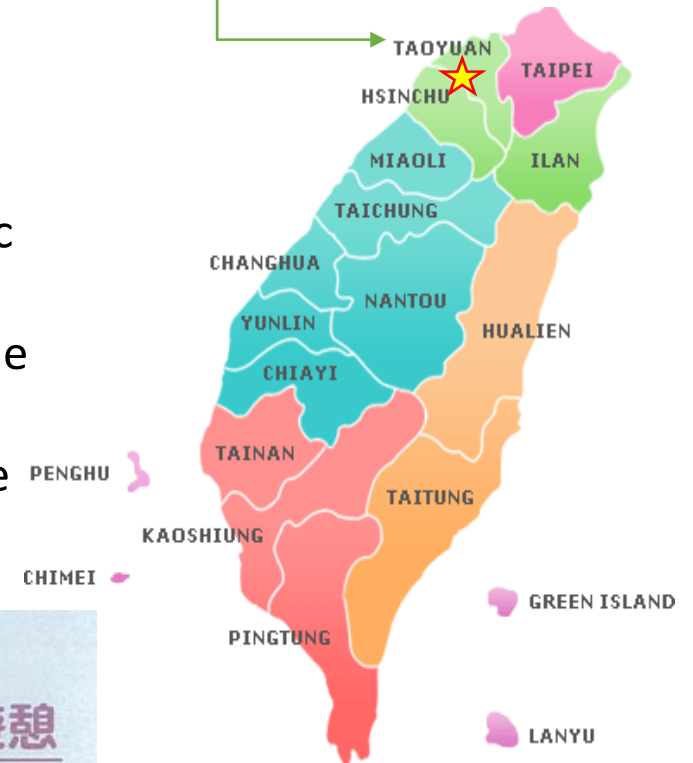




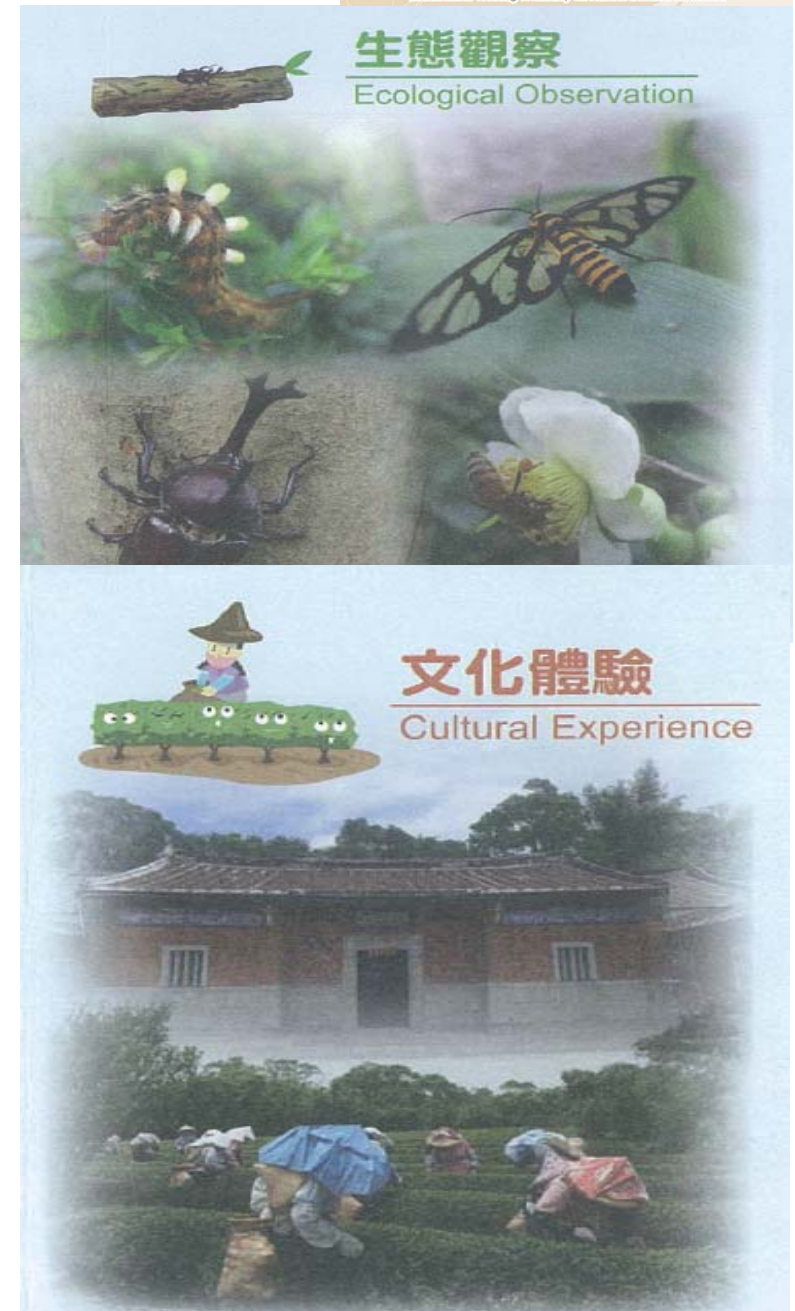
Longtan, Taoyuan City

Taipei Branch of Soil and Water Conservation Bureau, Council of Agriculture's established the Sanahui Soil and Water Conservation Outdoor Classroom in 1996. The Classroom uses educational activities to arouse the public to an awareness of soil and water conservation, and participation by conservation volunteers helps awaken the love of the people for their home, their land, and their mountains and waters, as well as an understanding of the rationale of harmonious co-existence man and nature.



Dabeikeng Community

The Soil and Water Conservation Bureau, Council of Agriculture began carrying out comprehensive rural slpoeland development at Dabeikeng community, in Taoyuan City' s Longtan District, in 1991. With the institution of the Rural Regeneration Project, planning was carried out for soil and water conservation, environmental improvement and beautification, green-belt construction, scenic ponds, and torrent control, all with the aim of integrating local Hakka culture to create a diversified rural milieu and a diverse range of cultural assets while doing on harm to the rural landscape. In addition to improving the quality of the rural living environment, this increased farmer incomes in a model community with the characteristics of farm production, recreation, and edutainment.



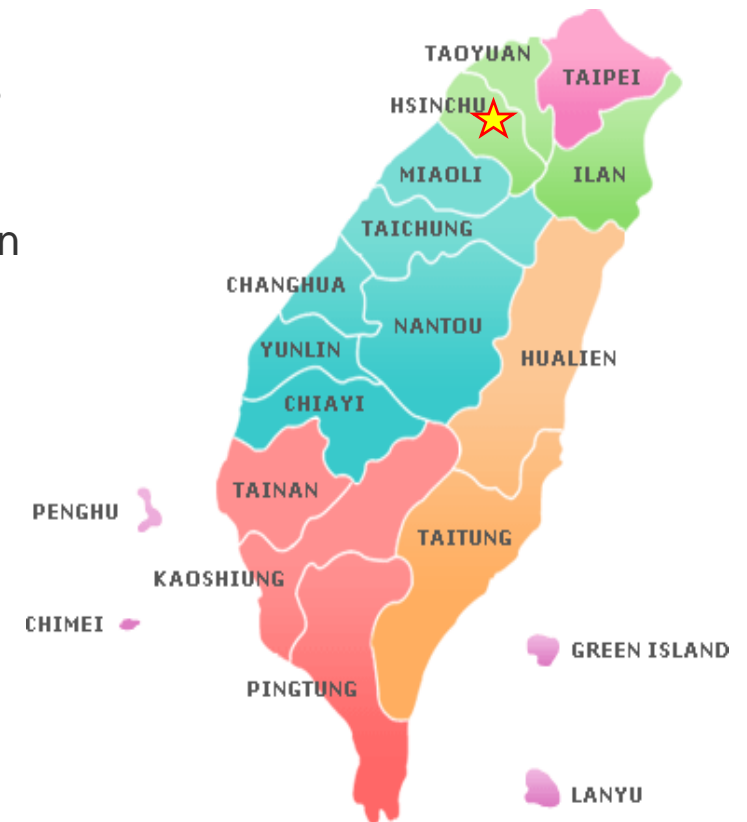
Rural Regeneration: Daping Community, Jhaomen Agricultural Leisure Area

Upon entering the Jiuqiong Lake area, you can see Pongamia, Golden Shower Trees, Taiwan Golden-rain Trees, southern cypresses, and other trees. In addition, as soon as you look down, you can see the lantana, the star cluster species, garden balsams, and other nectar plant shrubs which butterflies love. The butterflies flutter between these as a breeze blows from time to time, giving people a sense of comfort.

The region is gradually transforming from a relatively low population agrarian village to what is expected to become a leisure village with observation decks, health trails, ecological pools, and other beautiful scenic attractions. A clear consensus is gradually starting to form among Jiucong Lake's farmers concerning the changes in the village as a result of discussions in meetings and the Soil and Water Conservation Bureau's development plan taking root.

More Information: <http://en.swcb.gov.tw/Village/Details.aspx?Parser=99,8,37,,,,,5>

Xinpu Township, Hsinchu County



Rural Regeneration: Daping Community, Jhaomen Agricultural Leisure Area

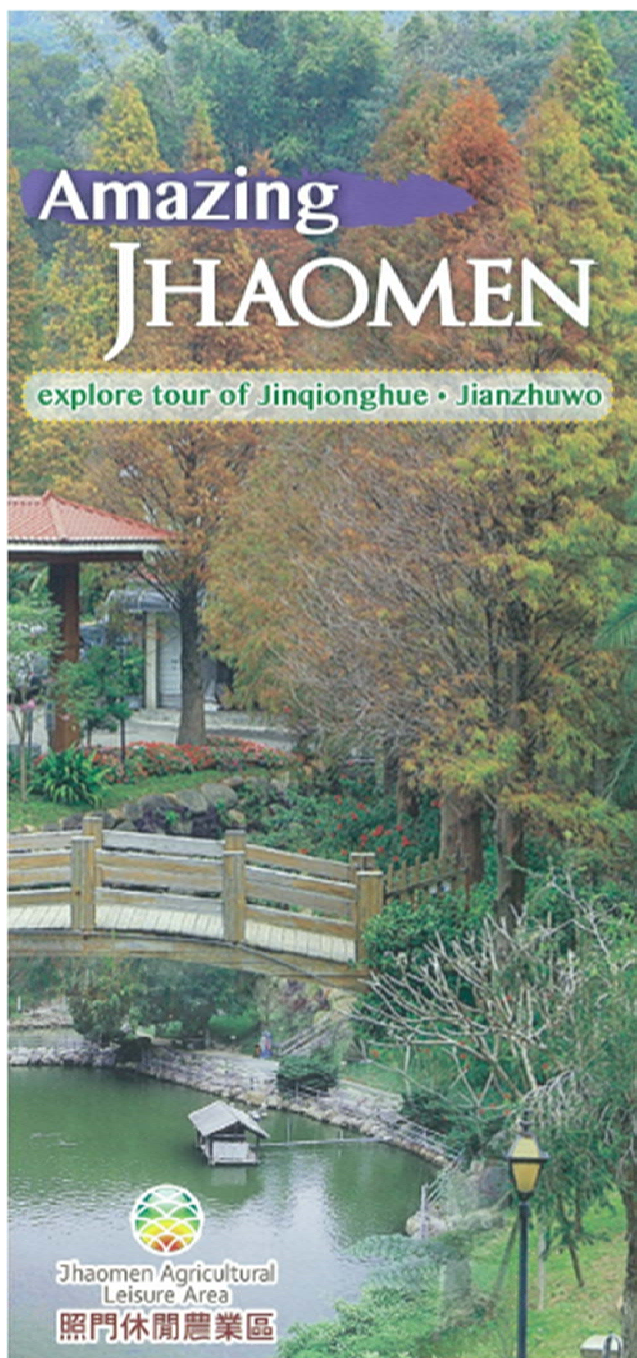


After the roads were widened more tourists started to come, and this gave new life to the regional economy. It also helped fortify notions of sustainable ecological agriculture. Everyone was careful not to spray pesticides, and they were proactive in planting nectar plants, as well as using ecological means for building levees. Furthermore, the villagers learned from experts and were eager to put what they learned into practice in their daily lives. While many of the projects were completed by engineering units, the village organization provided their thoughts and opinions throughout the process so that various facilities would be more in keeping with Zhaomen area's original atmosphere and more clearly represent the particular regional style. Through these efforts, in 2007 the Zhaomen leisure Agricultural Community was rewarded with recognition as one of the "Top 10 Rural Villages."

Changes in the Jiuqiong Lake area have not only had an influence on the environment but the hearts and thought of the residents who live in the area have also changed as a result. For example, the farmers in the region used to use pesticides as a panacea which could solve all cultivating problems. Now no one uses it. Traditional industry has given way to the service industries, and this has given more room for the sons and daughters of the Jiuqiong Lake region to make a living. An example includes the farm run by Huang Liuzhen, which attracts tourists with a scenic area coffee in its beautiful garden; a DIY family jelly making activity helps satisfy the desire of city dwellers to experience rural culture. Tourists can also take nature home in the form of one of the many bonsai plant pots.

This fresh rural life experience allows for the advantages of the strengths of traditional rural villages to become a wonderful fruit of the area through the efforts of all residents. Changes in the rural village are a necessity as a result of generational changes. However, the appearance of this new ecological and sustainable new look is the result of the common promotion of Jiuqiong Lake's residents, as well as a goal long worked for.

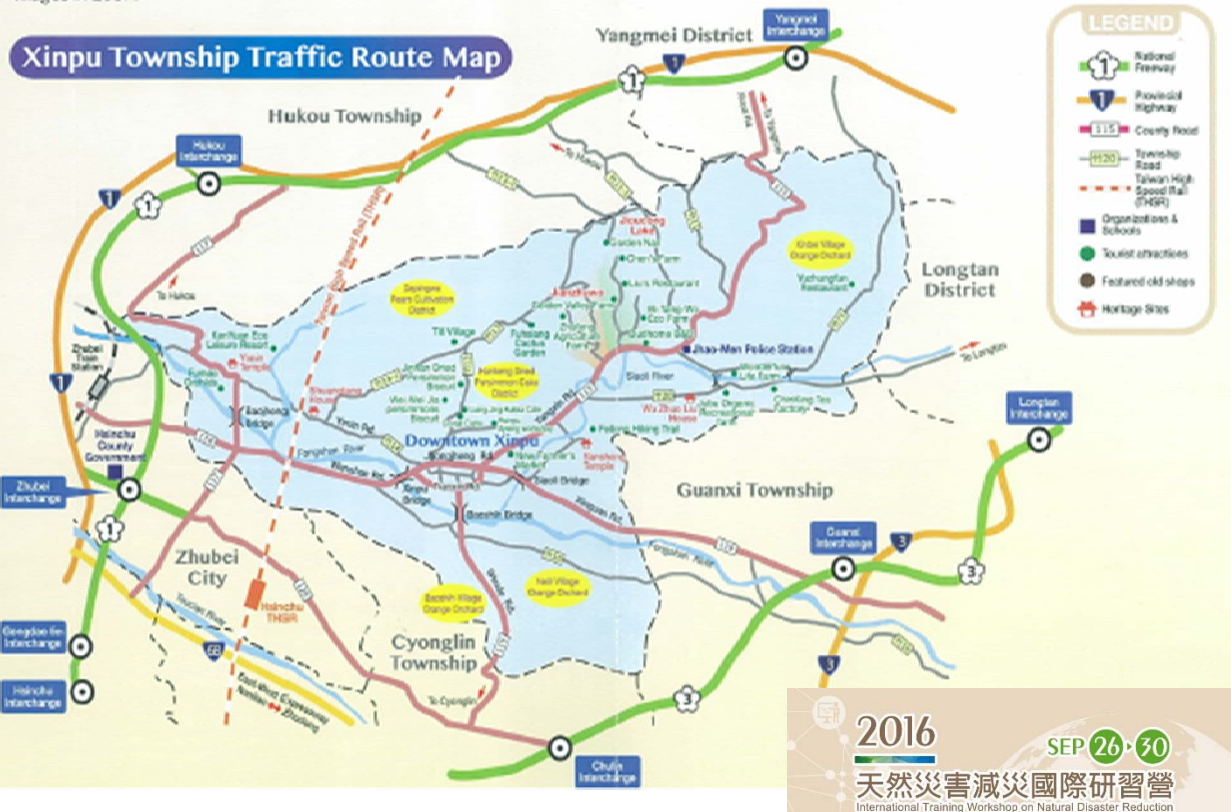




Fun trips to Xinpu "Baliguo" and Jhaomen

"Baliguo" is the old name of Xinpu from the aboriginal language with the meaning of new grassland, which was the former hunting wasteland of Pingpu in 1725, the Han started to reclaim here. In 1784, small villages came up and the name of "Xinpu Village" officially appeared in literature. In early 19th century, Xinpu became the distribution center of the sugar, tea and camphor, which were the 3 major economic crops and its commercial activities were almost the same as Hsinchu City in its heyday. Nowadays, the dried persimmon, rice noodles, pear, and citrus from Xinpu are still in good reputation. Xinpu is also very famous for its humanity. There are a lot of well-known cultural historical sites, such as Bao Zhong Ting Yinlin Temple, traditional Hakka Guanghe Temple, Sansheng Temple, Xhetang Public Hall (the tobacco shop), Shangfangleao Liu's Double Hall, Liu's Temple, Pan's House, Catholic Church and so on.

Jhaomen Leisure Agricultural Area in Xinpu Town includes Jiugionghue and Jianzhuwo. This 300 ha valley is composed of five hills and it was the former hunting land for the Pingpu. Afterwards, it was reclaimed by the Han who farmed for generations with citrus, pear as the staple crops and became a rustic Hakka traditional town in the mountains. From 1991, the Soil and Water Conservation Bureau combined the rural project promotion and the local Hakka spirit and creativity to build a high-quality rural environment and tourist attractions. It was also selected as one of the top ten best agricultural and fishing villages in 2007.



The color plate of Bald Cypress



Jhaomen Leisure Agricultural Area

There are several distinctive health trails in this area with gentle slope, luxuriant trees, beautiful forests, rich and diverse natural environment, which are very suitable for family hiking. Recently, the Bald Cypress was successfully planted. Its gradient red leaves in autumn, which rival the beauty of maple red scene, are just like the nature's color plate painting willfully in Jhaomen. The wonderful changes of color and beauty of Bald Cypress are so amazing. Besides sightseeing, you could also experience the rural life and enjoy the happiness and beauty of leisure agriculture.

Jhaomen is in hilly terrain with rich planting. In addition to Bald Cypress, the common plants are Cassia Fistula and Golden Trumpet-Tree. Furthermore, there are native plants such as Crape Myrtle, Bamboo, Red Nanmu, Camphor, Taiwan Golden-rain Tree, Acacia, Hackberry, Ivy Tree and so on.

Economic crops are the well-known Hengshan pear, Gaojie pear, Maogu citrus, Haili citrus, pomelo and so on. It's full of fruit trees there.



The hometown of butterfly and beetles



In this beautiful Jhaomen area, plants and ponds are everywhere. With the perfect nature environment of thriving plants and seasonal flowers, it creates a spectacular scene of birds and butterfly splendor dances as well as insects and frogs sings. Unexpectedly, the appearance frequency and number of *Byasa impediens febanus* Fruhstorfe and protected species of *Troides Aeacus Kaguyaed* are incredible.

According to the data, the common butterflies are Papilio, White Butterfly, Danaus, Lycaena and etc. There are 98 different species in all. More than 20 bird species are here and the common ones are Muller's Barbet, Himalayan Black Bulbul, Japanese White-eye, Chinese Bulbul, and Crested Serpent Eagle. After the local repopulation, the huge number of beetles is very impressive.

In order to appreciate the beauty of Jhaomen and make the "Wu Wo Town" become the eternal paradise, it especially plans the nature area to repopulate the beetles and butterflies as well as plant for nectar sources of butterflies and beetle's favorite Griffith's Ash. Therefore, among the flowers and trees, you will see the butterflies fluttering and the beetles moving around everywhere and it's easy to observe the processes to become a butterfly from an egg and a pupa. With the tour guide's vivid explanation, it makes the tourists not only marvel again and again but also deeply explore the life of insects and butterflies.

