

## **The International Awards for Liveable Communities 2011**

**Dalongdong, Taipei**

**Whole city, Category B**

**Population : 56,850**

**A Livable Community in Historied Taipei, where Confucianism Meets Eco-Wellness**

Dalongdong is one of the oldest villages in downtown Taipei, situated near the narrows of the intersection between the Keelung and Tamsui Rivers, two of Taipei's bloodlines. It's a town rich with cultural activities, and historic sites stand in great numbers. Dalongdong was known as Tōa-lông-pōng: the name was inspired by the Hokkien dialect of Min Nan as spoken by the aboriginal Pingpu tribesmen in Dalangshe. The Han Chinese later settled in the community to develop the land, and they christened the place, "Dalongtong," which denoted boom and peace. The community later became the birthplace of many literati, so the word, "dragon" was added accordingly to the name to suggest the place's rich literal relevance. The place is also home to many temples: ritual festivals held in the earlier days used to be a solemn worship rite; but they evolved to be large-scale religious galas that celebrated the marriage of local religious beliefs with the Buddhism and Taoism faiths. Dalongdong therefore developed into the City's religious Center, and has been home to the Taipei Confucius Temple and Baoan Temple; the latter was designated as a class-B national historic monument; and in 2003, the temple was recognized with UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Conservation.

As the city's earliest-developed region, ten community development associations in Dalongdong actively participate in social affairs, aiming at preserving traditional culture and activities, such as puppet show seminars and rice cultural festivals. In addition, two projects directed by the government have been conducted to improve the district physical environment as well as culture renaissance.

- **Confucianism in Style after a Progressive Community Facelift**

The Taipei City Government began to implement a series of cultural landscaping assignments that included renovating the Confucius Temple, Baoan Temple, Sishisikan, and Chen Teacher's Abode to accentuate the community's unique legacy in temple culture, Confucianism, and folk religious worships. Measures included: modifying land use, gentrification and urban space improvement, themed street blocks constructions and commercial

operation assistance.

- **The Taipei Confucius Temple Historic District Revitalization Project**

The project was launched in 2010 to revive tourism in Dalongdong. A national tourism flagship spot and a cultural/creative industry hub are designated here to highlight the area's "local cultural" perspective. The revival of the Temple could help secure the community a berth on the international stage as a vital cultural stronghold. The ceremonies, the cultural experience and the history are the "tripod" to uphold the area's cultural value, promoting the cultural-creative industry and driving the local economy in the community.



01. The Bao Sheng Culture Festival has endeavored to blend folk culture from different parts of Taiwan together and features daily traditional performances on the neighborhood streets.



02. The Dragon Boat Festival is held at Dajia Riverside Park, one of Dalongdong's nearby riverside parks, every year.



03. Foreign visitors attended the calligraphy-experience sessions to enjoy the beauty of intrinsic element of traditional culture.

