urban Landscape Award for excellence ceremony.

The Outdoor Cafes Program is creating a suitable atmosphere for outdoor seating. The settings for the outdoor cafes are designed to make the most of the natural elements in a predominantly urban environment; nevertheless, the program places value on enhancing the urban landscape and adding a touch of the romantic to the boulevards of Taipei.
environment improvement works. The Taipei City Government further designated the heritage-listed Renan Clinic Building located within the Dadaocheng Historic Character Special Development District to be reused as a Community Planning Center. The reuse of such a heritage building was intended to lead the way to integrate principles of “historic conservation” and “community planning” and to establish a mechanism for operating community planning centers and citizen-priority community planning. It would also tap into government resources and make use of the flexibility and energy of NGOs to create new possibilities in community planning for Taipei.

(2) Proactive Urban Redevelopment

Taipei City is rich in human resources. It also possesses dynamic cultural resources and unique urban characteristics. It was subjected to the influence of Mainland China’s culture at end of the Japanese occupation era. It experienced rapid economic development and urbanization in the 1950s. It underwent global economic restructuring and experienced the impact of western culture in the 1960s. By this time Taipei City had become diversified and internationalized and developed unique urban qualities.

Currently, Taipei’s urban redevelopment policy...
places emphasis on the renewal of strategic districts and housing estates, encouraging the private sector to undertake redevelopment initiatives, the transformation of urban spaces and the establishment of urban redevelopment mechanisms. These goals are intended to revitalize commerce and industries through the transformation of urban amenities, and to bring about the policy objective of an “East-West Axis transformation of urban spaces, and to bring commerce and industries through the mechanisms. These goals are intended to initiatives, the transformation of urban spaces private sector to undertake redevelopment districts and housing estates, encouraging the places emphasis on the renewal of strategic Ta i p e i  Ye a r b o o k Ximen pedestrian mall and Zhonghua Road Boulevard, which have led to the reutilization of the Ximen redevelopment of Wanhua’s historic quarters and breathe new life into Taipei’s Westside, various Wanhua District is rich in history, commerce and natural resources. In order to promote the will endow it with a new urban character and allow it to serve as Taipei City’s gateway. the Chongqing North Road “City Gateway Boulevard” project, the redevelopment of the Datong District “West cultural axis,” the local cultural resources such as the Confucius Temple, the Baoan Temple, and “South Datong goods and commodities trading precinct.” When combined with the “east-west cultural axis,” the local cultural resources such as the Confucius Temple, the Baoan Temple, and the Chongqing North Road “City Gateway Boulevard” project, the redevelopment of the Datong District will endow it with a new urban character and allow it to serve as Taipei City’s gateway. Wanhua District is rich in history, commerce and natural resources. In order to promote the redevelopment of Wanhua’s historic quarters and breathe new life into Taipei’s Westside, various mechanisms and strategies have been utilized. In recent years improvements have been made to the Ximen pedestrian mall and Zhonghua Road Boulevard, which have led to the reutilization of the Ximen Market and Red Theatre. These improvements have halted the gradual decline of Wanhua District and revitalized its old commercial center.

C. Joining Forces with the Private Sector in Promoting Urban Redevelopment

In the period of Taipei’s rapid economic development, many of the city’s historic buildings were lost forever, as new modern buildings replaced them. To assist the citizens of Taipei in improving their living environment while maintaining urban amenities, the Urban Redevelopment Office has been an active advocate of urban redevelopment initiatives by citizen groups. In 2005, the Office assisted in 5 urban redevelopment proposals by citizen groups, established fee standards for budgeting redevelopment plans, and reviewed relevant guidelines and regulations. In regard to provision of regulatory incentives, on July 28th, 2005, relaxation was made for area restrictions on redevelopment units as prescribed by the “Taipei City Urban Redevelopment Act.” The “Taipei City Urban Redevelopment Construction and Maintenance Act” and the “Taipei City Grant for Citizen-Initiated Urban Redevelopment Act” were announced on Aug. 24th to 25th, 2005, respectively. The above measures are aimed at providing more incentives to encourage parties from the private sector to participate in the redevelopment process, thereby increasing the pace of revitalization of old housing communities.

Dadaocheng Wharf

Taipei City possesses rich river resources, which represent a great potential to be developed into a river city. However, in its early days, when the city urbanized rapidly, flood retaining walls were built which permanently denied pedestrians access to the riverfront and in like manner prevented urban activities from taking place along the riverfronts. The Taipei City Government has initiated projects to redefine, reconnect and reinvent the relationships between urban and waterfront activities.

Dadaocheng Wharf was a very flourishing part of town in its early days. It is located on the bank of the Danshui River in Datong District and possesses plentiful recreational resources. Yet over the years the wharf became extremely run down. In 2002, the Taipei City Government undertook a two-stage reconstruction project of the riverside in Dadaocheng Wharf. On February 2004, the blue highway commenced operations and began to convey passengers by ship between Guandu, Danshui Fishermen Wharf and Dadaocheng Wharf. The second stage of the project aimed at enlarging the scope of operations, improving traffic conditions and cleaning up and beautifying the environment on the south side of the Dadaocheng Wharf. The project was completed in December 2005. The project effectively connected the wharf area and its surrounding neighborhood. Dadaocheng Wharf has blossomed into an attractive landscape recreation area in Taipei City.
II Reinforcing the Rubrics of Urban Development in Taipei City

1. Showcasing Taipei’s Cultural Diversity

(1) The Capital City-Natural, Heritage and Arts Trails Integration Project

Taipei has a rich natural, historic and artistic heritage, concentrated at various nodes much like brilliant pearls, each with its own enchanting stories. The “Capital City – Natural, Heritage and Arts Trails Integration Project” aims to connect these numerous isolated heritage nodes to form a precious string of “pearls”. By so doing, it can make recreational activities and touring in Taipei City much more enjoyable for residents and visitors alike.

He following measures was taken to shape the spatial framework of the three trails: improvement of the pedestrian environment and its landscape, reinforcement of urban nodes, and enhancement of the night lighting ambience. These measures helped improve the overall quality of public spaces and they brought together a wealth of natural, historic and artistic resources all along the trails.

(2) The Huashan Cultural and Creative Industry Center

The Huashan area was originally the home of Taipei’s old brewery with an old railway running through its site. The proposed master plan for the site will weave the nearby Central Arts Park and the Central Government’s Administrative Complex into the urban fabric and give shape to the area as a whole. The center will also integrate its architectural designs with the open space within its compound, acting as a catalyst for additional enhancement of the local urban character.

(3) Public Environment Improvement Plan

In order to enhance the individual landscape character of each area in Taipei, the “Public Environment Improvement Plan” aims to improve and transform historic and noteworthy sites in old urban quarters, commercial blocks, gathering places and riverbanks. By lend owing these areas with a gateway image, improving pavements and streets, beautifying commercial signs, creating multipurpose plazas, increasing the number of street lights, together with the areas’ distinctive historical elements, each locality and streetscape will be endowed with a unique character. The plan included a series of activities to bring together residents and representatives of commercial industries. The plan successfully publicized the positive features of urban renewal.

Since 2005, the Taipei City Government has pressed ahead with key projects and plans such as the “Ximen Market and Surrounding Area Environment Improvement Plan”, the “Dalongtong Culture Park Project”, the “Wanhua Mengjia Boulevard Environment Revitalization Project”, and the “Mountain and Waterfront Accessibility Improvement Project.” The revitalization projects will be integrated with the public transport network to make life more convenient and the environment more beautiful for our citizens.

2. An Eco-City

(1) Taipei Agenda 21

“Taipei Agenda 21” is an outline of the strategic plan for the sustainable development of Taipei City. After gathering the wide-ranging opinions and comments of experts, an overall goal of building a world-class capital city has been arrived at. The goal will be achieved by implementing the following projects: “Cyclic Symbiosis of Environment and Resources,” “Progress Sharing in Secure Society,” and “Intelligent Growth of Economy and Technologies.” The projects will be combined with the following seven visions: “Sustainable Taipei”, “Eco-Taipei”, “Clean Taipei”, “Secure Taipei”, “Cultural Taipei”, “Knowledge Taipei” and “Network Taipei”. The goal is comprised of 46 strategies, 96 plans of action and 282 work items. Of these work items, 26 were listed as high priority for 2005.

(2) The “Green Net”

The “Green Network” project aims to create a green urban environment and a more harmonious city landscape by connecting its sidewalks, open spaces, “green lungs”, public institutions and schools, and by working together with owners of large parcels of lands in improving the landscape and greening of their land.

The greening improvement plan for Civic Boulevard has been completed, and the strategic area improvement design for 2005 has been carried out. In addition, the landscape improvement plan for Jiangsu N. & S. Rd. was also completed in 2005. Subsequent design and construction works will be underway to connect the green spaces and green corridors of Taipei City, thereby forming an integrated “Green Net”.

(3) Leisure Farming

Besides the modern hectic lifestyle of metropolitan Taipei, the city also possesses a unique urban farming culture. Currently, the total area of active farming and hillside land in the city is 13,000 hectares—over half of the city’s total land area. Of this land, 3,700 hectares are arable, or 40% of the city’s total area. The advent of urbanization has transformed Taipei’s farming from a traditional activity to an increasingly leisure activity. Nevertheless, urban leisure farming serves many functions, including recreational, educational, social and environmental protection functions besides the traditional one of production. It is

Taipei Nightscape-City Nightlight Improvement

The Taipei City Government undertook the project of improving the night lighting in Xinyi District and Neihu Technology Park in 2005.

Xinyi District is a major area of nightlife in Taipei City. The night lighting of the contemporary architectural structures in the area, such as Taipei 101, Warner Village, New York · New York, Neo 19 and President Enterprise Corporation Tower, has made it a popular scenic spot. A 3D lighting system has been installed featuring changing light patterns and gradations of brightness, which create an enchanting ambience and alluring city nightscape.

The Neihu Technology Park represents the industrial zone of the future. The architectural design of its buildings is modernist. In order to extend industrial operations into the night, and endow the park with a distinctive high-technology image, the Taipei City Government established a law to regulate night lighting and develop a suitable lighting infrastructure. The main goal is to enhance the stature of the Neihu Technology Park by creating for it effective night lighting.
easy to appreciate the importance of urban farming for the citizens of Taipei.

A. Applications for Establishment of Leisure Farms

Since the implementation of the “Leisure Farming Guidance and Management Act” on July 31st, 2000, 13 applications for the establishment of a leisure farm were submitted in 2005. Of that number, one application has successfully gained approval and registration, while 6 other have gained preliminary approval. The others were rejected due to insufficient documentary evidence or failure to meet regulatory requirements.

B. Public Promotion Campaign

Taipei City's leisure farms are mainly located in the northern and southern hillsides. The northern hillside includes such areas as the Beitou, Shilin and Neihu Districts, which are suitable for growing fruits, vegetables and flowers, including tangerines, strawberries, callas, bell apples, grapefruit, passion fruit and mushrooms, among others. The southern hillside includes the Nangang and Wenshan Districts where leisure tea farms are the main farming activity. In addition, the Yangmingshan Chinese yam of Shilin District, Tieguanyin Woolong tea and the bamboo shoots of Muzha, Baozhong Tea of Nangang District, and the strawberries of Neihu District have all been named as “Distinctive Agricultural Products” of Taipei. In order to promote the concept of leisure farming, various activities have been carried out such as seasonal agricultural technique competitions and exhibitions, which assist farmers in increasing the value of their agricultural products and provide Taipei residents with fine recreational amenities and alternative venues for elementary and high school outdoor education.

3. A Safe City

(1) City Disaster Prevention System

Due to the increasingly regular occurrence of extreme weather conditions, Taipei City has experienced a significant number of earthquakes, severe storms, and flood disasters in recent years. In order to provide the citizens of Taipei with a safer living environment, the Department of Urban Development of the Taipei City Government has formulated a comprehensive urban disaster prevention plan based on the revision mechanism as provided by planning regulations. The prevention plan has designated disaster-prevention zones within the framework of city planning, and has formulated a disaster-prevention unit plan. It has further delineated escape routes, designated shelter locations, disaster control routes and disaster control posts, and has demarcated the location of firebreaks. The prevention plan further requires that the outdoor sheltering space requirement for each citizen shall be not less than 2 square meters, which serves as the basis for drafting the disaster prevention plan. On the other hand, by adding tighter controls to the “Taipei City Hillside Development Building Control Act”, hillside developments will be highly regulated, thereby decreasing the likelihood of disasters from occurring.

(2) Reinforcing Security Measures for Hillside Development

In order to reduce the rate of the occurrence of natural disasters, the Taipei City Government appointed a special committee in 2002 to revise the regulations, which allowed the rezoning of certain areas from Protection Zone to Residential Zone. A total of 4 committee meetings and two City Government internal meetings were held, leading to the classification of 23 of these rezoned areas into 4 categories. Of the 4 categories, Category I areas contained over two-thirds of the land unsuitable for any kind of development, and in light of the policy to strengthen control on hillside developments, this land was rezoned as Protection Zone on July 2nd, 2004. Compensation issues and necessary measures required for the reinstatement of Category I zoning, are currently being reviewed by the Department of Urban Development.

Land classified as Category II and Category III will be permitted to be used for conditional development if it meets the principle of “integrated master planning with low-density development.” This would decrease development density; increase the developer’s responsibility and requiring the provision of an overall impact assessment. Category IV areas falls under the jurisdiction of current regulations. Category I areas had completed the first phase of public exhibit on June 9th, 2005, and was subsequently under review by a Special Committee of the Taipei Urban Planning Commission. Meanwhile, Category II and Category III areas allow for conditional development, while taking into account ecological conservation issues, as well as development rights of landowners, to minimize the impact of development on the natural environment.
### Launching Taipei City’s Development Action

#### 1. Increasing Public Participation

1. **“Face off” the City**
   
   Because Taipei City’s urban plan has been in place for nearly a hundred years, some of the resulting urban landscape and constructions have not changed over time. Some buildings in the downtown area are decaying and are in urgent need of being rebuilt. What is more, the environment quality of such buildings is not satisfactory. In order to create a better urban space, the “Face off the City: A Colorful Makeup Movement” activity was initiated to encourage and award renovation projects which successfully re-make, enliven, or preserve the facades (the “face”) of buildings, thereby recreating the surrounding open space or anchoring historical buildings with new life. The activity encourages residents to pay more attention to the facades and exteriors of buildings, which positively impact the urban environment and landscape and encourage residents to increase their consciousness of the environment.

2. **Taipei Urban Landscape Award**
   
   The “2005 4th Taipei Urban Landscape Award” was initially held on Sep. 24th, 2005. Mr. Huang Nan-yan served as chair of the jury panel. After the sites were visited, the awarding ceremony was held on Dec. 5th, 2005 in the Mayor’s Residential Art Salon. Mayor Ma hosted the ceremony. The first prize was awarded to the “Xinyi District Skywalk System” and was designed by Shu Chang Architect & Associates. The prize-winning design reflects the qualities championed by the Department of Urban Development. Special prizes were awarded to the “Guandu Riverside Landscape Improvement”, the “Zhoushan Rd. Environmental Improvement-A New Milestone of Campus Development”, and “Dihua Sewage Farm Public Art-Land Rebirth”.

3. **Neighborhood Improvement**
   
   This project encourages residents to propose their own improvement plan for their community’s public space. The Government for implementation will subsidize any plans that gain approval. In the process of planning, planners generate ideal images of public space, drawing upon the input and insights of residents, and engaging in a continuous process of negotiation and communication. Planners try to achieve their objectives not only by enhancing the quality of the urban living environment but also by designing a community responsive to people’s needs. In this way the process encourages public participation and reinforces community awareness. In 2005, 11 neighborhood improvement projects were undertaken, 4 of which were completed, while the remaining 7 are still under construction.

#### 2. Taipei Urban Landscape Award

The prize-winning design reflects the qualities championed by the Department of Urban Development. Special prizes were awarded to the “Guandu Riverside Landscape Improvement”, the “Zhoushan Rd. Environmental Improvement-A New Milestone of Campus Development”, and “Dihua Sewage Farm Public Art-Land Rebirth”.

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#### 4. Community Planners

“Community planners” are those individuals who have a background in urban planning and are willing to serve the community. They serve as intermediaries between the government and city residents, and their major responsibilities have a great deal to do with improving “public space”. Another important aspect of the work of community planners is the “localization” of their planning process. In 2005, the Taipei City Government selected 55 teams of community planner volunteers to undertake part in the project. The City Government sought to attract enthusiastic and creative young men who are willing to devote their time to community affairs. The project provided young community planners with systematic training and a practice course was designed to develop their communication, coordinating, and integration skills. The training program and the experience gained from the project provided the planners the opportunity to involve themselves in community affairs, contribute to community planning and promote the sustainable development of the city. In 2005, the Taipei City Government provided training for 92 young community planners. To encourage community residents to participate in community planning, the Taipei City Government sponsored the course “Urban planning and community participation” in cooperation with 12 community universities. The joint undertaking promoted university involvement with the community planning center, and brought community planners and professionals together. They can offer a course on environmental issues, and assist in a network of Taipei City environmental protection volunteers. Four courses and eight workshops were selected.

#### 5. Community Planning Service Center

Since 2001, the Taipei City Government has encouraged universities with spatial academic faculties, and professional spatial groups to be admitted to the district. The main purpose of the professional spatial group is to serve the community by offering community residents the opportunity to learn about spatial planning. The professional spatial group is to cooperate and coordinate with residents to study the local development plan. One purpose of this project is to encourage professionals and students to become involved in their neighborhoods. Schools can also make use of the resources to increase knowledge. Nine groups were selected to serve the district in Taipei City in 2005.

To make the most of the community planner service center and foster a greater degree of interaction between community planners and residents, the functioning of the community planning service center was adjusted to coincide with the daily lives of residents. The activities of the community planning service center revolve around the community’s “life circle.” Planners collect, arrange, survey, and study all the public and private investment plans for a given area. The community planning service center offers planners whatever support they need. The project also draws upon the efforts of volunteers from community universities to create a network of community volunteers. This improves the effectiveness of community planning.
(6) Community Architect

The aim of the “Community Architect” project is to provide a professional inquiry channel. 253 community architects have been selected through an open, fair and proper procedure. With adequate government support and relevant resources, community architects provide expertise in promoting various building management services.

2. Urban Planning Review

The Taipei Urban Planning Commission should make urban planning projects available to the public before undergoing review. Central authorities should review general plans, whereas detailed plans can only be publicized after being reviewed by the Taipei Urban Planning Commission.

The review of projects and various related meetings are held in an open and transparent manner to encourage citizen participation and ensure the openness of the reviewing mechanism. Citizens and stakeholder groups who may have reservations about the projects in question are given written notice to attend the meetings to express their concerns. The meetings are open to the media. The objectives of our approach are to allow full public participation in the planning process, to ensure that commission members gain comprehensive insight of the needs of the public, and to ensure that the project reviewing process meets the spirit of fairness and openness.

During the entire year of 2005, 41 planning projects were publicly displayed and 44 planning projects were reviewed. In addition, 13 commission meetings were held, 66 review meetings by project teams were convened and a total of 60 projects were reviewed.

In the course of its dynamic development, Taipei City has become an attractive capital city, the nation’s center of politics, economics, and culture. Its charms have become manifold. One can delight in fashionable stores, revitalized historic culture and heritage sites, and the refurbished life along its waterways, now highly accessible and replete with beautiful scenes. With the combined efforts of government leaders and the public, rundown areas have been rejuvenated, newly developed districts give rise to a sheen and sense of style that make the international community take notice, nature has become more intimately woven into the cityscape, and industry has become more diverse and cutting edge. These achievements are what everyone associated with Taipei City can take pride in.

The willingness of local governments to cooperate and the vision of their leaders bode well for the future of Northern Taiwan. Taipei City has a more than adequate foundation that together with the integrated resources of the neighboring counties and municipalities will provide the region with a competitive edge. In creating a better life for its citizens, the Taipei City Government must continue to strive to preserve a healthy and vibrant natural environment, while at the same time improving the investment environment. Government leaders must also prove adept at marketing Taipei City as one of the outstanding urban centers throughout the world. The Taipei City Government sincerely invites all citizens to work together to make Taipei a even more highly competitive center of business and high technology, and a city whose high standards of living quality make it a great place to live, work and enjoy life.