

2026 8th International Conference on Tainan Area Studies

Tradition and Innovation: Tainan City's Industrial and Regional Development

Call for Papers

1. Objectives:

Tainan City lies between the Bazhang River and the Erren River, geographically divided into the Alishan front range colline zone, Chiayi–Tainan Plain, and coastal lagoons. Its industrial development has always been centered around the primary sector, which is closely tied to the land. As for the secondary sector, manufacturing industries started to emerge during the Qing Dynasty, with sugar production playing an important role in rural areas. During the mid-Japanese colonial period, improved water resource management of Chianan Irrigation reshaped the agricultural sector. Industrial developments such as modernized sugar production, industrial salt production, chemical plants and oil field operations further strengthened Tainan's internal and external connections. Since the post-war period, traditional industries such as textiles, toys, machinery, and food processing have begun to flourish, and numerous industrial parks have been built. In 1996, the Southern Taiwan Science Park was established, straddling Anding District, Shanhua District and Xinshi District. The science park has steered Tainan City towards the development of high-tech industries, leading to industrial upgrading, increased job opportunities, and economic growth.

However, Tainan's agriculture and rural areas faced challenges such as population ageing and shortage of labor. The "One Town One Product" project supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs spurred many townships to develop industries with local characteristics through the primary sector, while also introducing tourism and cultural revitalization. The development of Tainan's historic districts has also become part of the culture industry, imbuing tourism and cultural development with new life and vitality. Today, Tainan has over 400 years of history and culture. Numerous historic sites in the urban area have been turned into museums, and the city's temple culture has reshaped the tourism industry. Even the renovation of cultural and historical spaces in the former Tainan County has become a symbol of regional revitalization and cultural regeneration. The local expression of art and culture accelerates the development of local tourism.

As industrial development contributes to the diversity of Tainan City, this year's International Conference on Tainan Area Studies aims to study the evolution of Tainan's

primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors, as well as their impact on the city's socioeconomic and historical development. Through the lens of tradition and innovation, we will also explore the dynamics and spatial connections between the industries and regions. Focusing on industry classification and regional development, this conference invites papers on the following subtopics. We look forward to your submissions and participation.

2. **Organizer:** The International Center for Tainan Area Humanities and Social Sciences Research (ICTAHSSR) ; Cultural Affairs Bureau, Tainan City Government
3. **Joint Organizer:** Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica
4. **Co-organizer:** Department of Taiwan Culture, Languages and Literature, National Taiwan Normal University; Department of Applied History, National Chiayi University; Department of Geography, National Kaohsiung Normal University; The Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences, NCKU
5. **Dates:** October 17(Sat)-18(Sun), 2026
6. **Venue:** Academia Sinica South Campus (No. 100, Sec. 1, Guiren 13th Rd., Guiren Dist., Tainan City)

7. **Subtopics:**

- Industries, Settlements and Transportation
- Innovation of Traditional Industries and Regional Development
- Changes Brought About by the Technology Industry and Science Parks
- Museums, Industry and Regional Development
- Consumer Culture and Pop Music
- Local Culture and Tourism Industries

8. **Important Dates:**

- (1) Abstract submission deadline: December 31, 2025
- (2) Announcement of abstract review results: end of January, 2026
- (3) Full paper submission deadline: August 31, 2026
- (4) Presentation: October 17(Sat)-18(Sun), 2026

9. **Paper Format:**

- (1) Please use A4 paper size and standard Word format.
- (2) The first page should include the following items: Chinese title, author's name, the abstract (350 words in English or 500 words in Chinese), and a maximum of 5 keywords.
- (3) Please use DFKai-SB (標楷體) for Chinese text and Times New Roman for English text. Title: 18 points and bold; headings (such as Abstract, Chapter, Conclusion): 14 points and bold; main text: 12 points.

- (4) Approved word count of the whole paper is 15,000-25,000 words or between 8,000-10,000 words for English papers. Manuscripts should follow the formatting guidelines outlined in the Taiwan Historical Research (THR) style sheet.

10. Submission and Review Method:

- (1) Abstract submissions are open until December 31, 2025. Please fill out the form with a tentative paper title, a 350-word abstract (English) or a 500-word abstract (Chinese), five keywords, and personal information, and email it to the organizer.
- (2) Please submit your paper in Word format by email to ictahssr@gmail.com with the following subject: 2026 8th International Conference on Tainan Area Studies Submission Name
- (3) After receiving the submission, the Conference will form a planning committee to conduct a preliminary review and then notify the contributor of the results.
- (4) After the conference, the presenters are invited to submit their revised paper to be included in a peer reviewed edited volume of the Tainan Studies book series.

11. Additional Information:

- (1) Languages of the conference: The abstract and paper can be written in either Chinese or English. The languages of the conference will be Chinese or English.
- (2) Subsidies: Travel costs and living expenses during the conference will be covered by the organizers.
- (3) The conference will be held in person, supplemented by online real-time video meeting.
- (4) Contact: Ms. Liu (ICTAHSSR); Tel: 886 (0)6-6324453; E-mail: ictahssr@gmail.com.
- (5) Review results will be announced on the following websites:
 - a. The International Center for Tainan Area Humanities and Social Sciences Research (<https://culture.tainan.gov.tw/theme/latestevent/index?Parser=9,50,351>)
 - b. Cultural Affairs Bureau, Tainan City Government (<https://culture.tainan.gov.tw/english/index>)

12. Planning Subcommittee of the Conference Organizing Committee (In alphabetical order of surnames):

- **Li, Bi-ehin** (Academic committee member of ICTAHSSR; associate professor of the Department of Taiwan Culture, Languages and Literature, National Taiwan Normal University)
- **Wu, Jian-sheng** (Academic committee member of ICTAHSSR; associate professor of the Department of Applied History, National Chiayi University)
- **Xu Shu-juan** (Academic committee member of ICTAHSSR; professor of the Department of Geography, National Kaohsiung Normal University)
- **Tsai, Cheng-hao** (Academic committee member of ICTAHSSR; associate researcher at the National Palace Museum)