

● Chapter 1

Taipei Overview

In the first year of the Guangxu reign in Qing Dynasty (1875), the administrative districts in Taiwan were redrawn; Taipei Prefecture was newly added in Northern Taiwan, accentuating the importance of Taipei. During the Japanese colonial period, Taipei was designated Taihoku Prefecture; in 1920, or the 9th year of the Dazheng period, Taipei Municipal Office was founded, marking the first official usage of the term “Taipei City.” After Taiwan's retrocession, Taipei was designated a provincial city. In 1967, it was elevated to become an Executive-Yuan-governed municipality, and Taipei advanced at a breakneck pace. It now houses the Taipei 101 skyscraper, a robust and convenient mass transit system, and a future-proof wireless network, making it one of the most vibrant metropolises in the world.



Taipei Overview

Originally the home of the aboriginal Ketagalan tribe, Taipei later became the new frontier of Han Chinese immigrants, and was heralded as the central hub in Northern Taiwan. The opening of the Danshui port in the mid 19th century triggered flourishing foreign trade at Dadaocheng and a booming economy. Flaunting fine geographical surroundings of mountains and water, a comfortable climate, diligent ancestors who endured lives of hardship and toiled in pioneer work, and a wealth of cultural and historical heritage, Taipei has moved to become a diverse and multi-cultural metropolis.

Part 1 Geographical Overview

1. Topographical Overview

Taipei City is situated in the northern part of Taiwan Island to include the northeast of the Taipei Basin and the surrounding hill areas. It borders Taipei County all around. On the north and east sides are the hill areas and Keelung Valley, as it adjoins Danshui, Sanzhi, Jinshan, Wanli, Xizhi, Shiding, and Shenkeng; on the west and south sides, Danshui River and its tributaries-the Xindian River and the Jingmei River-separate Taipei City from Xindian, Zhonghe, Yonghe, Banqiao, Sanchong, Luzhou and Wugu. The City reaches northernmost to the Little Peak-south of Zhuzi Volcano, bordering the Beitou District, Sanzhi and Jinshan Townships; the eastern edge is the border between Nangang District, Xizhi and Shiding; the southern rim marks the border between Wenshan District and Xindian City; Guandu faces Beitou District and Wugu as the City's westernmost edge. The length from north to south is 27.655 km, the width from east to west is measured at 20.754 km; the perimeter of the city is 216 km for a total area of 271.7997 square kilometers, making it the largest city on the island.

Taipei's terrain is higher in the northeast and southeast regions, consisting mostly of volcanic mountains and hills that occupy more than half of the city. The northern Datun volcanic region is high and vast. The terrain is low and flat and mostly basin/river valley land flanked by the north and south hilly areas, slanting slightly towards the northwest.

In Taipei City, the Jingmei, Xindian and Danshui Rivers snake through the south and west rims; the Keelung River and its tributaries-the Shuangxi, Ziming (Sulphur) and Beitou Rivers cut through the city, converging with the Danshui River at Guandu, and flow into the Taiwan Strait at Danshui. The riverbanks were the prime trading hubs in Taipei City's early days, such as Mengjia and Dadaocheng, which were once vital business centers and cradles of cultural development.

In-depth Report

The Four Extreme Geographic Points of Taipei

Eastern: Jiujuang Borough, Nangang District
(121°39'30" East longitude and 25°01'51" North latitude)

Western: Guandu Borough, Beitou District
(121°27'10" East longitude and 25°06'59" North latitude)

Southern: Zhinan Borough, Wenshan District
(24°57'42" North latitude and 121°35'22" East longitude)

Northern: Hushan Borough, Beitou District
(25°12'46" North latitude and 121°33'04" East longitude)

2. Topographical Differences

Taipei City's terrain and geological structure can be divided approximately into 3 topographies: volcanoes, hills and basin areas. Mountains occupy 8.49% of the total area, while the basin occupies 86.33%, and rivers make up the remaining 5.08%.

(1) Volcanic Areas

The volcanic region in the city is part of the Datun Volcano range. It consists of a few cone- and bell-shaped andesite volcanoes. The well-known ones are: Qixing, Shamao, Xiaoguanyin, Datun, and Miantian, which are extinct volcanoes, but still show some post-volcanic activities from time to time. Research conducted on Datun volcano hypothesized that Datun's last eruption was 100 thousand years ago; however, a recent study indicates that 5,500 years ago, Datun exhibited signs of eruption, though the eruption force was not powerful. The destructive power of Datun's eruptions was limited to small streams of lava; hence its categorization as a stable volcano.



The magnificent Datun Mountain—an important mountain range in Northern Taiwan.

(2) Hill Areas

Most of the sedimentary rock-formed hill areas are located on the southeast edge of the city. Such hills belong to Taiwan's western over thrust fault upland; since they are located on the west side of the northern tip of the island, they have a relatively low altitude with moderate undulation and are considered hills instead of mountains. The Taipei hill areas are then divided into south and north at the Keelung River Valley; the northern part is formed by the Neihu Hills, and the southern part of the Nangang Hills.

A. Neihu Hills

They lie between the southern reaches of the Shuangxi River Valley and the Keelung River Valley, forming the western edge of the Great Wulun Mountain range. The hills have a monocline structure of east-north-east towards west-south-west. The main peaks are made up of Wuzhi Mountain, Lingtong Mountain, Zhongyong Mountain, Yuanjue Peak, Jinmian Mountain, Jinan Mountain, and Jiantan Mountain. The ridge slopes from north to south and from east to west, and eventually merges into the Taipei Basin.

B. Nangang Hills

These hills extend from south of the Keelung River Valley to north of the Qingtan River Valley, including Nangang and the western reaches of Fushi Mountain. The southeast peak--Cige Mountain has the highest altitude of 678 meters; the others are less than 300 meters high. The more famous mountains are Muzhi Mountain, Dailaokeng Mountain, Jingmei Mountain and Toad Mountain; the terrain descends from east to west.

(3) Basin

Taipei is a formative basin; a fault passes along the bottom of the basin, forming a distinctive basin floor in the shape of a slight isosceles triangle. The tip of the triangle faces northwest, where the Danshui River leaves the basin from that opening. The bottom of the triangle extends from east-north-east towards west-south-west; the eastern tip connects to the Keelung River Valley, while the western tip conjoins the Dahan River Valley, and the Xindian River Valley merges at the middle bottom of the triangle. The Keelung River snakes through the bottom of the basin, while the Dahan and Xindian Rivers flow in an obvious grid



The Tamsui River running north-south through the Taipei Basin.

pattern. The aforementioned three rivers converge at the center of the basin, which then travels through the Guandu Notch, streaming into the Taiwan Strait at Danshui. The base of the basin is quite flat, and tilts in a northwesterly direction from the southeast. The basin plain, where Taipei City nestles, starts from the east bank of Xindian and Danshui Rivers; it reaches the aforementioned volcanoes and the foothill areas. The whole area begins south from Jingmei, north to Guandu and east to Nangang. The contour of the foothills around the edge of the basin plain is relatively lumpy and jagged; some foothills have the shape of

a protruding peninsula or a concave inner harbor. Small island-shaped hills are not unusual, such as Qilian Hill and Jiantan Hill, wedged into the plain, while Yuanshan, Zhishan Cliff and Gongguan Mountain on the other hand are all isolated hills. The river terrace formed by ancient Taipei Lake still exists; in general, the terrace faintly slopes to the center of the basin, which shows the level of the lake during the transgression period.

3. Climate Overview

Deeply affected by the topography, the climate also shows evident spatial variations. Temperature decreases as altitude increases, and climate variations are more evident in winter than in summer.

Using the Taipei Plain as the example, data provided by the Central Weather Bureau recorded from the Taipei Meteorological Station in 2010 are as follows:

Accumulated Rainfall: 2,278.3 millimeters

Heaviest Rainfall in a Single Day: 132 millimeters (August 30, 2010)

Annual Rainy Days: 168 days

Average Temperature: 23.3°C

Absolute Highest Temperature: 38.6°C (July 3, 2010)

Absolute Lowest Temperature: 7°C (January 13, 2010)

Average Relative Humidity: 75.5%

Affected by latitude, altitude, terrain and monsoons, Taipei's climate is generally characterized as warm in the winter and hot in the summer. It rains throughout the four seasons and is generally warm and humid.

Part 2 Taipei's History and Development

1. The Origin of the Name – Taipei

The name "Taipei" first emerged at the end of Emperor Kangxi's rule and the early years of Emperor Yongzheng's reign. Lan Ding-yuan's *Zhuqianpu Journal* said as much: "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, the fortress was built on the path of freshwater, the land was flat and extremely fertile, should it be ploughed, there would be thousands of hectares of productive fields. Taipei promises a prosperous outlook for people's livelihood." This area referred to as "Taipei" was the area north of Zhuqian in Northern Taiwan.

In 1875, first year of the Guangxu reign, Imperial Commissioner Shen Bao-zhen established the Taipei Prefecture in Mengjia (a general term used for Taipei's main municipality at the time), and built the Taipei

Prefecture Office (located in today's Zhongzheng District), making Taipei an administrative district. In 1884, the 10th year of Emperor Guangxu, the construction of a walled city was completed.

After Taiwan became a province of China, the first Governor Liu Ming-chuan immediately set up his office in the Taipei Prefecture, where development revolved around the inner city and Dadaocheng. These two areas, together with Mengjia, later became the heart of the city and were called the "Three Market Streets."

During the Japanese Colonial Period, Sotokufu (the Governor-General House) declared municipal organization for Taiwan. In 1920, based on the Organization Statute, Taipei was made a Prefecture City and the Taipei Municipal Office was founded. The name "Taipei City" thus officially emerged.

2. Ketagalan Tribe's Inhabitation

Taipei City is situated in the center of the Taipei Basin in Northern Taiwan. According to geological estimation, the Taipei Basin was a large lake in ancient times; and after years of sedimentation, it then developed into a basin. In Yu Yong-he's *Great Sea Journal*, he wrote: "Upon entering Guandu Notch, it suddenly widened up into a boundless yet infinitely large lake that stretches more than ten kilometers which 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 used to be 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 tribespeople to inhabit Northern Taiwan, living in areas as far as the present-day Taoyuan in the south and Sandiaoling and Yilan in the north, spreading throughout the present-day areas of Keelung, Danshui and Taipei. According to the Japanese scholar Kanori Ino, the Ketagalan settlement in Sandiaoling was established near the western seashore, via Keelung, Jinbaoli, Fuguijiao, Huwei, following along the Keelung River into the Taipei Basin; those who settled in the Xizhi district were known as Fengzisi Community; those who inhabited the Songshan district formed Xikou Community; those who settled down in Dadaocheng formed Guibeng Community, and those in Dalongtong, Dalangbeng Community; some also crossed the Xindian River to form the Baijie and Xiulang Communities. They were the earliest documented inhabitants in the Taipei Basin.

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

In the 16th century, junk boats sailed along the coast of Mainland China and Taiwan, and boatmen engaged in trading and fishing in the Keelung and Danshui regions. In 1622, the Dutch invaded Dayuan (now Anping, Tainan). In 1626, the Spanish occupied Keelung and Danshui, 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 Danshui, and began to carry out missionary work and trade. In 1661, Koxinga (Zheng Cheng-gong) landed at Luermen, besieged Fort Zeelandia, expelled the Dutch



Taipei South Gate in 1896 (22nd year of the Guangxu reign).



The Taipei City Government (Taipei Municipal Office) during the Japanese occupation.

and reclaimed Taiwan. In the following year, the Dutch were ousted, and Zheng officially made Taiwan his base and set up the Chengtian Prefecture; Wannian and Tianxing counties were set up; Taipei belonged to Tianxing County at that time. Koxinga dispatched the renowned General Huang-an to oversee Danshui and implemented a land development system later on. Troops were stationed along the Danshui River to plough areas between present-day Guandu and Beitou. Even now, historic relics can still be spotted in these places.

4. Development During the Qing Dynasty

In the 22nd year of Emperor Kangxi's reign (1683) of the Qing dynasty, Taiwan was reclaimed as part of the Qing territory. The following year, Taiwan Prefecture was established. Zhuluo, Taiwan and Fenshan counties were thus set up. Since then, immigrants from Fujian and Guangdong province increased in large numbers. In the 48th year of Emperor Kangxi's reign (1709), after Chen Lai-zhang asked for governmental permission to settle in the Dajiala area (today's Mengjia, Xinzhuang and Dalongdong areas), more and more Han Chinese moved to Northern Taiwan. During the Qianlong period, starting with Sweet Potato Street (named from to the trading of sweet potatoes between Han settlers and aboriginal people) in Mengjia, where the Xindian and Danshui Rivers meet, Taipei began to develop into a political, military and business center. During Emperor Jiaqing's reign, the saying "Tainan first, Lugang second, Mengjia third" heralded Mengjia as the third largest harbor city in Taiwan. During Emperor Tongzhi's reign (1862-1874), Dadaocheng thrived due to the tea trade, as Taipei tea became famous in the international market. In the 10th year of Emperor Guangxu (1884), Taipei was made a city, and in Guangxu's 13th year (1887), Taiwan was officially designated a province. The first governor was Liu Ming-chuan, and during his term in Taipei, he planned and constructed Taipei City; railways, streets/roads and schools were built. Taipei's walled city was devised as the administrative district, while Dadaocheng was developed into a business district. The present-day Guide Street area was planned as a foreigners' community. Such city planning laid down a sound development foundation for Taipei City.

5. The Japanese Colonial Period

After Japan occupied Taiwan in 1895, or the 21st year of the Guangxu period, the Taiwan Sotokufu (Governor-General House) was established in Taipei City. Between 1899 and 1901, or the 32nd and 34th years of the Meiji Period, the Japanese expanded the streets in Taipei City and improved drainage. In the 38th year of the Meiji (1905), Japanese colonists demolished the Taipei City walls built during the late Qing dynasty, and built roads along the foundation of the original walls, connecting Mengjia, the Inner City and Dadaocheng and expanding the overall administrative area of Taipei. In 1920, or the 9th year of the Dazheng period, Taipei State Governed City was established, its administrative district extended beyond the aforementioned three districts



Oolong tea packed for export (1916).



Tea-picking in Dadaocheng (1931).



Taipei Sakaecho in 1925 (present-day Hengyang Road).



View of Datun Mountain from inside Taipei City (1930).

to today's Daan, Zhonglun and Songshan in East Taipei.

6. Development Boom After of Taiwan Retrocession

Upon retrocession in 1945, Taipei was designated a provincial city. In October of the same year, the Japanese administrative system was abolished, and the city government was instituted. Under the new system, 10 administrative districts were put in place, in which borough was set under district, and neighborhood under borough. In 1949, the Central Government relocated to Taiwan, and in 1950, local self-government was implemented at the county and city level; for the first time, Taipei City elected its city councilmen, and the city council was founded, setting the groundwork for democracy. On December 31, 1966, in view of Taipei being the temporary wartime capital as well as the political, military, cultural and

economical center of Taiwan, the president announced Taipei as a directly-controlled municipality in July 1967. A year after, on July 1, 1968, Jingmei, Muzha, Nangang, Neihu, Shilin and Beitou townships were incorporated as a part of Taipei, giving Taipei City a total of 16 administrative districts.

On March 12, 1990, readjustments were made to Taipei's administrative districts; 12 districts were redrawn, namely Datong, Zhongzheng, Wanhua, Zhongshan, Shilin, Beitou, Songshan, Nangang, Neihu, Xinyi, Daan, and Wenshan. They have remained effective until today.

Although Taipei City and New Taipei City, which was reorganized as a direct-controlled municipality on December 25, 2010 and renamed New Taipei City, are two separate administrative bodies in the Taipei Basin, both have grown inseparably closer, due to the extensive MRT lines bridging the barriers between the two municipalities, forming the tight-knit Greater Taipei area.



Taipei 101—the landmark skyscraper.

Part 3 Demographic Make-up

One year after Taiwan Retrocession in 1945, a national census was conducted. The population at that time was 271,754. In 1968, the six districts of Neihs, Nangang, Muzha, Jingmei, Shilin and Beitou were incorporated into Taipei City, and the population at the end of that year totaled 1,604,543. By the end of 2010, the population reached 2,618,772 (males 1,262,554; females 1,356,218). Compared with 2009, the total population increased by 11,344 (males up by 2,104; females up by 9,240).

1. Demographic Distributions

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

(1) Population Density

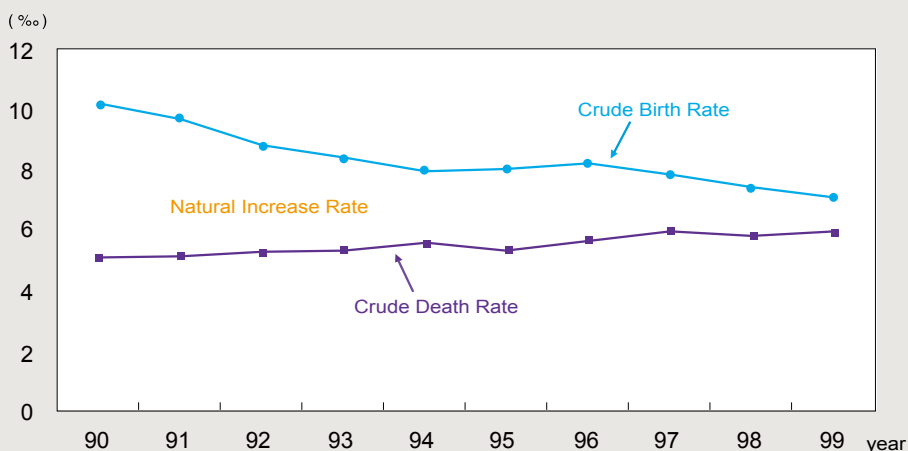
By the end of 2010, the population density was 9,635 people per square kilometer. By district, Daan was the most densely populated with 27,423 people per square kilometer, whereas Beitou was the least populated with 4,386 people per square kilometer.

(2) Births and Deaths

The crude birth rate in 2010 was 7.09%, a 0.33% decrease over the previous year. The crude death rate was 5.89%, an increase of 0.05% from the previous year. Social environment and economic factors have affected people's willingness to give birth. The increasingly flagging birthrate has caused a continuous increase in the elderly population in the last decade. To avert the problems of a rapid decline in population and the overly aging population from affecting economic development in the future, encouraging reasonable population growth is an issue to be tackled at present.

2. Population Make-up

From demographic data, we are able to understand the make-up of the population and analyze the origins and nature of social problems and the relationship between population and social economy.



Source: Department of Civil Affairs, Taipei City Government

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

Hence population make-up is an important indicator of social and economic changes and is crucial for the government to use as a frame of reference in formulating current and future social welfare policies.

(1) Age Distributions

Generally speaking, the more people who are able to work, the lower the dependency ratio; the larger the labor force engaged in productive activities, the more beneficial it is towards economic advancement. By the end of 2010, the younger population (between the ages of 0-14) was 383,774; the working adult population (between the ages of 15-64) was 1,903,092, while the elderly population (above 65) was 331,906. The dependency ratio was 37.61%, down by 0.69% from the previous year.

(2) Marital Status

In 2010, the number of couples registered for marriage was 17,321, and the crude marriage rate was 6.63‰; the number of couples filed for divorce was 6,092, and the crude divorce rate was 2.33‰. Compared to the previous year, the crude marriage rate was up by 1.17‰, while the crude divorce rate was up by 0.03‰.

(3) Distribution of Aboriginal People

Aboriginal tribes consist of the Amis Tribe, Atayal Tribe, Paiwan Tribe, Bunun Tribe, Rukai Tribe, Puyuma Tribe, Tsou Tribe, Saisiat Tribe, Yami Tribe, Thao Tribe, Kuvalan Tribe, Taroko Tribe, Sakizaya Tribe and Sediq Tribe. By the end of 2010, the aboriginal population of Taipei City was 13,745. The largest population was the Amis, while the Thao, and the Sakizaya had the least number of residents. Aborigines mostly live in Neihsu, Wenshan, and Nangang districts.

Table 1 : Taipei City Population Age Distribution

Year	Aged 0-14	Aged 15-64	Aged over 65
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
2008	15.56	72.13	12.31
2009	15.10	72.30	12.60
2010	14.66	72.67	12.67

Unit: %

Source: Department of Civil Affairs, Taipei City Government

(4) New Immigrants and Foreigners

From Taiwan's increasingly frequent political, economic, societal and cultural exchanges, Taiwanese citizens' worldview has been expanded, leading to an increase in marriage to foreign and Mainland Chinese people. By the end of 2010, Taipei had a population of 33,766 new immigrants, the majority being Mainland Chinese spouses (30,557 people), other foreign spouses were 3,209 in number; the majority of new immigrants were



Increase in marriages with foreigners.

resident in the Wanhua (4,751), Wenshan (3,500), and Xinyi (3,385) districts. In order to assist new immigrants in assimilating into the local society, and facilitate the shaping of a multi-cultural society, the Taipei City Government has continued to hold a series of workshops and classes, including the New Immigrant Growth Camp, and language, computer and performance workshops taught in the immigrant workers' native tongues (Vietnamese, Indonesian, and Thai).

Globalization and the quick spread of information have made ubiquitous the transmission of information that reaches everywhere: convenient communication shortens the distance between people, and is gradually breaking down boundaries in the world. Due to economic and construction progress, transportation to Taipei is easier than ever; the city often hosts large international meetings, events and exhibitions. There is also an increasing number of foreigners attending school here and taking part in international academic,

In-depth Report

Population-Related Rates

Crude Birth Rate: the number of successful births against every one thousand of the total population in the same year.

Crude Death Rate: the number of deaths against total population number in the same year, namely the death number of every one thousand people.

Dependency Ratio: a rough estimation of dependants against working age population.

Crude Marriage Rate: the percentage of married couples against the total population in the same period during a particular timeframe.

Crude Divorce Rate: the percentage of divorced couples against the total population in the same period during a particular timeframe.



Group picture of new immigrants at the graduation ceremony.



Dance showcase by new immigrants.



New immigrants in Growth Camp.



Taking-Root Ceremony for new immigrants.



Students in the parent-child interaction class.

cultural or financial exchanges. By the end of 2010, the number of foreigners residing in Taiwan was 53,683; among them, 23,341 Indonesians accounted for the majority, followed by 5,912 Vietnamese and 4,755 people from Japan.

Part 4 Political Systems and Administration

Taipei City is a self-governing body established in accordance with the laws of the Republic of China. Except for judicature, national defense and diplomacy, it enjoys substantial autonomy and is under the jurisdiction of the Executive Yuan. It is the capital of the R.O.C., as well as a political, economic and cultural hub. Businesses and industries are well developed with complete and sound economic, cultural, transportation and administration facilities.

1. History of Administrative System

Since the Japanese Colonial Period and after the R.O.C. Government retreated to Taiwan, Taipei City has always been Taiwan's political, economic and cultural capital. In 1945, after Taiwan Retrocession, Taipei City became a "provincial city" under the jurisdiction of the Taiwan Provincial Government. In light of the increasing importance of Taipei City, in 1967, Taipei was changed to an "Executive-Yuan-governed municipality" and remains so to this day.

(1) Taipei During the Provincial Government Era

After Taiwan Retrocession, Taipei was designated as a “provincial city” under the jurisdiction of the provincial government as an administrative body. The city government was established and the mayor was appointed by the central government. In 1946, the legislative authority “City Joint Council” was re-established, with members elected by representatives of the residents. The city was divided into 10 districts, each assigned a legal person. District councils and representative assemblies were set up, where residents from each borough elected district representatives, and the head of each district was voted by district representatives. Local autonomy followed in 1950, and the city government and city council were set up as the administrative and legislative authorities, respectively. Districts were no longer assigned legal persons; district offices were retained but there were no more district assemblies. The district offices were subordinate to the city government.

(2) Taipei During the Central Government Era

In 1967, Taipei was made an Executive-Yuan-governed municipality. The following year, six neighboring townships in Taipei County were subsumed into Taipei City; the administrative districts increased from 10 to 16. After this reorganization, Taipei City became an administrative body, and the city council and city government were set up. 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 instead of being elected by the people. 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. It was not until 1994, when the city became a legal person under the “Self-Governance Act for Executive-Yuan-governed Municipality” and the mayor was elected by the people at the end of the year, did Taipei regain its local self-governing status. Although the laws and regulations have changed since then, Taipei City retains its status as an autonomous legal person.

According to the current Local Government Systems Act, the administration is divided into districts, and for the convenience of management, districts are organized into boroughs, and boroughs are organized into neighborhoods. Since 1973, there have been six adjustments to boroughs, the most recent one being in July, 2010. By the end of 2010, there were 456 boroughs and 9,532 neighborhoods in Taipei.

2. Current Organization and Power Structure of Taipei City

The Local Government Systems Act is the legal basis for the organization of Taipei City. Taipei City is a legal person and the city government is the supreme government with no secondary government. It has an administrative authority, the Taipei City Government, and a legislative body, the Taipei City Council, responsible for administrative and legislative decisions, respectively. The rights and obligations for citizens of Taipei, the organization structure/power of Taipei City Council, and the interactions between the two authorities are described as follows:

(1) Rights and Obligations of Taipei Citizens

A. Rights of Citizens

- (A) The right to elect and impeach local public officials.
- (B) The right to exercise initiative and referendum concerning local self-governing items.
- (C) The right to use local public facilities.
- (D) The right to enjoy local education, social welfare, medicine and health care in accordance with the laws and self-governing laws.
- (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. Obligations of Citizens

- (A) To abide by self-governing laws and regulations.
- (B) To pay self-governing taxes.
- (C) To fulfill other obligations in accordance with the law and self-governing laws and regulations.

(2) The Organization of the Taipei City Government

The administrative authority in charge of Taipei City is the Taipei City Government. It uses a leadership system and has a mayor, who represents the city and oversees city affairs and is chosen by the people in an election (current Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-bin 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 two deputy mayors in place to assist the mayor with all tasks; they leave office at the same time as the mayor. A secretary-general is also in place under the command of the mayor to assist in governmental affairs. Under the Taipei City Government, there are 17 departments and bureaus in charge of civil affairs, finance, education, industry development, transportation, public works, social welfare, labor affairs, police administration, health, environmental protection, urban development, culture, fire, information and tourism, rapid transit systems, and the Feitsui Reservoir; eight departments and offices responsible for secretarial affairs, land administrations, compulsory military service, information technology, accounting, personnel affairs, government ethics, and civil servant training; six commissions in charge of research and development, urban planning, administrative appeals, laws and regulations, aboriginal affairs and Hakka affairs; two business operations, the Taipei Water Department and the Taipei Rapid Transit Corporation, under the Taipei City Government; and 12 Districts directly subordinate to the Taipei City Government.

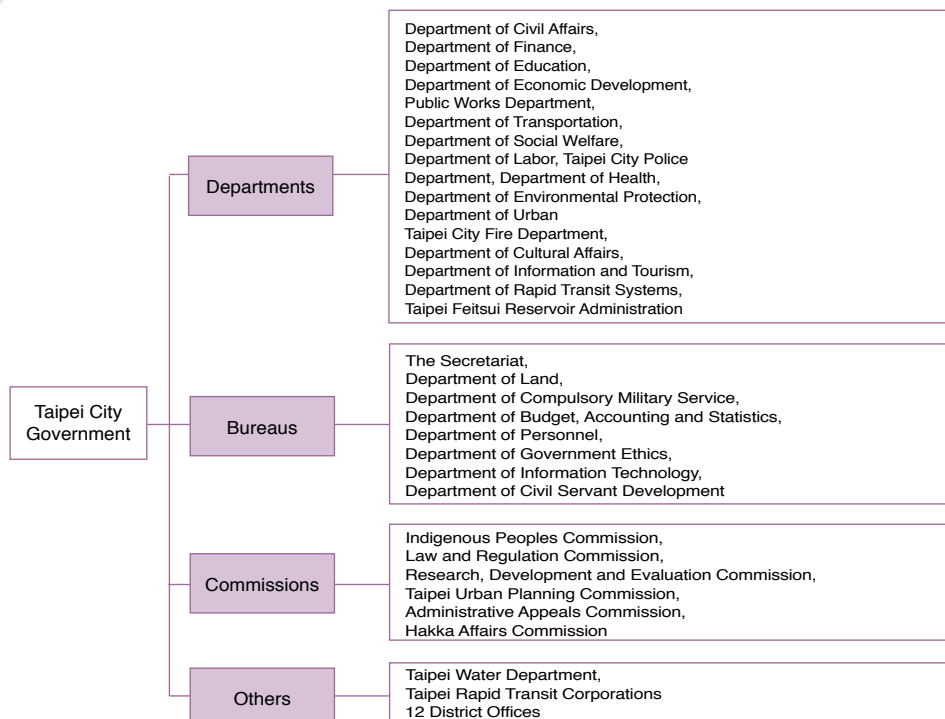


Figure 2 : Organizational Chart of the Taipei City Government

(3) Power and Operation Models of the Taipei City Government

As a legal person, Taipei City is a local autonomous organization. It handles 13 categories of self-governing tasks: organizational and administrative management, finance, social services, educational, cultural and sports affairs, labor administration, urban planning and construction, economic services, health and environmental protection, water resources, transportation and tourism, public security, business operations and management and other law-endowed affairs.

In order to exercise its power, a subordinate “Mayoral Cabinet Meeting” was established, consisting of the mayor, deputy mayors, secretary-general, the deputy secretary-general, heads of Grade 1 departments, bureaus, and commissions. It is convened and chaired by the mayor. In the forum, the following issues are discussed and determined:

- A. Taipei City Government policy planning, budget settlement and fiscal year report.
- B. Proposals or reports to be put before the Taipei City Council.
- C. Self-governing laws and regulations for the Taipei City Government and its business operations.
- D. Policies and task assignments of the Taipei City Government's affiliated organizations.
- E. Self-governing regulations of Taipei City.
- F. Joint issues between the Taipei City Government and other organizations.
- G. Tasks assigned by the mayor.
- H. Other important issues related to Taipei City Government policy.

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

The “Mayoral Cabinet Meeting” is a collegiate system. The Taipei City Government, however, uses a leadership system and the mayor is responsible for all political affairs and their outcomes; therefore, forums are rarely carried out according to the collegiate system as the mayor makes the ultimate decisions. The “Mayoral Cabinet Meeting” provides the Mayor with ideas and opinions and is not an implementing institute. The actual implementing authorities are Taipei City Government Grade 1 bodies and the 12 district offices.

(4) Limitations of Taipei City Government's Power

Taipei City is a self-governing body, an R.O.C. self-governing local unit, and is not independent from the country; therefore it must execute missions mandated and commissioned by the central government. Should Taipei City's self-governing decisions violate the constitution, laws or regulations, they will be revoked, altered, repealed or terminated by the central government.

Should any commissioned tasks violate the constitution, laws and regulations, central government statutes, or other legitimate legislations, the central government also has the right to revoke, alter, repeal or terminate its implementation. A request for constitutional interpretation by the Justice Yuan is allowed to determine whether a self-governed task violates the constitution, laws and regulations, or central government statutes; before the constitutional interpretation, the central government may not revoke, alter, repeal or terminate its implementation. The city government's enforcement powers are, of course, supervised by the city council.

(5) The Organization of the Taipei City Council

The Taipei City Council is composed of councilmen, who are directly elected by citizens. The elections are held in the six electoral districts across Taipei's 12 districts at the same time to elect 60 councilors. In order to protect the rights of aborigines, two aboriginal councilors are elected.

The Taipei City Council has a speaker (the 11th Speaker is Ms. Wu Bi-chu) chosen by all of the councilors, where the speaker represents the city council. One deputy Speaker, one chief secretary

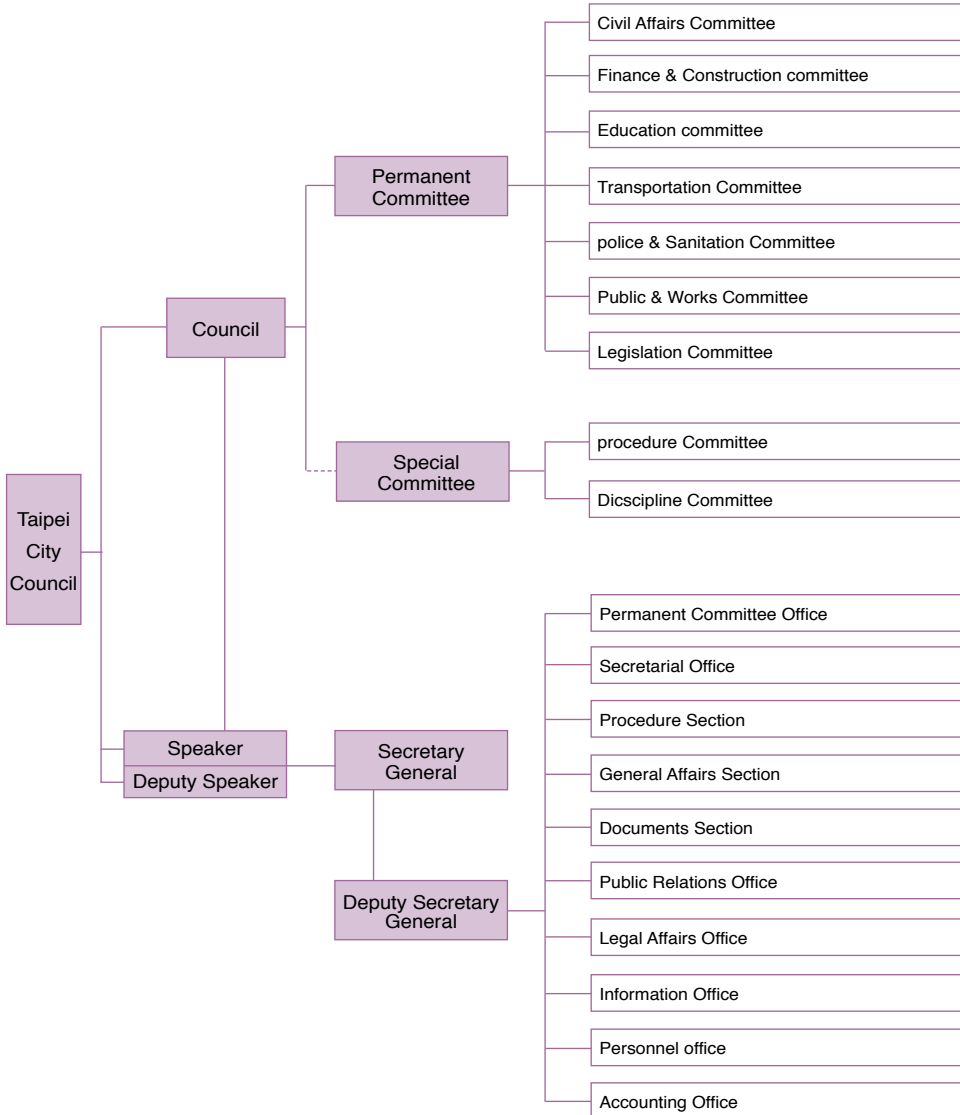


Figure 3 : Organizational Chart of the Taipei City Council

general and one deputy chief secretary general are also in place. The chief secretary general is under the command of the speaker, who handles council tasks and supervises staff; the deputy assists the Chief with all council tasks. There are sections and offices set up for various duties.

(6) Power and Operational Models of the Taipei City Council

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

- A. To resolve on Taipei laws and regulations.
- B. To resolve on Taipei City budgets.
- C. To resolve on Taipei City taxes.
- D. To resolve on the management of city assets.
- E. To resolve on the self-governing rules for the Taipei City Government and its affiliated organizations.
- F. To resolve on the proposals put forward by the Taipei City Government.
- G. To review the Taipei City fiscal year report.
- H. To resolve on the proposals put forward by councilors of the Taipei City Council.
- I. To accept petitions from the people.
- J. Other powers stipulated by laws.

The Taipei City Council has an assembly that exercises authority using a collegiate system. Decisions are made by majority vote in accordance with the procedure required by laws. For 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 committees have been 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 council meetings for voting. The disciplinary committee also 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 authorities:

- A. Attending meetings and examining proposals (in all committees and meetings).
- B. Interpellation: during council meetings, the council members can invite the mayor and heads of Grade 1 government agencies to stand for questioning.
- C. Putting forward proposals: proposals may be brought up under a quorum agreement.
- D. Hearing reports: listening to policy and special case reports.

The aforementioned rights are intended to ensure that the councilors fulfill their responsibilities.

(7) Limitations on the Taipei City Council and Councilor's Power

The exercise of authority for the city council and the councilors are not without limits; they are bounded by the following principles:

- A. When a self-governed decision made by the council violates the constitution, laws and regulations or other legitimate legislations, the decision is deemed invalid; request for constitutional interpretation by the Justice Yuan is allowed, provided a doubt arises as to conflict between laws and regulations.
- B. Resolved 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 a resolution for expenditure upsurge.
- 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) The Relationship between the Taipei City Government and the Taipei City Council

The relationships between the city government and the city council are legislated by law and system policies. In sum, the relationships are as follows:

- A. Supervising and being supervised: through reviewing and hearing, the city council represents citizens to listen to the city government's policy plans, budgets and important policy implementation reports; the

city council also supervises the questioning of city government officials.

- B. Checks and balances: the city council limits the expansion of administrative authorities by legislation; 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 on the basis of policy implementation; the city council members represent the people and shall consider citizens' welfare and needs to carefully review proposals from the city government.

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

The operations of power between the Taipei City Government and the Taipei City Council are through the aforementioned legal protocols, such as policy reports, special case reports, proposal review, questioning, coordination, hearing 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 made through political parties (the ruling party).
- C. Coordination made by political party meetings.
- D. Integrated coordination by the central government.

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

Conclusion

Since Taipei was established 125 years ago, the city has evolved through different political eras, made possible by the unceasing efforts of its residents. It has transformed itself from an agricultural society into the economic and political hub of Taiwan. Today, Taipei has a self-governing legal person status, and enjoys great autonomous privileges. Served by the Songshan Airport, convenient city roads, a robust mass transit network, highways that connect Taipei to the rest of the island, an electric railway system, as well as a high-speed rail; these transportation networks link Keelung harbor, Taipei harbor, Taoyuan airport, creating a prosperous environment for international trade. A part of Taipei's social development is attributed to the increase in Taipei citizens marrying foreign and Mainland Chinese spouses. Their immigration to Taipei instills an exotic flavor into Taipei's cultural landscape, as can be seen from the many foreign restaurants and foreign living and dining cultures that can be easily found in this multi-cultural society. Due to the initiative of the Taipei City Government, a series of urban renewal projects has improved the living environment of Taipei: the Blue Highway, revitalization of the Danshui River, public planting schemes and construction of road leveling, and revamping of roadside arcades in order to beautify the city environment and landscape, making Taipei an even more attractive place to live. Taipei City possesses outstanding competitive power, from the central government's active expansion of free trade economic policy; the future will inevitably yield extraordinary results as Taipei grows into a dazzling center of international economy and trade.

Administrative Nomenclature

- ◎ **10 Administrative Districts:** In October, 1945, the Taipei Municipal Office under the Japanese administrative system was abolished, and the Taipei City Government was instituted; 10 administrative districts were in place-Songshan, Zhongshan, Daan, Guting, Chengzhong, Jiancheng, Yanping, Datong, Longshan and Shuangyuan,.
- ◎ **6 Townships and Villages:** Shilin, Beitou, Neihu, Nangang, Jingmei and Muzha
- ◎ **16 Administrative Districts:** In 1968, six townships and villages were subsumed into Taipei City to make a total of 16 administrative districts - Songshan, Zhongshan, Da-an, 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.
- ◎ **456 Boroughs, 9,532 Neighborhoods:** Songshan: 33 boroughs, 760 neighborhoods. Xinyi: 41 boroughs, 914 neighborhoods. Daan: 53 boroughs, 1,027 neighborhoods. Zhongshan: 42 boroughs, 872 neighborhoods. Zhongzheng: 31 boroughs, 584 neighborhoods. Datong: 25 boroughs, 524 neighborhoods. Wanhua: 36 boroughs, 722 neighborhoods. Wenshan: 43 boroughs, 994 neighborhoods. Nangang: 20 boroughs, 443 neighborhoods. Neihu: 39 boroughs, 884 neighborhoods. Shilin: 51 boroughs, 987 neighborhoods. Beitou: 42 boroughs, 821 neighborhoods.
- ◎ **6 Electoral Districts:** First: Shilin and Beitou. Second: Neihu and Nangang. Third: Songshan and Xinyi. Fourth: Zhongshan and Datong. Fifth: Zhongzheng and Wanhua. Sixth: Daan and Wenshan.