

Human Rights Travel Guide

Kaohsiung, TAIWAN

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City Government

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PREFACE I

Chu Chen

Mayor of Kaohsiung City

In recalling the democratic development of Taiwan, Kaohsiung city played a vital role in both the democratic activities and the history of striving for human rights. Although the citizens of this city had experienced the most brutal massacre of the 228 Incident and large-scale suppression from the Formosa Incident, they sacrificed their blood and lives to fight for human rights and thereby cultivated the fruitful achievement of fostering democracy in Taiwan.

In this historical context, evolving into a “Human Rights City” has always been an important issue, and is the fundamental political value in the development of Kaohsiung city. As a result, the citizens of Kaohsiung established the Human Rights Committee and Human Rights Learning Studio, and drafted the Autonomy Bill of Human Rights. In addition, we integrated and promote human rights policies in all of the city government units, as well as hold related educational and other activities which leave a great impression on the people. Our goal is to fully protect every citizen’s basic human rights.

The Human Rights Learning Studio set up near Formosa Boulevard MRT Station is not only a remembrance of the 228 Incident, but also a tribute to all human rights fighters in Taiwan; besides, we also look forward to it becoming a transit point for human knowledge and values. Through personal participation, the public will realize that democracy and human rights are not easy to gain; only by cherishing the fruitful results of democracy which we currently have will we ever get people to fully respect the concept of human rights.

In such efforts, Kaohsiung is famous not only for its international harbor and airport, but also for respecting human rights. With its reputation, it has become the 16th human rights city in the world. In order to be called a human rights city, Kaohsiung does not only rely on its historical background; with the evolution and prosperity of the city, the citizens’ faith in the eternal value of human rights has also evolved, as well as the hope that we will continue to cherish and enjoy them in the future.

Human rights are universal values and fundamental rights of human existence. Sustaining them is the goal we should always strive for. No matter how our country will progress and how the cross-strait relationship will develop, without human rights, all that the people of Taiwan worked so hard to achieve in the past will be totally wasted. Please respect the and protect these values; with your efforts, we will make the world think of Kaohsiung not as a victim of the Formosa Incident, but as a city which upholds and deeply values international human rights.

PREFACE II

Liqiong Su

Director
Social Affairs Bureau
Kaohsiung City Government

In international society, human rights are extremely important, opposite to that they remained a taboo in Taiwan till recently due to the imposition of martial law and the nation's isolated position in international society. A turning point occurred when martial law was lifted with the changing of the ruling party in 2000. The political authority focused on human rights in Taiwan and declared the 'rule by human rights' concept. In 2009, the government announced and enforced the 'Enforcement Roles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights' to regulate the protection of human rights with legislative acts.

Although Taiwan started late in regulating human rights protection, we have continued to moderately and quietly cultivate the field of human rights; in this process, Kaohsiung has played a dominant and crucial role. Whether we consider the 228 Incident and the Formosa incident that unfolded the marvelous democratic development in Taiwan, the 25 ladies who lost their lives, the booming economy, or the traditional industries behind the financial progress, the protection of the environment, etc, Kaohsiung records the development of human rights and marks the changes of democratization in Taiwan's politics and modernization of Taiwan's economy accompanying its growth as a city.

The 'Human Rights Tour Guide' aims to introduce historical sites in Kaohsiung associated with local human rights aspects. The map enclosed in the booklet will assist you in visiting, commemorating, and considering the meaning of human rights. We would like to dedicate this booklet to all of the fighters who made sacrifices for human rights. We hope that everyone can learn something about human rights from their noble deeds and their attempts of making a difference, so that the world will understand that the fruit of human rights is nurtured with blood, tears and lives, and appreciate and continue to strive to ensure the protection of human rights.

Lastly, I'd like to share with you a quote from a former first lady of the U.S., Eleanor Roosevelt when she served as chairperson of the 'Commission on Human Rights'; she expressed the hope that everyone would value universal human rights even from arguments based on trivial points.

INTRODUCTION

Wen-Ying Hsu

Director

Research & Development Department

Open University of Kaohsiung

Kaohsiung, a Holy land of Taiwan's democracy transition, is a living history of human rights which records the evolution of economic modernization and political democracy in Taiwan. If we take a look back at the history of Kaohsiung, we can review relevant incidents such as the 228 Incident, the Chiautou Incident, and the Formosa Incident (Kaohsiung Incident), which had a great impact on political reform in Taiwan. Furthermore, we can explore and feel the grief and emotions of citizens living in the period of national development, by visiting human rights historical sites, such as the Monument of the Unknown Soldiers in WWII, Fongshan Ming-der Disciplinary Camp, and Cijin Female Labor Memorial Park. These human rights-related incidents took place in Kaohsiung, emotionally connecting the citizens to this city. It is a place that inevitably evokes the sadness of the dark history of human rights, for the citizens who left town and the tourists.

I am touched and greatly inspired when editing this book. As a native of Kaohsiung, I am very lucky to enjoy the fruitful results of democracy without having experienced the bloody, turbulent era. I am even more lucky to have devoted myself to research the origins of these historical sites. Looking at the probes from Kaohsiung's point of view, we notice that the historical data never paid attention to the integrated ethical spirit of the self-defense squadron formed by Kaohsiung Senior High School students; besides, we can introspect that we still need to improve the human rights of grassroots workers to comfort the spirit of the 25 women buried in Cijin Female Labor Memorial Park.

Having partaken in the trip, I deeply realize that the inner presentation of "fully democratic" is not only shown in the openness towards public opinion, but also in the emotions that people tend to release through violence and public speeches, as well as the open-mind garnered by an individual through personal experience. The public is reminded that even with the restrictions of the current political and economic framework, we still have the power to create a socially innovative era of strengthened human rights.

"Dark Tourism" subtly transforms different human rights experiences around the world into business assets which, through cross-nation human rights trips, invisibly creates a common language with different ethical groups, that of human rights. After understanding the complicated relation between globalization and human rights, we realized that globalization and choice are not in conflict; instead, they aim to open more opportunities. The concepts of "standard human rights culture" and "blindly reject foreign human rights culture" could both obstruct the diverse development of a socially innovative human rights culture needed to construct a global harmonious human rights culture. A "non-compulsory human rights consensus", as a dialogue model for understanding human rights, is based on the principle that an innovative human rights society can be developed when the general public, not merely elite groups, become a partner in discussing human rights; therefore, we can expect to realize a global harmonious human rights culture.

This book is dedicated to all human rights defenders and fighters who sacrificed themselves in Kaohsiung.

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228 Incident

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228 Incident

The 228 Incident, triggered from a dispute between a cigarette vendor and an officer in Taipei in the afternoon of February 27th, 1948, caused people to present petitions, demonstrate and strike on the next day. On the 28th, public guards shot petitioners, making the violence unstoppable. The focus of the whole incident changed from punishing the troublemakers to provincial conflict. Martial law was declared by the Governor-General's Office due to the expansion of the conflict, and armed soldiers patrolled the city, using gunfire. The Taiwanese had been unsatisfied with the government after the restoration, and were even angrier with the improper management of the Chief Executive, leading to nationwide conflict since the 1st of March.

In the 228 Incident, Kaohsiung was the first place in the nation to be suppressed by the army. In the afternoon of March 6th, the troops led by Peng, Meng-Ji, the Commander of Kaohsiung, occupied Kaohsiung train station, stopping the trains; some passengers were shot by the army, starting the suppression. The bloody suppression did not stop until the 7th. At the end of March, the government started to carry out a repressive policy; many people were arrested, tortured or executed without having been judged. While martial law was lifted in May in the Kaohsiung area, people still lived in fear.

In 1998, the public started to pay attention to the demand by the families of victims of the 228 Incident for redress regarding the miscarriage of justice. In 1995, former president Lee, Teng-Hui officially apologized to the victims' families on behalf of the government. Meanwhile, the Administrative Yuan set up the 228 Incident Memorial Foundation to take care of compensation-related affairs, and commemorated the date as a national holiday: Peace Memorial Day. Subsequently, former KMT chairman Lien, Chan and President Ma, Ying-Jeou repeatedly apologized to the public for the incident. The incident left an indelible scar on Taiwanese hearts until the present. On this day every year, many activities are held around the nation to remind people to never forget the bloody history, and to learn from this lesson to promote harmony between ethnic groups.



SHOUSHAN 228 MEMORIAL MONUMENT

In 1993, the 228 Memorial Monument was erected in Shoushan Park, Kaohsiung. One of the reasons that the government set it up in this location was because Tu, Guan-Ming, Tseng, Feng-Ming and Fen, Cang-Rong had negotiated with Peng, Meng-Ji and were arrested in the military base; afterwards, they were executed on the 8th of March.

The monument was made of white marble imported from Italy; the round base symbolizes harmony between ethnic groups and the base is decorated with Eight Trigrams.

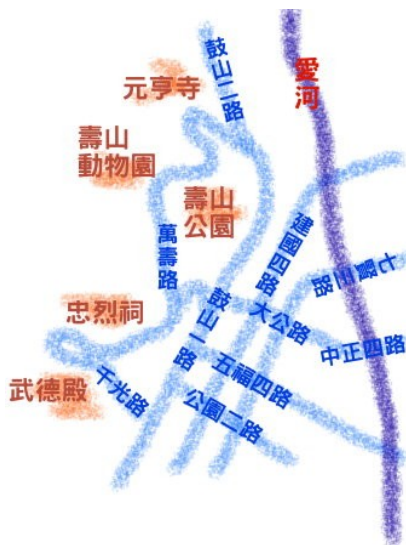


Location:

Shoushan Park, Kushan District

Transportation:

Take City Bus Line 99 from MRT Sizihwan (O1) Station at Exit 2, or take Chai Shan shuttle from Kaohsiung Train Main Station (available on Holidays only) to the Shoushan Park.

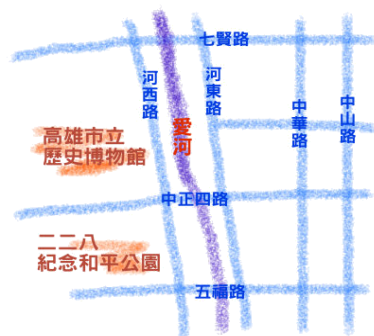


YANCHENG PEACE MEMORIAL PARK

Due to the historical data of the 228 Incident gradually becoming comprehensive and the original location of the monument in Shoushan being far from city center, the city government decided to move the monument in response to the victim's families' request. Afterwards, the Rehabilitation Committee of 228 Memorial Monument chose to rebuild it in the old Yancheng city area, which is the 228 Peace Memorial Park (former Ren-Ai Park), across from the Kaohsiung Museum of History. This location was chosen because it was one of the places where some victims were executed in 1947. The new monument set up in 2006 was engraved with 168 verified names of the victims.

The park is situated in the Zhong-Zhen Road, on the west side of Love River and across from Kaohsiung Museum of History. It was once the most popular underground shopping center in Kaohsiung city; after a fire which damaged the area, it was reconstructed as the Ren-Ai Park, and then renamed the 228 Peace Memorial Park to remind the citizens that democracy does not come easily.

The memorial park is integrated with the landscape of Love River, with Sunny Love River Café on the left. The park has green scenery full of trees and grass and is a key decorated area for lantern display during the Lantern Festival. Besides, it is also equipped with children's playground, bowling fields, etc.



Location:

Yancheng Peace Memorial Park
(Situated between Zhong-Zhen Road and Love River, Former Ren-Ai Park)

Transportation:

Take City Bus Line 1, 2, 60 or 88 to Yangcheng Roundabout Station or walk from MRT Yanchengpu (O2) Station at Exit 2 for about 10 minutes to the Park

GANGSHAN 228 PEACE MEMORIAL PARK

Gangshan 228 Peace Memorial Park is the first memorial park built to commemorate the 228 Incident in Taiwan. It was constructed in 1990 and was opened on the 28th of February, 1993. There is a 2-floor high monument in the shape of a peace dove. Entering from the side of the monument is Taiwan History Museum and 228 memorial room. The 228 Incident left a scar on Taiwan's history and the construction of the park aimed to remind people of the painful history and as a warning to avoid similar incidents.

The monument was designed with concrete animal images of 5 peace doves to symbolize the theme of justice and peace. In the epigraph, it is written that the 5 peace doves represent the unified fate of 5 ethnic groups in Taiwan, namely: aborigines, Pe-po, Hoklo, Hakka, and mainland Chinese in Taiwan.

In the spacious plaza of the park a monument was erected representing "justice and peace". Memorial activities are held annually in Gangshan Peace Memorial Park. The park is full of green scenery and equipped with a monument, music clock, children's playground, fitness training area and fountain.



Location:

Gangshan 228 Peace Memorial Park

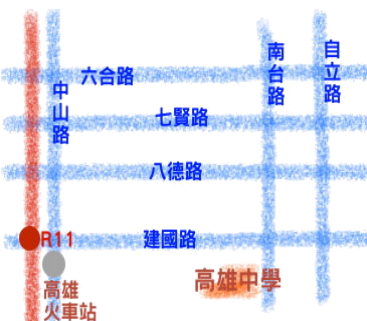
Transportation:

Get off at Gangshan interchange on No. 1, National Highway, drive along Gang-Yan N. Rd for about 5 meters and turn right to Da-Te 1st Rd.

SELF-DEFENSE SQUADRON OF KAOHSIUNG SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Kaohsiung Senior High School was established in 1922; besides being the top male high school in the Kaohsiung area, it is also the oldest public high school. The buildings are in Victorian red brick style and were restored very well. The corridors, made of water bricks inside the Red House, are in the Japanese colonial style.

In 1947 when the 228 Incident broke out, many groups took possession of the high school to resist the attack by the KMT army. One of the groups was the self-defense squadron, which was organized by high school students to protect campus security. The squadron was established due to the spreading of the incident regardless of the persuasion from Principal Ling Jing-Yuan and other teachers; furthermore, students from Kaohsiung Professional Innovate and Kaohsiung Commercial High School joined the squadron to maintain the safety of school and to isolate and protect innocent people from other provinces. Afterwards, "A Message to Compatriots in Taiwan" was issued.



Peng, Meng-Ji, the Commander of Kaohsiung at that time commanded that several public places be attacked, including Kaohsiung city government, the train station and Kaohsiung Senior High School, leading the squadron to fight back. Due to a shortage of arms and weapons, the squadron was seriously injured and many students' lives were lost. Peng called in more troops to attack the high schools, leaving several bullet marks around the campus which can still be seen on the wall of Red House.



Location:

No.50, Jianguo 3rd Rd., Sanmin District

Transportation:

Take City Bus Line 28, 92, 93, 245, Jianguo Line, China Line, or Red 27 to Kaohsiung Senior High School Station, or walk for 5 minutes from MRT to Kaohsiung Main (R11) Station, Exit 1 to the School.

Opening Hours:

Appointment needed before hand.

Phone: (07)286-2550

KAOSIUNG MUSEUM OF HISTORY

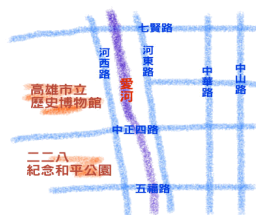
Old Kaohsiung City Government built in 1938 is located across from Yancheng Peace Memorial Park and was reconstructed as Kaohsiung Museum of History. It is one of the places with much valuable historical data of the 228 Incident; the 228 Incident Collection Room is open to the public.

Kaohsiung Museum of History was built in 1939 and was the second city hall under Japanese colonization. The Japanese government considered that the city center was developing towards the east, so they moved the city hall to Rong-Ting. The appearance of the imperial building was like the Chinese character “Kao”, representing Kaohsiung’s prosperity. The construction was renamed Kaohsiung City Government after restoration and became the political center. Later, the government decided to build a new city hall as the old one was no longer big enough.



Transformed from the Kaohsiung city government into the Museum of History, the museum not only has a historical appearance but also an abundant history. It is a living history recording from Kaohsiung State Hall, to Kaohsiung City Government after restoration, culminating in Kaohsiung Museum of History.

The building itself witnessed the historical buildings in Kaohsiung carrying on the spiritual significance of the land. The building was then deemed a “City Historical Site” by the city government and was transformed and renamed “Kaohsiung Museum of History” to restore and add glory to the historical culture. It was officially opened to the public on 25th of October, 1998.



Location:

No.272, Zhongzheng 4th Rd.,
Yancheng District

Transportation:

Walk for 10 minutes from MRT Yancheng Station at Exit2 or take City Bus Line 56 (available on holidays only), 60 or 14 to the School

Opening Hours:

Tue-Fri (09:00~17:00), weekend (09:00~21:00), closed on Mondays

Ciaotou Incident

Ciaotou Incident 11

In August of 1978, Tu Don-Fa, the mayor of Kaohsiung County and his son, Yu Rui-Yen, were accused by the government of being involved in the “Spy Wu Tai-An Incident”. The accusation was that they knew but did not report the spy and aided him; they were then sentenced to 8 years in prison, triggering strong dissatisfaction in society and opposition from people who were not KMT. Those people thought that the government had arrested the father and son to prevent them from uniting with the non-KMT personages. On the 22nd of January, 1979, some non-KMT persons at that time, including Hsu, Hsin-Liang, Huang, Hsin-Jei, Chen, Chu, Ho, Chuan-Moo, Chang, Chun-Hong and Tseng, Hsin-Yi started a demonstration in Ciaotou, calling for the release of the father and son.

The demonstration planner was Shih, Ming-De. The prisoners were later released. However, the Taoyuan County mayor, Hsu, Hsin-Liang, was suspended by the government. This was the very first political demonstration after the 40-year martial law period in Taiwan, and is called the “Ciaotou Incident” in the history of the evolution of democracy in Taiwan.

The Ciaotou Incident is a very important milestone in the maturation of democracy in Taiwan. It brought about the conflict between non-KMT persons and the government, enabling the will of the Taiwanese, which had been constrained for a long time to be released, and cultivating the spirit of democracy.



The refinery stopped making sugar in 1999 and was declared by Kaohsiung County to be a historical site in September 2002. The refinery was then transformed into a leisure and tourism site with many architectures of Japanese occupation, including Japanese-style dorm, garden and landscape, shelter, ammunition depot, red brick water tower and warehouse. One of the special features of the refinery is the Guanyin statue in front of the refinery, which is one of only three remaining in the world.



No.24, Tangchang Rd., Qiaotou
Township

MRT Ciaotou Sugar Refinery
(R22A) Station, Exit 2

9:00~17:00 (Group tour guide for organizations and schools needs to be booked in advance.)

The Formosa (Kaohsiung) Incident

The Formosa (Kaohsiung) Incident

The Formosa Incident, also known as the Kaohsiung Incident (or as the governing authority then called it, the Kaohsiung violent rebellious incident) took place on the 10th of December, 1979. At that time in Taiwan, the press had long been manipulated by the governing authority; non-KMT power centers could only express themselves to limited groups of readers by establishing magazines, and so derived the 'Formosa magazine', a product of the time; however, it was challenged by right wing figures, and then suppressed and abused by the governing authority.

To express its democratic appeal, and to protest the governing authority's suppression of human rights, the Formosa Magazine decided to hold a 'Human Rights Assembly' and a protest parade in Kaohsiung on International Human Rights' Day, the 10th of December. The leading participants included core members of the magazine, such as Hsu, Hsin-liang, Lin, Yi-hsiung, Lu, Annette Hsin-Lien, Chen, Chu, Shih, Ming-teh, Huang, Hsin-chieh, and other non-KMT personages.

During the events, there were some minor disputes, but the accumulated dispute and high pressure control of the governing authority further intensified the protest; in the end the governing authority sent the armed forces to control the situation. In terms of scale, this is the greatest, dispute after the 228 incident. Many important non-KMT persons were arrested and judged after the Formosa incident. They were even sentenced to death but eventually were given terms of imprisonment due to public pressure.

The Formosa incident continued to influence the governing authority afterward. Government policy direction was forced to change and Taiwan finally escaped the one-party political system. With the lifting of the party restriction, martial law, and the sanctions on the freedom of speech and media led to a total election reversal in the congress. We can claim that it was an important milestone in the democratic progress of Taiwan.

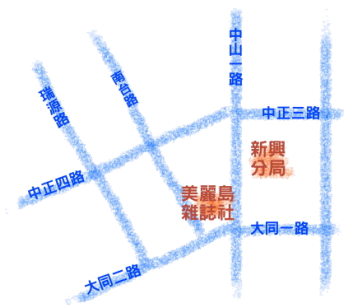
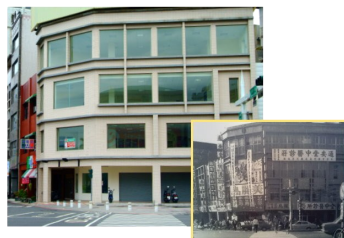


FORMOSA MAGAZINE

In May, 1979, non-KMT personage Huang, Hsin-chieh registered a new magazine and Zhou, Qingyu proposed to name it 'Formosa', the song composed by Li, Shuan-Gze and sung by Yang, Tsu-Chuen; that's how the magazine got its name. On the 2nd of June, the 'Formosa' magazine was officially established in Taipei. At the conference held on the 9th of July, the magazine named Hsu, Hsin-liang the president, Lu, Annette Hsin-Lien, the vice president, Chang Chun-hung, the editor in chief, and Shih, Ming-The, the general manager; they were the main core non-KMT personages.

The Formosa incident, which occurred on the 10th of December 1979 in Kaohsiung, was the vital turning point of Taiwan's democratization. Located at the junction of Zhong-Shan Road and Da-tong Road, the Kaohsiung Office of 'Formosa Magazine' was the centre of this force. The Formosa incident reveals how the Taiwanese supported democratic and human rights; the suffering and hardship were over, and Taiwan finally left that sad era. For Kaohsiung, the Former Site of Formosa Magazine is where this historical event happened, but in the history of Taiwan's political development, this site has significant importance and is full of historical meanings.

The architecture where the magazine was produced dates back to 1962. It is one of those ordinary traditional street houses, the façade of which is composed with arranged geometric shapes. It is now on lease for commercial use. Some people proposed initiating the 'Formosa Fund' to raise money from the public to purchase the historic building in order to commemorate the Kaohsiung Incident, promote the history of human rights as well as deepen and consolidate democracy.



Location:

No. 53, Zhong-Shan 1st Rd.,
Sinsing District

Opening Hours:

The interior architecture where the Formosa Magazine was produced is not open to the public

FORMOSA BOULEVARD STATION

The Formosa Boulevard Station of Kaohsiung Rapid Transit is located at the junction of Jhongheng and Jhongshan Road; it is the main transfer station that connects the red and the orange metro lines. Its original name was Da-Kang-Pu station; however, in order to commemorate the human rights incident that took place here, namely the Formosa incident, it was changed to 'Formosa Boulevard station'. In the initial planning stage, the main design direction was to present the historical theme of the red line and the marine theme of the orange line; the final goal is to make it the future new landmark of Kaohsiung.

The Formosa Boulevard station is the biggest globe shaped station in the world. Its four main exits were designed by Japanese architect Shin Takamatsu, and their shell shape was designed with the 'palm to palm, pray' theme. The steel frame and glass work bring different results at different times in the day.

The 'Dome of Light in the dome hall of the station is a world legacy masterpiece which designed by world renowned artist, maestro Narcissus Quagliata, and the construction took four years. The 'Dome of Light' is 30 meters in diameter and the dome area is 660 square meters, making it the world's largest glass panel art classic, turning the dome into the latest tourist spot.

The Dome of light is divided into four areas according to its main design theme: 'love and tolerate', which represent four main themes depicted clockwise: water, which represents the generation of life; earth, which represents prosperity and growth; light, which represents spirit or creation; and fire, which represents destruction and rebirth. Together they comprise a glamorous and environmentally balanced masterpiece of lights, shadow, color, and art pieces in the language of glass panels, colors and beams of light.



Location:

Intersection of Jhongshan Rd. and Jhongheng Rd., of Singsing District

Transportation:

MRT Formosa Boulevard (R10/O4) Station

Opening Hours:

Every day (05:55~00:30)

HUMAN RIGHTS LEARNING STUDIO

The Human Rights Learning Studio was established on November 19, 2009, on the 30th anniversary of the Formosa Incident (the Kaohsiung Incident); in order to implement the vision of making Kaohsiung a 'Human Rights City', Kaohsiung City government commissioned the Open University of Kaohsiung to establish the "Human Rights Learning Studio" in the Formosa Boulevard Station to integrate the idea of human rights into citizens' daily lives.

The Human Rights Studio endeavors to make Formosa Boulevard Station a 'Transfer Center of Human Rights Concepts'. The aims of the studio are to shape a harmonious sustainable and open society which protects the dignity of all mankind, and in which people understand and care about each other, as well as enjoy, learn, provide innovative ideas to, protect and implement human rights, and which will also be the human rights city where everyone can sacrifice and enjoy human rights.

The service the studio mainly provides is offering a space for the citizen to learn about human rights; the studio also holds human rights film seminars, an illustration contest for human rights education, and a human rights music session to help implement human rights in daily life.

The aggregate plan of the studio includes the human rights wishing tree set next to the entrance open to everyone to hang their human rights wishes. On the display next to it are various relevant human rights publications which people can freely take away to read.

On the floor of the studio a Monopoly-type map is painted so that children can learn about history and tourist sites of human rights in Taiwan via a game. On the wall is the universal human rights declaration in Chinese and different languages symbolizes the concept of "Human Rights Without Boundaries", and also famous human rights quotes from human rights fighters like Martin Luther King, Cheng, Nan-jung, Aung San Suu Kyi, etc. The studio also provides human rights books and videos for people to borrow, and there are also public computers for passers-by to learn about human rights.



Location:

Toward Exit 9, Dome of Light, MRT

Transportation:

MRT Formosa Boulevard (R10 · O4) Station

Opening Hours:

Tue-Sun (10:00~19:00), closed on Monday

Phone: (07)235-7559

MING-DER DISCIPLINARY CAMP OF THE NAVY

The former Japanese Navy radio station in Fengshan was built in Showa 16 to 18 during the period of Japanese rule. It used to be the base station of the Japanese Naval Communications Fengshan Unit. In WWII, the Japanese army set up the Southeast Asia vessel detection station, which also served as a secret intelligence unit. In 1945, after WWII was over, this base was taken over by the Republic of China Navy, and was called Fengshan Guest house for confidential concern when it was in fact the detention house used to imprison political prisoners in the army. It was the cause of the false imprisonment during the navy white terror.

After the ROC government relocated to Taiwan in 1949, this base was used to investigate prisoners till it was turned into the Navy discipline centre in 1962, and then into the Ming-Der Disciplinary Camp of the Navy in 1974. The main purpose then was to discipline unruly and misbehaving individuals in the army. The downsizing and restructuring of the Armed Forces Refining Program implemented by ROC Ministry of National Defense in 2001 made this site a temporary joint training base for the armed forces to practice mobilization of reservists education recall.



In January 2006, the army restructured its organization and moved out, marking the end of its many missions from military communication base to detention center for imprisoning political prisoners.

Ming-Der disciplinary camp is not just unique in architecture style but also in terms of cultural and historical preservation. Before opening up to the public, it was used to detain, now it reveals the secret history of that time, and records the bloody and tragic stories in the development of the history of human rights in Taiwan.

The former Japan Navy radio station in Fengshan was a military facility. Inside, the main fort is 14 meters tall with anti-explosion doors and windows, and vents of the Japanese colonial period style. There are two large long bucket-shaped roofs inside which are covered with soil to prevent bombing from the Allies. The shape of the building near ground level is nearly square shaped. In addition, there is another building remaining from the Japanese colonial period which was used by the Japanese Naval Communications Fengshan Unit for vessel detection. This building is about 100 meters tall, with a cross shaped ground bade, and there is a two story high ceiling hall used to keep communication equipment which is now in Yinlan.

Buildings in the neighborhood area include: a big fort, small fort, power plant, telegraphy towers, etc, with wireless telegraphy towers surrounding in a line array circle. Its original facilities, farmland, green belt, seat pier, ring road, and all of these important buildings are arranged in double-circle urban plan. Even the boundary outskirt of the telegraphy tower and how the land is divided all show clear historical elements. On the wall inside the main building one can still find the 'spirit of Ming-Der', disciplinary lines of the Ming-Der Disciplinary Camp period. On the 30th of August, 2010, it was officially elevated from county historical monument to national historical monument, as announced by the Council of Cultural Affairs of the Executive Yuan.



Location:

No. 1, Shengli Road, Fengshan

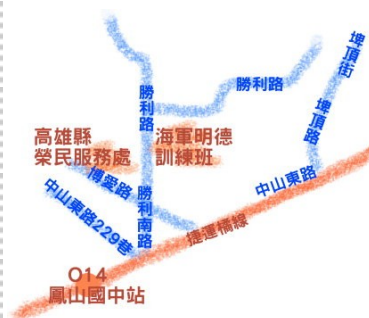
Transportation:

Walk for ten minutes from MRT Fengshan Jr. (O14) Station at Exit 1

Opening Hours:

Opened at special time

Phone: (07) 626-2620 ext. 2811



FEMALE LABORS MEMORIAL PARK

On 3rd of September 1973, 25 female laborers who lived in Cijin district in Kaohsiung boarded a ferry at JhongJhou in Cijin to get to work in the Kaohsiung Export Processing Zone in Cianjhen district. When a typhoon struck, the overloaded ferry, suffering mechanical failure turned over and these ladies lost their lives. The youngest one was only 13 years old; in order to commemorate these 25 ladies, their families agreed to bury them together near Jhongsing borough and they built the Cemetery of 25 Ladies. It was relocated in 1988 to the current location because of the construction of the 4th cargo warehouse center in Jhongsing commercial district of Kaohsiung harbor. A monument was erected for people to be cautious in the future.

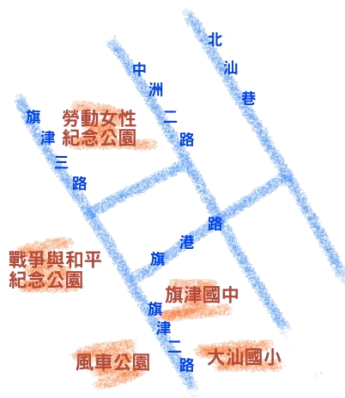
In 2006, the National Cultural Association recognized this site as a female cultural landmark dedicated to these young fishing village female laborers who lost their lives for taking on the financial responsibilities of helping their families. Though the memory has faded, to residents of Cijin, it is a history of life, and also a bloodstained record of the contributions of fundamental laborers to Taiwan's economic development.

Cijin has been Kaohsiung's main tourist attraction; the comprehensive development of the area continues, yet the Cemetery of 25 Ladies on Cijin's main road bears a negative image due to traditional folk perception. Kaohsiung City government took advice from female movement and labor movement groups, and turned the cemetery of these ladies into a public facility that features a memorial with a positive meaning.



On the 28th of April 2008, the international worker's Memorial Day announced the refurbishment the Cemetery of 25 Ladies and that it would be renamed the 'Female Laborers Memorial Park', so that the public would remember the contributions which laborers made in the economic development of Taiwan and the dedication of female laborers. It is also a warning to the political authority to reinforce labor safety checks to prevent such labor accidents from ever happening again.

The female labor memorial park has a relaxing area, public arts displays, a plaza, and an entrance image. The former tombs of the 25 ladies are present as a monument, and the lotus sculpture in the park represents the symbol of praying and laborers' death. The park exudes a positive image to make the sounding area a green neighborhood, and together with the Seaside Park and the Wind-power Park create a big green-park corridor used for daily recreation by the public.



Location:

Cijin 3rd Road

Transportation:

Take City Bus Line 248, 219, 31, 50 (Wufu Line) to Gushan Ferry Station to take the ferry to Cijin Ferry Station then take City Bus Line 35.

MONUMENT OF UNKNOWN TAIWANESE VETERANS

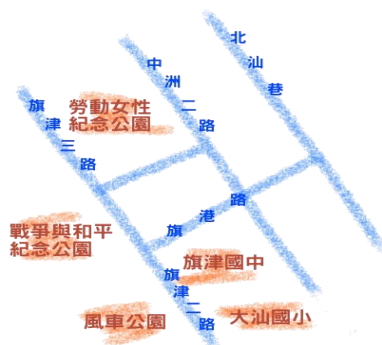
After coming back to Taiwan 1992, Khou, Chiao-Eng, an elderly Taiwanese veteran who was once on the black list, devoted his efforts into reclaiming truth and justifying the honor of the elder Taiwanese soldiers and those who had died in alien lands as well as comfort their surviving families. He founded the Association of Taiwanese Veterans and Their Survivors in 1994, and later led a hunger strike protest in Kaohsiung with all these elderly Taiwanese veterans and their survivors from across the nation. Kaohsiung city government agreed to take a piece of land reserved for the Cijin Seaside Park to build the 'Memorial Park of the Taiwanese Old Soldiers for World Peace' which would also host the 'memorial monument for the "Unknown Taiwanese Veterans", and the 'Taiwanese Solider Memorial Hall'.

The very first 'Monument of Unknown Taiwanese Veterans', established right before the 60th anniversary of WWII, was dedicated to his fellow soldiers who had lost their lives for the country in alien lands. The heavy marble monument is a vehicle for the ghosts of these veterans who cannot return home; it bears the concerns their families have for them. The monument calls and leads the spirits of these veterans to come home across the Taiwan Strait.



The monument of 'Unknown Taiwanese Soldiers' is set next to the Windmill Park on the seashore of Cijin. On its back, the engraved calligraphy reads 'May their spirits rest peacefully in their hometowns', written by former president Lee, Teng-Hui, and 'May their souls be comforted in the motherland' written by Khou, Chiao-Eng.

On the base of the monument, the story of this tragic history is recorded. Each and every word recalls the tears and blood of these Taiwanese veterans, many of whom were sent to the fields of war during the Chinese Civil War and died there unknown under the ruthless gunfire. The monument is built to justify the historical position earned by these warriors.



Location:

Cijin 2nd Road, Cijin District, across from Cijin Junior High School (inside of the Cijin Wind Mill Park)

Transportation:

Take City Bus Line 248, 219, 31, or 50 (Wufu Line) from MRT Sizihwan (O1) station to Gushan Ferry Station to take the ferry to Cijin ferry station then you can rent a bike to get to the Park, or Take City Bus Line 35 from MRT Kaisyuan (R6) Station at Exit 1 to the Wind Mill Park Station

WAR AND PEACE MEMORIAL PARK AND THEME HALL

Cijin was chosen to be the location to host the 'Memorial Park of War and Peace'. Built facing the sea, it is an elaboration of the last scene many Taiwanese veterans saw before they were sent away. The park is mainly dedicated to Taiwanese veterans who sacrificed their lives in the Chinese Civil War. It was opened to the public on the 20th of May 2009.

There are the memorial wall of light in the main building in the park, the memorial pillars of lanterns that symbolize an anti-war sentiment, the plaza of the monument, and the heart of echoes. It is the only Theme Hall in Taiwan that commemorates soldiers who died in the Great East War (the Pacific War), the Chinese Civil War, and the Korean War, with the story of these older veterans' fight attesting to their courage and honor. There is also a data bank, the only one, on the Taiwanese soldiers who got killed in the war.



The white peace pigeon in the park is a sculpture made from marble and shell sand. Its appearance is in a symmetrical heart shape, and in the middle are two flying pigeons, which also look like two hands, symbolizing hands put together in a prayer for peace. On the side facing the park, are the engraved lyrics of the song 'Beautiful Formosa' written by a local song writer Wang, Ming-Zhe; the content echoes these Taiwanese veterans' love and dedication to Taiwan.

The wall of the theme hall presents the same Taiwanese wearing Japanese, R.O.C, and P.R.C military uniforms in mosaic symbolizing what happened to adolescents in Taiwan during WWII.

The light wall in the park utilized 24 captioned pictures to depict incidents involving Taiwanese adolescents and women prior to and post WWII. On the lantern there are an engraved pigeon of peace and a reverse gun in the ground. In response to the theme of the park, all the stands of the signs in the park are designed like reversed bombs in the ground symbolizing an anti-war sentiment. The ground space of the plaza monument nearby is called the 'heart of echoes'; visitors can stand here, feel the wind blowing from the sea, pay their condolence to these warriors who sacrificed for Taiwan, and pray for them. In front of the heart of echoes, is the meaningful plaza of the monument.

For years, the Association of Taiwanese Veterans and Their Survivors worked on building a monument to commemorate the soldiers who had been summoned to fight in foreign locations and to get them well deserved historical recognition. A Taiwanese veteran, Mr. Khou, Chiao-Eng had fought for Taiwanese veterans who had died in alien lands; he was discontented that Taiwanese veterans had been neglected by the government. He worried that the 'Monument for unknown Taiwanese Veterans' in Chinjin, which was built after his many years of endeavor, might be relocated by the government, and that the 'Memorial Park of War and Peace' would be renamed the 'Memorial Park of Peace.' He chose to immolate himself in front of the monument on the 20th of May, 2008, leaving his last words: Better burned to ashes than to become rusted and corrupted'. Not even in death would he part with the only 'Park of War and Peace' in Taiwan and his appeal would last till the 'Taiwan Memorial Monument of soldiers died in Wartime' was built.

Location:

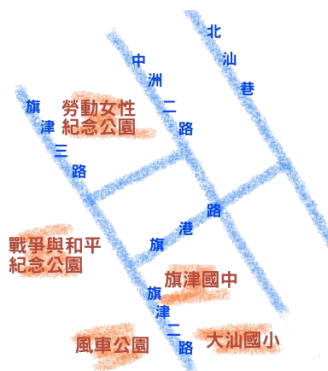
No. 701, Cijin 2nd Road, Cijin District

Transportation:

Take City Bus Line 248, 219, 31, or 50 (Wufu Line) from MRT Sizihwan (O1) station to Gushan Ferry Station to take the ferry to Cijin ferry station then you can rent a bike to get to the Park

Opening Hours:

Tue-Sun (09:00~17:00)



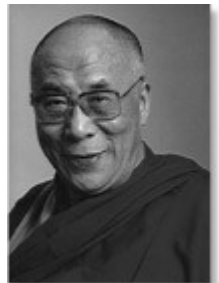
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Human Rights Note

"Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where the people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free."

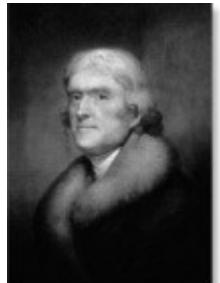
Tibet | H. H. The Dalai Lama (1935)



Human Rights Note

"The care of human life and happiness,
and not their destruction, is the first and
only object of good government."

American | Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)



Human Rights Note

"China to Love, Taiwan lovely, there's freedom,
there's home."

Taiwan | Bo Yang (1920-2008)



Human Rights Note

"No man is above the law and no man below it!"

American | Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919)



Human Rights Note

Human rights are only actualized when they are achieved by others. And, one would accordingly live with nobility and dignity as well.



Human Rights Note

Civic engagement for societal development is a key issue to human rights cities.



Human Rights Note

"Freedom is not free."

American | Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)



Human Rights Note

"All the news without fear or favor."

Taiwan | Cheng Nan-jung (1947-1985)



Human Rights Note

"We formed the Union, not to give the blessings of liberty, but to secure them; not to the half of ourselves and the half of our posterity, but to the whole people - women as well as man."

American | Susan B. Anthony(1820~1906)



Human Rights Note

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

American | Martin Luther King, Jr.(1929-1968)



Human Rights Note

"Freedom is not free."

American | Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)



Human Rights Note

"All the news without fear or favor."

Taiwan | Cheng Nan-jung (1947-1985)



Human Rights Note

"Concepts such as truth, justice and compassion cannot be dismissed as trite when these are often the only bulwarks which stand against ruthless power."

Myanmar | Aung San Suu Kyi (1945)



Human Rights Note

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend
to the death your right to say."

France | François-Marie Arouet(1694-1778)



Human Rights Note

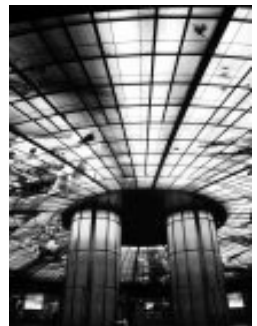
"I argue that we will not enjoy development without security, or security without development. But I have also to stress that we will not enjoy either without Universal consensus and respect for human rights. Unless all these conditions may synchronize to advance, none of them will succeed".

Former UN Secretary-General | Kofi Annan (1938)



Human Rights Note

The value of human rights won't be realized how profoundly fundamental to people's happiness it is until it is lost. The essence and spirit of "human rights city" are to respect human rights through the empowerment of people.



Human Rights Note

Mankind have to repeatedly learn and understand the nobility and dignity of a human being, tolerate social diversity, respect others' sensitivity, in order to enter public sphere of influence and defend public wealth. Conspicuously, this historical site and environment may solemnly lead us in the path toward magnanimity.



Human Rights Note

"China to Love, Taiwan lovely, there's freedom,
there's home."

Taiwan | Bo Yang (1920-2008)

