

Pandas are why Taipei is happy: deputy mayor

panda cub	baby panda
1. deputy	second-in-command/vice
mayor	leader and representative of a city
attributed ...to...	regarded ...as coming from...
ranking	place/position
happiness index	table of happiness levels
infrastructure	(development of) communication and transport networks
2. municipalities	urban areas
counties	areas/regions
survey	study/investigation
3. administrative district	area under governance
disposable	extra/can be thrown away
household income	money received by a group in one home
connectivity	the ease of connecting
life expectancy	average life span
educational	to do with education
attainment	achievement
residents	people living in an area
5. artificially	not naturally
inseminate	to put the male sperm into the female egg
sperm	the fluid that comes from the male during sex
6. diplomacy	communication/negotiation between groups or countries
7. touted	advertize/publicize
metro network	MRT system
YouBike <i>public bicycle</i>	rental system Taipei's bike sharing scheme
rehabilitate	make better
8. dimensions	normally means size (in the text it means aspects/factors)
loosely based on	roughly following
well-being	the state of being well (healthy and happy)
index	table/database/list
9. community	people in an area
support network	cooperation between people to help each other
life satisfaction	contentment (regarding life)
10. responses	answers

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Photo showing the two-month-old **panda cub** Yuan Zai in Taipei Zoo yesterday.

Photo courtesy of Taipei Zoo



1. A **deputy Taipei mayor** **attributed** the city's improved **ranking** in the nation's "happiness index" to a two-month-old panda cub and improvements in **infrastructure**.

2. Taipei, which had an overall score of 65.1, moved up six places to finish second behind Hsinchu City among the nation's 22 **municipalities, counties** and cities in this year's **survey** conducted by the Economic Daily News and Nan Shan Life Insurance Co.

3. Taipei had the highest score of any **administrative district** for **disposable household income**, Internet **connectivity**, life **expectancy** and **education** **attainment** (measuring the percentage of **residents** holding at least a college degree).

4. Deputy Taipei Mayor Tim Ting (丁庭宇) said at a briefing held to present the survey's results that the birth of the giant panda cub at the Taipei Zoo on July 6 helped increase the happiness of the city's residents.

5. The birth of the cub came after the zoo **artificially inseminated** its female panda named Yuan Yuan (圓圓) using **sperm** from the male panda, Tuan Tuan (團團).

6. As part of its "panda **diplomacy**," China gave the two pandas to the zoo in 2008.

7. Ting also **touted** several infrastructure projects, such as the development of the **metro network**, the creation of the **YouBike public bicycle rental** system and efforts to **rehabilitate** the Tamsui River (淡水河), as factors in the result.

8. Hsinchu's score of 71.1 was the highest in Taiwan in the **well-being index**, compiled for the second time this year and **loosely based on** the 11 core **dimensions** of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's "Better Life Index."

9. According to the survey, Hsinchu led Taiwan in such categories as **air pollution**, **health**, **community support network**, **housing**, and **life satisfaction**.

10. The survey collected **responses** from 22,500 people.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2013/09/13/2003572043>

Q1 – Do you agree with the deputy mayors comments? Can a panda bear really make a big difference to people's happiness levels?

2013

City	Quality of Life Index	Purchasing Power Index	Safety Index	Health Care Index	Consumer Price Index	Property Price to Income Ratio	Traffic Commute Time Index	Pollution Index
1st - Zurich, Switzerland	233.72	145.55	84.65	78.33	159.91	7.94	25.75	18.76
Tokyo, Japan	147.86	86.15	86.09	71.53	124.00	10.66	50.30	32.35
New York, NY, United States	125.82	100.00	52.67	51.39	100.00	8.43	31.58	51.72
Hong Kong, Hong Kong	118.49	92.55	83.69	67.59	82.95	17.48	40.83	63.65
Paris, France	97.86	85.53	46.25	83.33	119.01	15.66	31.57	58.11
Taipei, Taiwan	97.04	69.63	84.29	88.89	67.74	25.93	38.33	60.67
London, United Kingdom	83.67	79.85	49.86	69.53	110.69	15.31	50.55	55.30
Shanghai, China	34.99	49.54	83.49	78.70	70.44	28.63	34.33	93.01

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City	Quality of Life Index	Purchasing Power Index	Safety Index	Health Care Index	Consumer Price Index	Property Price to Income Ratio	Traffic Commute Time Index	Pollution Index
1st - Canberra, Australia	242.18	134.75	69.15	74.27	96.96	4.79	18.62	8.27
Tokyo, Japan	170.50	96.79	76.99	85.03	85.41	8.66	44.15	35.07
Taipei, Taiwan	123.35	84.64	78.66	86.73	55.89	25.79	29.60	51.09
New York, NY, United States	117.39	100.00	52.85	46.25	100.00	8.93	39.38	52.82
London, United Kingdom	97.09	82.95	53.43	74.73	105.80	16.56	44.05	51.99
Paris, France	88.14	89.21	45.10	80.74	99.61	17.23	39.45	66.15
Hong Kong, Hong Kong	65.24	67.12	82.20	80.62	77.36	36.83	44.60	57.41
Shanghai, China	32.91	56.03	72.51	58.72	57.07	26.68	42.80	85.68

Cities where liveability has improved most (valid as of 2013)

City	Country	Rank out of 140	Five-year improvement in %
Bogota	Colombia	111	+7.9
Harare	Zimbabwe	136	+3.2
Dubai	UAE	77	+2.9
Algiers	Algeria	134	+2.9
Kuwait City	Kuwait	81	+2.5
Dhaka	Bangladesh	139	+2.5
Taipei	Taiwan	61	+2.0
Colombo	Sri Lanka	128	+1.8
Bratislava	Slovakia	63	+1.7
Phnom Penh	Cambodia	126	+1.6

52. El Salvador (5.809)	34. Cyprus (6.466)	17. United States (7.082)
51. Poland (5.822)	33. Saudi Arabia (6.480)	16. Mexico (7.088)
50. Bolivia (5.857)	32. Kuwait (6.515)	15. Panama (7.143)
49. Ecuador (5.865)	31. Trinidad and Tobago (6.519)	14. United Arab Emirates (7.144)
48. Malta (5.964)	30. Singapore (6.546)	13. New Zealand (7.221)
47. Guatemala (5.965)	29. Argentina (6.562)	12. Costa Rica (7.257)
46. Slovakia (5.969)	28. Chile (6.587)	11. Israel (7.301)
45. Italy (6.021)	27. Qatar (6.666)	10. Australia (7.350)
44. Slovenia (6.060)	26. Germany (6.672)	9. Iceland (7.355)
43. Japan (6.064)	25. France (6.764)	8. Austria (7.369)
42. Taiwan (6.221)	24. Brazil (6.849)	7. Finland (7.389)
41. South Korea (6.267)	23. Oman (6.853)	6. Canada (7.477)
40. Suriname (6.269)	22. United Kingdom (6.883)	5. Sweden (7.480)
39. Czech Republic (6.290)	21. Belgium (6.967)	4. Netherlands (7.512)
38. Spain (6.322)	20. Venezuela (7.039)	3. Switzerland (7.650)
37. Uruguay (6.355)	19. Luxembourg (7.054)	2. Norway (7.655)
36. Thailand (6.371)	18. Ireland (7.076)	1. Denmark (7.693)
35. Colombia (6.416)		

Information taken from the World happiness Report: http://unsdsn.org/files/2013/09/WorldHappinessReport2013_online.pdf

Q2: Are these studies accurate and reliable?

Q3: Does more money mean more happiness?

Q4: How do you feel Taipei can improve more as a place to live?



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