

Protecting Yellow River Culture High on Agenda

By LI Linxu

A culture tourism belt along the Yellow River with international influence is high on China's agenda, according to a plan recently released by three government bodies including the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT) and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

Aiming to fully tap into its important role in livelihood improvement, ecological protection, economic development and social progress along the Yellow River, the plan has drawn up a blueprint for the protection, inheritance and promotion of Yellow River culture.

By 2025, the research and exploration efforts on Yellow River culture are expected to be continuously strengthened, said the plan, with the cultural relics and heritage in the Yellow River basin set to be effectively protected and inherited.

In recent years, significant progress has been made in this regard. Along the river path, there are 20 world heritage sites, more than 300,000 non-movable



The sculpture of Emperors Yan and Huang carved from a mountain on the Yellow River, Zhengzhou, Henan province. (PHOTO: VCG)

cultural relics, 649 national cultural heritages, and 47 national holistic tourism demonstration areas.

Last year, MCT launched 10 themed

routes around the Yellow River, including an origin exploration trip of Chinese civilization, an ancestor finding trip along the Yellow River, and a discovery

trip of world heritage sites along the Yellow River.

The plan is a follow-up policy to the *Outline of Ecological Protection and High-quality Development in the Yellow River Basin* released in 2021.

It provides guidance for the protection, inheritance and promotion of Yellow River culture, according to MCT, noting that specialized plans concerning cultural relics, intangible cultural heritages and tourism will be rolled out later.

A batch of key projects will be implemented in the conservation of great ruins and traces, construction of ecological protected areas, and the cultivation of Yellow River culture tourism products and lines.

More investment will be made in the protection, inheritance and promotion of Yellow River culture, said NDRC, noting that in last two years, 1.31 billion RMB has been allocated through the central budget for projects such as Yellow River National Cultural Park Museums, important sites and relics, and historical and cultural cities.

Case Study

Jieshou: From Provincial Impoverished County to National Innovative City

By LI Linxu

Jieshou phenomenon is making people sit up and take notice as it grows from a provincial impoverished county to a national innovative city.

Jieshou, located in Anhui province, was once backward in economic and social development. In 2004, the county's economy was among the bottom three in whole province.

In 2014, it set up a development strategy driven by sci-tech innovation, triggering rapid growth in its economy.

Last year, its GDP reached 38.8 billion RMB, up 11.0 percent year-on-year.

One of the major drivers is its high-tech industry, which registered a 15.8 percent growth, much faster than the average industrial growth.

Now, Jieshou has not only shaken off poverty, but also successfully entered the camp of national innovative counties or cities, one of the few counties to achieve such a feat.

The key behind Jieshou's phenomenal growth is resolute implementation of innovation-driven development strategy, according to Liu Feng, researcher at Institutes of Science and Development, Chinese Academy of Sciences, who believes that its development experiences are valuable for other underdeveloped counties.

At present, the county is advancing the application of Jieshou National High-tech Zone, with good progress being made.

Once approved, it will become the only national high-tech zone in surrounding 80 counties or cities.

Taking the role of sci-tech innovation committee, the county's government is going all out to create a favorable environment for innovation, according to Liu Tao, deputy director of administration committee of Jieshou High-tech Industrial Development Zone, noting that a comprehensive package of policies and measures have been rolled out to support innovation bodies and attract talent.

To cultivate and develop innovative enterprises, the county is calling on them, benchmarking them against top industrial clusters, enterprises, experts and research teams, and visiting national research institutes, key industrial institutional investors, prominent entrepreneurs, high-end industrial associations.

In this way, directions are set and bridges are built for the innovative bodies in the county, said Liu Feng.

To date, the county has cultivated 128 national high-tech enterprises and six national "little giant" enterprises.

LIU Xiaolin contributed to this story.

Creative Industrial Chain Harbors Huge Potential

By CHEN Chunyou

Accelerating industry-university-research cooperation has long been a topic of concern in regard to implementing China's innovation-driven development strategy. It has been acknowledged how important this is to help realize the complementary advantages of the participants and expedite the commercialization of research achievements.

To reinforce the deep integration of the innovative industrial chain, an action plan on strengthening collaborative innovation partnerships between universities and enterprises was released by the Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and China National Intellectual Property Administration this July.

This signals the expectation of setting up about 30 new platforms for generating breakthroughs in key and core technologies, and 100 engineering research centers under MOE in the next five years. More than 1,000 universities will be selected to serve in excess of 10,000 enterprises.

Universities, leading enterprises in selected industries and specialized emerging small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are encouraged to establish co-innovation organizations. These include laboratories, academies, technical centers, and bases for industry-university-research cooperation, which aim to strengthen R&D on key and generic technologies, explore the sharing of the ownership of patents and the transfer of rights to income, and promote the sharing of the research achievements.

Experts and professors can be recruited as technical advisors by SMEs, said the action plan. Doctoral students and young teachers would also be dispatched to enterprises regularly. They act as the liaison between universities and enterprises, and help the enterprises to look for potential innovation resources.

Practical technologies, which are developed by universities and have strong market prospects, will be selected for potential licensing by enterprises. Various pricing models, such as phased licensing, are suggested to reduce the technology acquisition cost of SMEs, according to the action plan, adding that this method will help the technologies transform into real productive forces.

To help the universities foster a batch of specialized SMEs, the action

plan encourages university researchers and students to establish SMEs using original technologies. Leading expert teams in universities, universities' sci-tech parks, SMEs public service platforms, and state SMEs development funds are expected to increase support for them.

Many trials of university-enterprise cooperation have been attempted, but there is still much room for improvement in scale, level, efficiency and potential benefits, said Luo Chaozi, an official of MOE. Luo noted that this action will make use of resource advantages of the three departments, and seek closer cooperation between universities and enterprises, solving bottleneck problems encountered in industrial development and fostering a new development pattern together.

Beautifying Bays to Protect Marine Ecology

By ZHONG Jianli

Rare birds are a regular sight fluttering about the mangroves in Dongzhai Harbor National Nature Reserve in south China's Hainan province, adding to the beauty of flora and fauna in this coastal landscape.

Covering an area of 3,337 hectares, Dongzhai Harbor Nature Reserve is the country's first nature reserve established to protect the mangrove ecosystem. With years of effort, the protected area of mangrove forest now measures 1,771 hectares.

This is just one example of China's efforts to conserve the marine ecology and environment. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, the country has steadily progressed with its policies, plans and roadmaps to further protect the marine ecosystem.

The revision to the *Marine Environment Protection Law* has been included in the 2022 legislative plan of the National People's Congress, said Zhang Zhifeng, deputy director general of the Marine Ecology and Environment Department, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), at a press conference in late June.

In January this year, MEE and other related government bodies jointly issued the *14th Five-Year Plan for Marine Ecological Environment Protection*, making the building of "beautiful bays" a priority, designating 283 bays (or bay areas) across the country, while different measures and goals have been tailored to different bays.

Eleven coastal provinces, including autonomous region or municipality directly under the central government, have also issued their plans to take targeted measures to build beautiful bays.

For example, Fujian province will explore a periodic and dynamic assessment and evaluation mechanism, and seek coordinated treatment of land and sea pollution. It will also enhance its marine ecological environment monitoring and supervision capacity through the improvement of a marine observation network.

In addition, since the beginning of 2022, MEE, in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, has issued guidelines on strengthening regulation of mariculture ecological environment, so as to help achieve green, high-quality development of the mariculture.

According to MEE, China's marine ecological environment kept improving in 2021, with the area meeting category I seawater quality standard accounting for 97.7 percent of the total area under jurisdiction. The marine ecosystems are also in healthy or sub-healthy state, while the unhealthy ones have been basically eliminated.

The world's largest container ship, the Ever Alot, has been delivered to its client Evergreen in Shanghai, with a capacity of 24,000 TEU (twenty-foot equivalent units).

As a first of its kind, the gigantic ship is 399.99 m long and 61.5 m broad. It was designed by Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding (Group) Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of the China State Shipbuilding Corporation, with completely independent intellectual property rights.

According to the shipbuilder, the container ship adopts the hydrodynamic optimization technology, which enables it to carry heavy cargo at high speed.

(Photo by Zhang Li)



Workers working in a new material plant in Jieshou High-tech Industrial Development Zone. (Photo by Zhu Xiaofeng)

China Delivers World's Largest Container Ship



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(Photo by Zhang Li)

Soy milk Helps Reduce Malnutrition in Africa

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Rozalia Grayson Rwegasira, Assistant Administrative Secretary in Economic and Productive Sector of the Morogoro regional commissioner's office, said the Morogoro authorities will strengthen cooperation with CAU team and support bilateral agricultural projects.

With further development of South

South Cooperation, China's advanced agricultural technologies are being used to help achieve zero hunger in Africa.

Back in 2011, the "Big Harvest with Small Technologies" project was carried out by CAU and Morogoro authorities to improve local maize yields, using Chinese experience. The project now covers more than 1,000 households in 10 vil-

lages, and has improved local incomes, welfare and children's education.

From "Big Harvest with Small Technologies" to "Small Bean, Big Nutrition", both are benefitting African farmers by introducing simple but practical techniques applied by Chinese farmers. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, CAU teams continue to provide online sup-

port for agricultural cooperation projects.

There have never been any others who were as dedicated as the Chinese experts in helping to solve difficulties for African farmers, said Ernest Robert Mkongo, former head of Economic and Productive Sector in Morogoro region, who has been the project coordinator since 2011.