I. The Resistance of Industrial Pollution in Yilan

Yilan County is located in the northeastern portion of Taiwan Island, and covers an area of 2,143 square kilometers, containing 12 townships and a population of around 460,000 in total (Figure 6.1). Yilan Township and Luodong Township have the largest populations, the former around 95,000, and the latter around 74,000, while the other townships all show populations below 50,000 each. Two of the far-off townships, Nanao and Datong, are composed in the majority of Tayal aboriginals. Besides the aboriginals, the Han-people who immigrated to Yilan around 1949 as new inhabitants later on have shaped Yilan into a multicultural—and culturally, highly tolerant—place.

Touching things come from a touching city. Yilan is a place full of humanity. For a very long time now, Yilan has considered itself to be a multicultural place and has labored under the vision, “Yilan is an open-air museum”! (Figure 6.2). The museum concept of positioning is not just a political slogan, but it is actually the most precise description of Yilan today. Though there are not many high-rise buildings along with any science park or well-known colleges, Yilan is enriched in agricultural resources for tourism, featured hostels, and local delicacies. Though Yilan does not have large-scale industrial establishments, local business activities are developing with a certain subtle relation to growth in the province. Furthermore, with the fact that resources are not being divided by any industrial sector, Yilan has grasped its chance to realize the concept of “Great Mountain,” “Great Water,” and “Great Life.” Now, Yilan is more like a museum that combines environmental protection, culture, tourism, and great food embedded in its historical background. It is an open-air
museum that has been changed over time and been through a continuing cultural integration. After a revolt and then a refusal to permit the project of Formosa Plastics Corp’s (FPC) sixth naphtha cracker complex in 1987, this Yilan “museum” has developed an attitude that is created from its featured culture and achievements due to the local efforts of governmental and nongovernmental forces.

In 1987, the county magistrate Ding-Nan Chen was firmly against the FPC coming to Yilan to set up the Sixth Naphtha Cracker—Petrochemical Industry Base. Mr. Chen had worked in FPC, so he realized that the chemical industry could really do much harm to the environment. Thus, he refused the possibility of local, economic, and employment growth from the industrial establishment. Furthermore, he led the local residents to the

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**Figure 6.1** Yilan Introduction  
*Source: Yu and Wu (2012)*

**Figure 6.2** Yilan as a “Museum”  
*Source: Yu and Wu (2012)*