

# CHINA



The first large cruise ship to be built by China starts to be assembled at a shipyard in Shanghai on Tuesday. The vessel, about 324 meters long, 37 meters wide and 72 meters tall, will have 2,125 passenger rooms and nearly 700 crew rooms. It will be able to accommodate 5,246 tourists. The ship is expected to be delivered to its joint venture operator in 2023. CHEN MENGZE / FOR CHINA DAILY

## Nation begins assembling first large cruise ship

By ZHAO LEI  
zhaolei@chinadaily.com.cn

Assembly began on China's first large, domestically made cruise ship on Tuesday, China State Shipbuilding Corp, the construction contractor, said.

A ceremony was held at the vessel's shipyard at Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding to mark the beginning of the assembly work, CSSC, a State-owned conglomerate and the world's largest shipbuilder, said in a statement.

Construction of the Vista-class cruise ship, which has yet to be named, is expected to be finished in the first half of 2023, the company said.

CSSC signed a cooperation agreement on the design and construction of two 135,500-metric ton Vista-class cruise ships with Carnival Corp and Fincantieri in November 2018.

Carnival, a British-American cruise operator, is the world's largest leisure travel company, while Fincantieri, an Italian company, is one of the world's largest cruise ship makers.

According to the agreement, CSSC will work with Fincantieri to design the ships, which will be built based on the Chinese market's requirements and Chinese tourists' needs.

Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding will construct the ships and then deliver them to a joint venture

between CSSC and Carnival that will be tasked with operating the vessels to serve the Chinese tourism market.

The contractual price of each ship is \$770 million. The first of the ships is scheduled to be delivered to the joint venture in 2023 and the second in 2024. The three parties also agreed to an option for another four vessels of the same type, CSSC said.

The project marks the first time China will build a large, advanced cruise ship on its own. It is a new milestone for the country's shipbuilding industry because it marks an end to China's inability to design and construct large cruise ships, shipbuilding industry sources said.

Each of the colossal cruise liners will be about 324 meters long, 37 meters wide and 72 meters tall. Each ship will be powered by five diesel generators and driven by two electric thrusters.

They will have a cruising speed of 33 kilometers per hour and a maximum speed of about 42 km/h, designers said.

There will be 16 stories of living, shopping and entertainment quarters that will offer musical performances, art shows and a wide variety of foods.

The vessel will have 2,125 passenger rooms capable of accommodating 5,246 tourists. There will also be nearly 700 rooms for crew.

# Appetite for travel likely will rebound

Outbound tourism won't be affected by COVID-19 in the long run, report says

By CHENG SI  
chengsi@chinadaily.com.cn

Outbound tourism from China has come to a near standstill this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the sector will not be affected by the virus in the long run as the nation's economy is steadily recovering and people are still keen to see other parts of the world, a report by the China Tourism Academy said on Tuesday.

"We've pulled through the worst hour, and the best moments have yet to come," Yang Jingsong, a researcher at the academy, told an online news conference on Tuesday. "In the long run, outbound tourism will rebound sooner or later. The pandemic won't keep the market from heading toward a better future."

The desire for outbound tourism is still strong, Yang explained.

"People's aspirations to live a better life remain unchanged, which means the drive for a better future for the outbound tourism market remains unchanged," he said.

The latest figures from the National Bureau of Statistics reflect Yang's optimism. In the first three quarters of this year, China's GDP rose by 0.7 percent year-on-year, offering a solid foundation for the development of tourism.

Yang said efforts made by foreign destinations amid the pandemic have also boosted Chinese travelers'

confidence in the eventual resumption of outbound travel.

"The destinations closed off their borders to better control the coronavirus while also offering help to companies mainly serving Chinese travelers to survive the pandemic," he said. "They're also continuing to promote their sites to Chinese travelers to lure visitors once outbound tourism restarts at the conclusion of the pandemic."

Outbound tourism has grown strongly in recent years.

The academy's report said Chinese travelers made 155 million outbound trips last year, up 3.3 percent year-on-year, and spent \$133.8 billion at their destinations, a year-on-year increase of over 2 percent.

However, reeling from the COVID-19 shock, the number of outbound tourists plunged in the first half of this year as travel to foreign destinations was discouraged by the government to better curb the pandemic.

Tight restrictions imposed by the government to bring the pandemic under control saw the outbound travel market grind to a halt. Since late January, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has required all travel agencies to suspend the organization of group tours to outbound destinations.

In August, a survey by the World Tourism Alliance showed that about 95 percent of industry players said the first half of this year had been bad for business.

## China's largest tech fair gives glimpse at the world of tomorrow in Shenzhen

By ZHANG LINWAN  
zhanglinwan@chinadaily.com.cn

The 22nd China Hi-Tech Fair gets underway on Wednesday in Shenzhen, South China's Guangdong province, showcasing the latest scientific research achievements from around the world.

As the largest high-tech fair in China, the CHTF plays a vital role in promoting the transformation of scientific research results into commercial applications and boosting international cooperation, the organizers said.

The underlying goal of the event is to "transform the future with technology and drive development with innovation". The CHTF will run until Nov 15. Nearly 150 activities will be held during the five-day fair including a main exhibition, two parallel exhibitions, and several forums and conferences.

The main exhibition, covering an area of more than 120,000 square meters, will attract a large number of high-tech enterprises and institutions from home and abroad, the organizers said.

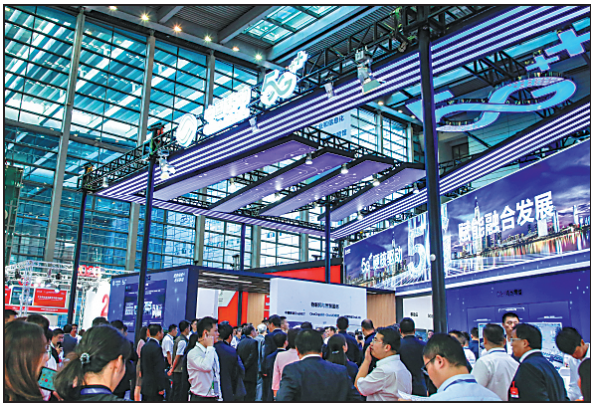
Products showcased cover various advanced fields including new energy, biotechnology, smart city and aerospace.

Beijing Jiaotong University, one of the exhibitors, is presenting its super capacitor energy storage system for urban rail transport, which has helped save energy by 20 percent for subways in preliminary tests.

A delegation from Austria, consisting of 10 high-tech companies, will promote their technologies in unmanned vehicles and new materials.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the event has built a remote exhibition center for the international display area, allowing foreign exhibitors to participate in the event online and showcase their products via digital multimedia and virtual reality technology.

In addition, the fair has launched an online exhibition on its website where visitors can watch most



Attendees at the China Hi-Tech Fair in 2019 gather at its main exhibition hall. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

### 120,000 square meters

of exhibition space at the 22nd China Hi-Tech Fair

exhibits in a 3D pavilion and learn about their information in more detail.

The CHTF is committed to innovation, the organizers said. It is integrating online and offline exhibitions this year to provide better services and bring more Chinese opportunities to overseas enterprises, said Su Yanwei, deputy director of the CHTF Organizing Committee Office.

To support the global fight against COVID-19, the fair has placed more attention on the healthcare sector and emerging industries spawned by the epidemic. A special area has been set up displaying cutting-edge equipment and technologies used for epidemic prevention and control.

Exhibitors demonstrate products such as anti-fogging protective goggles, body temperature warning systems, and pipeline inspection robots.

Another highlight of the fair, the China Hi-Tech Forum 2020, runs

from Nov 11-13. It brings together top scientists, academicians and corporate leaders from around the world to discuss recent research results and new trends in the field of high-tech.

Topics of this year's forum include key technologies of the next 10 years, the application of artificial intelligence, the space economy, and life in the post-epidemic era.

The forum will offer not only insights and inspiration, but also a glimpse into the future, the organizers said.

The fair also serves as a bridge for cooperation among investors and companies, with an array of matchmaking and financing activities held every year.

Using a teleconference system, some financing events have moved over to the cloud this year, giving Chinese investors access to projects from around the world.

Statistics show that more than 100 projects and 50 financial institutions have registered to take part in the matchmaking event.

Serving as a platform to demonstrate the world's technological development, the annual event first took place in 1999 and attracts hundreds of thousands of visits every year.



第二十二届中国国际高新技术成果交易会  
CHINA HI-TECH FAIR 2020

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