

Local gov't: Qingdao's future is innovation

By ZHAO RUIXUE

With an average of 10 patents approved each day and 90 percent of those used in production, Qingdao is illustrating its strong capacity for innovation.

"Independent technological innovation is the core competitiveness of the city's sustainable economic development," Xia Geng, mayor of Qingdao, told China Daily.

According to the city's medium and long-term development plan for science and technology (2006-2020), Qingdao will be an innovation-powered city by 2012.

The plan calls for 2.8 percent of the city's gross domestic product to be invested in science and technology by 2012 to boost economic growth and promote progress, including construction of the new countryside, the health-

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XIA GENG
Qingdao Mayor

care system and energy-saving and pollution reduction programs.

"To have more independently developed intellectual property in high-end technological fields is crucial for industrial improvement and development," said Wang Anmin, director of the Qingdao Science and Technology Bureau.

According to Wang, output value created by hi-tech industries in Qingdao hit 309.19 billion yuan in 2007, an increase of 32.74 percent over 2006.

To enhance capacity in independent innovation, local authorities have formulated plans for science and technology research laboratories to tackle key technological prob-

lems. The blueprint calls for 10 hi-tech industrial centers and efforts to foster a talented workforce in hi-tech innovation.

Six innovation centers, including Haier's national laboratory for digital household appliances, are now under construction.

A 750 million yuan China National Offshore Oil Corp technological research center for heavy oil processing is scheduled for completion at the end of the year.

A number of new designs have already been put into production, including the 300-km-an-hour high speed train built in Qingdao that makes China the fourth country capable of independently designing and building such kind of train, following Germany, France and Japan.

Ten industrial centers — including those for software, digital high-definition TVs, new materials and seafood — have been established, and are expected to generate revenues of 120 billion yuan by 2010.

Wang said Qingdao will continue to enhance cooperation with international partners through work with overseas research institutes including those from Russia, Germany and Ukraine, in a bid to introduce internation-



Qingdao's Feiya Machinery Co Ltd shows its hi-tech products at the 10th International Sewing Equipment Fair in the port city.

Ju Chuanjiang

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ally advanced technologies.

One is Lanxess Corp, among the world's largest rubber producers, which based its Chinese research center in Qingdao.

The Qingdao city government plans to support 30

selected small and medium-sized enterprises working in new materials, electronics and bio-engineering every year to help them cultivate their innovation ability.

The government is also

encouraging universities, research institutes and companies to work together in technology research and training of professionals.

More than 10 companies in Qingdao, including Haier and

Hisense, have now established partnerships with about 100 universities and research institutes, including the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shandong University and the Ocean University of China.

Hi-tech generates high revenues at ETDA

By ZHANG YING

Hi-tech industries are driving a new round of economic development and innovation at the Qingdao Economic and Technological Development Area (ETDA).

Seventy-two percent of total sales revenues in EDTA were generated by new and emerging industries last year, an official from ETDA told China Daily.

The area's authorities said they are providing a sound environment for hi-tech enter-

prises by offering favorable policies, support in financing and sourcing and training professionals.

The local government invests 10 million yuan each year in a hi-tech industry development fund that supports scientific and technological innovation.

ETDA's 100 projects have been listed among China's National 863 Project and small and medium-sized enterprise innovation fund in the past two years, with 46 included in the national science and technology development plan in 2007.

An example of the effort is a low-speed ship diesel engine crankshaft that was before imported by shipbuilders. Qingdao Haixi Heavy Industry Co Ltd has designed and now manufactures the part, ensuring all domestic parts can be used by Chinese shipbuilders.

The first production line of domestically made liquid crystal display (LCD) television screens was also put into production in the area last year, lessening China's dependence on imports of LCDs.

The Science and Technology

Park of Shandong University of Science and Technology opened in ETDA last year.

It is now home to 40 research centers and companies producing electronics, machinery, waterproof building materials, environmental protection and IT.

Another project, the 860 million yuan Science and Technology Pioneering Park, is now under construction.

The Research Institute of Lanzhou University of Technology, Shandong Machinery Research Institute, and Taiguang Electrical Equipment Co Ltd are among five institutes and companies that begin operations in the park.

Local statistics show research institutes in and near Qingdao will include 28 new research and development (R&D) projects and 23 product manufacturing projects.

Eight of them, including the Biological Engineering Center of the China University of Petroleum, are in operation. Construction of another 16 projects is underway.

ETDA has to date formed industrial clusters for home appliances, electronics, petroleum, chemistry, automobile production, shipbuilding and new materials.

The zone now has 120 hi-tech enterprises, nine national and provincial-level laboratories.

ETDA companies also have 24 top Chinese brands and trademarks.



An orchestra from Indiana performed on June 24 at the People's Hall.

Ju Chuanjiang

Festival adds color to the Games

By HUANG YANHONG

The sixth Qingdao Olympic Cultural Festival opened on June 23, kicking off a three-month gala for local residents, visitors and athletes from across the world.

Concluding on September 16 at the end of the 2008 Paralympic Games, the festival includes 178 events.

A joint promotional event for the Olympic competitions in Hong Kong and Qingdao also started on June 23 at Huiquan Square in Qingdao.

Hong Kong is the host of the

Olympic equestrian competition.

"Qingdao and Hong Kong, as host cities in the 29th Olympiad, will share its pride and glory. The Olympics are strengthening cooperation between the two cities," said Timothy Fok, Hong Kong Olympic Committee president, at the opening ceremony of the Qingdao festival.

Xia Geng, Qingdao mayor and chairman of its Olympic committee, joined the audience at the festival opening ceremony in cheers that will be used during the Games.

The gala of 178 events will

bring together millions of local residents and artists from both home and abroad for singing and dancing shows, theater acts, open-air concerts, sports activities, exhibitions of traditional handicrafts, calligraphy and paintings, Olympic photography competitions and sailing races for youngsters.

As part of the festival, an orchestra from Indiana in the United States performed on June 24 at the Qingdao People's Hall.

Concerts by Chinese, other US, Danish and Belgian musicians will also be held during the event.



New materials were used by Qingdao Amphor Aromatic Ltd Co to make perfume. Company revenues surpassed 200 million yuan last year.

Ju Chuanjiang

Lights, sculptures and Olympics enliven coastal city

By GUO XIN

The Olympic atmosphere is heating up in Qingdao as the coastal city prepares to host the sailing competition of the upcoming 2008 Olympic Games.

Sculptures, billboards and posters about the regatta can be found all over

the city. Tourists and local residents are having photos of themselves taken with the sculptures, at the Olympic Sailing Center and by the countdown clock for the Olympic Games.

At May Fourth Square, the central square of Qingdao, the large *May Wind* sculpture that looks like a torch has been newly painted.

More than 50 streetlights 8.8 m high on Donghai West Road along the torch relay route have been decorated in the shape of the torch.

The city's commercial street in the Shibei District is ornamented with lights in different shapes — Chinese knots, fans, and "Lucky Cloud" lanterns.

At night, large screens on high buildings display the "One World, One Dream" slogan and regatta images.

A 7,000 sq m display on the glass curtain of the Golden Plaza on Hong Kong Middle Road depicts a sailing symbol and two competitors battling the waves.

To the east of the No 2 Gate of the Sailing Center, the sculpture *Connecting the Olympics* is almost complete. The oval sculpture is expected to become a noted Olympic legacy.

As well, sculptures for different sports and the Fuwa Olympic mascots line both sides of Hong Kong Road and grace squares and parks around the city.



Sailors return from training.

Ju Chuanjiang

Volunteers now good to go

All 1,600 volunteers have been selected for the Qingdao's Olympic sailing competition, according to the event's volunteer coordination group.

More than 43,000 people from home and abroad applied to be volunteers by the March 31 deadline, 2,000 of whom were selected after passing rigorous examinations. Candidates from other provinces and abroad were evaluated using video interviews.

A total of 269 foreigners applied for volunteer positions, with 19 selected from

countries including the United States, Canada and Germany.

Qingdao volunteers, 60 percent of them university students, will work in 29 positions during the sailing competition. They have participated in training programs that began in April organized by Qingdao Olympic Sailing Committee.

During the sailing competition itself, 110 volunteer service centers will be open around the city to answer questions, provide translation and offer emergency medical treatment.