



1 Overview of Taipei

Taipei Prefecture was established in the first year of the reign of the Guangxu Emperor (1875) in the Qing Dynasty; in the Japanese colonial period this became Taihoku Prefecture. The name Taihoku was made official in 1920 when the Taipei Municipal Office was established. In 1967, Taipei was made a city directly controlled by the Executive Yuan (an Executive-Yuan-governed municipality). Its area of jurisdiction expanded and its political level was raised, leading to more across the board development and rapid progress in infrastructure and service construction. On January 5, 2012 the MRT Xinzhuang Line officially opened and, in September, in coordination with the opening of Xinyi Dongmen Station, the Tamsui Line and the Zhonghe Line were separated, linking Taipei's metropolitan transport network more tightly together, representing a step further towards the ideal of achieving a Greater Taipei Living Sphere and Gold Twin City.



01/ Overview of Taipei

Taipei was the home of the aboriginal Ketagalan people 300 years ago. As a result of settlement and development by Han Chinese, Taipei gradually became the center of North Taiwan. In the mid-19th Century the opening of Huwei Port on the banks of the Tamsui River led to the rapid development of foreign trade in the Dadaocheng area, the economic development laying down a solid foundation for the growth of the city. Taipei has a good geographical environment; it is surrounded by mountains and water, and has a pleasant climate. The hard work of earlier Taiwanese people, who had to overcome great hardships, resulted in the accumulation of precious and rich assets for the city. In the Qing Dynasty, the Japanese colonial period, the period after Retrocession when it had become a city directly controlled by the Executive Yuan (an Executive-Yuan-governed municipality), Taipei became the capital of Taiwan and its preeminent city.

Part 1 Geographical Overview

1. Topography

Taipei is in the north of the main island of Taiwan, including the eastern part of the Taipei Basin and neighboring hilly areas. It is surrounded by New Taipei City; to the north and east its hilly areas and the Keelung River valley are bordered by Tamsui, Sanzhi, Jinshan, Wanli, Xizhi, Shiding and Shenkeng in New Taipei City; in the west and south, the Tamsui River and its tributaries, the Xindian River and the Jingmei River, are its borders with Xindian, Zhonghe, Yonghe, Sanchong and Luzhou; the most northerly point of the city is a small peak on the south side of Zhuzi Volcano, where Beitou meets Sanzhi and Jinshan; on the city's eastern edge, Nangang borders Xizhi and Shiding, while at the southern end Wenshan is bordered by Xindian; the most westerly point of the city is a narrow mountain pass at Guandu, with Beitou facing Wugu. The city length is 27.655 kilometers from north to south; the width is 20.754 kilometers from east to west, with a circumference of 216 kilometers and an area of 271.7997 square kilometers.

In terms of topography, the elevation of the

land is higher on the northeast and southeast sides of the city, mostly volcanic and hilly areas that account for over one half of the city's area. The Datun Mountain volcanic area in the north is elevated and wide in area; the area between the hills of the north and south is low elevation made up of a flat basin and a river valley plain that slope slightly towards the northwest.

Within the city's boundaries the Jingmei River, the Xindian River and the Tamsui River flow through the southern and eastern edges, respectively; the Keelung River and its tributaries the Shuangxi River, the Ziming River (Sulphur) and the Beitou River flow into the Tamsui River near Guandu after flowing through urban areas, at which point the Tamsui River flows into the Taiwan Strait. In earlier times, places such as Mengjia and Dadaocheng on the banks of the Tamsui River were Taipei's trading centers and important sources of the culture that developed in the north of Taiwan.

2. Topographical Differentiation

In terms of elevation and geological structure, Taipei's topography can be divided into volcanic, hilly and basin areas; mountains account for 8.49% of the city's area; the basin area is 86.33%, with rivers accounting for 5.08% of the overall

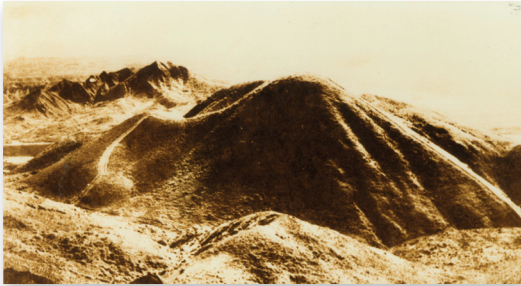
Taipei's Four Coordinate Geographical Position :

Eastern limit: Jiuzhuang Village, Nangang District (121°39'30" east longitude 25°01'51" north latitude)

Western limit: Guandu Village, Beitou District(121°27'10" east longitude 25°06'59" north latitude)

Southern limit: Zhinan Village, Wenshan Distric (24°57'42" north latitude 121°35'22" east longitude)

Northern limit: Hushan Village, Beitou District (24°57'42" north latitude 121°35'22" east longitude)



Majestic Datun Mountain is at the heart of one of the most important mountain chains in North Taiwan.

area.

(1) Volcanic Area

The volcanoes in Taipei are part of the Datun Volcano Cluster, made up mainly of a number of cone- and bell-shaped andesite volcanoes, the most famous of which are Qixing, Shamao, Xiaoguanyin, Datun, and Miantian mountains. They are all extinct volcanoes but, to this day, partial post-volcanic activity remains. Researchers have overturned the hypothesis that Datun Mountain's last eruption took place 100,000 years ago, having found signs of an eruption 5,500 years ago. It is estimated that eruptions were of limited impact and, in terms of type of eruption, were probably lava flow eruptions, a less destructive type. At present the mountain is classified as stable.

(2) Hilly Areas

The hilly areas, mainly formed by sedimentary rock, are mainly in the southeast. These hills are part of western Taiwan's overthrust fault mountains; as they are on the west side of the north end they are low and do not rise up and down, the terrain being classified as hilly and not mountainous. Separated by the Keelung River,



Steam rising in the distance on Qixing Mountain, viewed from Grass Mountain (Photo by Chen Gang-xian)



Grass Mountain hot spring and Shamao Mountain in 1940

the Neihu Hills are to the north and the Nangang Hills to the south.

A. Neihu Hills

The Neihu Hills refers to the hills south of the Shuang River (Shuangxi) Valley and north of the Keelung River. These are the western gate of the Dawulun Mountain Range. The hills extend northeast to southwest and have a monoclinical structure; the main peaks are Wuzhi Mountain, Lingtuo Mountain, Zhongyong Mountain, Yuanjue Peak, Jinmian Mountain, Jinan Mountain and Jiantan Mountain. The mountains become lower north to east and east to west and then merge into the Taipei Basin.

B. Nangang Hills

These hills are south of the Keelung River Valley and north of the Qingtan River Valley, including the western part of Nangang Mountain and Fushi Mountain. Cige Mountain, in the southeast corner, is the highest at 678 meters, while the other mountains are all under 300 meters. The best known mountains are Muzhi Mountain, Dailaokeng Mountain, Jingmei Mountain and Chanchu Mountain; the elevation declines from east to west.

(3) Basin Area

The Taipei Basin is a structural basin; faults run along the edges of the bottom of the basin, which resembles an isosceles triangle in shape. The top of the triangle points northwest and is located where the Tamsui River exits the basin. The edges of the triangle extend from east northeast to west southwest; the eastern corner connects to the Keelung River Valley, while the eastern point joins the Dahan River Valley. Near the central point of the baseline the Xindian River flows in. The Keelung River meanders freely through the

basin while the Dahan and Xindian Rivers have a grid-like path. The three rivers meet in the basin and then flow into the Tamsui River through the Guandu Pass and into the Taiwan Straits. The bottom of the basin is flat with a slight southeast to northwest incline. The plain on which Taipei lies starts on the east bank of the Xindian River and the Tamsui River and ends at the foot of the aforementioned volcanoes and hills. The area extends from Jingmei in the south to Guandu in the north and east to Nangang. The contour of the hills on the edge of the basin plain is winding and uneven, with peninsula-like protrusions and bay-type indents. There are many island-shaped small hills such as Qilian Mountain and Jiantan Mountain which are wedged into the plain, while Yuanshan, Zhishanyan and Gongguan Mountains are separate small hills. The terraces of the banks of ancient Taipei Lake are still present in many places and mainly are inclined towards the basin's center, showing the water level during the period when the Taipei area was inundated with sea water.



The Tamsui River flows from south to north into the Taipei Basin

3. Meteorology

Influenced by the terrain, the climate shows clear spatial differences. The temperature in the mountains falls as elevation increases; temperature differences in winter are more marked than in summer.

Taking the Taipei plain as an example, the meteorological data for 2012 collected by the Taipei Weather Station and provided by the Central Weather Bureau are as follows:

Influenced by latitude, elevation, terrain and

monsoons, Taipei's climate is warm in winter and hot in summer, with plentiful rain in all four seasons and is warm and moist.

Annual accumulated rainfall: 2910.3 ml
Largest amount of rain in a single day 277.5 ml (June 12, 2012)
Number of rainy days: 179
Annual average temperature: 23.2°C
Absolute yearly highest temperature: 38.3°C (July 10, 2012)
Absolute yearly lowest temperature: 8.6°C (December 30, 2012)
Annual average relative humidity: 74.8%

Part 2 Exploration of History and Development

1. The Origin of the name Taipei

Lan Ding-yuan's Zhuqianpu Journal, dating back to the end of the reign of the Kangxi Emperor and the start of the reign of the Yongzheng Emperor in the Qing Dynasty, reads: "Zhuqianpu stretched hundreds of kilometers; no one was seen during a whole day's traveling. Barbarians haunted the place, and travelers were fearful when passing through the region. However, a fortress was built on the path of freshwater, the land is flat and extremely fertile; should it be



Taipei City Government Building in the Japanese colonial period (today's Executive Yuan)



Shen Bao-zhen, who advocated Taiwan should be made a province of China



The first Governor of Taiwan, Liu Ming-chuan



Office of the Governor of Taiwan in the Qing Dynasty

ploughed, there would be thousands of qings of productive fields. Taipei promises to be a good place for people to live.” This area referred to as “Taipei” was the area north of Zhuqian (Xinzhu) in North Taiwan.

In 1875, the first year of the reign of the Guangxu Emperor, the Imperial Commissioner Shen Bao-zhen established Taipei Prefecture in Mengjia (a general term used for Taipei’s main urban area at the time), and built the Taipei Prefecture Office (located in today’s Zhongzheng District), making Taipei an administrative district. In 1884, the construction of a walled city was completed.

After Taiwan had become a province of China, the first governor, Liu Ming-chuan, continually had his office in Taipei Prefecture, where development centered on the area inside the city walls and Dadaocheng. These two areas, together with Mengjia, later became the heart of the city, called the “Three Market Streets.”

In the Japanese Colonial Period, the Governor-General’s Office (Sotokufu) declared a municipal system for Taiwan. In 1920, based on the system’s regulations, Taipei was made a Prefecture City and the Taipei City Office was founded. The name “Taipei City” thus officially appeared for the first time.

2.Home of the Ketagalan tribe

Taipei City is situated in the center of the Taipei Basin in North Taiwan. Geologists speculate that the Taipei Basin was a large lake in ancient

times; after years of sedimentation, a basin developed. In Yu Yong-he’s Great Sea Journal, he wrote: “Upon entering Guandu Pass, it suddenly widened up into a boundless yet infinitely large lake that stretches more than ten kilometers and is surrounded by high mountains; the whole area covered more than a hundred kilometers, and there was a plain in the center.” It was the Taipei Basin that Yu was referring to. Before the Han Chinese arrived, the Taipei Basin was the home of the aboriginal Ketagalan Tribe, who made a living by gathering, fishing, hunting, and nomadic cultivation.

The Ketagalan were among one of the first Pingpu tribes to inhabit North Taiwan, living in an area extending to present-day Taoyuan in the south and Sandiaoling and Yilan in the north, including the areas of present-day Keelung, Tamsui River and Taipei. According to the Japanese scholar Kanori Ino, the Ketagalan first established a settlement at Sandiaoling near the west coast and then settlers moved into the Taipei Basin via Keelung, Jinbaoli, Fuguijiao, and Huwei (Tamsui), following along the Keelung River; in the Xizhi area the Fengzisi settlement was established; in the Songshan District Xikou settlement was established; near Dadaocheng the Guibeng settlement was established, and, near Dalongtong, the Dalangbeng settlement was established; some also crossed the Xindian River to form the Baijie and Xiulang settlements. They were the earliest documented inhabitants in the Taipei Basin.



Taipei 101



Taipei City Government building

3. From the Dutch and Spanish to Koxinga in the Ming Dynasty

In the 16th century, junks sailed from the coast of Mainland China to Taiwan and engaged in trading and fishing in the Keelung and Tamsui regions. In 1622, the Dutch occupied Dayuan (now Anping, Tainan). In 1626, the Spanish occupied Keelung and Tamsui regions, built fortresses and commenced missionary and commercial activities. In 1642, the Dutch moved north and expelled the Spanish, taking over their forts in Keelung and Tamsui, and began to carry out missionary work and trade. In 1661, Koxinga (Zheng Cheng-gong) landed at Luermen, besieged Fort Zeelandia, expelled the Dutch and reclaimed Taiwan. The following year, the Dutch were ousted. Zheng officially made Taiwan his base and set up Chengtian Prefecture under which Wannian and Tianxing Counties were set up; Taipei belonged to Tianxing County. Koxinga dispatched General Huang An to oversee Tamsui and implemented a land development system. Troops were sent along the Tamsui River to cultivate the present-

day Guandu and Beitou areas.

4. Development under Qing Dynasty Rule

In the 22nd year of the reign of Emperor Kangxi of the Qing Dynasty (1683), Taiwan was reclaimed as part of Qing territory. The following year, Taiwan Prefecture was established. Zhuluo, Taiwan and Fengshan Counties were set up. From then, the number of immigrants from Fujian and Guangdong provinces increased rapidly. In 1709, after Chen Lai-zhang's Land Grant Development Company requested government permission to settle in the Dajiala area (today's Mengjia, Xinzhuang and Dalongdong areas), more and more Han Chinese settled in North Taiwan. During the Qianlong period, starting from Sweet Potato Street (named from the trading of sweet potatoes between Han settlers and aboriginal people) in Mengjia, where the Xindian and Tamsui Rivers meet, Taipei's political, military and business center began to form. During Emperor Jiaqing's reign, it was said "Tainan first, Lugang



The fancy shop front of Jinji Tea Shop in Dadaocheng



Numerous boats docked at Dadaocheng



second, Mengjia third,” heralding Mengjia’s rise to a position as the third largest port in Taiwan. During the Tongzhi’s Emperor reign (1862-1874), Dadaocheng thrived due to the tea trade, as Taipei tea became famous in the international market.

In 1884 (the 10th year of Emperor Guangxu), Taipei was designated a city, and in 1887, Taiwan was officially designated a province. The first governor was Liu Ming-chuan; during his term in Taipei, he constructed the Taipei Walled City; railways, streets/roads and schools. Taipei’s Walled City was designated as the administrative district, while Dadaocheng was the business district. The present-day Guide Street area was designated as a foreigners’ community. This city planning laid down a sound development foundation for Taipei City.

5. Infrastructure Construction in the Japanese Colonial Period

After Japan occupied Taiwan in 1895 (the 21st year of the Emperor Guangxu) the Taiwan Governor-General’s Office was established in Taipei City. Between 1899 and 1901, the Japanese expanded the streets in Taipei City and improved drainage. In 1905 (the 38th year of the Meiji period), the Japanese demolished the Taipei city walls built during the late Qing dynasty, and built roads along the foundations of the original walls, connecting Mengjia, the Inner City and Dadaocheng (Three Market Streets), and expanding the overall administrative area of Taipei. In 1920 (the 9th year of the Dazheng period), Taipei City was designated a prefecture-controlled city, and its administrative district was extended beyond the aforementioned Three Market Streets District to today’s Daan, Zhonglun and Songshan in today’s East Taipei; at one time a city of 600,000 was planned.

6. Booming Development after Retrocession

Upon Retrocession in 1945, Taipei was designated a provincial city. In October of the same year, the Japanese City Hall was abolished and the city government was instituted. Under the

new system, 10 administrative districts were put into place, in which villages were under district, and neighborhoods under villages. In 1949, the Central Government relocated to Taiwan, and, in 1950, local self-government was implemented at the county and city levels; for the first time, Taipei City elected city councilors, and the city council was founded, setting down the foundation for democracy. On December 31, 1966, in view of Taipei being the temporary wartime capital as well as the political, military, cultural and economic center of Taiwan, the president announced that Taipei would be elevated to a directly-controlled municipality on July 1st, 1967. Jingmei, Muzha, Nangang, Neihu, Shilin and Beitou Townships were incorporated into Taipei, giving Taipei City a total of 16 administrative districts.

On March 12, 1990, readjustments were made to Taipei’s administrative districts, the 16 districts being reduced to 12 districts, namely Datong, Zhongzheng, Wanhua, Zhongshan, Shilin, Beitou, Songshan, Nangang, Neihu, Xinyi, Da-an, and Wenshan. These remain the city’s districts to the present day.

Although Taipei City and New Taipei City are two separate administrative systems in the Taipei Basin, they form a twin-city urban living area; their development will be more closely intertwined in the future; in particular, due to the extension and development of MRT lines and other transport networks, people have long broken through the barriers between the two municipalities and the Greater Taipei living sphere has been formed.

Part 3 Population Structure and Composition

One year after Retrocession in 1945, a national census was conducted (1946). The population of Taipei at that time was 271,754. In 1968, the six districts of Neihu, Nangang, Muzha, Jingmei, Shilin and Beitou were integrated into Taipei City; the population at the end of that year totaled 1,604,543. By the end of 2012, the population reached 2,673,226 (1,285,361 males;

1,387,865 females). Compared with 2011, the total population increased by 22,258 (males up by 9,018; females up by 13,240).

1. Population Distribution

Taipei's population is distributed among the 12 districts. Due to varying topography, economic development and time of development, the population is unevenly distributed. Daan and Shilin Districts are the most populated.

(1) Population density

By the end of 2012, the population density was 9,835 people per square kilometer. By district, Daan was the most densely populated, with 27,587 people per square kilometer, whereas Beitou was the most sparsely populated with 4,474 people per square kilometer.

(2) Births and deaths

The crude birth rate in 2012 was 11.08‰, a 1.54‰ increase over 2011. The crude death rate was 6.23‰, 0.16‰ up from the previous year. Social environmental and economic factors affected people's willingness to give birth, causing the birthrate to fall. However, thanks to the "Have a Care-Free Pregnancy" policy of the Taipei City Government implemented in 2011, the birthrate began to rise. The city has continued to see a rise in the elderly population as a proportion of the overall population in the last decade. To prevent rapid population decline and excessive population aging from affecting economic development in the future, achieving reasonable population growth is a current socio-demographic concern.

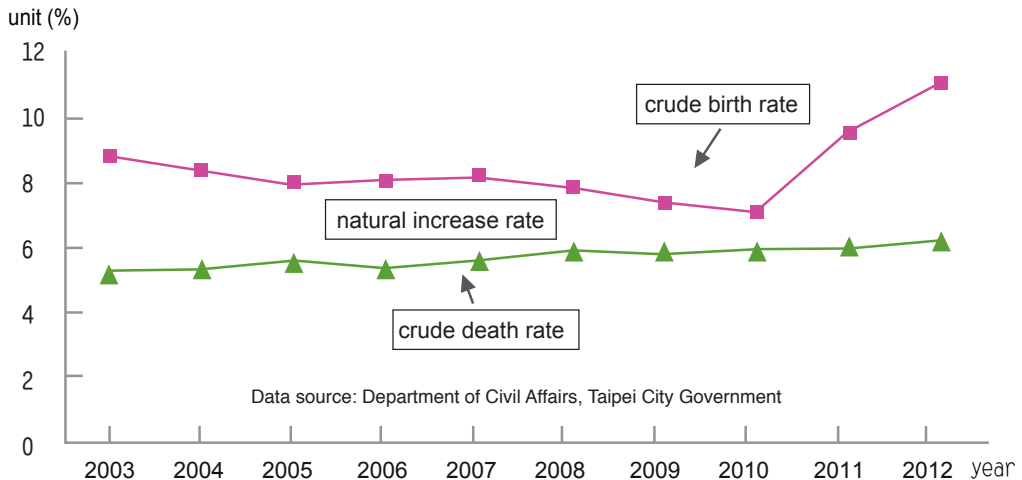


Figure 1. National Growth Rate of Population in The Last Decade.

2. Population Composition

Population composition allows population phenomena to be understood and the origins and nature of social issues to be analyzed. Observing the relationship of the population of a place to the social economy is an important indicator of economic change and is a crucial reference for the government when formulating current and future social welfare policies.

(1) Age distribution

Generally speaking, the more people who are able to work, the lower the dependency ratio; the more the labor force is engaged in productive activities, the more beneficial it is towards economic development. At the end of 2012, the young population (between the ages of 0-14) of Taipei was 383,134; the working age population (between the ages of 15-64) was 1,941,436, while



Table 1 Taipei City Age Distribution of the past Decade

year	0-14 year old pop.	15-64 year old pop.	Over 65 pop.
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
2008	15.56	72.13	12.31
2009	15.10	72.30	12.60
2010	14.66	72.67	12.67
2011	14.45	72.79	12.76
2012	14.33	72.63	13.04

Data source: Department of Civil Affairs, Taipei City Government
Unit: %

the elderly population (above the age of 65) was 348,656. The dependency ratio was 37.69%, down by 0.32% from 2011.

(2) Marital status

In 2012, the number of couples who registered for marriage was 18,821; the crude marriage rate was 7.07‰; the number of couples filing for divorce was 5,818; the crude divorce rate was 2.19‰. Compared with the previous year, the crude marriage rate was down by 1.04‰, while the crude divorce rate was down by 0.03‰.

(3) Distribution of aborigines

Taiwan's aboriginal tribes consist of the Amis, Atayal, Paiwan, Bunun, Rukai, Puyuma, Tsou, Saishiat, Yami, Thao, Kavalan, Taroko, Sakizaya and Seediq tribes. By the end of 2012, the aboriginal population of Taipei City was 14,817. More people were Amis than any other tribe, while the Thao and the Sakizaya had the fewest number of residents. Most of the aborigines live in Neihu, Wenshan, and Nangang Districts.



New Immigrant Life Growth Camp-foreign student class

(4) New immigrant and foreigner population

Along with Taiwan's increasingly frequent political, economic, societal and cultural exchange activities with other nations, Taiwanese citizens' worldview has been expanded, and an increase in marriages to foreign and Mainland Chinese people has followed. By the end of 2012, Taipei had a population of 44,622 new immigrants, the majority being Mainland Chinese spouses at 32,417, with other foreign spouses totaling 12,205 in number; the majority of new immigrants were residents in Wanhua (5,726), Wenshan (4,610), and Daan (4,420) Districts. In order to assist new immigrants to adapt smoothly to local society and to help local residents welcome other cultures, the Taipei City Government has held various courses for new immigrants, including the New Immigrant Life Growth Camp, new immigrant native tongue courses (Vietnamese, Indonesian, and Thai), computer courses and performance workshops.

Globalization and the rise of the information society have enabled the rapid transmission of all kinds of information: convenient transportation has shortened distances between people and is gradually breaking down boundaries in the world. Due to its high level of economic development and a complete transportation network, Taipei often hosts large international conferences, events and exhibitions and there is also an increasing number of foreigners attending schools, taking part in international inspection tours, business activities and residing in Taipei. The UN established



International Migrants Day—commendation of Loving Family



Happy Family Tasty Food Competition-Popularity Prize

International Migrants Day on December 18, 2000; in 2011, the Ministry of Interior designated this day as Migrants Festival. To celebrate the second Migrants Festival, in conjunction with the National Immigration Agency, the Taipei City Government held the 2012 Immigrants Festival and International Migrants Day activity series, including a multi-cultural fair and performances on December 2, 2010 in 228 Peace Memorial Park. The carnival-like atmosphere facilitated interaction and deepened understanding among new immigrants and their families. There was also a stationary exhibition and the showing of the winner of the mini-series category at the Golden Bell Awards, Debbie's Happy Life, and documentaries at Wanhua New Immigrants' Hall from December 4-18. The rich content allowed people to acquire an understanding of the different cultures of the new immigrants.

In-Depth Report Population-Related Terms

Crude marriage rate: Number of married couples as a percentage of the overall population in a certain period.

Crude divorce rate: Number of divorced couples as a percentage of the overall population in a certain period.

Crude birth rate: Number of live births per 1000 people.

Crude death rate: Deaths in a year as a percentage of the total population, the number of deaths per 1000 people.

Dependency ratio: A simple measurement of the burden on the working population of dependents.

Part 4 Political systems and Administration

Taipei City is a self-governing body established in accordance with the laws of the Republic of China. With the exception of the judicature, national defense and diplomacy, it enjoys substantial autonomy and is under the jurisdiction of the Executive Yuan. It is the country's political, economic and cultural center. The city boasts highly developed business and industry sectors, with comprehensive economic, cultural, transportation construction and administrative measures. According to Issue 313 of Commonwealth magazine in July 2012, Taipei ranked first nationally overall, and for the economy, employment, education, environmental protection and environmental quality, public safety and fire prevention, medical care and health and local finance items.

1. Evolution of the Administrative System

Taipei was Taiwan's political, economic and cultural center during the Japanese colonial period; after Retrocession, it became the political, economic and cultural center of the ROC. In 1945, after Retrocession, Taipei was designated as a "provincial city" under the jurisdiction of the



Provincial Government. In light of the increasing importance of the city, it was made an Executive Yuan-governed municipality under the jurisdiction of the Executive Yuan in 1967.

(1) Direct control by the Provincial Government

After Retrocession, Taipei was designated as a “provincial city” under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government and as an administrative body. The city government was established and a mayor was appointed by the Central Government. In 1946, the elected body, the “City Joint Council,” was established, with members elected by district representatives. The city was divided into 10 districts, each a legal person; district offices and representative assemblies were set up; residents from each village elected district representatives, and the head of each district was elected by district representatives. Local autonomy was implemented in 1950, and the city government and city council were set up as the city administrative and legislative organs, respectively. Districts were no longer designated legal persons; district offices were retained but district assemblies were abolished. The district offices were subordinate organs of the city government.

(2) Direct control by the Central Government

In 1967, Taipei was made an Executive Yuan-governed municipality. The following year, six neighboring townships in New Taipei City were absorbed into Taipei City, increasing the number of administrative districts from 10 to 16. After becoming an Executive Yuan-governed city, Taipei City became an administrative body under which were the city council and the city government. Members of the city council were elected directly by citizens, but the head of the city government (the mayor) was appointed by the central government. In 1990, for the convenience of management and resource allocation, the 16 districts were re-drawn into 12. However, the system itself was not changed. Only in 1994, when the city became a legal person under the “Self-Governance Act for Executive Yuan-governed Municipalities” and the mayor was

elected by the people at the end of the year, did Taipei regain its local self-governing body status. Although the laws and regulations have changed since then, Taipei City retains its status as an autonomous legal person.

In keeping with the current “Local Government Systems Act”, Taipei’s administrative area is divided into districts, and, for the convenience of management, under districts there are villages and under villages there are neighborhoods. Since 1973, there have been 6 adjustments to villages, the most recent one being in July, 2010. By December, 2011, there were 456 villages and 9,568 neighborhoods in Taipei City.

2. Taipei City’s Current System and Powers

The “Local Government Systems Act” serves as the legal basis for Taipei City’s current system. Taipei City is a legal person; the city government system is the unitary government system, with no secondary administrative organ. It has an administrative organ, the Taipei City Government, and a legislative organ, the Taipei City Council, responsible for administrative and legislative decisions, respectively. The rights and obligations of the citizens of Taipei, the organizational structure/power of the Taipei City Council, and the modes of interaction between the two are described below:

(1) Rights and obligations of citizens

A. Rights of citizens

- The right to elect and impeach local public officials.
- The right to exercise initiatives and referenda concerning local self-government matters.
- The right to use local public facilities.
- The right to enjoy local education, social welfare, medical care and health care in accordance with laws and self-government laws.
- The right to request disclosure of local government information.
- Other rights endowed by the law and self-government laws and regulations.

B. Obligations of citizens

- To abide by self-government laws and regulations.
- To pay self-government taxes.
- To fulfill other obligations in accordance with the law and self-government laws and regulations.

(2) Taipei City Government organization

The administrative organ of Taipei City is the Taipei City Government. It has a leadership system and a mayor who represents the city, oversees city affairs and is chosen by the people in an election (the current Taipei mayor, Hau Lungbin, is the fifth elected mayor.) The mayor has a term of four years and can be re-elected to serve two terms in succession. There are three deputy mayors to assist the mayor with all tasks; they leave office at the same time as the mayor. There is also a secretary-general under the command of the mayor who assists with governmental affairs. Under the City Government, there are 22 bureaus in charge of civil affairs, finance, education, industrial development, public works, transportation, social welfare, labor affairs, police administration, health, environmental protection, urban development, culture, fire department, rapid transit system, Taipei Feitsui reservoir administration, information and tourism, land, compulsory military service, sports, information technology and legal affairs; five departments and offices are in charge of secretarial, Budget, Accounting and Statistics, personnel, government ethics and civil servant development; four commissions oversee research, development and the evaluation commission, urban planning, the indigenous peoples commission and Hakka affairs. In addition, there are four business operations, the Taipei Water Department, the Taipei Rapid Transit Corporation, the Engineering Division of the Taipei Water Department and the Municipal Secured Small Loans Service, and 12 district offices that are directly subordinate to the City Government.

(3) Taipei City's powers and operating model

As a legal person, Taipei City is a local autonomous organization. It handles 13 self-government items: organizational and administrative management, finance, social services, educational,

cultural and sports affairs, labor administration, urban planning and construction, economic services, water resources, health and environmental protection, transportation and tourism, public safety, business operations and management, and other matters endowed by law.

In order to increase procedural efficiency, a City Affairs Forum was established in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for the City Affairs Forum of Taipei City Government; the Forum is the City Government's highest decision-making forum. It consists of the mayor, deputy mayors, the secretary-general, the deputy secretary-general, heads of Grade 1 departments, bureaus, and commissions and persons nominated by the mayor. It is convened and chaired by the mayor. The Forum discusses and determines the following:

- A. The Taipei City Government policy planning and budget.
- B. Proposals or reports to be put before the Taipei City Council.
- C. Self-government laws and regulations for the Taipei City Government and its business operations.
- D. Self-government rules of Taipei City.
- E. Guidelines for the organizational rules of the Taipei City Government's subordinate organs and establishment of task forces.
- F. Matters jointly relating to the Taipei City Government and other organs.
- G. Tasks assigned by the mayor.
- H. Other important issues related to Taipei City government policy making.

The Taipei City Government may commission its subordinate organs or authorize an unaffiliated administrative organ to carry out operations within its power. It can also, when necessary, commission private bodies or individuals to implement its operations.

The City Affairs Forum is characterized by a collegiate system. The City Government, however, uses a leadership system and the mayor is responsible for all political affairs and their outcomes; therefore, while forums are carried out according to the collegiate system, the mayor has the power to make final decisions. The City Affairs Forum acts as a task force that provides

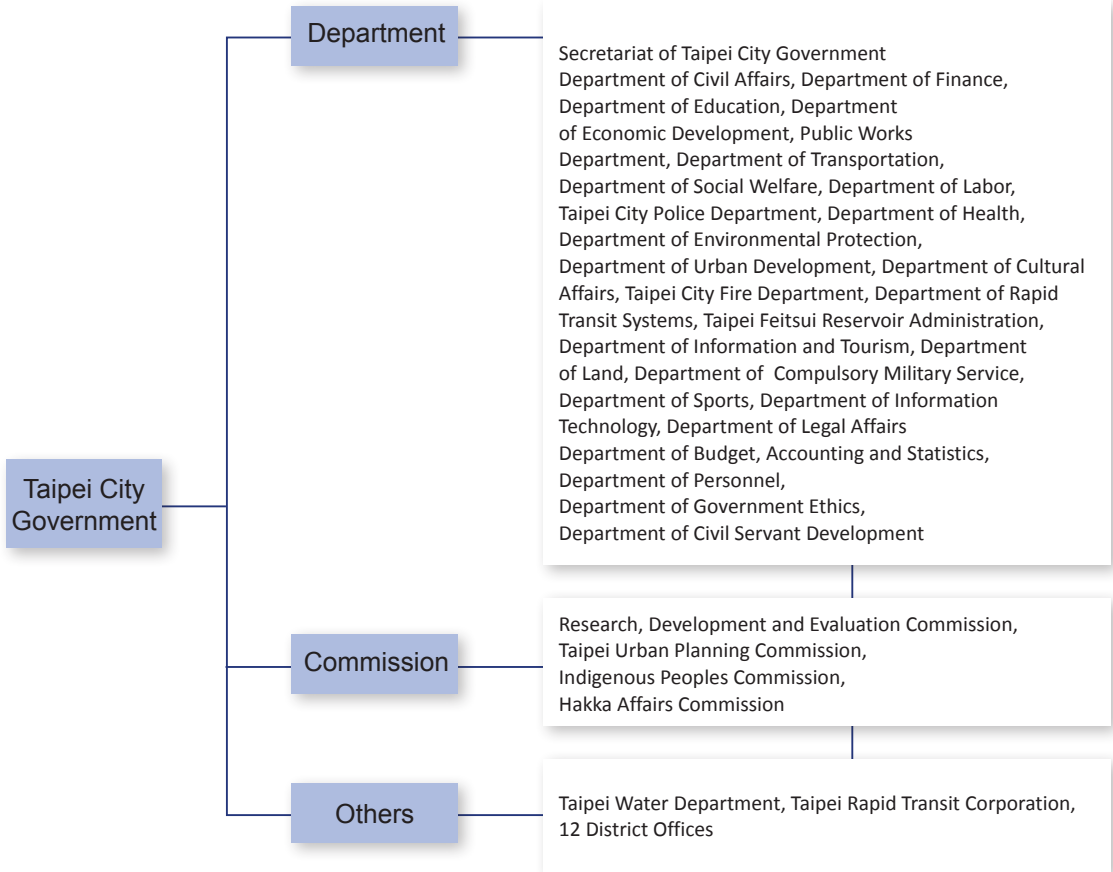


Figure 2. Taipei City Government organizational chart

the mayor with ideas and opinions but is not an implementing organ. The actual implementing organs are the Taipei City Government's various subsidiary organs.

(4) Constraints on the execution of city government powers

Taipei City is a self-governing body, an ROC local self-government unit, and is not independent from the country; therefore, as well as handling self-government matters, it must execute business commissioned by the Central Government. Should Taipei City's self-government decisions violate the Constitution, laws or regulations, they will be revoked, altered, repealed or terminated by

the Central Government.

Should any commissioned matter violate the Constitution, laws and regulations, central government statutes, or exceed authority, the Central Government also has the right to revoke, alter, repeal it or terminate its implementation. A request for constitutional interpretation by the Justice Yuan is allowed to determine whether a self-government matter violates the Constitution, laws and regulations, or central government statutes; before the Justice Yuan 's interpretation, the Central Government may not revoke, alter, repeal it or terminate its implementation. The City Government's executive powers are, of course, supervised by the City Council.

(5) Taipei City Council organization

The Taipei City Council is composed of city councilors who are directly elected by the people. Elections to elect the 60 councilors are held in the six electoral districts across Taipei's 12 districts at the same time. In order to ensure the rights of aborigines in Taipei, one aboriginal councilor representing the plains aborigines (the 7th electoral district), and one other representing the mountain aborigines (the 8th electoral district) are elected, respectively.

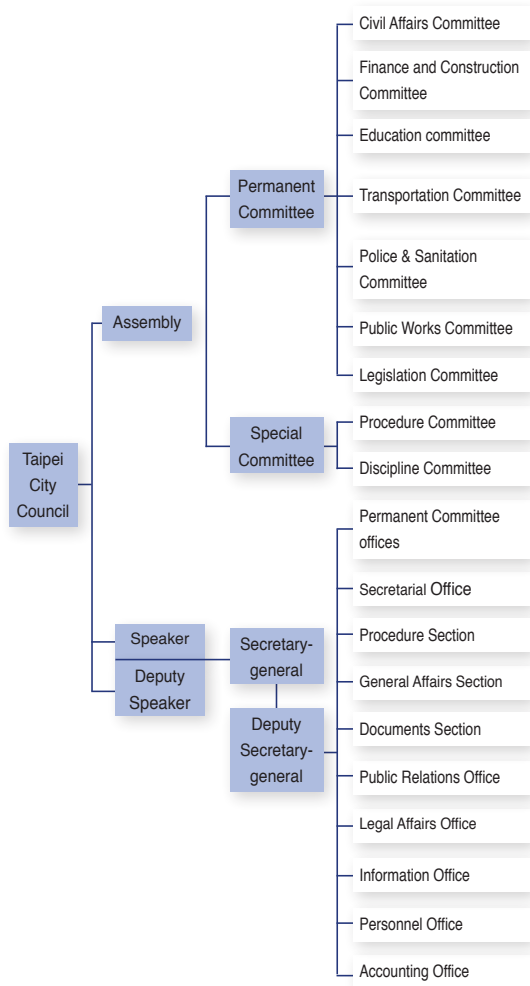


Figure 3. Taipei City Council organizational chart

The Taipei City Council has a speaker (the 11th speaker is Ms. Wu Bi-chu) chosen by all of the councilors; the speaker represents the City Council. There is also one deputy speaker, one secretary-general and one deputy secretary-general. The secretary-general handles council matters and directs and supervises staff under the command of the speaker; the deputy secretary-general assists the chief secretary general with all council matters. There are sections and offices for various duties.

(6) Taipei City Council powers and operating model

As a collegiate organization, all members of the Taipei City Council have the same rights and obligations. Their powers are as follows:

- A. Decide Taipei laws and regulations.
- B. Decide Taipei City's budget.
- C. Decide Taipei City's taxes.
- D. Decide the management of city assets.
- E. Decide self-government rules for the Taipei City Government and its affiliated organs.
- F. Decide on proposals put forward by the Taipei City Government.
- G. Review the Taipei City final account audit report.
- H. Decide on proposals put forward by councilors of the Taipei City Council.
- I. Accept petitions from the people.
- J. Other powers stipulated by law.

The Taipei City Council has an assembly that exercises authority using a collegial system. The assembly meets when it is established and thence once every six months. The assembly is convened by the speaker; if the assembly is not convened according to regulations by the speaker it can be convened by the deputy-speaker; if it is not held according to regulations by the deputy-speaker, it can be convened by a councilor chosen by more than half of the councilors. Ad hoc assemblies can be held at the request of the mayor, the speaker, over one third of city councilors and whenever the Taipei City Government refers a proposal for reconsideration. Decisions are made by majority vote in accordance with the procedure required by law. To ensure smooth operation, the "Procedural Committee" is in place to examine and approve



agendas and other procedural issues. For the sake of professionalism and efficiency, the following seven committees are established: Civil Affairs Committee, Finance and Construction Committee, Education Committee, Transportation Committee, Police and Sanitation Committee, Public Works Committee and Legislation Committee. They discuss relevant motions and send approved cases to the council assembly for voting. There is also a Disciplinary Committee that reviews disciplinary cases and imposes the following penalties according to the seriousness of the situation: verbal apology, written apology, admonition, and suspension from the assembly.

The following are the ways an individual city councilor exercises her/his powers:

- A. Attend meetings and examine proposals (in all committees and assemblies).
- B. Interpellation: when the council is in session, councilors can invite the mayor and the heads of Grade 1 government agencies to stand for questioning.
- C. Put forward proposals: proposals may be brought up if there is a quorum.
- D. Hear reports: listen to policy and special case reports.

The aforementioned rights are intended to allow councilors to fulfill their responsibilities

(7) Constraints on the execution of the Taipei City Council and councilors' powers

The exercise of powers by the City Council and councilors is not without limits; they are bound by the following principles:

- A. When a self-government decision made by the council violates the Constitution, laws and regulations or other legitimate legislation, the decision is deemed invalid; a request for constitutional interpretation by the Justice Yuan is allowed, provided a doubt arises as to the existence of a violation.
- B. Decided commissioned items in conflict with the Constitution, laws or central government statutes shall be null and void.
- C. Any decisions made on budgets shall not be resolutions for expenditure increase.
- D. Avoiding conflict of interest: council members

shall avoid conflict of interests; they shall not engage in examining and voting for proposals that may benefit personal interests.

(8) Relationship between the City Government and the City Council

The relationship between the City Government and the City Council is stipulated by decree and results from the system design. In sum, the relationship is characterized by the following:

- A. Supervision and supervised: through reviewing, hearings of policy reports and questioning city officials, the City Council represents citizens in supervising the City Government's policy plans, budget and important policy measures.
- B. Checks and balances: the City Council limits the expansion of administrative powers through its legislative powers; the City Government, on the other hand, exercises its right of reconsideration to prevent the City Council from making laws and regulations or approving proposals that are too difficult to implement.
- C. Division of labor and cooperation: the City Government formulates administrative plans and administrative regulations as the basis of policy implementation; city councilors represent the people and consider citizen's welfare and needs as they carefully review proposals from the City Government.

(9) Operations of the Taipei City Government and the Taipei City Council

The operation of power between the Taipei City Government and the Taipei City Council is carried out through the aforementioned legal protocols, such as policy reports, special case reports, proposal review, questioning, coordination, hearings and reconsideration. The following kinds of informal coordination are also adopted to resolve disagreements:

- A. Informal contact between the heads of the Taipei City Government's departments/bureaus and councilors.
- B. Coordination through political parties (the ruling party).
- C. Coordination by political party meetings.
- D. Integrated coordination by the Central Government.

The Taipei City political system, and its relationships and operations described above, are intended to safeguard the rights of the people, restrict the unlimited expansion of administrative and legislative power in pursuit of the joint development of city government policies to promote the well-being of all the citizens of Taipei.

Conclusion

After its establishment in 1884, on the foundation of the political systems and construction of different eras and the tireless efforts of its residents, Taipei has transformed itself from an agricultural society into the economic and political capital of Taiwan. With its unique city airport, Songshan Airport, convenient city roads, a mass transit network, highways, electrified railways and a high-speed railway, plus convenient access to Keelung Harbor, Taipei Harbor and Taoyuan International Airport, an environment conducive to international trade and business activities has been created. The increase in the number of Taipei citizens marrying foreign and Mainland Chinese spouses has led to an influx of new immigrants who have opened restaurants serving

exotic cuisine and introduced foreign living and gastronomic cultures that have merged to form a multi-cultural society. A series of urban renewal projects implemented by the City Government has improved the living environment of Taipei: the Blue Highway, revitalization of the Tamsui River, "Garden City" greenifying plan, road and arcade-leveling schemes, and other improvements to the city environment and cityscape, making Taipei an even more livable city. Taipei's excellent all-around performance is illustrated by the Happy City Report in Issue 505 of Commonwealth magazine in September 2012; Taipei once again came top amongst the five big cities of Taiwan for economic power, environmental power, administrative power, cultural and educational power, social welfare power, and for overall performance and competitiveness. Taipei City boasts an extraordinary city competitive edge; supported by the Central Government's active implementation of free trade economic policies, it can be expected that, in the foreseeable future, Taipei will blossom into a great city that dazzles on the international trade stage.

In-Depth Report

Administrative Technical Terms

- 10 administrative districts: In October 1945, the Japanese colonial era city office was abolished, the City Government was established and Taipei was divided into 10 administrative districts: Songshan, Zhongshan, Da-an, Guting, Chengchong, Jiancheng, Yanping, Datong, Longshan and Shuangyuan.
- Six townships: Shilin, Beitou, Neihu, Nangang, Jingmei and Muzha.
- 16 administrative districts: in 1968 Taipei absorbed six townships in Taipei County and the city's administrative districts increased to 16: Songshan, Zhongshan, Daan, Guting, Chengchong, Jiancheng, Yanping, Datong, Longshan, Shuangyuan, Shilin, Beitou, Neihu, Nangang, Jingmei and Muzha.
- 12 administrative districts: in 1990 the 16 administrative districts were reduced to 12: Songshan, Xinyi, Da-an, Zhongshan, Zhongzheng, Datong, Wanhua, Wenshan, Nangang, Neihu, Shilin and Beitou.
- 456 li(villages), 9568 lin(neighborhoods): Songshan 33 villages and 762 neighborhoods; Xinyi 41 villages and 914 neighborhoods; Daan 53 villages and 1029 neighborhoods; Zhongshan 42 villages and 872 neighborhoods; Zhongzheng 31 villages, 584 neighborhoods; Datong 25 villages and 524 neighborhoods; Wanhua 36 villages and 722 neighborhoods; Wenshan 43 villages and 995 neighborhoods; Nangang 20 villages and 444 neighborhoods; Neihu 39 villages and 906 neighborhoods; Shilin 51 villages and 989 neighborhoods; Beitou 42 villages and 827 neighborhoods.
- Eight electoral districts: First electoral district: Shilin, Beitou; Second electoral district: Neihu, Nangang; Third electoral district: Songshan, Xinyi; Fourth electoral district: Zhongshan, Datong; Fifth electoral district: Zhongzheng, Wanhua; Sixth electoral district: Daan, Wenshan; Seventh electoral district: Plains aborigines; Eighth electoral district: Mountain aborigines.