



Chapter 1 Taipei Overview

Taipei City is the capital of Taiwan. Since it became a municipality under the Executive Yuan on July 1, 1967, the city has developed rapidly and, in only a few decades, various construction projects have attracted the attention of the world and made Taipei a major international metropolis.

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Taipei becoming a municipality under the Executive Yuan, in July 2007, Taipei City Government held the “Rediscovered Memories of Taipei,” a special exhibition devoted to historical materials and images, making use of objects, situation planning and multi-media interaction to show the city’s history and the development of city government policy since the reorganization. It also introduced the development and progress of Taipei over the previous 40 years.

Looking back over Taipei’s history, it is only around 300 years since Koxinga in the Ming Dynasty and Han settlement in the Qing Dynasty took place. In the period of Japanese colonial rule and after the Nationalist government of China relocated to Taiwan, Taipei developed and became a political, economic and cultural center and, after becoming a municipality under the Executive Yuan, the city’s progress and prosperity advanced further. Taipei has a special charm.



Taipei was the homeland of the Ketagalan and the new land of the Han people. The toil of generations of earlier residents of Taipei, the favorable natural environment, and the development of history created rich assets and made Taipei a great place to live, setting down the foundation stone on which Taipei grew into an international metropolis.



Part 1 Geography and Environment

1. Topography

Taipei is situated in the northeast of Taiwan and includes the northeast part of the Taipei basin and surrounding hills. It is bordered by Taipei County on all sides. In the north and east, hills and the Keelung River valley separate Taipei from Danshui, San Zhi, Jinshan, Wanli, Xizhi, Shiding and Shenkeng. To the west and south, Taipei is separated from Xindian, Zhonghe, Yonghe, Banqiao, Sanchong, Luzhou and Wugu by the Danshui River and its tributaries, Xindian River and Jingmei River. A small peak to the south of Dazhuzi Mountain is the northernmost point in Taipei and is the border of Sanzhi and Beitou. In the east, Nangang, Xizhi and Shiding meet. In the south, Wenshan is bordered by Xindian. In the far west, Beitou is bordered by Wugu at Guandu. The city is 27 kilometers long north to south at the longest point and 18 kilometers at the widest. The city border is 216 kilometers long. Taipei has an area of 271.7997 square kilometers, making it the largest city in Taiwan.

In terms of topography, Taipei is higher in the northeast and southeast, which are mainly volcanic and hill areas, accounting for over half of the city area. The Datun volcanic area in the north is high in altitude and covers a large area. Between the hills of the north and south the land is flat and is part of Taipei Basin and river plain, having a slight northwestern slant.



Hengyang Road as it was in the past (1940)

Within Taipei's borders, Jingmei River, Xindian River and Danshui River flow through the southern and western edges. After the Keelung River and its tributaries Shuang Creek, Ziming River (Sulphur River) and Beitou Creek pass through the city, they join the Danshui River near Guandu and then flow into the Taiwan Strait. The banks of the Danshui River had Taipei's most prosperous trading areas in earlier days, Mengjia and Dadaocheng, and these were also the birthplace of Taipei's culture.

2. Topographical Differences

In terms of the rise and fall of the terrain and geology, Taipei can be divided into volcanic, hill and basin areas. Mountain areas account for 8.49% of the city area, the basin area is 86.33%, with rivers making up the remaining 5.08%.

- (1) Volcanic area : The volcanic area in Taipei City is part of the Datun mountain group, made up of a number of cone and bell-shaped Andesite mountains. The best-known mountains are Qixing, Shamao, Xiaoguanyin, Dadun and Miantian. All are extinct volcanoes but, to this day, there is still some post-volcanic activity.
- (2) Hill areas : The sedimentary rock hills are mainly on the southeast edge of the city. They are mountains of the Western Taiwan overthrust. However, the hills are low in height and their rise and fall is limited, making them hills rather than mountains. The hills are separated into north and south areas by the Keelung River Valley. The north has the Neihu Hills and in the south there are the Nangang Hills.

A. Neihu Hills

These hills lie between the Shuangxi River Valley and the Keelung River Valley. They are the Western edge of the Great Wulun Mountain Range. The hills have a northeast to west southwest slant. The main peaks are Wuzhi, Lingtou, Zhongyong, Yuanjue Peak, Jinmian, Jinan and Jiantan. In terms of height, the hills get smaller north to south and east to west where they merge into the Taipei Basin.

B. Nangang Hills

These are the hills south of the Keelung River and north of the Qingtan River Valley, including Nangang and the west of the Fushi mountain area. Cige Mountain in the southeast corner has an altitude of 678 meters, while the other hills are less than 300 meters. The well-known peaks are Muzhi, Dailaokeng, Jingmei and Toad Mountain. The hills decrease in altitude from east to west.

- (3) Basin area : Faults pass along the base of the Taipei Basin and the basin floor has the shape of an isosceles triangle. The top of the basin faces northwest at the point where the Danshui River leaves the basin. The base of the triangle runs east northeast to south southwest. The east corner leads to the Keelung River Valley and the west corner to the Dahan River Valley. Near the center of the base, Xindian River enters the basin. The Keelung River winds its way across the basin while the Dahan and Xindian Rivers form a grid. The three rivers flow into the Danshui River, which flows into the Taiwan Strait at Danshui. The basin floor is very flat, having a slight southeast to southwest slope. The basin plain of Taipei City stretches from Xindian River to the east bank of the Danshui River and extends to the aforementioned volcanoes and hills. It stretches from Jingmei in the south to Guandu in the north and Nangang in the east. The mountains on the edge of the plain are jagged and winding, with some peninsula-shaped bulges and bay-shaped indentations. There are a number of island-shaped small mountains, like Qilian and Jiantan, wedged into the plain. Yuanshan, Zhishan Cliff and Gongguan Mountains are isolated hills. The terraces of the old lake can still be seen, sloping gently towards the center of the basin and showing the level of the lake in the transgression period.

3. Climate

Affected by topography the climate in different areas differs sharply, and sometimes the differences are very large. The temperature in the mountains falls sharply as the altitude increases. The differences are greater in winter than in summer.

Taking the Taipei Plain as an example, the weather data recorded by the Taipei Meteorological Station of the Central Weather Bureau, in 2007 were as follow :

Accumulated rainfall : 3015.9 mm

Heaviest rainfall in a single day : 220 mm(October 6, 2007)

Annual rainy days : 169 days

Average temperature : 23.6°C

Absolute highest temperature : 38.6°C (July 21, 2007)

Absolute lowest temperature 8.2°C (January 29, 2007)

Average relative humidity : 76°C

Affected by latitude, altitude, topography and seasonal winds, Taiwan has a warm winter and a hot summer, has plentiful rain and is warm and humid all year round

Part 2 History

1. Ketagalan Settlement

Taipei is located in the center of the Taipei Basin. Geologists estimate that hundreds of years ago the Taipei Basin was a large lake that formed a basin after years of sedimentation. Yu Yong-he wrote in his book "Great Sea Journal": "Upon reaching Guandu the water suddenly was as wide as a huge lake, the edges of which could not be seen. After sailing for ten li we saw a plain surrounded by high mountains stretching hundreds of li." Before the Han settlers arrived, the Taipei Basin was the home of the Ketagalan. They lived by gathering, hunting and fishing and nomadic cultivation

2. From the Dutch to Ming Dynasty Koxinga

In the 16th Century boats sailed between China and Taiwan, fishing and trading in the Jilong and Danshui areas. In 1622, the Dutch occupied Dayuan (today's Anping, Tainan) and, in 1626, the Spanish occupied Jilong and Danshui and built forts, engaging in missionary work and trade. In 1642, the Dutch moved north and expelled the Spanish, taking over their forts in Jilong and Danshui, and began themselves to carry out missionary work and trade. In 1661, Koxinga (Zheng Cheng-gong) landed at Luermen and attacked the Dutch at Zeelandia. The next year the Dutch were expelled and Koxinga took over Taiwan. He established Chengtian prefecture and Wannian and Tianxing counties. Taipei at that time was part of Tianxing County. Koxinga dispatched renowned General Huang An to Danshui. He implemented a colonization system and sent troops up the Danshui River to settle in what are the Guandu and Beitou areas today. Historic relics from the time can still be seen today.

3. Qing Dynasty Taiwan

In 1683 Taiwan officially became part of the Qing Empire. The next year Taiwan prefecture was established, with Zhuluo, Taiwan and Fengshan counties. After this the number of immigrants from Fujian and Guangdong increased. After Chen Lai-zhang requested permission from the government to settle in today's Xinzhuang and Dalongtong areas, more and more Han people moved to Northern Taiwan. During the rule of Qianlong (1736-95), Mengjia, at the confluence of the Danshui River and Xindian River, grew from the "sweet potato market" (so called because this was where the Han and the aborigines traded sweet potatoes) into the political, military and business center, becoming the third biggest port city after Tainan and Lugang in Taiwan during the reign of Jiaqing (1796-1820). From 1862 to 1874, Dadaocheng became prosperous because of the tea trade and Taipei became famous for tea around the world. In 1884, Taipei was made a city and, in 1887, Taiwan was made a province. When the first governor Liu Ming-chuan was based in Taiwan he oversaw the development of Taipei, building a railway, streets and schools. He established an administrative area in the Taipei Capital Walled City and made Dadaocheng a trade area. Today's Guide Street was where foreigners lived. This city planning laid the foundations for the later development of Taipei.

4. Japanese Colonial Period

After the Japanese occupied Taiwan in 1895 they established the Taiwan Governor's Office. Between 1899 and 1901 the streets of Taipei City were expanded and the drainage improved. In 1905, the Japanese demolished the city wall built in the late Qing dynasty. Roads were built along the route of the wall, connecting Mengjia, Inner City and Dadaocheng, extending the administrative area of Taipei. In 1920, the prefecture-controlled city of Taipei was established. In addition to including the aforementioned three market streets, the city administrative area was extended east, taking in today's Daan, Zhonglun and Songshan areas.

5. Development after Retrocession

Upon Retrocession in 1945 Taipei was designated a provincial city. In October of the same year, the Japanese administrative system was abolished, being replaced by 10 administrative districts, li (borough) under the districts and lin (neighborhood) under the li. In 1949, the central government relocated to Taiwan and, in 1950, self-government for cities and counties was implemented. City council elections were held for the first time, setting the foundation for the development of democracy. Because Taipei had already been the wartime capital and was the political, military, cultural and economic capital of Taiwan, on July 1, 1967, the President instructed that Taipei be designated a directly governed city and announced the incorporation of Jingmei, Muzha, Nangang, Neihu, Shilin and Beitou townships into Taipei City, giving Taipei 16 administrative districts.

On March 12, 1990 Taipei's administrative districts were adjusted again and 12 districts were created—Datong, Zhongzheng, Wanhua, Zhongshan, Shilin, Beitou, Songshan, Nangang, Neihu, Xinyi, Daan and Wenshan, and have so remained to this day.

6. The origins of Taipei's name

Taipei's name originates from the end of the reign of Emperor Kangxi and the early part of the reign of Yongzheng. Lan Ding-yuan wrote in his "Zhuqianpu Journal" "Zhuqianpu extended for hundreds of kilometers; no one was seen throughout a day's traveling. Barbarians sometimes emerged, and travelers were fearful when passing through the region. However, the fortress was built on a path of fresh water, the land was flat and fertile, and, should it be ploughed, there would be thousands of hectares of productive fields. "Taipei" would be greatly beneficial for people." The "Taipei" of the time was in Northern Taiwan north of Zhuqian.

In 1875 Imperial Commissioner Shen Pao-chen established Taipei Prefecture, based in Mengjia (the general name for central Taipei at the time,) also establishing a "Taipei Prefecture Office" (today's Zhongzheng District,) making Taipei an administrative district. In 1884 the construction of the walled city was completed.



Qing Dynasty North Gate, the only grade 1 historic relic preserved in its original state



A distant view of the East Gate (1930)

After Taiwan became a province the first governor Liu Ming-chuan located his office in the walled city and development was centered on Inner City and Dadaocheng. These two areas, together with Mengjia, later became the center of the city and were called the “Three Market Streets.”

The Governor’s Office announced the Taiwan Municipal System and, in 1920, according to the system Taipei was made a prefecture city and the Taipei Municipal Office was established. The name “Taipei City” appeared for the first time.

Part 3 Population Structure and Make up

In 1946 a national residence registration check was carried out. At the time the population of Taipei City was 271,754. After adding Neihu, Nangang, Muzha, Jingmei, Shilin and Beitou, in 1968 the population of Taipei was 1.64 million. At the end of 2007 the population was 2.62 million (males: 1.27 million and females: 1.35 million,) a decrease of 2,973 from the year before (males: down 5,135, females up by 2,162)

1. Population Distribution

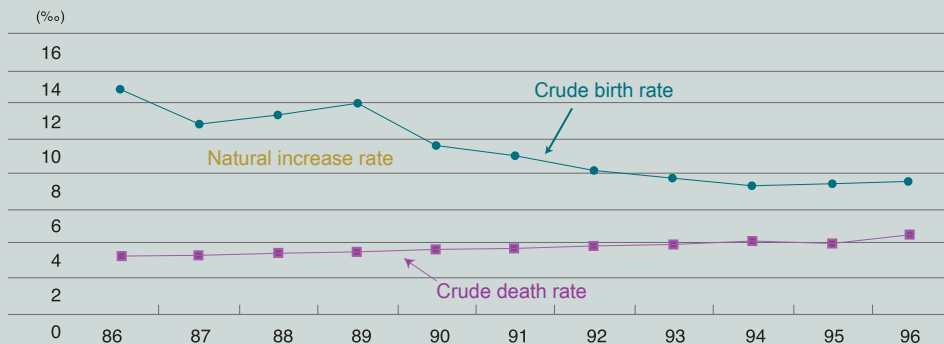
Taipei City has 12 administrative districts, each different because of topography, economic development and time of settlement. Population is unevenly distributed with population relatively dense in Daan, Shilin, Neihu and Wenshan districts.

(1) Population Density

At the end of 2007 population density was 9,674 per square kilometer. By district, Daan was the most densely populated with 27,719 people per square kilometer and Beitou was the least densely populated with 4,399 per square kilometer.

(2) Births and Deaths

In 2007 the crude birth rate was 8.22‰, up by 0.16‰ from the year before. The crude death rate was 5.65‰, up by 0.31‰ from the year before. Social and economic development factors have affected reproduction willingness, causing the birth rate to fall; however, there has been a slight increase in the previous two years. In the last 10 years the proportion of the elderly in the population has continued to grow. To prevent a rapid decrease in population and the aging population from affecting economic development in the future, the question of how to promote reasonable growth in population is a serious issue that must be faced by society.



Data supplied by the Department of Civil Affairs

Figure 1 : Growth Rate Population of City in the Recent Decade

2. Population Make Up

From age structure, marriage situation, educational level and ethnic group distribution we can understand population phenomena, analyze the nature and causes of social problems and observe the relationship between population, society and the economy; thus population make-up is an important indicator of social and economic change and extremely important for the government as reference in formulating current and future social welfare policies.

(1) Population by Age

Generally speaking, the greater the number of people capable of working the lower the dependency rate will be. The involvement of more people in production promotes economic construction. At the end of 2007 Taipei City had 422,573 people aged 0-14, 1,892,181 people aged between 15-64 and 314,515 people aged 65 and over. The rate of dependency was 38.95%, down 0.22% from the year before.

(2) Marriage Rate

In 2007, 15,342 couples were married, giving a crude marriage rate of 5.83‰. 6,259 couples were divorced, giving a crude divorce rate of 2.38‰. Compared to 2006, the crude marriage rate was down by 0.62‰ and the crude divorce rate was down by 0.26‰.

(3) Educational Level

At the time of reorganization at the end of 1968, only 8.31% of the population aged over six years old had a college education or above. The implementation of nine years of compulsory education has raised the overall level of education. In 1997 the "Household Registration Act" was amended and the educational level of people over 15 was then used as the statistical standard for measuring education level. In 2007, college-educated people accounted for 42.43% of the population, with the literacy rate at 98.96%.

(4) Ethnic Group Distribution

Taipei City has four main ethnic groups: aborigines, Taiwanese (Minnan), Hakka, and Mainlander. Housing registration lists aborigine tribes only and does not record whether people are Minnan, Hakka or Mainlander. Taipei City's population is mainly Minnan and Mainlander.

Over the last few decades, many Hakka people have moved to Northern Taiwan. Although they gravitate to no special areas, the Nanjichang Apartments, Sanzhangli, Liuzhangli, Wufenpu, Hejiang Street and Wuchang Street areas have significant Hakka populations.



Old people are increasing as a proportion of the population

Table 1 : Taipei City Population Age Structure over the Last 10 years

year	0-14years old	15-64years old	65Over
1998	20.30	70.48	9.22
1999	19.93	70.63	9.44
2000	19.64	70.69	9.67
2001	19.27	70.79	9.94
2002	18.77	70.97	10.25
2003	18.19	71.23	10.58
2004	17.71	71.37	10.92
2005	17.11	71.60	11.29
2006	16.50	71.86	11.64
2007	16.07	71.97	11.96

Data source: by the Department of Civil Affairs Unit:%



New immigrants visit a tea plantation



Taipei City New Immigrants' Hall

In 2007 the Sakizaya were recognized as an aborigine tribe in addition to the already-recognized Amis, Atayal, Paiwan, Bunun, Rukai, Puyuma, Tsou, Saisiat, Yami, Thao, Kuvalan and Taroko. In 2007 Taipei's aborigine population was 12,544. The largest group was the Amis. The Thao, Kuvalan and Sakizaya groups were the smallest. Most aborigines live in the Neihu, Wenshan and Nangang suburban districts.



Thai water throwing festival



New immigrant life and growth course



A class in a New Immigrants' Hall



New immigrants learning Chinese



New immigrants visiting Taipei City Discovery Hall

(5) New Immigrants and Foreigners

Taipei City is economically developed, has a good transport system, is often the venue for large-scale international conferences and exhibitions and is attractive to foreigners as a place to study, observe, do business and reside. At the end of 2007 Taipei had a population of 62,353 foreigners (up by 7,527 on 2006,) with Indonesians the biggest group, followed by Filipinos, 7,518, and Japanese, 6,715.

As the number of marriages between Taipei citizens and spouses from China and other countries increases, at the end of 2007, 30,563 citizens had "new immigrant" spouses and, of these, 27,776 were from China, the largest group, followed by 1,258 from Vietnam and 342 from Indonesia.

TAIPEI

Population-Related Rates

- ◎Crude marriage rate : number of married couples in a certain period as a proportion of the total population in the same period.
- ◎Crude divorce rate : number of divorces in a certain period as a proportion of the total population in the same period.
- ◎Crude birth rate : Average annual births per thousand people.
- ◎Crude death rate : The total number of deaths in a year as a proportion of the total population in the same year, or the number of deaths per 1000 people.
- ◎Dependency ratio : A simple measure of the number of dependents supported by people of working age.

Part 4 Political System and Administration

Taipei City is a self-governing body established according to the laws of the Republic of China. Apart from justice, national defense and foreign affairs, it enjoys substantial autonomy and is under the jurisdiction of the Executive Yuan. It is the political, economic and cultural center of the R.O.C. and the capital and main city of Free China. Industry and commerce is developed; economic, cultural and transport construction and administrative measures are complete.

1. Evolution of the Administrative System

Since the Japanese colonial era, Taipei has been Taiwan's political, economic and cultural capital. Since the R.O.C. government retreated to Taiwan, it has been the R.O.C.'s political, economic and cultural center. Upon Retrocession in 1945 Taiwan was made a "provincial city" and in 1967 reflecting its increased importance it became a "city under the Executive Yuan, under whose jurisdiction it remains today.

(1) Taipei During the Provincial Government Era

After Retrocession, Taipei was designated a "provincial city" with an "administrative body" system. It has a city government and utilizes a leadership system, with the mayor appointed by the central government. In 1946 the "city joint council" was re-established, made up of city councilors elected by the people. The city was divided into 10 districts, which were legal persons, with district offices and district assemblies. The district representatives were elected by the people of the villages and district heads by the district assembly. In 1950, self-government was implemented and Taipei City established a city government and a council, serving as the administrative body and legislative body, respectively. Districts were no longer legal persons; district offices were retained but there were no district assemblies. The district offices were dispatched by the Taipei City Government.

(2) Taipei During the Central Government Era

In 1967, Taipei was made a "city under the Executive Yuan," directly under its jurisdiction, and, in 1968, six townships and rural townships in Taipei County were added to Taipei City, increasing the number of districts from 10 to 16. After becoming a "city under the Executive Yuan" Taipei became an administrative body with a council and city government. The council members were elected by the people directly but the city mayor was appointed by the central government and no longer elected. In 1990, the 16 districts were re-drawn into 12 to make management and resource allocation more convenient. There was no change in the system, however, until in 1994 directly governed cities were designated legal persons under the "Self-Governing Act for Executive Yuan-controlled Municipalities" and an election to appoint the mayor was held at the end of the year, at which time Taipei City became an autonomous body again. Although the laws and regulations have changed since then, Taipei City retains its position as an autonomous legal person.

According to the current "Local Government Systems Act," in addition to being divided into districts to make management easier, districts are divided into boroughs and neighborhoods. Since 1973 boroughs have been reorganized five times, the most recent time being in September 2002, when Stage 5 boroughs were adjusted. At the end of 2007 the city had 449 boroughs and 9,485 neighborhoods.

2. The Current Basis of Taipei City's System and Power

The legal basis of Taipei's current system is the "Local Government Systems Act." Taipei City is a legal person and the city government system is the supreme government with no secondary government under it. It has an administrative body, the Taipei City Government, and a legislative body, the Taipei City Council, which are responsible for administration and legislative decisions, respectively. The Taipei City Government rights and obligations, the structure of Taipei City Government, power, the organization of the Taipei City Council, authority and the interaction of The Taipei City Government and the city council are outlined below.

(1) Rights and Obligations of Taipei Citizens

A. Rights of citizens

- (A) The right to elect and impeach local public officials.
- (B) The right of initiative and referendum with respect to local self-governing items.
- (C) Right to use local public facilities.
- (D) The right to enjoy local education and culture, social welfare, medicine and hygiene items according to the law and self-governing laws and regulations.
- (E) The right to request that local government information be made public.
- (F) Other rights given by the law and self-governing laws and regulations.

B. Citizens' obligations

- (A) Respect self-governing laws and regulations.
- (B) Pay self-governing taxes.
- (C) Other obligations according to the law and self-governing laws and regulations.

(2) Taipei City Government Organization

Taipei City's administrative body is Taipei City Government. It uses a leadership system and has a mayor, who represents the city and oversees city affairs and who is chosen by the people in an election, (current Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-bin is the fourth elected mayor.) The mayor has a term of four years and can serve two terms in succession. The city has two deputy mayors who help the mayor handle political



Figure 2 : The Organization Chart of the Taipei City Government

affairs and take up office and leave with the mayor. There is a secretary general who assists with city government affairs following the mayor's instructions. Taipei City Government has 33 Grade 1 Departments and bureaus, responsible for civil affairs, finance, education, social welfare, construction, public works, police, fire, transport, hygiene, environmental protection, urban development, military service and land administration-related city government work. There is also a district office in each of the 12 districts of Taipei taking care of civil affairs, social administration, military service, economic construction and health insurance work.

(3) Taipei City Government Power and Operating Model

Taipei City is a legal person, a self-governing group responsible for self-governing in the following 13 areas: organization and administrative management, finance, social services, education, culture and sport, labor administration, urban planning and construction, economic services, hygiene and environmental protection, water resources, transport and tourism, public safety, business management and other areas according to the law.

For the exercise of its power Taipei City Government has a subordinate "City Affairs Forum" comprised of the mayor, the deputy mayors, the secretary general, the deputy secretary general, the heads of Taipei City Government's Grade 1 bureau, Departments and commissions. It is convened by the Mayor who also serves as chairperson. It decides or approves the following:

- A. Taipei City Government policy planning and budget settlement
- B. Proposals or reports to be put before the Taipei City Council
- C. Self-governing laws for Taipei City Government and its businesses
- D. Taipei City Government body organization charter and task-setting main points.
- E. Taipei City self-governing principles.
- F. Matters relating to Taipei City Government bodies jointly
- G. Tasks assigned by the Mayor.
- H. Other important items related to Taipei City government policy

Taipei City Government can entrust its subordinate bodies to carry out its work according to its power or enlist an unrelated administrative body to carry it out. It can also, when necessary, enlist private bodies or individuals to carry out its work.

The "City Affairs Forum" operates a collegiate system; however, the city government has a leadership system and the Mayor is responsible for all political affairs so although it operates a collegiate system the real decision-making power lies with the city mayor alone. The "City Affairs Forum" provides the Mayor with ideas and opinions and is not responsible for implementation, which is carried out by Taipei City Government Grade 1 bodies and the 12 district offices.

(4) Limits on the Implementation of Taipei City Government Power

Taipei City is a self-governing body, an R.O.C. self-governing local organization, and it is not independent of the country; therefore it still must carry out the work entrusted by the central government. If Taipei City's self-governing decisions are in breach of the Constitution, law or regulations they will be dissolved, cancelled, changed or terminated by the central government.

When carrying out entrusted tasks Taipei City Government finds itself in breach of the Constitution, law, central government laws and regulations or exceeds its power, its decisions will be dissolved, changed, cancelled or terminated by the central government. However, when self-governing decisions do not breach the Constitution, laws or central government laws and regulations, the Justice Yuan can be requested to provide an interpretation and before this is given the item shall not be dissolved, changed, cancelled or terminated. Taipei City Government enforcement power is, of course, supervised by the City Council.

(5) Organization of the Taipei City Council

The Taipei City Council is made up of councilors elected directly by citizens. Elections are held at the same time in six electoral districts across Taipei's 12 districts and 51 councilors are elected. In addition, to protect the interests of Taipei aborigine residents, one aborigine councilor is elected.

The Taipei City Council has a Speaker (the 10th speaker is Ms. Wu Bi-chu) chosen by all the councilors, and the Speaker represents the council externally. There is also a deputy speaker, a secretary general and a deputy secretary general. The secretary general follows the orders of the Speaker in dealing with council affairs and also supervises staff. The deputy assists the secretary general with these tasks. Sections and offices are responsible for various tasks.

(6) Taipei City Council Power and Operating Model

The Taipei City Council is a collegiate system organization. Each councilor has the same rights and obligations. Their authority is shown below:

- A. Approving Taipei laws and regulations.
- B. Approving Taipei City budget.
- C. Approving Taipei City special taxes, temporary taxes and additional taxes.
- D. Approving the management of city assets.
- E. Approving the Taipei City Government organization self-governing rules and subordinate business self-governing rules.
- F. Approving proposals put forward by Taipei City Government.
- G. Reviewing Taipei City budget check report.
- H. Approving proposals put forward by Taipei City Council councilors.
- I. Receiving petitions from the people.
- J. Other powers stipulated by the law.

The Taipei City Council has an assembly that exercises authority using a collegiate system. Decisions are made by majority vote according to the procedure required by law. To ensure the smooth operation of



Figure 3 : The Organization Chart of the Taipei City Council

meetings it has a “Procedure Committee,” setting the agenda and other procedural matters. For the sake of professionalism and efficiency the following committees are established: Civil Affairs Committee, Finance and Construction Committee, Education Committee, Transportation committee, police and Sanitation Committee, Public Works committee and Legislation committee. Related proposals are reviewed and when approved passed to the assembly for discussion and a vote. The Discipline Committee also reviews disciplinary cases and imposes the following penalties according to the seriousness of the situation: verbal apology, written apology, reprimand, and suspension from the assembly. Individual councilors exercise their authority through the following methods:

- A. Taking part in council review of proposals (every committee and full council assembly).
- B. Questioning : When the council is in session the mayor and Grade 1 body leaders can be asked to attend for questioning.
- C. Putting forward proposals : Proposals can be put forward with the support of the legally-required number of councilors.
- D. Hearing reports : Hear policy implementation reports and special case reports.
- E. Speaking privilege : Councilors bear no external responsibility for comments or votes relating to council meetings, not including comments clearly unrelated to the council and in breach of the law.
- F. Personal Immunity : During council sessions councilors cannot be arrested or detained without the approval of the council unless they are in flagrante delicto or wanted.

The above powers are intended to allow councilors to fulfill their duty as best they can.

(7) Limitations on the Implementation of City Council and Councilor Authority

City council and city councilor authority is not unlimited and is subject to the following principles:

- A. Self-governing items approved by the city council will be invalid if they conflict with the Constitution, or any law or regulation; however should a doubt about conflict arise, the Justice Yuan can be requested to provide an interpretation.
- B. Approved items that are in breach of the Constitution, law or central government rules will be deemed invalid.
- C. Decisions on budgets should not approve spending increases.
- D. Avoiding conflict of interest : Councilors should avoid matters related to their interests and should not take part in review or approval of proposals relating to personal interest.

(8) The Relationship Between Taipei City Government and the City Council

The relationship between Taipei City Government and the Taipei City Council is the result of laws and regulations and system design. The relationships can be roughly divided into the following kinds :

- A. Supervising and supervised : The city council represents the people by reviewing and hearing policy implementation reports (two reports heard in 2007) on Taipei City Government policy plans, budgets and major policy measures and by questing Taipei City Government officials.
- B. Mutual counter-balancing : The city council uses legislative power to control expansion of administrative power. Taipei City Government uses the power of reconsideration to prevent the council from making laws and regulations or approving proposals that are too difficult to implement.
- C. Division of labor cooperation: Taipei City Government sets policy plans and administrative laws and regulations as the basis of policy implementation. The city council represents the people and, taking into account the interests and needs of the people, carefully reviews the proposals put forward by Taipei City Government (19 proposals in 2007.)

(9) The Operation of Taipei City Government and the Taipei City Council

The operation of power between Taipei City Government and the Taipei City Council, in addition to the aforementioned legally-required policy report, special case report (eight in 2007), proposal review,

questioning, coordination, hearing and reconsideration also involves use of the following kinds of informal coordination to resolve disagreements :

- A. Informal contact between the heads of Taipei City Government's Departments/bureaus and councilors.
- B. Political party (governing party group) negotiation.
- C. Political party meeting coordination.
- D. Upper-level government (central government) integrated coordination.

The design of the Taipei City political system, its relationships and operation described above, is intended to protect the rights of the people, restrict the unlimited expansion of administrative and legislative power in pursuit of the development of city government policies and the well-being of all the citizens of Taipei.

Since the city's establishment 122 years ago, Taipei has been transformed from a traditional agricultural society to a major economic and political city and the capital of the R.O.C. The development of Taipei is based on the political systems of the last few hundred years and the reform efforts of the people in each period. Today, Taipei has the position of a self-governing legal person and enjoys substantial self-governing power; its economy is developed and, with the high level of development of its society, the population structure of Taipei is now very different from what it was in the past. The high proportion of middle-aged and aged people in the population is similar to the situation in advanced countries. Taipei City is characterized by an outstanding culture, history and environment and, in the foreseeable future, it will become a brilliant pearl in East Asia.

TAIPEI

Administrative Development

10 Administrative Districts: Songshan, Zhongshan, Daan, Guting, Chengzhong, Jiancheng, Yanping, Datong, Longshan and Shuangyuan.

6 Townships: Shilin, Beitou, Neihu, Nangang, Jingmei and Muzha.

16 Administrative Districts: Songshan, Zhongshan, Daan, Guting, Chengzhong, Jiancheng, Yanping, Datong, Longshan, Shuangyuan, Shilin, Beitou, Neihu, Nangang, Jingmei and Muzha.

12 Administrative Districts: In 1990, the 16 administrative districts were re-drawn, creating 12 districts – Songshan, Xinyi, Daan, Zhongshan, Zhongzheng, Datong, Wanhua, Wenshan, Nangang, Neihu, Shilin and Beitou.

449 boroughs, 9,485 neighborhoods : Songshan 33 boroughs,756 neighborhoods, Xinyi 41 boroughs, 914 neighborhoods, Daan 53 boroughs, 1,027 neighborhoods, Zhongshan 42 boroughs, 864 neighborhoods, Zhongzheng 31 boroughs, 584 neighborhoods, Datong 25 boroughs, 516 neighborhoods, Wanhua 36 boroughs, 722 neighborhoods, Wenshan 39 boroughs, 994 neighborhoods, Nangang 19 boroughs, 441 neighborhoods, Neihu 37 boroughs, 862 neighborhoods, Shilin 51 boroughs, 985 neighborhoods, Beitou 42 boroughs, 820 neighborhoods.

6 Electoral Districts: First: Shilin, Beitou. Second: Neihu, Nangang. Third: Songshan, Xinyi Fourth: Zhongshan, Datong. Fifth: Zhongzheng, Wanhua. Sixth: Daan, Wenshan.

2 Policy Implementation Report: On March 27 and 28 and September 28 and 29 policy implementation reports were presented to the 10th city council's first and second scheduled

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assemblies, reporting on the policy implementation results of the previous six months and policy plans for the next six months, with Mayor Hau Lung-bin leading all Taipei City Government body leaders to the council to provide explanations and answer questions.

19 Bills were Approved in 2007: Taipei City Government sent 38 legislative Proposals to the City Council. 19 bills were passed after the third reading and one dissolved at the second reading.

8 Special Reports :

- (1) April 23, 2007 : Future operating directions of the Taipei Municipal United Hospital
- (2) April 30, 2007 : One program one book policy of Taipei City, County and Keelung jointly holding the Basic Competence Test.
- (3) May 7, 2007: The operating situation of the special project groups convened by the deputy mayors.
- (4) October 19, 2007 : Adjustment of centrally government allocated tax revenues seriously affects Taipei City construction.
- (5) October 24, 31, 2007 : Overall budget.
- (6) October 29, 2007 : The operating situation of the special project groups convened by the deputy mayors.
- (7) November 2, 2007 : Taipei City's main sport and cultural facilities.
- (8) November 5, 2007 : Maokong and Beitou Gondola planning, construction and operation.

