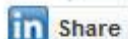
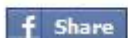
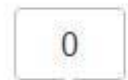


# Lessons from Taipei

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DURING my recent holiday in Taiwan, I couldn't help notice how much the cities, especially Taipei, have changed since my previous visit many years ago. The country is much cleaner and greener now with road safety being given top billing.

I was pleasantly impressed by how clean everything was - streets, canals, shopping malls, public toilets - all unmarred by refuse, even in the absence of rubbish bins and punitive anti-litter notices anywhere. It seems that the Taiwanese, young and old, have been well-schooled in not littering.

Commuting in and around Taipei was a delight due largely to a network of well-built roads. Conspicuously absent were the dreaded speed humps; the authorities have opted instead for clear traffic signs that appeal to the motorists' intelligence and civic-mindedness.

Concern for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists is obvious. Slow lanes are especially wide to accommodate cyclists who also have a lane to themselves alongside busy zebra crossings.

And the ubiquitous parking bays for rented bicycles are a telltale sign that city cycling is actively encouraged.

Modern-day Taipei has all the trappings of a First World city, nicely complementing the glimmering facade of the city skyline.

**Lee Seck Kay**