

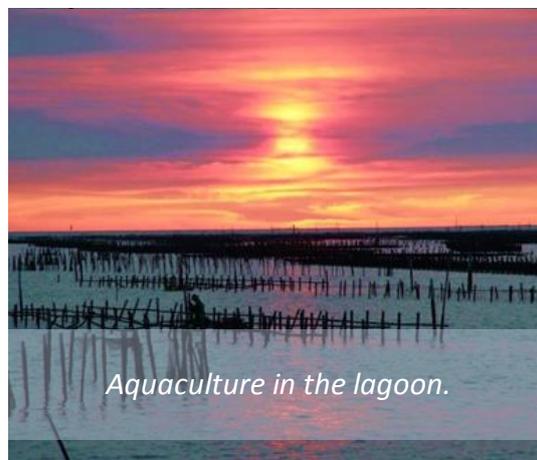
2013 International Awards for Livable Communities

Longshan Community

A Summary

Longshan Community is located in the heart of Cigu along the southwest coast of Taiwan. The area enjoys tropical monsoon climate with abundant sunshine year-round. With 2100 people and covering 8.1 square kilometers, it is the largest village in Cigu District by both area and population. Longshan is proud of its aquaculture produce such as oysters, tilapia, and milkfish, known as the three

treasures of Longshan. Knowing its weaknesses and challenges, the community has experimented and proven effective a series of strategic solutions to address the need to conserve the environment, preserve shared memories and maintain healthy lifestyle. The village has thus become a friendly, versatile and highly livable neighborhood thanks to public participation and empowerment initiatives. Longshan's successful example is worth studying for many more communities of the same type.



Longshan is situated amidst lagoons and shoals that are pivotal to local livelihood. For example, the place breeds a diversity of species. The black-faced spoonbills, a rare bird, migrate to the area annually and have drawn wide attention of researchers and bird-watchers. However, unfortunately, the fragile ecosystem is susceptible to man-made damages. So the community strives to protect the surrounding environment by schemes such as anti-erosion infrastructure and good



maintenance of water channels. In addition, activities in this fishing village together construct a vivid living cultural landscape. The best way of enhancing and promoting of them is to keep them alive. Therefore, in Longshan traditions and fishing/production techniques persist and are published digitally and can be accessed by QR-codes with smartphones.



The “At Play” artistic intervention project has improved this community playground.

Longshan’s history and culture are finely represented, either on morals or as installation artworks and thus become the heritage of all. For instance, a model of *tonggengliao*, small hut for ancient fishermen to relax beside fish pond and oyster beds, was recreated by community elders and elementary students as a gateway into Longshan’s history. In 2010, the community collaborated with the

Kunshan University on a series of art intervention projects, using the *tonggengliao* as the central concept, representing historic heritage in people’s life.

The community began dedicating to environmental protection in the early 1990s when two industrial conglomerates advanced proposals to develop Cigu and its surrounding areas for industrial use. The proposal galvanized environmental protection efforts from then on. In collaboration with environmental and progressive groups, the locals have built a series of decks and platforms for observing birds as well as life in the tidal pools and beaches. Package tours were launched to let visitors experience both the scenery and the local way of life. Additionally, Longshan’s efforts to conserve black-faced spoonbills won widespread approval and Longshan Park was a notable achievement of the community’s green space rehabilitation effort. Moreover, thanks to its recycling and tree-planting efforts, the community now enjoys cleaner air and soil as well as greater biodiversity. It won awards for air quality improvement and environmental collection in 2008, and an award for recycling in 2003.



Collecting oyster shells for re-use is a common sight.



Residents plant native plants.



Participants in an empowerment workshop discuss making a map of the community.

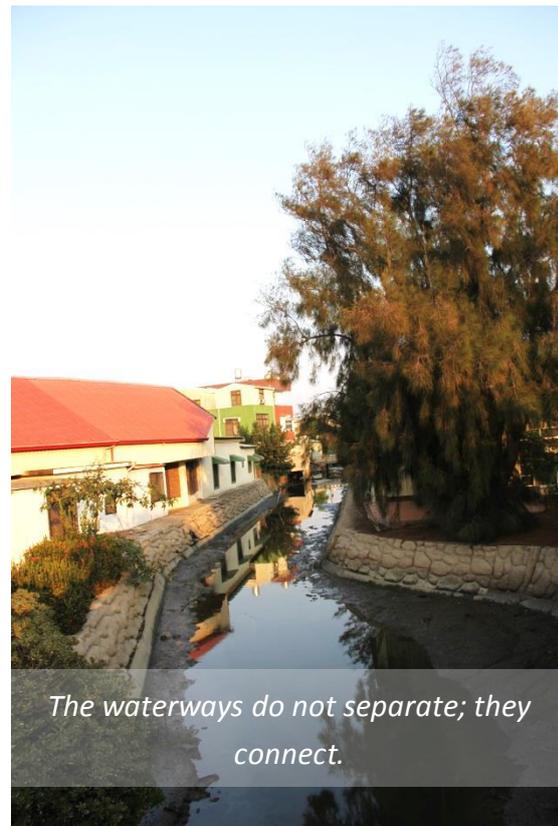
Longshan community members were enthusiastic participants in the Soil and Water Conservation Bureau's Rural Renewal Project. It was the first community in Taiwan to complete the grassroots empowerment workshops and advance a renewal proposal. Many of the workshops were headed by teachers from neighboring universities. Not content to talk about community empowerment in the classroom, they were genuinely passionate about a holistic plan to build a dynamic community.

Longshan boasts of its healthy lifestyle. As its population ages and many young people move away, Longshan has met its demographic challenges head-on by treating every senior citizen as family. Volunteers constantly pay visits to senior citizens living alone and prepare meals for them. Also points-of-care system and regular medical checks are arranged by the community, accompanied by seminars teaching residents how to stay fit.



Taking care of the elderly.

The strategy behind Longshan's example is rather straightforward. It can be summed up as *doing more with less*—less fat and salt in our food, less pollution, less resource consumption, less man-made environments. Only through less can there be more. The community hopes to integrate every facet of our daily lives into community goals. The community also breeds a self-sufficient industry as part of its strategic plan. The fishing village specialized in seafood production, for instance, the fishing and breeding of tilapia, oysters, milkfish and grey mullet. The product has earned descent and stable revenues for the community's economy. The making of mullet roes has induced wide interest among tourists, too.



In short, the community has set out a list of short-term to long-term goals to be realized strategically by both the resident's determination, as well as assistance and experience acquired from other resources such as the great learning opportunity provided by 2013's Livcom Award in Xiamen.