



The picturesque Huguangyan Scenic Area in Zhanjiang, Guangdong province. YANG XIAO / FOR CHINA DAILY

Key projects push Zhanjiang forward as subcenter

Sinopec and BASF among companies pouring billions of dollars into Guangdong's coastal economic belt

By HAO NAN
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The harbor-based industry of Zhanjiang, a city in South China's Guangdong province, has been on a fast development track in recent years with the establishment of several projects worth tens of billions of dollars each in investment.

One is the Zhongke (Guangdong) Refinery and Petrochemical project. Located on Donghai Island, the project is the largest of its kind by China Petrochemical Corp, or Sinopec.

The giant petrochemical project began operation on June 16. By Aug 30, it had provided the Chinese market with 33,800 metric tons of gasoline and diesel that met the national VI standard and on Sept 4, 280 tons of polypropylene resins.

Its first phase is expected to realize an annual industrial output value of more than 60 billion yuan (\$8.78 billion) and generate pre-tax profits of more than 26 billion yuan a year.

The project will support the China's Belt and Road Initiative and national development in energy and chemical industries.

It will also help Zhanjiang realize the goal of developing itself into a subcenter of Guangdong and a major growth point of the province's modern coastal economic belt, local officials said.

Deng Hanshen, a senior executive of the project, added it may help attract more than 200 billion yuan of investment to the middle and lower reaches of the city's petrochemical industry, including plastic materials, electronic chemicals and fine chemicals.

Currently, some supporting plants of the project are under construction and their derivative products will be beneficial to new materials, the light industry, autos and other related sectors, Deng said.



A media delegation visits the site of Zhongke (Guangdong) Refinery and Petrochemical's project in Zhanjiang. CHAI HUA / CHINA DAILY

Baosteel Zhanjiang Iron and Steel project is another major driver of the city's port-based economic development.

Also located on Donghai Island, the plant is one of the four production bases of the world-leading steel-maker Baosteel Group.

It will celebrate the fifth anniversary of its first blast furnace on Sept 25 and plans to operate a third by July 2021.

Once completed, Baosteel Zhanjiang

will increase its total production capacity to 12.25 million tons of molten iron; 12.52 million tons of molten steel; and 10.81 million tons of steel.

Although the steel industry has long been seen as a major contributor to heavy pollution, construction of the Baosteel project in Zhanjiang did not harm the local environment. This is thanks to its smart manufacturing and environmentally friendly technologies.

They include ultraclean emissions

in power plants, desulfurization and denitrification of flue gas, wastewater treatment and rainwater recycling. In 2017 and 2020, the project was awarded by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology for highly efficient use of water in the iron and steel industry.

The BASF smart Verbund site is China's first large petrochemical project solely owned by a foreign investor.

Construction of the German chemical giant's largest single investment in China kicked off in Zhanjiang in November 2019.

It is also BASF's third-largest production site in the world, after Ludwigshafen and Antwerp in Belgium, with a total investment of \$10 billion.

The first group of facilities is under construction and is to be put into use by 2022.

Scheduled to be completed by 2030, the project will form a solid foundation for a world-class industrial cluster in Zhanjiang and provide impetus for economic growth in the city, southern China and Asia in the coming years.

During a conference held in Zhanjiang earlier this year, Zheng Renhao, Party secretary of Zhanjiang, urged governments at different levels to gear up to carry out the three-year (2020-22) plan to promote high-quality development of manufacturing industry by strengthening and expanding industrial chains and promoting industrial clusters.

"The city will highlight the development of harbor-based industries so that the city will become a major base for world-class, green and premium heavy and chemical industries," he noted.

The city will also redouble efforts to develop its traditional industrial clusters, while fostering and making bigger strategic growth industries, the official added.

Transport links to see region rise to prominence

By HAO NAN

Zhanjiang in South China's Guangdong province is witnessing major progress in several key construction projects aimed at upgrading its transportation infrastructure facilities.

In Wuchuan, a county-level city, construction on the relocated Zhanjiang Airport has moved forward as planned.

The new airport is located 32 kilometers away from Zhanjiang's urban area and 38 km from the urban area of Maoming, a neighboring city of Zhanjiang.

In addition to mainly serving Guangdong's western areas, the airport is also designed for emergency rescue and general aviation activities.

When completed, the new airport will have a runway measuring 3,200 meters and a parallel taxiway of equal length, as well as 30 parking bays, a 61,800-square-meter terminal building and other supporting facilities.

It is scheduled to open in March 2022. By then, the airport, together with its supporting expressways and railways, will form a three-dimensional and integrated traffic network.

By 2030, the new airport's passenger and cargo throughput is expected to reach 5.1 million and 30,600 metric tons, with 47,400 takeoffs and landings annually.

The Zhanjiang section of the Yulin-Zhanjiang Expressway opened on Thursday, and significantly reduces the driving time between the two cities from four hours to an hour and a half. The expressway is one of nine channels linking Guangdong and the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, and boosts Zhanjiang's status as a central city in western Guangdong and a national integrated transportation hub.

The 100-km expressway (Guangdong section) has 10 exits and entrances that reach out to nearly every town and village passing by.

In northern Zhanjiang, the Tiaoshun Cross-sea Bridge project is also progressing smoothly. The bridge has a total length of 9.36 km.

5.1 million

passenger throughput of the new airport by 2030

Another major project is Xuwen Harbor, which is being built to become a key hub connecting Guangdong and Hainan provinces. The harbor is designed to have an annual handling capacity of 3.2 million vehicles and 17.28 million passengers.

Construction on the harbor started on Jan 1, 2017 and is expected to be finished for operation in October. When completed, Xuwen Harbor will become a first-class and one of the most functional passenger ro-ro ferry harbors in the world, with seamless connection to highways, waterways, railways and urban buses.

It is of great significance for serving the construction of Hainan Free Trade Port and promoting the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, local officials said.

Zhanjiang is also utilizing its geographical advantage as a port city to become a national hub for logistics. Related projects include a 400,000-ton waterway construction project of Zhanjiang Port, which is expected to be completed next year, and the upgrade of bulk cargo wharf in Xiashan harbor area.

Li Xi, Party secretary of Guangdong, said at a recent meeting in Zhanjiang that the city should seize opportunities brought by the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; the Shenzhen demonstration pilot zone for socialism with Chinese characteristics; and the Hainan Free Trade Port, and speed up construction of bullet train lines, airport, expressways, harbors and other infrastructure.

Li also called on Zhanjiang to enhance coordinated development with its neighboring Maoming and Yangjiang cities, and strengthen the rural revitalization strategy by focusing on planting and processing high-quality agricultural products such as pineapple, banana and mango.



The Zhanjiang section of the Yulin-Zhanjiang Expressway opens on Thursday. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

City turns attention to lifting people out of poverty

By TANG ZHIHAO
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Zhanjiang in South China's Guangdong province has made significant progress in poverty elimination and rural revitalization, thanks to the continuous efforts of local governments and the business community, who are leading residents toward a better quality of life.

As of the end of May, Zhanjiang's governments at all levels had invested 2.88 billion yuan (\$425.27 million) toward lifting 218 villages out of poverty over the past few years. A total of 233,737 residents from 81,680 impoverished families have been lifted out of poverty, accounting for 99.8 percent of the poverty-stricken population in the city, according to the city government.

Zhanjiang held a media event from Sept 9 to 15 to demonstrate the city's achievements in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Nearly 200 reporters from



Villas built by entrepreneur Yang Song are made for local residents in Yangchili village, Zhanjiang. CHAI HUA / CHINA DAILY

around China visited sites including Fangpo village in Xuwen county, Huguangyan Scenic Area, Chikan Sanmin street and Techeng Island to record the city's achievements in

economic, cultural and poverty relief areas.

Rural development

The city, one of the first in China

to unveil an action plan to promote rural revitalization, is seeing big improvements in the rural environment and quality of life. Some villages have even received recognition from national authorities.

Zurong village in the county-level city Leizhou of Zhanjiang, with more than 300 years of history, was named a national-level rural tourism village.

The list was released by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and National Development and Reform Commission in early September.

It is one of the top recognitions for Zhanjiang's efforts. In 2019, Techeng Island in Xiashan district of Zhanjiang appeared on the list.

Apart from local governments' efforts, such as upgrading infrastructure, creating jobs and strengthening training, local business people have also contributed in supporting Zhanjiang's rural development.

Chen Yu, president of Modocom, has invested about 100 million yuan to construct industrial, cultural and

tourism facilities in Zurong village.

He has established a food processing factory, a handicraft museum, a library, a hotel and a restaurant in the village.

The museum displays Leizhou traditional items such as Leizhou porcelain, which has history dating back to the Spring and Autumn period (770-476 BC), Leizhou stone dogs, and Leizhou-style wood carving.

Chen said that Zurong village is a place that needed a strong foundation to develop its rural tourism.

"It is too common among villages in Guangdong. There is no famous story, no well-known people, no astonishing natural landscape, no unique buildings and no rare resources," he said.

However, Chen didn't hesitate in investing in Zurong village, where he spent his childhood years.

"Bringing villagers knowledge about the outside world, changing their mindset about life and letting them realize what they can achieve are the most important things in pro-

moting rural revitalization," he said. "I have observed such changes."

Currently, about 300 villagers, including some from neighboring villages, work in Chen's factory, helping to reduce the problem of left-behind children.

Chen said he will help develop Leizhou into a handicraft making hub to promote the village's traditional culture.

Chen is not the only person from the world of business that is devoted to Zhanjiang's rural development.

Yang Song, chairman of construction company GSD Group, who was born in Yangchili village in county-level city Wuchuan, had invested some 100 million yuan to build 35 new villas in the village in 2017.

The villas were provided to all 35 families in the village for free in 2018. Yang also built public facilities such as a cultural square, basketball court, drainage systems in the village to enhance living standards.

The village, about 3 kilometers to the new Zhanjiang airport, which is set to start operation in 2022, will take the opportunity to develop airport supporting services including accommodation and catering, Yang said.