

# Business environment developing smoothly

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Setting up a comprehensive bonded area in Zhanjiang is of great significance to the city's economic development in sectors such as port operation, local officials said.

"The approval of the comprehensive bonded area in Zhanjiang means there will be a special customs supervisory area in western Guangdong province," said a manager of Zhanjiang Port Group.

"In the future, Zhanjiang Port can realize interconnected development with the bonded area, explore more new bonded businesses, provide diversified services and contribute to our further development," the manager said.

According to plans for the comprehensive bonded area, a focus will be placed on seafood and aquatic product processing after the completion of its construction.

Area representatives said they will construct a logistics park for cold-chain food products, contributing to Zhanjiang Port's container businesses and helping build the city into a distribution hub for frozen food across the world.

The comprehensive bonded area will help manage the transit trade and processing trade in the city, which complement the functions of the Hainan Free Trade Port, local officials said.

It will have 16 projects at its first phase, with a total investment of

10.79 billion yuan (\$1.65 billion).

Quanlian Aquatic Products Collection (Guangdong) is one of the 16 projects to be introduced into the area.

The company said it plans to build cold storage capable of freezing 300,000 metric tons of food, 12 deep processing workshops and an industrial internet platform.

"Setting up the comprehensive bonded area provides a great opportunity for business operators," said Shi Tongcai, vice-chairman of Quanlian.

"Private businesses can store cargo in the bonded warehouse and pay the duty on these stockpiles upon delivery, which reduces financial pressure.

"Processing enterprises can conduct processing in the area and then export the products without paying duties," Shi said.

Another company about to enter the area is Guangzhou Huilai Holding, a company engaged in agricultural product processing.

"After the comprehensive bonded area is launched, we will build an animal feed industrial park capable of storing 650,000 tons of animal feed, and we hope to put it into operation in 2021," said Xue Yuezhou, a manager of the company.

The project will help increase the import volume of goods by at least 600,000 tons per year for the area, according to the company.



Employees at Quanlian Aquatic Products Collection (Guangdong) in Zhanjiang work on a shrimp processing line. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

# Progress made in 13th Five-Year Plan period

By YUAN SHENGGAO

During the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-20), Zhanjiang made marked achievements in developing itself into a more prominent economic power in South China's Guangdong province and a key player in the province's coastal economic belt.

In 2020, the city's GDP was estimated at more than 310 billion yuan (\$47.47 billion). The average annual growth rate was 5.1 percent during the 13th Five-Year Plan period. Zhanjiang's per capita GDP was 43,000 yuan in 2020, with an average annual growth rate of 4.7 percent over the past five years.

In the same period, Zhanjiang's investment in fixed assets exceeded 110 billion yuan in 2020 with an average annual growth rate of 4.4 percent. The general public budget revenue was 13.58 billion yuan last year, with an average annual growth rate of 2.2 percent.

"We have accelerated the establishment of a modern industrial system and witnessed high-quality development in the past five years," said Zheng Renhao, Party secretary of Zhanjiang.

"We have spared no effort in developing a modern port-neighboring industry during the past five years ... and Zhanjiang is becoming a major destination in South China to promote high-quality development," Zheng said.

Major projects, including new blast furnaces for Baosteel Group and a refining project for Sinopec, have been put into operation in Zhanjiang over the past five years.

"We have also promoted the

development of distinctive industries," Zheng said.

Over the past five years, 15 modern agricultural industrial parks in the city were approved to become national-level and provincial-level. A total of 26 agricultural products entered the category of the nation's famous agricultural products, ranking the city top in Guangdong. Zhanjiang has also upgraded its tourism infrastructure. It has put into operation Texas Water World — the largest coastal water park in Guangdong province.

Tourism revenue in the city increased from 35 billion yuan in 2016 to 60.12 billion yuan in 2019, according to Zheng.

During the 13th Five-Year Plan period, the number of high-tech companies in Zhanjiang reached 290, seven times more than that of the previous five years.

"We have deepened the implementation of innovation-driven development," Zheng said.

In 2020, these high-tech companies generated an output value of 80 billion yuan. The Zhanjiang high-tech industrial development zone was approved to upgrade into a national-level zone in 2018, and the city's marine science and engineering laboratory base has launched nine scientific research projects.

With constant efforts in terms of the city's infrastructure construction, Zhanjiang has seen rapid development in its modern transportation network, Zheng said.

In the past five years, Zhanjiang invested 70 billion yuan in its transportation infrastructure, 2.6 times more than during the 12th Five-Year Plan period (2011-15).



The Loong Bay International Ocean Resort in Zhanjiang is a 4A-level national scenic spot. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Ferries dock at Xuwen Port in Zhanjiang, Guangdong province. Xuwen Port has 16 ro-ro berths for 5,000-tonnage cargo and passenger vessels, and one 5,000-tonnage ro-ro berth specially designed for hazardous goods. PENG DECAI / FOR CHINA DAILY

# Comprehensive bonded area granted approval

Zhanjiang continues push to open up to overseas markets

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Zhanjiang in South China's Guangdong province is further opening up following the approval of the establishment of a comprehensive bonded area by the State Council in late December.

The rubber stamp came on the back of the city being approved to set up a comprehensive experimental zone for cross-border e-commerce in April 2020, injecting great impetus into Zhanjiang's development.

Covering a planned area of 2.09 square kilometers, the bonded area is located in an industrial park of the Xiashan port area, and is the first comprehensive bonded area in western Guangdong.

At its first phase, the area will have 16 projects, with a total investment of 10.79 billion yuan (\$1.65 billion), according to local officials.

The bonded area plays an important role in promoting the high-quality development of the local economy, said an official at the Zhanjiang Customs Office.

It has a high-level of openness, preferential policies, complete functions and simplified procedures, the official said.

It will also be a center for processing and manufacturing, research and development, design, logistics and marketing, he added.

The area will implement import and export tax policies based on duty-free, bonded services, tax rebates and selective tariffs.

It will also offer services including transit trade, international



The comprehensive bonded area in Zhanjiang is helping the city to further open up. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

purchase and port operation.

Zheng Renhao, Party secretary of Zhanjiang, said the accelerated development requires a new pattern of higher-level opening-up.

Zhanjiang will give full play to the comprehensive bonded area to establish a new institution for a more advanced open economy, Zheng said.

He noted the city should seize the opportunities of the recently signed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and encourage more enterprises to participate in the regional cooperation and exchanges in commodities, technologies and services.

## High-quality development

As a junction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Hainan Free Trade Port, the Beibu Gulf Economic Zone of

the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region and the new western land-sea corridor, Zhanjiang is trying to become a subcenter city in Guangdong province, in hopes of contributing to the development of the modern coastal economic belt.

In recent years, the city has welcomed major projects, many with an investment of over \$10 billion, including a refining project from Sinopec Group.

These projects provide great opportunities to Zhanjiang and require a higher-standard platform to support a new round of opening-up, local officials said.

The comprehensive bonded area is such a platform to help Zhanjiang integrate into the greater Bay Area, the Hainan Free Trade Port and the Beibu Gulf city cluster, thus creating a development platform with more advantages.

As a coastal city, Zhanjiang boasts rich maritime resources. The city said it will utilize the preferential policies of the comprehensive bonded area to attract more investors in the maritime industry in an effort to increase economic added value as well as to promote the transformation and upgrading of relevant industries in Zhanjiang and even in western Guangdong.

## Trade and cooperation

As a port city with the shortest sea routes to Southeast Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania in the Chinese mainland, Zhanjiang has huge economic potential.

The comprehensive bonded area helps Zhanjiang to integrate into the international ocean economic system to deepen its trade cooperation with those countries while also attracting transnational manufacturing corporations and promoting international exchanges, local officials said.

As a pilot area for Guangdong province to participate in the cooperation among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Zhanjiang has welcomed some 20 enterprises from ASEAN members and founded 11 companies in these countries in recent years.

The bonded area will provide strong support for the city in communicating with ASEAN members, local officials said.

It will utilize international and domestic markets to promote trade and investment between China and ASEAN members, according to local officials.

# Authority aims for modern livable metropolis

By YUAN SHENGGAO

The Zhanjiang city government has announced plans to build itself into what it calls a "modern livable coastal city" during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25), by "upgrading the city's development in an all-around way."

Urban construction reflects a city's image and should take advantage of economic strength, said Zheng Renhao, Party secretary of Zhanjiang.

"We should focus on building the city into an economic powerhouse in Guangdong province and enhancing development in line with the top-class standards of coastal cities in the country such as Xiamen and Qingdao," Zheng said.

In the next five years, Zhanjiang will continue to optimize its urban layout, improve its city construction and promote its governance, the official said.

According to Zheng, Zhanjiang will build more high-level city service platforms and landmarks to promote the function of its downtown while also renovating old areas.

"It is fundamental for us to build a modern and livable coastal city to provide residents with a more convenient and comfortable life," Zheng said.

Apart from optimizing infrastruc-



From top: An aerial view of Zhanjiang shows the city's livable environment. The Zhanjiang international airport is expected to be completed in 2021. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY.

ture, the city will also build 5G networks and an intelligent transportation system. The local

authority will also ramp up efforts in building Zhanjiang into a critical junction city to better serve national

strategies, such as the construction of the Hainan Free Trade Port and China's new western land-sea corridor.

The city will upgrade its transportation network to become a comprehensive transportation hub in the country, Zheng said.

Efforts will be put into finishing a waterway with a load capacity of 400,000 twenty-foot equivalent units as scheduled at Zhanjiang Port and constructing the Guangzhou-Zhanjiang high-speed railway.

Zhanjiang will also develop more industrial clusters involved in sectors such as advanced manufacturing, coastal tourism and modern agriculture. Infrastructure will also be upgraded in terms of telecommunication, supply of power, water and gas, and pollution control.

To attract more investment and businesses, the city government said it will improve the business environment by optimizing project services.

"We are constantly pushing reform, opening-up, and innovation," Zheng said.

Zhanjiang will also continue to implement reforms in its administrative services and business environment. Moreover, the city will utilize the advantages of its comprehensive experimental zone for cross-border e-commerce, the comprehensive bonded area and international events.