Since it was first established in 1884, Taipei has undergone numerous changes in political governance, development and demographic makeup, evolving from a traditional agrarian society into a political and economic hub. The outstanding performance of Taipei City was outlined in the “County/City Macro Competitiveness Survey” published in the July 2017 edition of “Global Views Monthly.” In terms of overall performance Taipei City was once again the most competitive city in Taiwan and also came first in four out of the nine categories assessed: “Economy and Employment,” “Education and Culture,” “Medical Services and Public Health” and “Local Finances.”
Over the past 300 years, Taipei City has gradually developed from the small settlements of Monga and Dadaocheng into a bustling commercial district. In 1967, Taipei City was upgraded to a special municipality and through changes in socio-political, socio-economic and democratic thinking, entered a period in which many influential policies were promoted, along with a wide range of art and cultural activities, international exhibitions and competitions. One such example is the extremely successful “2017 Summer Universiade,” which showcased the focus on development and drive that ensures Taipei City is “always moving forward.”

Taipei City covers a land area of 271.7997 square kilometers in size and is currently divided into 12 administrative districts. In terms of natural environment and geological structure, the city contains the three major faults of Xindian, Taipei and Kanjiao, including strata of sedimentary rock and igneous rock. In terms of topography, the city is divided into the Taipei basin, over-thrust fault ridges and the Datun volcano group. In terms of climate, Taipei has a subtropical monsoon climate, which makes it hot in summer, mild in winter and rainy all year. In addition, the summer and autumn months are typhoon season. As far as hydrology is concerned, the three main rivers in Taipei are the Tamsui River, Xindian River and Keelung River.

1. Geology

Based on geological maps published by the Central Geological Survey, exposed stratum in Taipei City include the igneous rock of the Datun volcano group, the remainder being mainly sedimentary rock. Igneous rock is made up of andesite flow and tuff breccia that erupted after the early Quaternary Period and accumulated over the sedimentary rock in the oligocene period and mio-oligocene period. In total, there are more than 10 volcanoes that broadly erupted along the lines of weakness in the Earth’s crust in a northeasterly direction, with more than 15 layer of lava flow which includes many layers of tuff breccia

2. Topography

The topography of Taipei City can be broadly divided into three areas: The Taipei Basin in the
southwest, Datun volcano group in the north and over-thrust fault ridges in the northeast. The Taipei basin is made up of fault displacement and was transformed into its modern appearance by alluviate from the Tamsui River and its tributaries. Taipei City is located in the northeastern section of the Taipei Basin. The Datun volcano group is made up of more than 10 volcanic edifices formed by the flow of volcanic breccias and lava. Most of these are conical in shape though a few are bell-shaped. The river system in the Datun volcano group is radial, controlled by volcanic hard rock that creates waterfalls.

3. Climate

In winter, Taiwan faces a continental high-pressure system from Mongolia and Siberia brought mainly by the northeast monsoon climate. In summer, the country is impacted by a marine high-pressure system from the Pacific Ocean and predominantly the southwest monsoon climate. At the same time, the island’s high mountains and surrounding oceans also contribute to the distinctive seasonal differences in Taipei City. Spring lasts from March to May, summer from June to August, autumn from September to November and winter from December to February.

4. Hydrology

With the exception of Beihuang Creek that runs along the northern border of the city, the main river system in Taipei City is the Tamsui River, which is made up of Dahan Creek (its main tributary), Xindian Creek and Keelung river (two minor tributaries). The river section where the Xindan and Dahan creeks converge is narrowly defined as the Tamsui River. Jingmei River is a tributary of Xindian Creek and Waishuang Creek a tributary of Keelung River. Downstream Tamsui River and its tributaries approach sea level and are tidal river sections, making them susceptible to rising and falling tides. This tidal phenomenon is more regular on the
Keelung River than the Tamsui River, Dahan Creek or Xindian Creek, and there is a clear difference between the impact on upstream and downstream stretches of the river.

**Part 2 History and Development**

**1. The Netherlands, Spain and Koxinga (Zheng Chenggong) in Taiwan**

In the 16th Century, junk boats often traveled to and from coastal communities in China and Taiwan, fishing and trading in the Kelang (today’s Jilong) and Tamsui areas. In 1622 (the 2nd year of emperor Tianqi of Ming Dynasty), the Dutch established a trading post in Dayuan (today’s Anping District, Tainan); in 1626 (the 6th year of emperor Tianqi of Ming Dynasty, the Spanish occupied Kelang and Tamsui, establishing fortifications while they engaged in missionary work and trade. In 1642 (the 15th year of emperor Chongzhen of Ming Dynasty), the Dutch moved north and expelled the Spanish, at which point they took control of Spanish strongholds in Keelung and Tamsui before launching missionary and trade activities in the new area. In 1661 (the 15th year of emperor Yongli of Ming Dynasty), Zheng Chenggong landed at Luermen and his forces laid siege to Fort Zeelandia, chasing the Dutch out of Taiwan the following year. Having taken control of Taiwan Zheng established Chengtian Fu (Governor’s Office) in Tainan and the county governments of Wannian and Tianxing. At that time, Taipei was part of Tianxing County. Zheng also appointed trusted aide, general Huang An, to be in charge of land and naval forces to garrison Tamsui. He later introduced the Tuntian system of state-promoted agriculture, and sent his forces along the Tamsui River to open up the modern day Guandu and Beitou areas.

**2. Developments during the Qing Dynasty**

In the early days, the area on which Taipei

City stands was a hunting and fishing ground for the Ketagalan indigenous people. In 1709, the “Chen-Lai-Zhang Land Grant” established by Han Chinese settlers was granted imperial permission to start large scale development when it was invited to develop Dajiala (Taipei). The first area to have city streets and a market was Monga, today’s Wanhua. This was followed by Shilin Street, Xikou Street, Dalongdong, Dadaocheng and Chengnei
Street. In 1875, Imperial Envoy Shen Baozhen asked for the permission of the Qing court to establish Taipei Prefecture, as a result of which Taipei became a prefecture-level administrative district. In 1884, the building of a walled city was completed. In 1885, Taiwan was designated a province and the Qing Court appointed Liu Mingchuan as its first governor.

3. Japanese Colonial Rule

In 1905 (the 38th year of Japanese Emperor Meiji), the Taipei government announced a plan to reorganize the city as a metropolis to accommodate a population of 150,000. During that time, not only was the city wall razed, but the discarded foundational walls were also transformed into three-lane main thoroughfares. At that time, the street layout in Taipei City centered on New Park (today’s 228 Peace Memorial Park), and development spread outwards.

In 1932 (the 7th year of Japanese Emperor Shōwa), Taihoku Prefecture issued a Greater Taipei City Plan, which envisioned Taipei as a city with a population of 600,000. However,
urban development turned Taipei into a divided city, with Japanese and Taiwanese residents living in separate areas. Most Japanese officials, military personnel and merchants lived around downtown Taipei and expanded into surrounding areas, gradually creating a situation whereby the Japanese community was tight-knit and segregated from the Taiwanese inhabitants. At that time, most of the modern facilities such as new hospitals, the installation of street lights and the establishment of culture, education, commercial and banking institutions were designed to improve the life for Japanese residents and therefore most often appeared in areas with a high concentration of Japanese residents. In contrast, industry was mainly located in areas inhabited by Taiwanese. For example, ironworks were concentrated in the area around Dadaocheng whereas the streets within Dadaocheng were dominated by the food processing industry, most notably tea. The area south of Monga was home to the chemical industry.

4. From Provincial City to Direct-controlled Municipality

In 1945, Taipei City became a provincial city. In 1949, the central government relocated to Taiwan and Taipei City became the provisional capital, as a result of which it became increasingly important. In July 1967, Taipei City was designated a direct-controlled municipality. The following year, Nangang Township, Jingmei Township, Muzha Rural Township and Neihu Rural Township in Taipei County, along with Beitou and Shilin towns under the Yangmingshan Administrative Bureau, were incorporated as part of Taipei City and an urban development plan drafted for a city with a population of 2.5 million. As a result of this reorganization, the population of the city grew rapidly, and the focal point of urban development moved eastwards. In tandem with that development trend the city government drafted the Xinyi Urban Center Project proposal that sought to take advantage of the large amount of open space available in the Eastern part of the city for development. In 1990, the number of administrative districts in Taipei City was reduced from 16 to 12: Songshan, Xinyi, Daan, Zhongshan, Zhongzheng, Datong, Wanhua, Wenshan, Nangang, Neihu, Shilin and Beitou. As of 2017, the administrative structure of the city remains unchanged.
One year after retrocession in 1945, the government of Taiwan conducted a national census. At that time, the population of Taipei City was 271,754. In 1968, following the incorporation of Neihu, Nangang, Muzha, Jingmei, Shilin and Beitou as part of Taipei City, the population at the end of that year totaled 1,604,543. By the end of 2017, the population of Taipei City had risen to 2,683,257 (1,281,917 were men, 1,401,340 were women), a fall of 12,447 (7,593 men, 4,854 women) from 2016.

1. Population Distribution

Taipei City is divided into 12 administrative districts and in each one, population distribution is determined by local topography, economic development and development periods. At present, Daan, Shilin and Neihu are the most populated districts.

(1) Population Density

At the end of 2017, average population density in Taipei City was 9,872 people per square kilometer. By administrative district, Daan District was the most densely populated with 27,283 people per square kilometer and Beitou District the most sparsely populated with 4,513 people per square kilometer.

(2) Births and Deaths

In 2017, the crude birth rate was 9.31‰, a drop of 1.06‰ from 2016. The crude death rate was 6.49‰, a fall of 0.17‰ from the previous year. Shifts in the social environment and economic developments have impacted people’s willingness to have children, resulting in a steady decline of the birthrate. In 2011, Taipei City Government launched its “Have a Care-Free Pregnancy” campaign, providing a series of subsidies in an effort to encourage people to have more children and stop the birthrate falling further. Over the past decade, the number of seniors living in Taipei City has also steadily increased. A major issue now confronting the city government is how to avoid the rapid decline and excessive ageing of the population, which may at some point in the future impact national economic development, and as such encouraging reasonable future population growth is a priority.
2. Population Composition

Population composition allows us to better understand demographic behavior, analyze the nature and source of social problems, and observe the relationship between the population, society and economy of a given geographic location. It is also an important indicator of socio-economic shifts and provides extremely important reference data, which the government uses as a foundation for existing and future social welfare policies.

(1) Age Distribution

Generally speaking, the higher the number of able-bodied people in the population, the lower the dependency ratio; and the more labor is engaged in production, the greater the boost to economic development. At the end of 2017, the younger population (0-14) was 369,872, working adult population (15-64) was 1,874,209 and the elderly population (65+) 439,176, giving a dependency ratio of 43.17%, an increase of 1.4% on 2016.

(2) Marriage

In 2017, a total of 16,157 couples married for a crude marriage rate of 6.01‰. Compared to 2016, the crude marriage rate fell 0.58‰ and the crude divorce rate remained the same.

(3) Distribution of Indigenous Peoples

Taiwan has a number of indigenous peoples: Amis, Atayal, Paiwan, Bunun, Rukai, Puyuma, Tsou, Saiyiyat, Yami, Thao, Kavalan, Truku, Sakizaya, Seedig, Saaroa and Kanakanavu. By the end of 2017, the indigenous people population of Taipei was 16,456, with most being from the Amis and very few from the Saaroa and Kanakanavu peoples. Most are concentrated in suburban areas such as Neihu, Wenshan, and Shilin districts.

(4) New Immigrants and Foreign National Population

The term “new immigrants” refers to foreign nationals or residents of Mainland China (including Hong Kong and Macau) who marry Taiwanese citizens. By the end of December 2017, Taipei

Table 1: Population age structure in Taipei City

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Age 0-14</th>
<th>Age 15-64</th>
<th>Age 65</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>15.56</td>
<td>72.13</td>
<td>12.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>15.10</td>
<td>72.30</td>
<td>12.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>14.66</td>
<td>72.67</td>
<td>12.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>14.45</td>
<td>72.79</td>
<td>12.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>14.33</td>
<td>72.63</td>
<td>13.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>14.28</td>
<td>72.22</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>14.17</td>
<td>71.75</td>
<td>14.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>13.95</td>
<td>71.29</td>
<td>14.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>13.91</td>
<td>70.54</td>
<td>15.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>13.78</td>
<td>69.85</td>
<td>16.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Civil Affairs, Taipei City Government:
Unit: %
Taipei had 35,063 new immigrants, with 31,210 from China (including Kong and Macau) and 3,853 from other countries. In addition, the new immigrant population in Taipei City is concentrated in Wanhua District, Wenshan District and Daan District, with 4,491, 3,672 and 3,616 respectively (source: Department of Household Registration, Ministry of the Interior). This data is based on the number of new immigrants whose spouses have household registration in Taipei City.

In order to help new immigrants adapt to local society and encourage local residents to respect different cultures, Taipei City Government promotes new immigrant care and counseling services. It also offers a range of classes for new immigrants, including life adaptation and enrichment workshops, language (Vietnamese, Indonesian and Thai) learning camps that focus on the mother tongues of new immigrants, cultural studies, computer courses and performance workshops. In addition, in order to help new immigrants better adapt to life in Taiwan, in 2013, Taipei City planned classes that combined local culture and industry. Examples include patchwork classes and local culture stories classes in Wanhua, designed to ensure new immigrants understand community culture and are given an opportunity to enhance their professional skills.

Furthermore, in order to encourage new immigrant families to interact with ordinary citizens, every year Taipei City Government’s Department
of Civil Affairs organizes a wide range of cultural activities and exchanges in the hope of bringing people closer together. Ultimately the objective is to brand Taipei as a friendly city that respects and appreciates the beauty of cultural diversity.

### Political Systems and Administration

Taipei City is a local self-governing body established in accordance with the laws of the Republic of China. Although it has no judicial, national defense or diplomatic authority, it does possess considerable autonomy under the jurisdiction of the Executive Yuan. The city is currently the political, economic and cultural center of the Republic of China. It is also home to flourishing business and industrial sectors, with a well-developed economic, cultural, transportation, information infrastructure and administrative services.

#### 1. An Evolving Administrative System

During the Japanese colonial period Taipei City was the political, economic and cultural center of Taiwan. After Retrocession in 1945, Taipei became a “provincial city” under Taiwan Provincial Government. In 1967, as the city became increasingly important it was re-designated a “directly-controlled municipality” under the jurisdiction of the Executive Yuan which it remains today. In 1968, six contiguous towns and rural townships in Taipei County were incorporated as part of Taipei City, which was reorganized with an increase in administrative districts from 10 to 16. After Taipei became a “directly-controlled municipality” the city was reorganized as an administrative body, with a city council and city government. Although citizens directly elected city councilors, the mayor remained appointed by the central government. In 1990, the 16 administrative districts were reduced to 12 as a way of facilitating better management and more equal allocation of resources. The system remained the same until the drafting of the “Self-Governance Act for Executive-Yuan-governed Municipalities” in 1994, which designated directly controlled municipalities juristic persons. On December 25, 1994, the first ever direct elections were held for mayor, ushering in a new era of democratic politics. As a result, the autonomy of Taipei City was restored and despite the legal changes that have since been introduced the city retains its status as an autonomous entity.

Based on the “Local Government Act,” the designation of administrative areas in Taipei City involves not only districts but also for purposes of more efficient administrative management, wards (Li) and neighborhoods (Lin). From 1973 to 2017 there have been six reorganizations of the citywide ward system, the most recent restructuring taking place in July 2010. As of December 2017, Taipei City had 456 Wards and 9,603 neighborhoods.

#### 2. Taipei City Governance – Power and Responsibilities

The “Local Government Act” serves as the legal basis for the organization of Taipei City. Taipei City is a legal entity and its government a top-tier government system. It has an administrative body – Taipei City Government, and a deliberative body – Taipei City Council, responsible for administrative and legislative decisions respectively. The rights and duties of Taipei citizens, organizational structure, power of Taipei City Government, composition and power of Taipei City Council, and the way in which these two bodies interact is detailed below:

##### (1) Rights and Duties of Taipei Citizens

A. Citizens’ rights

(A) The right to elect and recall local public officials.

(B) The right to execute a legislative initiative or demand a referendum relating to local self-government.

(C) The right to use local public facilities.

(D) The right to enjoy local education, social welfare provisions and medical care in accordance with the law and local ordinances.

(E) The right to request the disclosure of local
government information.
(F) Other rights endowed by the law and local ordinances.

B. Citizens’ duties
(A) To observe local ordinances.
(B) To pay local taxes.
(C) To observe all other duties imposed by the law and local ordinances.

(2) The Organization of the Taipei City Government

The administrative organ of Taipei is the City Government. It is characterized by a leadership system, in which a mayor is elected to represent the city and oversee city affairs, and is chosen by the people in an election (Taipei Mayor Wen-Je Ko was the sixth elected mayor as of 2015). The mayor has a term of four years and can be re-elected to serve two terms in succession. There are three deputy mayors in place to assist the mayor with all the 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 with governmental affairs. Under the City Government, there are 22 departments in charge of civil affairs, finance, education, industrial development, public works, transportation, social welfare, labor affairs, police administration, health, environmental protection, urban development, cultural affairs, fire department, the rapid transit system, the 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 the secretariat, budgets, accounting and statistics, personnel, government ethics, and civil servant development. There are five commissions: research, development, and evaluation, urban planning, the indigenous peoples commission and Hakka affairs. The Taipei Water Department and the Taipei Rapid Transit Corporation are also placed under the Taipei City Government. Finally, 12 Districts are directly subordinate to the Taipei City Government.

(3) City Government
Powers, Responsibilities and Operations
Taipei City is a legal entity and a local autonomous organization. It is responsible for 13 areas relating to self-government in which it has broad autonomy to make decisions: organizational and administrative management, finance, social services, education and culture, sports, labor affairs, urban planning and construction, economic services, water resources, health and environmental protection, transportation and tourism, and public safety. The operational management of such business and related matters are conducted in accordance with existing laws.

In order to enhance procedural efficiency, Taipei City Government convenes City Affairs Forums in accordance with "Rules of Procedure for Taipei City Government City Affairs Forums." These meetings are the city government's highest decision-making body and are attended by the mayor, deputy mayors, secretary-general, deputy secretary-general, top agency heads and other persons designated by the mayor. The forums are convened and chaired by the mayor and have the power to discuss and pass resolutions on the following:
1. Taipei City Government policy plans and budget
2. Proposals and reports to be reviewed by Taipei City Council
3. Self-government ordinances relating to Taipei City Government and all city run businesses, institutions and organizations
4. Self-government regulations relating to Taipei City
5. Guidelines for organizational rules governing all agencies and the establishment of taskforces under Taipei City Government.
6. Matters relating to relations between agencies under Taipei City Government
7. Tasks assigned by the mayor
8. Other important areas relating to city government work.

In order to execute policies, Taipei City Government delegates to lower level agencies under its authority or non-affiliated administrative agencies. Where necessary, it can also commission private individuals or organizations to implement policies.

Although City Affairs Forums are formally collegiate in nature, the city government is led by a mayor who is responsible for the success or failure of municipal affairs. As such, these forums tend operate more like think tanks where the mayor can listen to different ideas and opinions. It is not involved in policy implementation, which is carried out by agencies under the city government.

(4) Constraints on the Exercise of City Government Powers

Taipei City is a self-governing body, but in addition to self-government related business it also executes assignments delegated or mandated by the central government. If in the exercise of self-government Taipei City violates the ROC Constitution, existing laws or regulations pertaining to legally authorized authority then such actions will be rescinded, modified, annulled or stopped by the central government.

If, in the exercise of mandated business, the city government violates the constitution, laws, central ordinances or exceeds its authority then the central government will also rescind, modify, annul or stop such actions. Where it is unclear whether self-government matters violate the constitution, law or a central ordinance an interpretation must be sought from the Judicial Yuan. Prior to such an interpretation the actions concerned cannot be rescinded, modified, annulled or stopped. The executive authority of the city government is supervised by the City Council.

(5) Organization of Taipei City Council

Taipei City Council is made up of city council members who are directly elected by citizens. The 12 administrative districts of Taipei City are divided into six electoral districts from which 61 city councilors are elected. In order to protect the rights of indigenous peoples living in Taipei, two indigenous councilors are elected, one representing indigenous peoples living in the city and one representing those living in mountainous areas (from the 7th and 8th electoral districts respectively).

Taipei City Council elects one Speaker (the current 12th session speaker is Ms. Wu Bi-chu) with all councilors casting a vote and the Speaker representing the council to the outside world.
Additional votes are also taken to select one deputy speaker, one secretary-general and one deputy secretary-general. The secretary-general is directed by the Speaker to conduct council business and directs all council employees. The deputy secretary-general assists the secretary-general in dealing with council business. The council has a number of sections and officers to deal with various matters.

(6) City Council Powers, Responsibilities and Operations

As a collegiate body, all members of Taipei City Council have the same rights and duties. These responsibilities are as follows:
A. To deliberate and determine laws and regulations in Taipei City.
B. To deliberate and determine a budget for Taipei City.
C. To deliberate and determine special taxes, provisional taxes and additional taxes in Taipei City.
D. To deliberate and determine the disposition of city assets.
E. To deliberate and determine the organization and self-government ordinances of Taipei City Government and subordinate agencies.
F. To deliberate and determine proposals made by Taipei City Government.
G. To review the audit report of the final accounts of Taipei City.
H. To deliberate and determine proposals made by Taipei City councilors.
I. To accept petitions from the public.
J. The exercise of other powers stipulated by law or central ordinances.

Taipei City Council assembly meets when it is established, then once every six months thereafter, and is convened by the Council Speaker. In the event that the speaker does not convene an assembly as required by law, the deputy speaker can do so. If the deputy speaker also fails to convene an assembly, it can be convened by a councilor chosen by more than half the council. Ad hoc assemblies can be called at the request of Taipei City mayor, Speaker or more than one third of Taipei City councilors, or whenever Taipei City Government refers a proposal for reconsideration.

The convening of council meetings and its collegiate execution of authority is conducted on the basis of majority voting in accordance with legally determined procedures. In order to ensure meetings proceed smoothly a “Procedure Committee” is established to approve the agenda and all other procedural issues. In order to enhance professionalism and efficiency, the
council has a number of committees: civil affairs committee, finance and construction committee, education committee, transportation committee, police and public health committee, capital works committee and legal affairs committee. These review related motions and those approved are sent to the council assembly for discussion and a vote. There is also a disciplinary committee that reviews cases where council members are accused of violating disciplinary rules and has the power to impose penalties. Depending on the severity of cases this can involve a verbal apology, a written apology, an admonition, or a suspension from attending council meetings for a fixed period of time.

Individual council members exercise their authority as follows:
A. Attending council meetings and reviewing, deliberating proposals/motions (committee meetings and council assemblies).
B. Interpellation: Whenever Taipei City Council is in session councilors can invite Taipei City mayor and top-tier officials of Taipei City Government to attend and answer questions.
C. Introduce proposals/motions: Proposals/motions can be presented and deliberated as long as a quorum of councilors is present and the proposal is countersigned.
D. Debriefing: Listening to policy addresses and project reports.

The above rights are intended to ensure councilors can exercise their authority to the best of their ability.

(7) Constraints on the exercise of Taipei City Council and city councilors’ powers

The powers of City Council and city councilors are broadly constrained by the following principles:
A. When a city council proposal on self-government matters conflicts with the Constitution, law or rules pertaining to the legal delegation of authority it is invalid. When the existence of such conflict is disputed the Judicial Yuan must be asked to render an interpretation.
B. When a decision on mandated business is in conflict with the Constitution, the law or a central ordinance it is invalid.
C. Decisions made on a budget cannot include resolutions to increase expenditure.
D. Recusal: Councilors are required to avoid involvement with matters in which they have a personal interest. They cannot review or vote on proposals that could benefit them personally.

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

The relationships between the City Government and the City Council are defined by law and system policies. In sum, the relationship is characterized by the following:
A. Supervising and being supervised: through reviewing and hearing, the city council represents citizens to monitor the city government’s policymaking, budget and important policy implementation; city government officials are also debriefed during municipal meetings.
B. Checks and balances: the city council limits the expansion of administrative authorities by legislations; the city government on the other hand exercises its rights of reconsideration to prevent the city council from legislating laws or approving motions that are deemed too difficult to implement.
C. Division of labor and cooperation: the city government formulates administrative plans and administrative statutes on the basis of policy implementation; City Council members represent the people and shall consider citizen’s welfare and needs to carefully review motions put forth by the city government.

(9) Taipei City Government and Taipei City Council

The exercise of checks and balances between Taipei City Government and Taipei City Council is conducted through the aforementioned protocols, including policy reports, project reports, proposals review, interpellation, coordination, hearings and vetoes. The relationship can also make use of various informal forms to coordinate or reach
consensus. These include:
A. Informal contacts between department and section heads in Taipei City Government and councilors.
B. Mediation organized by party caucus (governing party).
C. Mediation through party-to-party meetings.
D. Integrated coordination by the central government.

The political system in Taipei City, its related relations and operations described above exist to safeguard the rights of the people, limit the unchecked expansion of executive and legislative power, as everyone works together for the success of city government policies designed to maximize the well-being of its citizens.

Conclusion

Since 1884 (the 10th year of emperor Guangxu of Qing Dynasty), when Taipei City was established it has undergone many changes in political system, development and population, evolving from a traditional agrarian society into a major political and economic hub. Today, Taipei City is blessed with its own downtown airport, Taipei Songshan Airport and an integrated land-based transport system that includes convenient city roads, the mass rapid transit system connecting the north and south of the city, an eastbound freeway, electrified railway and high-speed railway. In addition, Keelung Port, Taipei Port and Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport are easily accessible from Taipei, ensuring increasingly prosperous international trade and business activities. Another aspect of social development can be seen by the steady increase in marriages involving spouses from overseas or Mainland China an influx of new immigrants that have added to the city’s vibrant and multicultural outlook. In addition, through the promotion of a series of policies, including affordable public housing, “Project: A Pastoral City” and the building of a Smart City, Taipei City Government has improved the living environment, making Taipei a better place to live with a sustainable future.

The outstanding performance of Taipei City in multiple areas was highlighted in the “County/
Administrative Nomenclature

● 10 Administrative Districts: In October 1945, Taipei Municipal Office under Japanese colonial rule was abolished and a city government instituted governing 10 administrative districts: Songshan, Zhongshan, Daan, Guting, Chengzhong, Jiancheng, Yanping, Datong, Longshan and Shuangyuan.

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

● 16 Administrative Districts: In 1968, six townships and Wards in Taipei County were incorporated into Taipei City. As a result, the city now had 16 administrative districts: Songshan, Zhongshan, Daan, Guting, Chengzhong, Jiancheng, Yanping, Datong, Longshan and Shuangyuan, Shilin, Beitou, Neihu, Nangang, Jingmei and Muzha.

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

● 456 wards, 9,603 neighborhoods: Songshan 33 wards, 766 neighborhoods; Xinyi 41 wards, 914 neighborhoods; Daan 53 wards, 1,030 neighborhoods; Zhongshan 42 wards, 872 neighborhoods; Zhongzheng 31 wards, 584 neighborhoods; Datong 25 wards, 524 neighborhoods; Wanhua 36 wards, 723 neighborhoods; Wenshan 43 wards, 1,003 neighborhoods; Nangang 20 wards, 454 neighborhoods; Neihu 39 wards, 909 neighborhoods; Shilin 51 wards, 996 neighborhoods; Beitou 42 wards, 828 neighborhoods.