**Tainan City Government News (Tainan News)**

**Tainan City is Taiwan’s First Special Municipality to Provide Self-Government Ordinances in Chinese and English**

Tainan City Government’s purpose for transforming Tainan into an English-friendly city includes ensuring that foreign nationals can understand the city’s self-government ordinances. In addition to providing foreigners with information that is more transparent than in the past, these translations will also help protect the rights and privileges of foreign nationals. The city government began its plan to translate these self-governance ordinances into English in late 2016, and the English versions for 15 ordinances have already been completed.

 The city’s Department of Legal Affairs expressed that every policy that is to be implemented and administered must be done according to the law. Self-government ordinances serve as the foundation of the city government’s policy development, so they can provide important information for knowing present-day Tainan City and its future. Specialized self-governance ordinances, as well as ordinances that are connected to the lives of local residents, were translated during this project’s first phase. The city government will translate more self-government ordinances into English in the future, ensuring that the amount of legal information provided in English will continue to increase.

Mayor Lai Ching-te has been proactive about promoting English as the city’s second official language, which is reflected by the city government steadily pushing out more bilingual versions of government-related documents and laws. The city government’s Department of Legal Affairs teamed up with the Office of English as the Second Official Language (OESOL) in choosing the 15 most important self-government ordinances to translate. The competent authorities were responsible for the English translations that pertain to their respective departments. Then, the Department of Legal Affairs and OESOL would assess the accuracy of the translations and their legal terminology.

 Liu Shih-chung, deputy secretary-general of Tainan City Government and director of the OESOL, said that Tainan is the first of the nation’s six special municipalities to provide bilingual versions of self-governance ordinances. Liu also explained that the English translations of laws and regulations involve both specific legal disciplines and specialized disciplines with regard to the city’s competent authorities. The English translations of these self-government ordinances require expertise due to their complexity. Liu expressed his sincere gratitude to the Department of Legal Affairs and the city’s competent authorities for finding a variety of experts that provided crucial assistance. Liu hopes that this major accomplishment will help Tainan get closer to its goal of becoming an international city.

 The following self-government ordinances, which are closely connected to the everyday lives of foreigners, have been translated into English: Public Health Bureau’s Tainan City Self-Government Ordinance for Food Safety Management, Tainan Municipal Self-Government Ordinance on Suicide Reporting and Care, and Tainan Municipal Self-Government Ordinance on Sanitary Control of Business Operations; Bureau of Transportation’s Tainan City Self-Government Ordinance for Public Car Park Fee Collection and Management and Tainan City Self-Government Ordinance for Dealing with Vehicles Obstructing Traffic; Cultural Affairs Bureau’s Tainan City Self-Government Ordinance for the Regulation of Arts and Culture Groups; Environmental Protection Bureau’s Tainan City Self-Government Ordinance for Environmental Cleaning; and Department of Legal Affairs’ Tainan City Self-Government Ordinance for Consumer Protection.

The self-government ordinances below are more specialized, and they, too, have been translated: Cultural Affairs Bureau’s Tainan City Self-Government Ordinance for the Revitalization of Historic Street Districts; Bureau of Urban Development’s Tainan City Self-Government Ordinance for a Low-Carbon City and Tainan City Self-Government Ordinance for the Management of Vacant Land and Vacant Buildings; Finance and Local Tax Bureau’s Tainan Municipal Self-Government Ordinance on Exemption and Reduction of Land Value Tax, House Tax and Deed Tax for Promotion of Private Participation in Infrastructure Projects, and Tainan Municipal Self-Government Ordinance on House Tax Rates; Bureau of Economic Development’s Tainan City Self-Government Ordinance for Public Liability Insurance of Public-Use Business Premises; and Department of Personnel’s Tainan City Self-Government Ordinances for Government Organizational Structure.

City residents and foreign nationals can find information concerning these ordinances in the city government’s Laws and Regulations Retrieving System.