

# Rich Eco-Life in Dujia

This study carries forward the research on the family village, rich eco-life in Dujia. Most residents in Dujia share the same family name “Chiou.” The town is the location of Taiwan’s largest and most comprehensively preserved single family name kinship settlement. For most of their history, the majority of residents in Dujia have followed the “village family” tradition in which the “village is ruled by the family and no one is allowed to leave the family.” Here we have several distinct parts of this research. Main points are summarized below.

## 1. Enhancement of the Natural and Built Landscapes

The establishment of the Dujia Settlement Cultural Museum is based on the concept providing a community museum that adopts a diverse overview of Dujia culture with artifacts, literature, old photos, and community films. Qiangcheng Hu is a detention pond that was designed to be ecologically friendly. Following the eco-building concept, tidal sea water has been diverted for the mangrove system and there are plans for environmental improvement and aesthetics projects. With the improvement of natural and cultural landscape, the community has also built ecological corridors of “blue belt” and “green belt”.

## 2. Arts, Culture and Heritage

In Dujia, one of the most unique local folk activities is the Dujia Sung Jiang Zhan (an old martial arts group). The members of the Dujia Sung Jiang Zhan are composed of residents of the community that have learned a form of martial arts that has been passed down from generation to generation. The group not only represents the strong religious belief held by the residents of the settlement but also the mission to continue promoting traditional folk customs.

Digital technology has been introduced to preserve image archives regarding settlement culture, daily life, religious activities, and oral stories told by the elderly. With the goal to promote local education and revitalize historical heritage sites as well as preserve local traditional architecture and cultural landscape, a “100-year Historical House” has been planned for use as a public space. During the public events in this new community building, the residents will also be able to develop their environmental awareness and learn more about the community's culture.

The “Academic Conference on Qiau-Dujia and the Chiou Family” was held in 2009. It inspired a great deal of related research projects. The purpose of the conference was to attract the attention of academia to the community's development, to inspire local study projects, as well as to strengthen public recognition of the area's local and historical development.

## 3. Environmental Best Practices

The points which the research will discuss are as follows:

- Enactment of the Community Agreement
- Water Reuse and Ecological Purification System
- Community Environment Maintenance Mechanism
- Low Carbon Community Awareness and Action
- Revitalization and Utilization of Idled Land

Building a Community Offering “LOHAS,”  
“Comfortable,” and “Livable” Characteristics



#### 4. Community Participation and Empowerment

Community organizations include Longevity Club, Mother's Home Economics Group, Digital Opportunity Center, and so on. The community's organizational structure and revitalization efforts, based on the principles of labor division and cooperation, have helped to build consensus and cohesion within the community as well as promote community culture and initiate community activities.

Through seminars, work meetings, demonstrations, and residential meetings, discussions with community residents have been gradually conducted to discover the needs of its residents. The community entrusted the Graduate Institute of Ecotourism, National University of Tainan to conduct a survey on the opinions of community residents regarding the introduction of renewal and development efforts to farm villages in the community.

Also, with the "Community Tour" activity, local residents can learn about the changes to their environment and historical development as well as appreciate their valuable heritages, industrial culture, and folk customs. When community residents are invited to go out and learn about their community, they are inspired to contribute to their hometown and help forge a better future for the community with passion.

#### 5. Healthy Lifestyle

Based on the principle of helping each other in the community, various services such as initial caring, meal provision and delivery, home visits, telephone calls, health-promoting activities, and after-school children care have been organized by local volunteer groups. Moreover, the establishment of the Community Digital Learning Center (CDLC) was based on the need to create alternative learning programs for rural areas and at the same time, to offer courses on community culture, industries, and education.

Through public participation, the concept of "building a healthy community" as promoted by the World Health Organization has been realized in Dujia. Thanks to the efforts of the Qigu District Health Station, Chi Mei Chia Li Hospital, Beimen Community University, medical resources are available to provide health checkups and screenings, medical consultation, and health education thereby ensuring that the community can provide easy access to the health care system for everyone in the community.

In conclusion, the community is dedicated to following the guidance and framework of the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) by dividing the building process of the community into three tracks: physical environment, society, and cultural essence to achieve its goals in regards to sustainable development. The aim is to construct a system that relies on the participation of community members and the realization and enhancement of the autonomy of the community. Meanwhile, the community has a well-established cultural and living environment. With its innovative creativity and insights, the community's resources and characteristics will result in new cultural elements and charm.



Public participation in Rural Rejuvenation Manpower Training Plan to Build a Common Vision



Dujia eco-tourist map



Mangrove wetlands of environmental education