

Modern transportation advances geographical, commercial advantages

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Construction of the Zhanjiang undersea tunnel has been completed with a shield tunneling excavation length of 4,546 meters, according to local authorities.

The tunnel, a part of the overall construction of the Guangzhou-Zhanjiang high-speed railway, has a total length of 9,640 meters. The shield tunnel section accounts for 7,551 meters.

The recently completed project has prepared the foundation for the high-speed railway to operate as scheduled, local officials said.

With a total length of 401 kilometers, the Guangzhou-Zhanjiang high-speed railway has a designed speed of 350 km per hour and is scheduled to open in 2025.

Once running, the railway will enable the travel time between the downtown areas of Guangzhou and Zhanjiang to be 90 minutes. This will, in turn, incorporate Zhanjiang into the coordinated development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Zhanjiang began its high-speed railway construction when the Zhanjiang section of the Shenzhen-Zhanjiang high-speed railway launched in July 2018. It added Zhanjiang to the "three-hour high-speed railway transportation circle" in the Bay Area and made it the third national railway hub city in Guangdong.

Located at the junction of Guangdong, the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region and Hainan, Zhanjiang is playing a central role in the national construction of a comprehensive transport network.

In recent years, Zhanjiang has been working to build a national comprehensive transportation hub. It has continued to improve the network through planning, constructing a hub and enhancing infrastructure for land, sea and air transport.

In December, Zhanjiang Avenue, the city's fourth north-south urban expressway, was opened. Extending 22 km, the avenue serves about 2.4 million residents and contributes to Zhanjiang's construction of an urban transportation network.



Zhanjiang Avenue, the city's fourth north-south urban expressway, is opened at the end of 2022. GUO LONGBI / FOR CHINA DAILY

In March 2022, the Zhanjiang Wuchuan Airport was launched, which is the first 4E airport in western Guangdong. 4E refers to the second-best ranking in China's five-tier airfield system. The airport assists air traffic in areas including Zhanjiang, Maoming, Yangjiang in western Guangdong, and Beihai and Yulin in eastern Guangdong.

As a coastal city, Zhanjiang has accelerated the construction of a port-based national logistics hub. Zhanjiang Port is a world-class deep-water port, serving as a national port and is the only one in South China that can accommodate vessels up to 400,000 deadweight tons.

In 2022, Zhanjiang Port completed a total cargo throughput of 250 million tons, and a container throughput of 1.53 million twenty-foot equivalent units, up 9.3 percent year-on-year.

Xuwen Port in Zhanjiang boasts the world's largest cargo-passenger roll-on roll-off ferry terminal. Opened in September 2020, it shortened the travel time across the Qiongzhou Strait by more than one-third.

This year, Zhanjiang will promote transport network construction by implementing 60 projects with a planned investment of 16.9 billion yuan (\$2.44 billion). This will establish a modern, multilayered transport system with a focus on major ports, its airport and highways as its backbone, Zeng Jinze, mayor of Zhanjiang, said while addressing the city's government work report.

Zeng said Zhanjiang will upgrade its port capacity, leverage the advantages of its deep-water port and accelerate the construction of related infrastructure.

It is necessary to improve the port logistics system, develop multimodal transportation and improve the ports' capabilities, Zeng said.

According to the city government, a slew of engineering projects — including terminals and waterways at port areas, a regional air transport hub and airport expressways, and a land transportation network — will be built or improved this year.



Zhongke (Guangdong) Refinery and Petrochemical becomes the first enterprise in Zhanjiang to achieve an annual output value surpassing 100 billion yuan in 2022. LIN JIANGHAI / FOR CHINA DAILY

Manufacturing sector steps up in Zhanjiang

City's economic development secured thanks to Chinese, foreign enterprises' investments, opening chapter of industrial sophistication

By HAO NAN

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New projects are expected to inject momentum into the development of manufacturing in Zhanjiang, South China's Guangdong province, local officials said.

In December, for example, the Zhanjiang city government and Guangzhou-headquartered Kingfa Science and Technology signed a memorandum of cooperation to invest in a modified plastics project.

At the signing ceremony, Yuan Zhimin, chairman of the company, said Kingfa will practice a green concept in overall development and to accelerate the project's construction. It will also promote the innovative, green and safe development of Zhanjiang's petrochemical industry.

In addition to Kingfa, many other large Chinese and foreign enterprises such as JD, China Post, Sika Davco and GLP have invested in the city and ensured the stable and healthy development of the local economy, according to the city government.

Since 2013, Donghai Island has served as the main site of Zhanjiang's manufacturing industry and introduced more than 60 major projects, with a total investment of about 196 billion yuan (\$28.4 billion). Most of these projects are related to steel, iron and petrochemicals, as well as their supporting industries.

Zhongke (Guangdong) Refinery and Petrochemical, a gigantic project on the island, processed 14.55 million metric tons of crude oil and produced 834,600 tons of ethylene in 2022, achieving a total industrial output value of 100.4 billion yuan and paying taxes of 34.8 billion yuan.

Zhongke therefore became the first enterprise in Zhanjiang with an

371.3 billion yuan

GDP Zhanjiang achieved in 2022

166 projects

Zhanjiang introduced in 2022, with a total investment of 97.6 billion yuan

annual output value exceeding 100 billion yuan.

Moreover, in 2022, the 10-billion-euro (\$10.6 billion) Verbund petrochemical site built by German chemical giant BASF opened the first set of its devices.

The site is the first large petrochemical project solely owned by a foreign investor in China. It is expected to help establish stronger business connections between Guangdong province and Asian countries, local officials said.

In 2022, the No 3 blast furnace of Baosteel Zhanjiang Iron and Steel reached its production goals. The company also began construction of a 1-million-ton hydrogen-based shaft furnace project on the city's Donghai Island.

As a result, Zhanjiang is developing a cluster of modern port industries in southern China. In 2022, the city's GDP reached 371.3 billion yuan, an increase of 1.2 percent year-on-year. It introduced 166 projects throughout that year, with a total investment of 97.6 billion yuan. Meanwhile, the paid-in foreign capital was 4.1 billion yuan, up 37.5 percent year-on-year.

Zhanjiang's Party Secretary Liu Hongbing said the city will focus on

the integration of industrialization, digitalization and green economic development in the coming years. It will also highlight the construction of large industrial parks, promoting the development of cultural tourism and the application of big data.

According to Liu, its five advanced manufacturing clusters — green steel, green petrochemicals, high-end paper making, green energy and new energy vehicles — will be supported and strengthened. The city will accelerate the development of port industries and is striving to become a demonstration zone for the high-quality development of the manufacturing industry in Guangdong and nearby regions.

Zeng Jinze, the city mayor, said Zhanjiang will focus on the real economy this year and promote the construction of a modern industrial system dominated by advanced manufacturing industry.

The city has set a GDP growth target of 6 percent this year, and 4.5 percent for the added value of industries above designated size.

By the end of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), the added value of industries above designated size is expected to exceed 130 billion yuan. Meanwhile, the proportion of the manufacturing industry in GDP will increase from 18.1 percent in 2020 to 30 percent in 2025.



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What they say

Deputies from Zhanjiang to the ongoing National People's Congress hailed this year's Government Work Report on Sunday.



Zhanjiang will firmly give the priority to high-quality development and promote a 6 percent increase

in GDP. The city will be dedicated to becoming a provincial subcenter city and accelerate the development of a key growth pole of the modern coastal economic belt to take a leading role in all major work indicators in Guangdong province.

Zeng Jinze, mayor of Zhanjiang



The proactive fiscal policy and prudent monetary policy outlined in the government report will help

Zhanjiang to achieve leapfrog and high-quality development, providing strong support for promoting the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, cultivating and expanding strategic emerging industries, and strengthening weak links in the industrial chain.

Ning Ling, vice-president of Guangdong Ocean University



The Government Work Report's mention of promoting green transformation of development

patterns is good news for the development of energy and power in Zhanjiang. We are accelerating innovation and practices in the clean and efficient use of coal-fired power and technology research and development, speeding up the construction of an integrated energy system of wind and solar, building a demonstration base for carbon-cycle energy islands, and exporting green and clean electricity to facilitate the leapfrog and high-quality development of Zhanjiang.

Ren Jiajiong, engineer of Guangdong Datang International Leizhou Power Generation



The port logistics industry witnessed a severe test due to the COVID-19 pandemic but the foreign trade in

goods was better than expected. This year, the port logistics industry will adhere to seeking progress and comprehensively implementing the new development paradigm.

Liu Bin, board chairman of Zhanjiang Port Group



As a representative of farmers, I am particularly concerned about the economic and social

development priorities delivered in the Government Work Report this year, especially those related to stabilizing food production and promoting rural vitalization. They are hoped to help increase farmers' income and boost rural vitalization through efforts in fields including retaining the country's red lines for arable land, stabilizing food production and stimulating farmers' enthusiasm for grain farming.

Lin Jiaru, chairman of Guangdong Dongnong Industry



The Government Work Report's mention of developing the ocean economy is a new opportunity

for the development of Zhanjiang's aquaculture industry. The aquaculture sector is a name card of Zhanjiang as it boasts resources, technologies and capacity to develop and strengthen the aquaculture industry. Under the new development pattern of "dual circulation", the promotion of deep processing of Zhanjiang's aquatic products and premade dishes can activate the consumption of the entire product market, promote industrial structure adjustment, and the transformation and upgrading of aquaculture, and encourage the high-quality development of the aquaculture industry.

This year, Zhanjiang will build a new large-scale intelligent deep-sea aquaculture platform and more than 230 large deep-water net cages, as part of its effort to build itself into a strong agricultural hub, according to the city plan. The city also plans to apply for the construction of a national-level marine ranch demonstration zone. There it will host artificial fish reefs and develop the manufacturing industry of modern marine ranching equipment.

Cheng Kaimin, assistant to president and director of Guangdong Yuehai Feeds Group

Golden Pomfret makes a splash in rural vitalization efforts

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Known as the hometown of the Golden Pomfret fish in China, Zhanjiang of Guangdong province has utilized this asset to develop its aquaculture and thus boost rural vitalization.

Local official data showed the annual production of Golden Pomfret in Zhanjiang is 100,000 metric tons, accounting for about 40 percent of the country's total. The total output value of this sector is worth nearly 10 billion yuan. About 100,000 employees are engaged across the industrial chain including fry, feed, aquaculture equipment, processing and distribution. And this, in turn, has created about 1 million other job opportunities.

The Golden Pomfret industry has become a force for Zhanjiang to modernize agriculture and achieve rural vitalization, local officials said.

Mo Zhigui, head of the agriculture and rural affairs bureau of Zhanjiang, called for the innovative development of the Golden Pomfret industry, ensuring the quality of fry and aquaculture practices on the

basis of the whole industrial chain.

Efforts should be made to enhance the value of the Golden Pomfret industry through processing and sales of premade dishes, Mo said. Using the business pattern of premade dishes can accelerate the process of marketization, digitization and internationalization of this industry, he added.

In 2022, the Zhanjiang city government issued a guideline on promoting the high-quality development of the premade dishes industry. It detailed measures including building industrial parks; cultivating business entities; supporting technological innovation; regulating product quality and safety; upgrading equipment; promoting marketing and sales and improving the cold-chain logistics system.

The guideline aims to develop the brand of Zhanjiang's premade dishes and build up the city as a center of such an industry. It plans to do this by giving full play to its advantages in seafood production and the transformation and upgrading of foreign trade.

In addition to the burgeoning



Zhanjiang cashes in on Golden Pomfret for its rural vitalization efforts. ZHANG FENGFENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

development of aquaculture, Zhanjiang has seen progress in rice farming and the fruit industry in recent years.

Capitalizing on its agricultural resources, Zhanjiang has stepped up efforts to establish a modern

rural industrial system and develop agricultural product processing industries.

The city has built nine processing industrial chains. They are: tropical fruits and vegetables; aquatic products; livestock products; premade

dishes; grains; oilseeds; sugarcane and sugar; feed; and medicinal materials grown in South China. As such, it is embarking on a model of rural vitalization featuring Zhanjiang's characteristics and promoting rural development on the Chinese path to modernization.

In 2022, Zhanjiang created 10 farmers' cooperatives at provincial level, four demonstration family farms and four provincial-level industrial parks. It has three towns selected as nationally important in terms of agricultural development and 13 products listed in the nation's category of famous agricultural brands.

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