

BUSINESS

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An aerial view of Baiyangdian Lake near Xiong'an New Area. JIN HAOYUAN / XINHUA

Exciting green development enlivens Xiong'an New Area

CCFG's sewage systems harmonize livelihoods, nature, set tone for peers

By ZHUANG QIANG
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These days, villagers of Rongcheng county in Xiong'an New Area near Beijing are an excited lot. The environmentally friendly development that has come about in recent months has sprung a pleasant surprise on them, much like the riot of colors unleashed by the spring season.

Besides the greenery, there is technology powered by clean energy, which has breathed fresh life into local small businesses, raising hopes that this transformation will not only be sustainable but long-term.

Images and video clips of the new area have gone viral on Chinese social media platforms. Locals can be heard boasting with palpable pride that development has burst forth from the ground "all of a sudden".

There are even visitors over the weekends who can't have enough of selfies in front of the green walls that surround the area.

Wu Qiaoyin, a local farmer, said: "Thanks to our new facilities, the sewage from the villages is now better handled. Consequently, the nearby rivers are infinitely cleaner."

The sewage treatment plants have been set up by China Construction First Group Corp Ltd, a unit of the nation's largest builder China State Construction Engineering Corp. They are part of the State-owned builder's green projects in

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Yan Lei, manager of CCFG's projects in Rongcheng county, Xiong'an New Area

the new area, which has national significance.

Wu said: "Not long ago, sewage was not handled well and it would flow into local rivers and ponds, polluting the water resources, and savaging the local fisheries. Over the last two years, however, there has been visible improvement in water quality."

"Many of my neighbors started to stock the local ponds with fish. Initially, they just wanted to test the waters, and figure out if the fish would survive. Believe it or not, the fish have not only survived but matured nicely, and are ready for sale. The local fisheries business is picking up again."

Apart from the projects in Xiong'an New Area, the CSCEC's

unit has undertaken as many as 20 projects in Hebei province that will benefit more than 50,000 villagers. Some of them wrapped up construction work this month.

Observers of the new area's transformation over the years are quick to attribute the success to the national philosophy that development should promote harmony between humans and nature.

On Friday, President Xi Jinping gave a call during a tree-planting event in Beijing that in the new development stage, redoubled efforts must be made to promote green development and to strive to set the global development trend.

The central authorities executing Xiong'an New Area development are aiming to build the venue into a green, modern and smart area with a beautiful environment, high-end industries and efficient transportation.

For instance, upon completion, the local sewage treatment plants will be capable of handling 3,500 metric tons of waste per day.

With a total length of 221 kilometers, a sewage pipeline network connecting 19 villages of the Rongcheng county has been well laid, transferring sewage from the villages to 19 integrated treatment facilities.

In addition, CCFG, the project builder, set up 11,483 inspection wells and remodeled 15,840 soak pits to have better control over local water quality and prevent pollution.

The move reflects the project's efforts to protect the ecology around Baiyangdian Lake near the area, the largest freshwater lake in

North China often referred to as the Kidney of North China.

Yan Lei, project manager, said: "We adopted biological contact oxidation, or BCO, process, to handle sewage in an efficient and environmentally friendly way. Also, the once-polluted but treated water can be used in irrigation, which helps conserve water resources."

Many local farmers were employed by CCFG to join the local battle against pollution.

Li Chunxi, a local farmer and a project participant, said: "Being a Rongcheng native, I didn't know that much about the ecology of my hometown. But, I've learned a lot on the job ... for instance, about the water and land, and about farming. It's a job that benefits not only ourselves but the place we live in."

At a recent financial forum in Shijiazhuang, Hebei province, Zhou Hongchun, a professor at the Development Research Center of the State Council, said, "As the nation is shifting to a greener mode to achieve high-quality development, figuring out proper pollution solutions should be given priority while promoting livelihoods in Xiong'an New Area."

The national-level new area, Zhou said, is also a test case for various sectors, with focus on preventing pollution risks, finding out a way to achieve low-carbon development, and finding more breakthroughs in integrating the industrial chain.

All this is necessary to save more resources and protect the local environment. That's the key to sustainable development, he said.

Tech firm ups efforts in unmanned solution

By CHENG YU in Beijing and LI YINGQING in Kunming

Wingtech Technology Co Ltd is building a next-generation unmanned automated factory that can initially produce over 20 million 5G smartphones and other electronic devices each year in Southwest China's Yunnan province.

The move is also part of Yunnan's broader efforts to make further inroads into smart manufacturing to achieve higher economic development, industry insiders said.

According to Deng Anming, director of Wingtech's planning department, the new plant will start producing 5G smartphones and tablets this month.

"The new production line will produce smartphones, including high-end models, for global mainstream smartphone brands. Total annual production capacity is expected to hit 50 million units with sales revenue of more than 30 billion yuan (\$4.59 billion) once finished," Deng said, without giving a specific completion date.

Though he didn't disclose the new brand's name, Deng said Wingtech earlier this month reached an agreement with Shenzhen, Guangdong province-based Ofilm, which serves as a valuable part of Apple Inc's industrial chain in China, on the acquisition of Ofilm's camera business for 2.42 billion yuan.

In addressing its order book, Deng told China Daily the company was fully booked in the first quarter and almost all its clients are placing additional orders. "It is expected that demand will exceed supply throughout the year," he said.

The new plant is part of broader efforts by Yunnan to develop information technology in a bid to transform to the high-end manufacturing.

Huawei Technologies also has a smart industrial park in Kunming, capital of Yunnan, where the tech giant develops its digital economy business on software as well as talent training.

According to Kunming's development plan, the city planned to invest a total of 31.25 billion yuan in electronic information manufacturing during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-20) and to achieve 30 billion yuan in sales revenue for its

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Ruan Chengfa, Party secretary of Yunnan province

electronic information manufacturing industry this year.

"It is necessary to concentrate on industrial development and do everything possible to develop strategic emerging industries. More efforts will be made to step up cultivating pillar industries that will support Kunming's development in the next 30 years," said Ruan Chengfa, Party secretary of Yunnan province, at a recent conference.

The plan vowed to actively attract both domestic and foreign smart electronic product manufacturing resources to Kunming to form clusters.

For instance, more efforts will be made to drive server assembly operations with the help of the province's cloud computing industries, coordinate the intelligent hardware sector with its healthcare sectors and promote the internet of things with the help of the province's agricultural technologies.

"Yunnan is an important regional center for China's digital Silk Road," Deng said, adding that the company also plans to set up an international industry headquarters in the future to help coordinate and manage the operation and manufacturing business of some of its international customers.

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A Wingtech Technology Co Ltd employee works at the company's production facility in Jiaying, Zhejiang province, on Wednesday. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Villages join forces for more prosperous future

By LIU YUKUN in Beijing and YANG JUN in Guiyang

For Luo Xianguo, 53, the two-month vocational training he received in Zhangjiagang, Jiangsu province, two years back was a life-changing experience.

Before that, Luo, who lives in Gaofeng, Yanhe county, Guizhou province, had several jobs, including as a farmer and construction worker, all of which did not allow him to support his entire family. In 2014, Luo's wife fell ill, making it worse for his whole family. That same year, Luo's family was registered as being poverty-stricken by the local government.

Luo wasn't the only one. Among the 571 residents in Gaofeng, 197 were living in poverty. The 6-square-kilometer village has only 840 mu (56 hectares) of farmland, and about 85 percent of the area is heavily forested.

Changes occurred in 2018 when Shangang, a village in Zhangjiagang, known for its well-developed agricultural and breeding indus-

"We invited agricultural experts ... to come and inspect the land and collect soil samples after which we decided on which crop species were suitable for cultivation."

Yang Wenfeng, a member of the poverty alleviation team from Shangang county

try, partnered with Gaofeng to help lift it out of poverty. Soon after, a team of poverty alleviation professionals from Shangang, including government officials and agrotechnicians, came to Gaofeng and offered their expertise in building businesses and developing pillar industries.

With Shangang's help, Gaofeng



A farmer checks strawberries at a greenhouse in Gaofeng, a village of Yanhe county, Guizhou province. YANG WENBIN / XINHUA

set up a 60 mu organic agricultural industrial park, with investment totaling 5 million yuan (\$762,819), a 183 mu tea plantation for 4.5 million yuan, and a

livestock breeding base, which helped 199 people in poverty boost their take-home pay. Shangang also offered vocational training to over 120 locals from Gaofeng,

among whom more than 70 were living in poverty.

Luo was among those who received free vocational training. In 2019, Luo went on a journey to Zhangjiagang and learned about livestock breeding for two months.

After training, Luo returned and found a job at a local stock breeding farm. By breeding quail, Luo managed to emerge from poverty and earned over 70,000 yuan with his wife last year. He also renovated his house to a two-story building.

"My wife and I used to quarrel a lot, and most of the reasons involved money issues. Now life is getting better. We barely quarrel like before. Working in the breeding farm in my home village also allows me to take care of my 84-year-old mother. Looking ahead, I want to teach stock breeding techniques to my neighbors in the village who have similar situations as I did and we can enjoy better lives together," he said.

Chu Dequan, head of the Shangang's poverty alleviation professional team, said breeding quails has brought monthly incomes ranging from 60,000 yuan to 100,000 yuan to local villagers, while pig farming has helped local people earn about 300,000 yuan in the first half of 2020.

Yang Wenfeng, 47, has been working with the poverty alleviation professional team for almost four years.

"In the past, Gaofeng villagers grew a single kind of crop or plant on a large field, but we encouraged them to diversify the plants and breed multiple species of livestock to ensure that they can harvest and make profits all four seasons. The weather and land conditions of our two villages are quite different."

"Guizhou features a humid climate, insufficient sunlight and severe soil erosion issues in some places. We invited agricultural experts from Jiangsu province to come and inspect the land and collect soil samples after which we decided on which crop species were suitable for cultivation. We also introduced advanced business models from Shangang village. Going forward, we will step up efforts to develop industries with high added value such as tea and rural tourism," Yang said.

In 2019, per capita disposable income hit 7,800 yuan in Gaofeng, and the village had reported to have ended poverty in the same year.

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