Taiwanese American Heritage Week

Activities:
- Dance, Singing, Exhibitions, Shows
- Food, Handcrafts, & Lots More

Saturday, May 20, 2000 2:00PM~9:30PM
Evangelical Formosa Church of L.A.
9537 Telstar Ave. #201, El Monte, California
Southern California Taiwan Center

- Established on June 12, 1998
- Founded by over 1,000 Taiwanese American individuals and 50 Taiwanese American organizations.

Mission Statement:

The purposes of Southern California Taiwan Center are to enhance cultural awareness among general population by promoting Taiwanese culture and tradition, and to provide an environment that facilitates understanding and communication between Taiwanese American and other ethnic groups.

Facilities

- Lots: 41,400 square feet.
- Building: 20,409 square feet.
- 50 persons meeting room.
- 150 persons multiple purpose social hall.
- 12 persons round table chatting room.
- 50 inches TV, Karaoke machine, overhead slide projectors and other meeting equipments.
- Library: 10,000 books collection.
- Computer room.

Southen California Taiwan Center
3001 Walnut Grove Ave., Suite #9, Rosemead, CA 91770
Telephone: 626-307-4881 Fax: 626-307-4588
Open hours: 7 days a week, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

We ❤️ Taiwan
May 7, 2000

Dear Distinguished Guests and Friends,

Welcome to the first annual celebration of Taiwanese American Heritage Week. President Clinton has designated May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. Henceforth, each May there will be a national celebration and commemoration of the innumerable contributions that Asian and indigenous Pacific Islanders have made in American life. As Taiwanese-Americans, we have designated, and were commended by Congress in 1999, one week of Asian/Pacific Heritage Month as Taiwanese American Heritage Week (TAHW). This year, although TAHW is officially celebrated nationwide from May 7 to May 14, the Greater Los Angeles Taiwanese American community would like to commemorate TAHW and the inauguration of Taiwan’s new President Chen Shui-bian on May 20.

The Heritage Week will be dedicated to recognizing and appreciating aspects of Taiwanese American Heritage in the United States, as well as pay tribute to those who have enriched every aspects of our cultural experience with their talents, intellect, and activism. As this is our first celebration, we would like to emphasize on the introduction of Taiwanese culture. We hope that by exploring the significance of both Taiwan and being Taiwanese, we will know how to become an even better active American.

We are delighted that you could join us and hope you have a very pleasurable evening with your friends and neighbors.

Wylie I. Lee, Ph.D.  Chief Coordinator
TAHW Committee of Greater Los Angeles
Afternoon Program  2:00~6:00PM

Room 119  2:00~6:00  Exhibition:  Taiwanese Crafts & Literatures ........................................ Taiwanese American Culture Association
........... Taiwanese Hakka Association of CA

Room 109A&B  2:00~3:00  Video Show:  Taiwan Presidential Election ................................. Friends of Chen

3:00~4:00  Demonstration:  Tea & Life ................................................................. Thomas Hsu

4:00~6:00  Video Show:  Taiwanese Presidential Inauguration ................................. Friends of Chen

Room 120  2:00~3:00  Video Show:  A View of Taiwan ................................................ Taiwan Center

3:00~3:30  Live Show:  Taiwanese Puppet Show .................................................. Dr.Raymond Ho

3:30~5:00  Film Show:  March of Happiness ............................................................ Green Apple Film Production

5:00~5:30  Live Show:  Taiwanese Puppet Show .................................................. Dr.Raymond Ho

5:30~6:00  Live Show:  Taiwanese Aboriginal Folk Songs ..................................... Rejoice Chorus

Courtyard  2:00~6:00  Live Show:  Karaoke  
(Winners of Taiwanese Karaoke Competition) .................................................... Taiwanese Lions Clubs
Evening Program 6:00~9:30PM

*Master of Ceremony: Shu Yang & Angela Cheng*

6:00~6:20 Opening Ceremony: Lion Dance ................................................................. Taiwanese Association of East San Gabriel Valley
6:20~6:40 Welcome ........................................................................................................ Wylie I Lee, Ph.D
6:40~6:50 Dedication: "America, the Beautiful" ......................................................... Thomas M Wu, Soloist Si. Cileilan, Soloist
6:50~7:20 Traditional Taiwanese Adulthood Ceremony Demonstration ........................ Taiwanese American Affiliated Committee On Aging
7:20~7:30 Wooden Sandals Dance ................................................................................ Little Angeles Dance Group of South Bay
7:30~7:40 "Signed" Dance: "Bountiful Blessings of Jehovah" ....................................... Taiwanese Presbyterian Church of South Bay
7:40~8:10 Keynote Speech: "Democracy in Taiwan, Ways Forward" ......................... Rev. Choan-Seng Song Introduction: Mei-Li Chen
8:10~8:20 Aboriginal Folk Songs: "The Ocean" ............................................................... Si. Cileilan, Soloist
8:20~8:30 Aboriginal Festivity Dance ........................................................................ Taiwanes American Affiliated Committee On Aging
8:30~8:40 Traditional Hakka Folk Songs ...................................................................... Southern California Taiwanes Hakka Association
8:40~8:55 "Beauty of Taiwanese Languages" ............................................................... Rev. Marshall
8:55~9:20 Taiwanese Folk Songs ................................................................................... Taiwanes American Symphony Orchestra

~Good Night~

See You Next Year!!
午間節目：2:00~6:00pm

室內節目:
Room# 119A
2:00 ~ 6:00pm  台灣文物展  美國台灣文化協會

Room# 109A&B
2:00 ~ 3:00pm  阿扁總統競選文物展  海外阿扁之友會
3:00 ~ 4:00pm  台灣茶藝  許正龍
4:00 ~ 6:00pm  阿扁總統競選文物展  海外阿扁之友會

Room# 120(餐廳)
2:00 ~ 3:00pm  瀏覽台灣  台灣會館
3:00 ~ 3:30pm  台灣民俗布袋戲  何正春
3:30 ~ 5:00pm  電影欣賞(天馬茶坊)  青蘋果製片公司
5:00 ~ 5:30pm  台灣民俗布袋戲  何正春
5:30 ~ 6:00pm  原住民歌謠  喜樂盲人合唱團

室外節目:
2:00 ~ 6:00pm  卡拉ok  美國台灣人獅子會
美國台灣傳統週
TAIWANESE AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

晚上節目：6:00~9:30pm

（司儀：楊淑婷、鄭雅恩）

6:00~6:20pm ....... 弄漿、公背婆 ....... 聖東同鄉會 陳瑞霞

6:20~6:40pm ....... 召集人散詞 ....... 李英偉

6:40~6:50pm ....... 歌歌 "美麗的異國" ....... 吳明杰

6:50~7:20pm ....... "拖著咱的夢" ....... 席·傑勒吉藍

7:20~7:30pm ....... 台灣成人禮示範 ....... 南加州台灣長輩會

7:30~7:40pm ....... 木屐舞 ....... 南加州小天使舞蹈團

7:40~8:10pm ....... 演講："台灣民主政治之前景" ....... 南灣台灣基督長老教會

8:10~8:20pm ....... 台灣原住民歌舞：1.海洋 ..... 席·傑勒吉藍

8:20~8:30pm ....... 2.歡樂飲酒歌

8:30~8:40pm ....... 台灣原住民舞蹈 ....... 南加州台灣長輩會

8:40~8:55pm ....... 客家民俗山歌 ....... 南加州客家同鄉會

8:55~9:20pm ....... 台語之異 ....... 馬修德牧師

9:20~9:30pm ....... 台語民俗歌曲演奏 ....... L.A.台美交響樂團

（獨唱：席·傑勒吉藍 指揮：吳明杰）

1.燒肉粽 2.杯底無通飼養魚

晚安
The Speaker

Rev. Choan-Seng Song, from Taiwan, with a B.A. in philosophy from National Taiwan University, B.D. from Edinburg University and Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary in New York. He is a Professor of Graduate Theology Union in Berkeley, California (since 1985). He also serves as Regional Professor of Theology for the South East Asia Graduate School of Theology and as a consultant for the Program for Theology and Cultures in Asia. He serves as an external examiner for the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

In August 1997, he was elected to serve a seven year term as President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC). Headquarters in Geneva, WARC consists of over two hundred affiliated churches in over one hundred countries. Rev. Song is the first Asian member to be elected as the President in its one hundred and twenty years of history. By holding this presidency that he has helped Taiwan become much more visible in the stage of world organizations.

Rev. Song is not just a famous scholar in his field, he is also an activist in Taiwanese democratic reform. In 1972, "Self-Determination Proclamation" was one of the significant involvements of Rev. Song which has inspired tens of thousands of followers to pursue democracy for Taiwan. His passion for his homeland Taiwan has never faded.

He is married to Mei-Man Chen, a pianist graduated from Julliard School of Music in New York. They have two outstanding daughters Ju-Ping and Ju-Ying, who have both earned their doctoral degrees and are now teaching in college.
*Lee Chi-Wu (李繼吾)*

*FIRST ALTO*

Born in 1963, Lee Chi-Wu has won “the Golden Voice Award”. He is an accomplished instrumentalist, playing synthesizer, piano, and flute. He is also a talented lyricist composer and recording engineer.

*Hsu Hsui-Chu (許秀柱)*

*BARITONE*

Hsu Hsui-Chu, born in 1961, is an accomplished lyricist, composer, and instrumentalist. With his poor eyesight and childish remembrance, he is good at express himself by music.

*Lin Te-Chang (林德昌)*

*BASS*

Born in 1964, Lin Te-Chang has performed very well in many singing contests. He is also a very good sporter, having won various awards for judo, such as the bronze medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics for the disabled.

*Jeng Shinn-Sheng (鄭信盛)*

*SECOND ALTO*

Jeng Shinn-Sheng, comes from the aboriginal tribe—Puyuma tribe of Taitung county. In 1995, he won the solo championship of the “National Disabled Singing Contest” held by the Society of Skill Development of the Handicapped Republic of China. Furthermore, he made efforts to learn to play musical instruments by himself, which shows his various talents.

The Eden Rejoicing Chorus (喜樂合唱團)
Thomas Ming-Chieh Wu, D.M.A.

Dr. Wu was born in Taiwan, County of Tainan. He received his B.S. degree from the Department of Music/violin at the National Taiwan Normal University. He came to the US via Vienna and received his Master’s degree in Fine Arts and Voice Performance from UCLA, then his doctoral degree in Musical Art/Vocal Art from USC. He is the first Taiwanese musician with a Doctor’s degree in Vocal Arts. His talent is not only in vocal arts and in his violin performances, but also in conducting chamber orchestras, symphony orchestras, and choirs.

In 1995, Dr. Wu founded Los Angeles Taiwanese American Chamber Orchestra. It was expanded in 1999 to become Los Angeles Taiwanese American Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Wu serves as conductor and supervisor in both orchestra. Their yearly performance of Taiwanese and American music is one of the local’s favorite concerts. Dr. Wu hopes his effort will encourage more Taiwanese American to participate in musical arts and also attract mainstream American to understand the art of Taiwanese music.

Wù Míngjiè Bìshì

出生於台灣省台南縣。國立師範大學音樂系學士，在維也納深造後來美國進修，獲 UCLA 音樂碩士學成後繼續在 USC 榮獲音樂及聲樂博士。他可稱是聲樂上第一位擁有博士學位的台灣人。除了主修聲樂、小提琴之外，他在室內樂團指揮、交響樂團指揮及合唱團的指導也都有很深的造詣。

一九九五年，吳博士創設洛杉磯台美室內樂團。該樂團在一九九九年經擴大編制而成為台美交響樂團。他們每年表演的台灣音樂及美國音樂已成為洛城地區台美人的愛好。吳博士期望他的努力能鼓勵更多的台美人參與音樂並吸引美國主流對台灣鄉土音樂的興趣及認識。
Si. Cilcilan

Si. Cilcilan is a native Tao tribe in Pongso-no Tao (Orchid Island). He has a Mandarin name called Huang Chin-Wen, but he usually likes to be called Flying Fish. He works in the field of media design in his company, Black Fins Workshop. He recently finished a canoe made from a large tree on the island, using Orchid Island's traditional handcraft methods. Si. Cilcilan has a strong feeling of responsibility to preserve and to hand down the island's culture to future generations. He has already achieved a lot in that area.

It is well known that people from tribes in Taiwan have beautiful singing voice. Si. Cilcilan is no exception. In tonight's celebration of Taiwanese American Heritage Week, he will sing aboriginal folk songs about the ocean, the joy of drinking, a Tao warrior's song and the love song of Orchid Island.

席，傑勒吉藍簡介

席，傑勒吉藍是台灣原住民蘭嶼達悟族。漢名爲黃清文，別號飛魚。目前成立一 黑翅膀工作室，從事多媒彩的設計工作。不久前他完成一艘蘭嶼獨木舟，從原木的砍伐，雕刻到上彩等步驟歷經一年才大功告成。對蘭嶼文化的傳承，有著強烈的使命感，是一位優秀的年輕文化工作者。

台灣原住民大多有美好的歌聲。席，傑勒吉藍也不例外。此次的台灣傳統週特別邀請他演唱台灣原住民歌謠。包括: 海洋、飲酒歡樂歌、達悟戰歌以及蘭嶼情歌等等。

Los Angeles Taiwanese American Symphony Orchestra
TASO

TASO was founded by Dr. Thomas Ming Chieh Wu in 1999 based on his Los Angeles Taiwanese American Chamber Orchestra, which was founded by Dr. Wu in 1995. TASO is a non-profit organization that dedicates to promote the classical and modern music of Taiwan. TASO is currently recruiting more musicians and they practice regularly at the Arcadia Health Center at Las Tunas. Please contact: (626)576-2855

洛杉磯台美交響樂團 TASO

TASO是由吳明杰博士於一九九九年，由他原先在一九九五年創立的「洛杉磯室內樂團」擴大而成的。TASO是一個正式登記的非營利事業團體。它的宗旨是在宣揚台灣的傳統及現代音樂文化。目前TASO正在招生中，他們經常在Arcadia市位於Las Tunas的保健中心練習。有志之士請電話: (626)576-2855。
THE PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING TAIWANESE TRADITIONAL ADULTHOOD CEREMONY

The traditional adulthood ceremony is a lost legacy in the old capital of Taiwan, Tainan. In 1991, sponsored by Taiwanese American Affiliated Committee On Aging, the ceremony was introduced in Los Angeles. By conducting this ceremony we hope that our youth will be able to understand the responsibility and duty to carry on the legacy. Under the guidance of the elders our youth will be able to grow up full of confidence and blessings. In addition, promoting this tradition will enable the overseas Taiwanese to respect the legacy and their homeland.

Tradition

1. To Pass through Dragon Gate.
2. To take oath for establishing a strong goal for your life.
   (knelling down and putting hands on Bible.)
3. To follow the elderly to go three rounds in “8” shape along the bamboo plants.
   Meaning: (a) learning patiently and carefully to receive improvement gradually.
   (b) standing still without fear of any wind and rain.
   (c) being evergreen.
4. Self-Introduction
5. To release pigeon
   Meaning: Flying high for higher education and prosperous life.
   (To be given by participating parents to other young adults as their host children in the host family.)
6. To receive red envelop and gift from elder.
7. Benediction

1. 登龍門：穿越龍門步入成人階段，象徵人生另一頁的開始。答謝父母
   (女孩穿鳳仙服，頭髮束上)，男穿台灣衫
2. 誓約：象徵從此立下目標，堅忍不拔邁入人生大道。
3. 繞竹林三圈：竹子象徵著節節高升、虛心學習、不怕風雨、挺身自立、長年表
   綠、充滿生機。
4. 少男少女自我介紹
5. 展翅高飛：放幸福鳥，象徵離巢向著豐盛的人生出發獲得錦繡前程。
6. 贈送紅包及禮品
7. 致祝詞及勉勵
Rediscovering Taiwan Oolong

Thomas Shu

Tea is much more than a tasty beverage... it is an introspective, and social lifestyle.

Ever since the introduction of tea to the Western world, a never-ending debate over what the “right” and “wrong” ways of steeping this venerable leaf has existed. With so many instant and bottled beverages available, no one seems to be able to spare a few minutes to learn about tea. Some may believe the learning process will be too confusing or time consuming, but we have the perfect plan to eliminate those worries.

Tea-One, one step ahead to the Basics...
Simple and Safe, Practical and Ecological.

A hands-on experience. Step by step, we will discover the pleasures of tea brewing and tea drinking. Begin by identifying the leaves by their appearance, then by preparing the brew with the right amount of tea, and finally by pouring heated water of the right temperature. You will watch the tea leaves unfurl as the tea steeps. The most exciting and challenging moment is trying to decide on a perfect brew with your own magic touch. Before serving, you will share and enjoy the pleasant and soothing aroma of brewed tea. After tasting your tea, examining the brewed leaves will wonderously increase and expand your entire tea experience.
A View of Taiwan (流覽台灣)

The following three video programs will be presented at Heritage Hall.

Sharing the Taiwan Experience 分享台灣經驗

“Taiwan Experience” refers to the accomplishments accumulated in recent years by the Taiwan government through reforms and developments in economics, politics, education, culture and environmental protection. This special term is a reward to all hard-working Taiwan citizens, and it also represents a unique pattern of development among modern nations. We cherish this precious experience and would like to share it with people throughout the world.

At present the Taiwan government plans to develop Taiwan into an Asian-Pacific Regional Operations Center, with the purpose of internationalizing the local economic environment. To improve relations and mutual understanding between Taiwan and China, the Taiwan is upholding a pragmatic attitude and a sincere belief in peace to strive for the well-being of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits.

As a member of the global village, the Taiwan will actively participate in international organizations and contribute to the world community by providing various forms of assistance.

The video tape is a documentary that not only looks back on the Taiwan’s efforts in the past but also looks forward to directions and perspectives for the future.

Sounds of the Mountains, Dances of the Ocean 山之歌·海之舞
The Music and Dance of Taiwan’s Indigenous Peoples 台灣原住民的音樂及舞蹈

Taiwan sits like a small, verdant oasis at the western edge of the Pacific Ocean. With its clear mountain streams and beautiful ocean views, it has long been known to the West as Formosa-beautiful island. Over the millennia, the rich natural abundance of Taiwan has helped foster the special and unique cultures of the island’s indigenous peoples.

Taiwan’s indigenous peoples can be divided into at least nine tribes, with each tribe having distinct and well-established geographical boundaries. After thousands of years in these ancestral territories, some tribes developed mountain cultures, some coastal cultures, and others cultures having characteristics of both.

This film documents the music and dance of each of Taiwan’s nine indigenous tribes. It also portrays the features and characteristics of life and culture particular to each of the tribes. We hope that in the brief space of thirty minutes, the film will provide viewers with deeper understanding of the diversity and richness of Taiwan’s indigenous cultures.

The Rare Plants and Animals of Taiwan 台灣稀有動物及植物

The Rare Animals

1. Formosan Serow 長鬃山羊
2. Formosan Black Bear 台灣黑熊
3. Formosan Sambar 台灣水鹿
4. Formosan Sika Deer 梅花鹿
5. Formosan Macaque 台灣獼猴
6. Formosan Muntjac 台灣山羌
7. Formosan Pangolin 穿山甲
8. Leopard Cat 石虎
9. Formosan Clouded Leopard 台灣雲豹
10. Mikado Pheasant 帝雉
11. Orchid Island Horned Owl 蘭嶼角鷹
12. Shueshan Grass Lizard 雪山草蜥
13. Formosan Salamander 台灣山椒魚
14. Aricorhinus Alticorpus 高山鮎魚
15. Formosan Landlocked Salmon 櫻花鰭吻鮎

The Rare Plants

1. Indian Barringtonia 檀香樹
2. Dea Hearse 蓮葉桐
3. Luzon Gonocaryum 柿葉茶茱萸
4. Taiwan Quillwort 台灣水韭
5. Oluanpi Spurge 鳶頭大戟
6. Reef Pemphis 水莞花
7. Chinese Bretschneiderincherry木
8. Gloriosoid Lily 黃紅麗子百合
9. May Apple 八角蓮
10. Kandelia Mangrove 紅樹林
11. Taiwan Pleione 葉蘭
12. Butterfly Orchid 蝴蝶蘭
13. Taiwan Ebony 毛柿
14. Ceylon Helminthostachys 母錢七指蕨
15. Lanyu Podocarp 蘭嶼羅漢松
16. Lanyu Holly 蘭嶼冬青
17. Shrubby Indigo 木蘭
18. Coastal Speed Well 濱斑鳩菊
19. Taiwan Cycas 台灣蘇鐵
Taiwanese Puppet Show  
First Show: 3:00-3:30pm  
Second Show: 5:00-5:30pm

There are normally considered to be 6 different types of puppets that each have different mannerisms and actions. Notice the different movements of each character. Every puppet’s face are immovable and expressionless. To make the puppets more human like, the puppet master must learn with care how each slight of the hand can be used to show the puppet’s feelings and emotions.

**Lion Dancing**

**Elderly**
The old man feebly hunches over as he walks from place to place. His movements are weak and much more slow. As you can see, the old man is able to smoke.

(Notice: Smoking is bad and harmful to your health—Please refrain from smoking)

**Gentlemen**
Notice the gentleman’s movements which are very subtle, elegant, and gentle. The Gentleman usually carries a fan, which can be used to fan himself. He can also adjust his headpiece.

**Ladies**
The Puppet’s ladies’ feet are normally bound so that she walks very gracefully and daintily. She often checks her hair, her ornaments, and her shoes to make sure she is properly dressed.

**Warrior**
The Warrior’s movements are powerful and forceful. Notice how he leaps high into the air and can spin quickly. He can also use a variety of weapons and use them to spar with other.

**Clown**
The Clown is very carefree and walks festively. You can see that his antics are amusing as he playfully acts to the crowd.

**Plate Spinner**
The Plate Spinner is able to perform acrobatic and graceful movements with only a dish and a long pole.

**Writing a letter with a writing brush**
The puppet moves like a human being, capable of writing a letter with a traditional writing brush, which is accompanied with ink stone and black ink. His movements are very small and delicate.

**Kung-Fu Fighting.**

**First Fight**

- **Swordman demonstrating his skill**
- **Sky-piercing fork fighting with a shield**
- **Two swordman fighting**
- **Woman warrior fighting with man with two knives**
- **Love Fight**
Introduction of Taiwan

Geography

Taiwan is situated in the Pacific Ocean about 100 miles from the southeastern coast of China. Located about midway between Korea and Japan to the north and Hong Kong and the Philippines to the south, Taiwan is a natural gateway for travelers to and within Asia. With its clear mountain streams and beautiful ocean views, it has long been known to the West as Formosa-beautiful island.

Shaped somewhat like a sweet potato with a sharp stub at the bottom end. Taiwan is 245 miles long and 89.5 miles wide at its broadest point. Its 14,000 square miles make it slightly larger than Massachusetts and Connecticut combined. The Central Mountain Range bisects Taiwan from north to south and about two-thirds of the island is covered with forested peaks. The remainder, most of it on the western seaboard, is as flat as it is fertile. There are many volcanoes on the island, though all are either dormant or extinct.

The climate is subtropical in the north and tropical in the south. Rainfall is abundant. Except for mountain areas, the mean monthly temperature in winter is above 15 C. This climate, along with a few patches of level, fertile land, have allowed for the raising of Hawaii-like crops.
History

Taiwan has a rich, colorful history. For centuries Taiwan has been familiar to the West as Formosa, a name derived from the 16th century Portuguese mariners who, on sighting the island from a galleon, named it “Ilha Formosa!” (Beautiful Island!).

Taiwan first began to assume some importance in Asian history in the 17th century with the influx of settlers from China. These Hän pioneers came from either Fukien or Kwangtong. The Dutch invaded Taiwan in 1624 and remained as colonists for 37 years. The Spanish invaded and occupied northernmost Taiwan in 1626, but were driven out by the Dutch 16 years later in 1642. The Dutch were finally dislodged in 1661 by military forces from the Ming dynasty loyalist Cheng Cheng-kung, whose Latinate name, Koxinga. Koxinga used Taiwan as his base in the fight to overthrow the Ching dynasty and restore the Ming, but he failed.

By the early 18th century, with Taiwan under Manchu ( Ching Dynasty) control, immigration continued and export of rice, sugar and camphor made the island one of the most thriving export economies in the Far East. Manchu control remained tenuous however, and it was popularly said that " every five years a major rebellion, every three years a minor one."

After the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95, Taiwan was ceded to Japan, which developed it as front line outpost in its expanding empire. with Japan's 1945 surrender at the end of World War II, it gave up title to Taiwan, without specifying to whom. In 1949 , China was embroiled in civil war. Driven from China by the communists, the KMT set up government in Taipei, establishing martial law.

On October 15, 1986, the KMT lifted of the Emergency Decree and of the ban on the formation of new political parties, thereby signaling the takeoff of democracy in Taiwan. In March 1996, the first-ever direct election of the president was held in Taiwan. President Lee Teng-hui won 54 percent of the vote. It could be said that Taiwan had already become a democracy based on the western style criteria.
Language and Culture

The official language of Taiwan is Mandarin though some people do speak Japanese, the language Taiwanese is often spoken in general settings.

Numerous decades of Japanese rule have influenced the Taiwanese culture: sushi, sashimi, and baseball are very popular thanks to the Japanese. China also has influenced the culture. Chinese painting, writing pottery, dance, and martial arts are widely practiced in Taiwan.

After World War II, U.S. culture has come to influence the Taiwanese. Fast foods, rock and roll, and the American style of films have all had their impact on the Taiwanese way of life. Due to an amalgamation of these various influences, Taiwan has bred its own distinct culture, taking form in the achievements of Taiwanese authors, filmmakers, poets, and artists.

So, Just like America, Taiwan is a "melting pot" of different languages, cultures, and people, all contributing to a unique Taiwanese society.
Colorful Aboriginal Culture

One of Taiwan's most interesting attractions is the island's aborigine culture. Their own high-spirited annual and special festivals provide a major contribution to the traditional and cultural life of Taiwan.

Anthropologists have divided the aborigines into nine tribes: Ami, Atayal, Bunun, Paiwan, Puyuma, Rukai, Saisiat, Tsou, and Yami. The most impressive of the traditional aborigine activities is the tribal festival, of which the harvest festivals is generally the most important. Rich in pageantry, the spirited festival provide visitors with a wonderful glimpse of the aborigines' colorful traditional clothes, their beautiful singing and dancing, and their vivid culture.

Many of the traditional events scheduled by the three most culturally active tribes, the 60,000 strong Ami, the Paiwan and the Saisiat, can be seen nowhere else on earth.

The Bunun are a tribe as calm and humble as the remote mountain. Their outstanding group 8-shift chorus is world-famous.

*A Taiwan aborigine dance.*
Tea in Taiwan

Tea is an indispensable part of the life of the Taiwanese. The custom of drinking tea is deeply ingrained in almost every Taiwanese. When you arrive in the beautiful island of Taiwan, you may see some elderly gentlemen seated in twos and threes, perhaps in a temple up some old street. They may be leisurely gathered around a simple but attractive teapot about the size of a fist, each holding a small cup, mixing chat with drink. This is the traditional Taiwanese "old men’s tea" ceremony (lâu-lâng-tê).

Specialized tea shops all over the island continue to actively promote the art of tea drinking. New style "tea art houses" with elegant, classical interiors have quickly become a common sight around the island.

Tea is made from the young, tender leaves of the tea tree. The differences among the many kinds of tea available are based on the particular methods used to process the leaves. The key to the whole process is the roasting and fermentation. Tea that has not been fermented is called "green tea." Tea steeped from green tea leaves is jade green to yellow-green in color, and gives off the fragrance of fresh vegetables. Oolong, or "Black Dragon" tea is an example of a partially-fermented tea. Taiwan is one of its most representative areas of production.
Lion Dances

The lion dance also has a long history among the people. Because fewer participants are required, and because the lion head and body are easier to make, and since only a small dance area is required, performance of the lion dance can be seen just about anywhere you look on festival activities. The lion is usually controlled by two people: one to manipulate the head, and one for the tail portion. Sometimes a third person, carrying a silk flower ball, or wearing a mask of the laughing Buddha and holding a banana leaf fan, leads and teases the lion into action, adding to the gay and festive atmosphere.

The lion dance was originally used for worship and to pray for rain, but now the dance is used strictly for entertainment. The lion chases a scampering clown, who dodges from left to right, jumping to and fro to make fun of the lion.

Rice Dough Figures and Candy Sculpture

These two art forms appeal to children, the young at heart, and dentists. Watching the artist at work is almost as good as eating the product. Rice-dough figures typically feature animals or characters. Candy artists, using techniques similar to the glass blowers of old, create delicious butterflies, animals, and human figures.
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