

Second Case of Learning Neighbourhood Project in Taipei

2015 Taipei Learning City Project

(Mingxing community, Wenshan District)

The Mingxing community is well recognized for its high achievement in community development; community residents collaborated fully to achieve three primary goals: to maintain community safety, to improve community welfare, and to make Mingxing an ecologically sustainable community. Mingxing community has become a pleasant residential area through the collective efforts of well-trained community volunteers and mutual trust among residents.

Approximately 300 volunteers work in diverse voluntary groups, e.g. the Community Safety Patrol Team, the Emergency Response Team for Ecological Protection, the Community Care Services Group, and the Water Patrol Unit for ensuring a safe water environment for the residents etc.; all the volunteers are required to participate in basic training programmes and even special training programmes for professional development in certain field. Volunteers are empowered and are more confident in their work after the trainings. Moreover, through the participation and collaboration of the residents, the neighbor relations are strengthened, making the community a better place to live.

Basic information of Mingxing community, Wenshan district, Taipei

Population	7,156 people (Male: 3,453 people, Female: 3,703 people)
Households	2,700 households
Senior Citizens (aged above 65)	777 people (10.8%)
Young Children (aged under 14)	918 people (12.8%)
Number of volunteers	
Community mutual guardians	182 people
Caring services	32 people
Patrol team for water environment	24 people
Eco-preservation	20 people
Facebook fan page	www.facebook.com/groups/482726781748402/
Priority of development	Safe, Welfare, Ecology

● **To create a safe and friendly community living condition**

Mingxing community has long been dedicated to promoting its secure community network; around 200 volunteer patrols are responsible for keeping the community safe from crime and avoiding incidents due to law or traffic violations. Mingxing also focuses on improving street lighting and clearing blocked alleys to enhance community security.

Furthermore, the Community Care Services is expanding to meet the needs of the elderly people or veterans living alone. The community pharmacy takes part in bettering residents' living condition by advocating knowledge of safe use of medication, giving health-related talks for elders, and providing home-delivery pharmacy services. Household visits and annual symposium on community security are conducted to increase sense of 'safe living' among residents.

In addition, some areas of Mingxing community are situated on a hill; volunteers from the Environmental Emergency Response Team often inspect the high-risk hillside areas, constantly observing any potential danger.

Under the guidance of the borough council, emergency response plans are developed and carried out effectively by all council committees. The chief of borough has pro-actively initiated the training of voluntary rescue teams and has built up a community preparedness system that helped Mingxing win the title of 'The Model Community in Taipei for Disaster Preparedness'. The Taipei Fire Department has also elected Mingxing as a top-rated community for its effort in promoting Taipei city's bid for the title of World Design Capital 2016 designated by ICSID(International Council of Societies of Industrial Design).



The step by step process of the community worked with the city councils to solve the problems of sidewalk trees damaged pavement and influenced passing pedestrians.



The construction site around the corner located beside an important traffic passage for local community. After making escrow agreement with the construction company, reconstruction works proceed by the community volunteers made it become a new display spotlight of community.



Broken pipe repaired

After renewal construction of water supply system, water leakage problem and safety concern were solved which also save enormous utility degrees. (June 25, 2014)



Creative gadgets such as the house-evacuation sign, fire extinguisher target and A-shaped ladder were all presented at the Taipei disaster-prevention exhibition. (March 10, 2014)



Community volunteers promote disaster-prevention implementation at the Taipei Zoo's centennial-celebration gala. (March 29, 2014)



The community volunteers joined the disaster-prevention events held by the Civil Affairs Bureau. (July 26, 2014)



The demonstration and emulation event was held in the Mingxing community, the city authority members attended as well. (April 8, 2014)



The community chief executive member participated disaster-prevention activity in Taishan district. (September 27, 2014)



Operating the water-type fire extinguisher is an interesting practice for the residents. (August 6, 2014)

- **To create a healthy and sustainable living condition for elders and the disadvantaged**

The Mingxing community welfare services assure supports for certain groups of people, including the disadvantaged community residents and the elders living alone. To cope with an aging society, events for celebrating seasonal festivals (e.g. Dragon Boat festival, Double Ninth Festival etc.) are held annually and are especially catered to seniors, e.g. making traditional Zongzi(rice dumplings), giving them to elders for showing respect and care.

In order to assist the seniors in maintaining physical health, the Mingxing community established a community kitchen, providing Meal Delivery Service. To further enrich their spiritual life, a Life-long Learning Centre is founded for the senior residents with the help of the Department of Social Welfare.

Meetups, such as chess and Mahjong groups, are especially scheduled for elders living in the community. Unmarried senior veterans are being well taken care of. Social events, such as the routinely held speed-walking game

and other fun sports activities are organised to bring the senior residents together, creating a healthy habit of exercise within the community.

The community welfare concerns all residents including the physically challenged, women and children; women are encouraged to participate in community affairs and are supported to involve in lifelong learning courses, activities and learning showcases. After-school tutoring and summer camp are held for children of primary school age.

In 2010, Mingxing Community was awarded a status of excellence for their care services and was recognised as model community in 2011 by their efforts in promoting the Community-based Healthy Living Program. An Intercommunity Year-end Care Services Showcase had just been held in November 2015, mainly organised by Mingxing.



The Evergreen dancing class joined a municipal contest for seniors learning groups. (July 28, 2014)



Respectable 90-years old granny Hui-cheng attended the senior-respecting events for three years in a row. (May 31, 2014)



The first senior-respecting gathering during Chinese New Year, the district chief supervisor, city councilor and supervisor of senior-welfare centre were all participated. (February 17, 2014)



The lively diversity of the Evergreen classes and activities are so lively and with diversity of interests. (February 27, 2014)



The exhibition of Mr. Hongnian Chen's class of traditional Chinese painting held at the community's office. (January 20, 2014)



Ms. Xiue Li's dancing class has become an important morning routine for mommies in the community. (December 15, 2014)



Implementation of mutual guardians - Community volunteers pay monthly visit to the senior center for veterans. (April 18, 2014)



Community volunteers pay monthly visit to Hui Cheng senior center. (July 14, 2014)

- **To create an ecological community and promote environmental sustainability**

Residents in Mingxing community have worked together to protect the environment, maintaining the resource-rich Liu-House ecozone which provides shelter to five species of fireflies and fourteen species of frogs, including the protected Taipei Tree Frog and Günther's frog.

Mingxing community has trained a group of eco-volunteers that scientifically record ecological resources and maintain the ecozone. An ecological education centre was founded to conduct outreach and education on environmental issues in the community.

In order to engage the community residents in the conservation of threatened species and ecological resources, and to cultivate an attitude for respecting lives, educational events such as firefly watching is held regularly; guidelines for understanding community ecology were printed and distributed to raise awareness.

Mingxing community is renowned for its excellence in maintaining the aquatic ecosystem; the Mingxing Water Patrol Unit is the only community-based surveillance team in Taipei to police water pollution; water testing was regularly conducted by the team to inspect the water quality of Jingmei River. Apart from regulating on water quality, the team also cleans the river to ensure a better river water quality. In 2000 and 2001, the Mingxing Water Patrol Unit was awarded with first prize by Taiwan's Environmental Protection Administration for their efforts in maintaining the water quality; and, was given second place in 2002 and 2003. Mingxing community also collaborates with Wenshan Community Learning Centre to safeguard the water resource, encouraging residents to get closer to water and be proactive in the conservation of the aquatic environments.

- **To collaborate with surrounding communities in pursuit of the common good.**

For the future development of Mingxing community; the visions are to maintain and build more ecological areas, to heighten residents' awareness of community safety; moreover, to strengthen the social welfare for the elderly and the needy. Mingxing community will soon be collaborating with its neighboring communities, sharing information and experiences in making better communities together.



The community chief supervisor took photo at the EPA low-carbon community award-presenting venue. (September 30, 2014)



Mr. Jinbin Lin, the member of community council, introduced the charming scene and history of Jinmei River to elementary school students. (September 6, 2014)