



Greetings!

Taipei City and your city (country) have a long and deep friendship with each other, and I thank your city (country) for establishing many cultural, life, and tourism ties with us over the years, as well as for varied economic activity exchanges. On behalf of the Taipei City Government, it is my honor to formally invite you to take part in the 2022 Taipei Lantern Festival, adding another chapter to the story of our tourism cooperation and exchanges.

The Lantern Festival is a traditional local festival that goes back over a thousand years. From the carrying of small decorative lanterns to large-scale festive lantern displays, the lively atmosphere of the traditional Chinese New Year holidays are finally brought to a close with this celebration. The Taipei Lantern Festival was first held in 1997, the first large-scale Lantern Festival event of this type staged in Taiwan. In recent years high-tech 3D projection mapping interactivity has been synthesized with the traditional festival atmosphere, and the Taipei Lantern Festival has walked into the city's neighborhoods and commercial districts, creating more interaction between citizens, new and old architecture, and distinctive city-block enclaves. In addition, well-known international artists are invited to participate, along with such renowned figures as the Pokemon and Tokyo Disneyland characters. Finally, in all matters international standards have been integrated, sculpting a new bright light in Taipei tourism. The Taipei Lantern Festival has been transformed from a folklore event into a major tourism promotion, an internationalized event attracting domestic and foreign tourists, marketing Taipei, and lighting up the city's imagery, and has become one of Taiwan's most popular carnival-style happenings during the Chinese New Year period.

Starting in 2017 the West District, which is the older area of the city, was made the main venue for the Taipei Lantern Festival. Artists have been invited to open up the spatial horizons in the Ximending neighborhood, resulting in a splendid variety of innovative creations either using special lighting effects or building on traditional lantern concepts. 3D projection mapping has been used on historical sites, integrating local historical and cultural imagery. These efforts have won much praise from the visiting public, and have created important interconnecting memories between the Taipei Lantern Festival and local communities. In addition, the Carnival Parade is a colorful and boisterous street parade that brings out spectators in great number, successfully crafting anew the "city imagery" associated with Ximending, Taipei's earliest-developed commercial district.

The 2022 Taipei Lantern Festival will be staged in the city's Shilin District, and will run from February 11 to 20. Shilin, home to rich tourism resources, is a well-known destination amongst both domestic and foreign tourists. Key attractions include the Shilin Tourist Night Market, National Palace Museum, Shilin Official Residence, and Taipei Children's Amusement Park. The grand Taipei Performing Arts Center is also soon to open, an event that many are much looking forward to. The theme concept for the 2022 Taipei Lantern Festival is riding the Taipei Metro to enjoy the lantern art. Plans are to use the areas surrounding Jiantan Station, Shilin Station, and Zhishan Station as venues, with lantern decorations and activities all based on local idea generation and inherited traditions while also integrating innovation. Among this edition's highlights will be incorporation of Shilin's beautiful riverside, creating a glowing waterfront lantern area. These varied draws will display the unique charms of the Lantern Festival celebrations in Taipei.

In recent years a special international friendship exchange zone has been set up for each Taipei Lantern Festival edition, and participating organizations have universally reported that this has brought great publicity benefits domestically and abroad for their respective country or city. I here extend a sincere invitation to your esteemed organization to take part in the 2022 Taipei Lantern Festival, introducing the unique geographical and cultural features of your home area, working together with us to create new Taipei Lantern Festival highlights and further deepening our mutual friendship.

I wish you a year filled with vigor and vitality, career success, fine health, and smooth fortune!

Sincerely,

Wen-Je Ko

Taipei City Mayor
August 3rd, 2021