

Business environment developing smoothly

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Setting up the 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, the 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 the 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 manufacturing 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 storages 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 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 (2016-20). Zhanjiang's per capita GDP is 43,000 yuan, with an average annual growth rate of 4.7 percent.

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



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 the 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 the highest level of openness, the most preferential policies, the most complete functions and the most simplified procedures in the country, 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, tax rebates and selective tariffs.

It will also offer services including



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

transit trade, international purchasing 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, 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 sub-center 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 countries and founded 11 companies in these countries in recent years.

The bonded area will provide strong support for the city in communicating with ASEAN countries. It will utilize international and domestic markets to promote trade and investment among China and ASEAN countries, local officials said.

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 liveable 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 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 and 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.