

Tamsui River Mouth- A Community for Suitable Living Tamsui and Bali Districts, New Taipei City (Category D)

Background of Tamsui and the Bali Districts

The Tamsui District and the Bali District, located on the two shores of the Tamsui River mouth, span across an area of 110.14 square kilometers. Rich in natural resources and historical sites such as Shisanhang Site and Tapenkeng Site, these regions have been the contact windows between Taiwan and the world's cultures, leaving behind many beautiful monuments and historical buildings. These areas contain a combined population of approximately 183,265 people.

1. Improvement in Natural and Cultural Landscape

- (1) The Tamsui River and its basin used to be highly contaminated area; but since the remediation of the river, the environmental quality of the river shores has improved to a level suitable for living. The Tamsui River's River Pollution Index (RPI) has reduced from over 3.4 to 3, making the water quality the best in the past 30 years. In addition, the Tamsui River basin's Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Ammonia Nitrogen (NH₃-N), and Suspended Solid level have all decreased to 96,000 kg/day, 29,000 kg/day, and 145,000 kg/day, respectively.
- (2) The Tamsui Fisherman's Wharf, located near the inlet on the right river bank of the Tamsui River, was originally a small fishing port. It was later transformed into a model port of diverse utilizations; the wharf combines tourism, marine recreation, international tourist hotels, and fishing port.
- (3) The New Taipei City conducted a riparian renovation project on the riverside of the districts of Bali and Tamsui, which includes the constructions of the 15 kilometers Bali Waterfront Bike Path and the Golden Waterfront. With these new facilities, Tamsui riverside attracts more than 10 million tourists every year.

2. Arts, Culture, and Heritage

- (1) Tamsui and Bali districts have a total number of 34 archeological sites, monuments, and historical buildings. Fort Santo Domingo and its surrounding historical buildings have been listed as potential world cultural heritage sites.
- (2) The Tamsui Historical Museum and the Shisanhang Museum of Archaeology are the two major museums and cultural arts center in the Tamsui District and the Bali District.
- (3) The Canadian born Dr. George Leslie Mackay (1844-1901A.D.) had great influences in Tamsui District, and Dr. Mackay's Day was established to remember him.
- (4) The Cloud Gate Dance Theater of Taiwan, which is a flagship performing group, and Ju Percussion Group have both revitalized the regions' cultural assets to create arts and cultural parks.

3. Best Practices for Environmental Protection

- (1) In the past, the Bali District was full of "Never in My Back Yard" (NIMBY) facilities including the Bali Incineration Plant, the Bali Landfill, and the Bali Wastewater Treatment Plants.
- (2) Since the installation of the air-cooled evaporating condenser system (ACC), the Bali Incineration Plant has increased its power generation by 33.6 million kWh, and has reduces the carbon emission by 25,200 tons per year.
- (3) The Bali Landfill recycles the methane produced from the waste to generate 2.42 million kWh of green energy, which reduces the carbon dioxide emissions by 14,750 tonnes, equivalent to planting 1,552 hectares of forests.

- (4) The “per bag trash collection fee” policy has reduced the garbage by 50%, effectively reducing the waste production per capita per day from 0.58kg to 0.3kg. The food scraps recycled have increased from 173 tons to 405 tons, and the amount of waste recycled has increased from 175 tons to 220 tons per day. Cogeneration has been used to produce 214.8 million kWh of energy as well.
- (5) The New Taipei City Sustainable Development Education Center was built in the Bali District to cooperate with schools in providing exhibitions with environmental knowledge to the visitors.

4. Community Participation and Empowerment

- (1) The New Taipei City Tamsui International Environmental Arts Festival is the most important annual cultural activity, co-sponsored, participated, and completed by the local residents and the artists.
- (2) Since 2009, the New Taipei City Tamsui International Environmental Arts Festival has accumulated a total of over 600,000 visitors and participants along with artistic groups from different nations.
- (3) The Legend of Sino-French War in Tamsui, a historical drama showing the Battle in Tamsui during the Sino-French War in 1884, involves over 5000 community residents and 252 professionals and actors to complete it.

5. A Healthy Lifestyle

- (1) The Tamsui District joined the WHO Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC) in July, 2008.
- (2) The Tamsui District, being the demonstration region for "Elderly Friendly City", has set up senior care stations for taking care of the elderly.
- (3) The Bali District is committed to promoting the "slow living" lifestyle, and has launched three cultural touring routes including the Water Front Cultural Route, the Mountain Cultural Route, and the Temple Cultural Route.

6. Strategic Planning

- (1) To reduce the amount of waste and increase the recycling ratio, knowledge on energy, water, material, and resource recycling have been promoted to transform the nearby NIMBY facilities.
- (2) To create high living standard communities on the river banks of the districts, Tamhai New Town and the Taipei Harbor Area have been established, and the Tamkang Bridge has been constructed.



Left Bank Park, Bali, 2010



The Tamsui Arts Parade, New Taipei
City Tamsui International
Environmental Arts Festival, 2011

