

# Presentation for the 2012 Most Livable International Cities Contest

City Contest Planner

Kaohsiung City Government's

Yancheng District- Looking out from the  
Shoulder of the Harbor City

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# Yancheng District, Kaohsiung City- Looking out from the Shoulder of the Harbor City



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## A. Preface

Yancheng District is located in Central Southern Kaohsiung with Longevity Mountain on the left and the Love River on the right; to the south is Kaohsiung Harbor. Its flat plain forms a triangular area that occupies an area of 1.416 square kilometers. Yancheng is the smallest district in Kaohsiung City and is adjacent to Cianjin and Lingya Districts across the Love River in the east, Gushan District on the other side of Lingang Road in the west, and Cijin District in the south next to Kaohsiung Harbor.



( Love Pier, Yancheng District 2011.08.25 )

This city has more than 270 sunny days throughout the year and is also considered a historically important city. Like many of its counterparts around the world, Kaohsiung is very proud of its historical

and cultural achievements and after its transformation, Kaohsiung presents a new look of health and vigor. Certainly, the rich historical heritage of Kaohsiung, lying quietly, is worth your exploration. Everyone is invited to visit Kaohsiung and enjoy its many historic attractions.



( Love Pier, Yancheng District 2011.08.25 )



## **B. If You Want to Breathe with this City...**

Yancheng District is regarded as the most representative district of Kaohsiung. If compared to a human body, it is the heart of Kaohsiung since it best displays the vigor of the city. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, during the Qing Dynasty, Yancheng District was the site of the “Lai Nan Salt Field,” a major salt-making site of Kaohsiung. During the Japanese colonial period, the Japanese Government announced the “Downtown Takao Urban Renewal Plan,” which enabled Yancheng to replace Gushan District's Hamaseng as the administrative center of Kaohsiung City. After the establishment of the Republic of China, Jyuejiang Shopping District and Da Sing Department Store witnessed the golden age of Yancheng District.



( Lyuba Park, Yancheng District 2011.09.03 )

The rejuvenation of Yancheng District began with the restoration of the Love River, which was very polluted in the past. Now, the river is one of the cleanest in Taiwan and has become a source of pride throughout Southern Taiwan. Idled space was utilized through the institution of new and innovative architectural projects. The National Museum of History, the Pier 2 Art Center, Kaohsiung Film Archive, and the Love Pier have all helped revive the district. The area's bike paths and walk trails as well as public bike rental services are the basis of the

"veins" of Kaohsiung and are a primary reason why this city is one of the most livable environments for everyone at any age.



( Pier 2 Art Center, Yanchang District 2011.11.10 )

Living in this city is enjoyable because of its multitude of cultural features and attractions...

If you want to breathe with this city, please come and experience the warm embrace of Kaohsiung...





(Love Pier, Yancheng District 2011.10.20)



## **C. Embracing Love River with its Urban Light**

Environmental Protection's Best Practices

Scenic spot: The Love River

If you want to embrace the Love River together with the light of the city, please listen to the story of the Love River...

The Love River was originally a nameless river originating in the Bagualiao Wetland and running through the greater Kaohsiung area. Due to industrial pollution, the Love River became a foul-smelling, dead river. In order to revive it, the Kaohsiung City Government, in 1979, invested a huge amount of funds and effort into the building of an interceptor station and waste water treatment plant. As a result, over the last several decades the Love River has been rehabilitated and is now known as one of the most beautiful rivers in the city and is a symbol reflecting the prosperity of Kaohsiung.



(Love River, Yancheng District 2011.03.15)

Along with the clean up work done on the Love River, the Kaohsiung City Government built a bike path along the river. By biking, you are able to begin an adventure along the river, like joining a party of light. The earliest Carnival of Light is the “Kaohsiung Lantern Festival” along the river and it has been held annually starting from 2001. The master lantern, used since the first lantern festival, “Dragon Sculpture” is now located at the end of Minsheng Road on the bank of the Love River. It is now a popular scenic place to visit. So far, the Lantern Festival has been held annually for 12 years; it is a constant favorite among tourists and locals alike and always attracts many people.



( Love River, Yancheng District 2011.03.15 )

If you want to embrace the Love River together with the light of the city, walking along the river is also a great way to enjoy its scenic lighting at night. Along the Love River, there are the Kaohsiung Film Archive, National Museum of History, and cafés where bands perform live. With its beautiful layout, you will definitely fall in love with Love River. Additionally, you can go to the Love Pier to rent a solar powered boat from Kaohsiung City Shipping Co., Ltd to cruise up and down the river. The boat is powered by 18 solar panels on its roof, which moves up or down automatically so that it can pass underneath the bridges.





(Love River, Yancheng District 2012.03.16)

If you want to embrace the Love River together with the light of the city, please come and settle down in Kaohsiung and let the river tells others the story of your life...



(Love River, Yancheng District 2011.03.15)

## **D. If You are Young**

Improvements in natural and cultural scenery

Scenic spots: The Pier 2 Art Center, Love Pier, Fisherman Wharf, Kaohsiung Film Archive, Kaohsiung Music Center, Bike Path, Public Bike Rental Station

If you are a young person, Kaohsiung is just right for you. Let me tell you a secret: Kaohsiung is at the youth stage of its culture...



( Love River, Yancheng District 2012.06.25 )

In Yancheng District, many buildings with innovative architectural features have given with new life to the culture of Kaohsiung.





( Bike path, Yancheng District 2011.03.15 )

It is the best opportunity for youths to witness the cultural development in the city as it happens. The Pier 2 Art Center at the end of Dayong Road was originally a long abandoned wharf and warehouse; people had forgotten its existence for a long time. It was not until the infusion of resources by a project to re-utilize the idled space, as promoted by artists, cultural workers, and the government, that it was renovated into a place to display new art and act as a cultural park.



( Dream Market, Yancheng District 2012.06.17 )

In recent years, the Design Festival and the Delight of Chinese Character Festival organized at the Pier 2 Art Center have been very popular among the local youth.

The original #12 Wharf, now the Love Pier, was also rebuilt to look like a sailboat rising high from the mouth of the Love River. It is where scenery yacht cruises on the Love River begin. Passengers can not only appreciate the scenery of the harbor city along the river banks, but they can also overlook the cargo ships breathtakingly returning back to the Kaohsiung Harbor. Fisherman' s Wharf originally was a cargo loading and warehouse area. It has been long neglected over time. After its renovation, a new outdoor café has become a favorite place for youths to spend their time.



( Lover Pier, Yancheng District 2011.03.15 )

The site of the Kaohsiung Film Archive was an abandoned junior high school building originally. After being neglected for a while, the proposal to create the Kaohsiung Film Archive was developed with the goal of collecting and storing photographs and films of the city over the years, which not only restored people's memory of the urban space but also added new value into the old site. The Kaohsiung Music Center, also along the Love River, was completed by the end of 2000. At the end of 2010, a comprehensive environmental improvement construction project was initiated. Now it is an important base of cultural development in Yancheng as well as the center of Love River



art scene.

If you are young, now it is time for you to visit Kaohsiung...



(Sailboating in Love River, Yancheng District 2011.10.12)

## **E. Even If You are Not Young**

Healthy lifestyle

Scenic spots: Yancheng Green Corridor, Citizen Square, Love River Bank, Pedestrian Area

If you are an elderly person, Kaohsiung City invites you to rest here. The grass in Citizen Square and Yancheng Green Corridor provides you with ideal places to take a walk. Surrounding you is the beautiful scenery of the Love River.



( Bike Path, Yancheng District 2012.02.10 )

Walk along the banks of the Love River, and you will find the most beautiful sunset is waiting for you.



( Pier 2 Art Center, Yancheng District 2012.06.15 )

If you are an elderly person, you should also visit Yancheng Green Corridor. It goes along the Love River and leads to Kaohsiung Harbor Hamaseng and the white sandy beach of Sizihwan Bay. In the past, this was the location of a ship-breaking and hardware industrial cluster and along with the decline in the ship-breaking and hardware industry, fewer people went there.





(Ren-Ai Park, Yancheng District 2012.02.20)

The rejuvenated Yancheng Green Corridor provides a series of recreational walking trails. The pavement in Clock Square on Dayong Road is also a hardware-themed piece of installation art that is supposed to represent parts of a clock.

If you are an elderly visitor, then “Citizen Square” is a "must visit" place. It was previously known as Yancheng Square before the Kaohsiung City Government rebuilt it and furnished it with a dancing water fountain that performs at different hours during the day. The water dance, accompanied with music, is an enjoyable way to experience urban life in Kaohsiung. If you are an elderly visitor, you can follow the steps of the Love River, admiring its shimmering ripples. The soft breezes along the river will bring you the aroma of coffee from local

cafés and the beautiful music of local musicians will make you forget about your age and your concerns. Just sit, relax, and enjoy the golden rays reflecting off the river's surface during sunset.



( Love River, Yancheng District 2012.06.25 )

## F. Exploring the Origin of Kaohsiung

Art, culture, and heritage

Scenic sites: National Museum of History, Da Wu Tai Theater, Old Jyuejiang Imported Goods Street, Original Site of Da Sing Department Store, Sanshan Guowang Temple, Siahai City God Temple

Each city has its own story...

The story of Yancheng District is documented in the remaining ancient buildings that still exist in the area. They face Love River, waiting for people to explore their origin.



(2011.10.25 鹽埕區林家古厝)

The old administrative site of the Kaohsiung City Government in Yancheng District was built more than 70 years ago. It is in the rarely seen crown shaped architecture style. After Taiwan Restoration, this building was still used by Kaohsiung City Government. It was not until 1992 when the government moved its administrative center from this



historic building to a newly constructed one that it was out of use. In 1998, this building, after more than half a century, was formally transformed into the “National Museum of History.” It is now the location of the rich historical resources of Kaohsiung City and is the first museum of history operated by a city government in Taiwan.



( National Museum of History, Yancheng District 2012.06.25 )

Da Sing Department Store, located on Dayong Road in Kaohsiung City, is another historic building in Yancheng District. It was built in 1953 as was the first department store operated solely by Taiwanese. It was an example of how to successfully operate a department store in Kaohsiung. With time going by, it was once changed into Da Sing Store of President Supermarket. But now it is closed due to economic reasons.

Da Wu Tai Theater, which closed a long time ago, is also a historic building that is distinguished by its unique architecture featuring flower

and glass carvings. After the theater stopped operations in March 1999, it was once damaged but the local cultural authority has been actively trying to save this example of our cultural heritage.

Old Jyuejiang Imported Goods Street in Yancheng District is past its glory days and was the distribution center for imported goods in Southern Taiwan. It was the major source of prosperity for Yancheng District and was well known throughout the district. Currently, it is not as prosperous as it used to be but the shops in this area still persevere, waiting for a business revival.

Sanshan Guowang Temple was rebuilt in the 25<sup>th</sup> Year of Emperor Cianlong of the Qing Dynasty; it was nicknamed “Yancheng Temple” due to its geographical location and has always been a popular temple. Siahai City God Temple was established in June 1925. It is where the city's god is worshiped. Due to its popularity, a huge amount of donations are received from local people and religious followers each year.

Each city has its story waiting to be explored...



( The Lin Family's Residence, Yancheng District 2011.10.25 )



## **G. Looking out from the Shoulder of the Harbor City**

### **A Better Future**

Looking out from the shoulder of the Harbor City, let's see the past, the present, and the future of greater Kaohsiung.

About 100 years ago, a land reclamation project transformed Kaohsiung from a fishing village into Taiwan's largest harbor and industrial city. In 2013, the about to be completed "Asian New Bay Area" will make another historical milestone for Yancheng District and this city will provide the most livable space for people who are surrounded by mountains and an ocean. The innovative cultural and artistic life of greater Kaohsiung will be developed further here...



( Love Pier, Yancheng District 2011.10.25 )

The “Harbor Rebuilding” project is one of the major civic construction projects that are expected to be completed in 2013. The Kaohsiung World Trade and MICE Center, Maritime Cultural and Pop Music Center, Kaohsiung Port and Cruise Service Center, and Kaohsiung Municipal Library will all be part of the “Asian New Bay Area.” In order to accommodate the crowds, a waterfront light rail transit system will be built to connect it with the existing Kaohsiung MRT and to expand the Kaohsiung's traffic network.

The birth of the “Asian New Bay Area” combines the presence of art and creation, music, yachts, and tourism industries and improves the international visibility of Kaohsiung. The world will see a shining Kaohsiung as an attractive investment opportunity for foreign businesses. The citizens of Kaohsiung will be able to ride the waterfront light rail transit and enjoy bay scenery as well. By that time, Yancheng will attract young people who want to realize their dreams and the elderly residents who would like to enjoy their life here. They are able to return home after a long walk via the waterfront light rail transit system.



( World Games/National Sports Complex Station 2012.02.25 )

Looking out from the harbor city allows us to go back to the past, enjoy the present, and move on to the future where a beautiful life is waiting for us.



( Love Pier, Yancheng District 2011.10.25 )



