

## **Taichung City, Taiwan (R.O.C.) (Population: 2.66 million, Category E)**

Taichung City is located in central Taiwan. In 2010, 82% of its residents voted for integrating Taichung City and County into a single special municipality—a measure taken to strengthen regional governance and enhance government service quality. The result of this initiative is a brand-new international metropolis that encompasses an area of 2,214 km<sup>2</sup> and is home to a total population of 2.66 million residents.

### **Enhancement of the Natural and Built Landscapes**

Measures adopted to achieve sustainability include constructing bicycle paths all around the city, planting trees along streets, building parks, and creating green spaces. Specifically, 468,636 trees have been planted, 308 km of bicycle paths have been built, and 478 parks have been created. The amount of green space per capita is 3.79 m<sup>2</sup>, a 10.4% increase since 2007.

As part of the policy, institutions and teams of individuals dedicated to the management of natural resources have been set up. Specifically, four ecological conservation areas, three scenic areas, four national recreational parks, and two eco-industrial parks have been established.

Taichung City represents a fusion of old and new architectural styles. By preserving its rich cultural history, 66 historic buildings are being used in new ways. Taichung's downtown area boasts masterpieces created by internationally renowned architects. These buildings not only integrate the concept of environmentalism but also enhance the beauty of the metropolis. Among these masterpieces, the Fulfillment Amphitheater won the 2011 FIABCI Prix d'Excellence Award, with the New Taichung City Hall receiving the same honor in 2012.

### **Arts, Culture and Heritage**

To promote cultural activities and awareness, national art and science museums, libraries and local cultural centers have been built. Four local cultural centers and 21 art galleries have been set up. An event that integrates local specialty industries is the Taichung Jazz Festival. In 2011, a group of 1,432 saxophone players gathered to set a new Guinness World Record for the number of saxophones being played simultaneously. In 2007, Taichung was honored as the “City of Culture and Art” by the World Leadership Forum in London for its superb cultural and artistic infrastructure.

The Cultural Heritage Administration Center was established to preserve both tangible and intangible cultural assets. The city is home to 36 registered monuments, 75 historic architectures, four historic sites, three types of antiques, and seven types of intangible cultural assets.

### **Environmental Best Practices**

Currently, Taichung has a resource-recovery rate of 38.7% and a waste-reduction rate of 48.8%. Compared to 2007 figures, these rates have increased by 8.81% and 9.2%, respectively. In 2002, the establishment of the Second-Hand Furniture Recycling Center further expanded recycling efforts and, to date, it has repaired 74,899 items and has sold 61,022 items.

A total of 23% of residential electricity usage is generated from clean energy and 8.27% of streetlights are LED lights. To promote green transportation, the government constructed commuter and tourist bicycle paths and implemented a ride-for-free program. Additionally, a total of 15 air-quality monitoring stations have been set up to provide early warning reports.

To build an intelligent community, Taichung has boosted WiMAX coverage to 91%. To reduce carbon emissions, the government encourages individuals and businesses to communicate via the Internet. With its improvements in information dissemination, Taichung was honored as one of the Intelligent Community Forum's Top Seven Intelligent Communities of the Year.

### **Community Participation and Empowerment**

In all aspects of policymaking, from policy formation and decision-making to implementation and operation, the government provides residents with diverse ways to participate in the process and share their views and ideas. The 24-hour 1999 service hotline launched in 2009 was used by 500,512 residents in 2011, 4.2 times more than in 2010. To date, the government information platform that was merged and re-launched in 2010 has attracted a cumulative total of 52.57 million users. Furthermore, 817 community planners have been trained to assist communities, and helped to organize 31 river patrol teams and 259 neighborhood watch teams.

### **Healthy Lifestyle**

Promoting the Holistic Health Care program, there is currently an average of 30.1 professional practicing physicians, 62.4 practicing nurses and 37.1 available hospital beds for every 10,000 residents. The government also implemented vaccination and healthy weight-loss programs as well as community healthcare networks and referral services. 147 community healthcare spots, 22 learning academies for the elderly and 5 daycare centers etc. are created to ensure healthy living.

Employment assistance programs are also closely related to the lives of residents. In 2011, the unemployment rate in Taichung City was 4.4%. By setting up firewalls and online traffic monitoring programs, solving criminal cases has increase by 3.5 times compared with 2007 statistics. For every 100,000 residents, cases of criminal and theft has decrease 56.7% and 63.7% respectively from 2007 figures. Taichung is now ranked number-one on the list of Taiwan's top five special municipalities.

### **Strategic Planning**

To build a low-carbon city, Taichung City has set ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The city strives to reduce emissions to 90% of 2009 levels by 2014 and to 80% of 2009 levels by 2020. Six pioneering low-carbon programs are currently being implemented:

1. Intelligent Transportation System: Ride-for-free Taichung Transit jet (First Stage), Bus Rapid Transit (Second Stage) and Mass Rapid Transit (Last Stage).
2. Taichung Gateway District: create a new district will become a center of finance, research, development, education and recreation in a historic part of town.
3. Green Buildings Construction: generates 2.4 billion KWh of clean energy, supplying 30% of residential electricity needs by 2020.
4. Low-carbon Tourism Action Plan: replaced with energy-saving lights at commercial areas. Within four years, this change is projected to reduce electricity usage by 27,000 KWh and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 12.92 tons.
5. Green Sustainable Living: greenery per capita reaches 5 m<sup>2</sup> by 2014 and 5.5 m<sup>2</sup> by 2019.
6. Full Recovery and Zero Waste Project: increase the cost of garbage disposal by 2014, which is projected to reduce the amount of waste by 10-15%.