

Opening a new chapter in development

By SUN YUNFEI AND ZHANG SHAOCHUN

The city of Lu'an, on the Yangtze River in Anhui province, has been given an opportunity by central government policies that support the "rise of Central China" and industrial transfers from prosperous eastern provinces, and this is bringing an unprecedented burst of economic and social development.

The Anhui government wants to develop the province's cities and counties that lie along the Huaihe River-Yangtze River City Belt and Hefei Economic Circle, which is now under construction.

It so happens that Lu'an is on the Huaihe and Yangtze, and near the Dabieshan Mountains, which are in the government's development sights.

The city covers an 18,000-square-kilometer area and has a 7.05 million population, ranking the first and third place in the province respectively.

Mention of the city's name goes back as far as 121 BC, when the Wu emperor of the Han Dynasty used it to describe the region as "peace in six places".

It is also the source of "Gao Yao" culture, which refers to the legendary creator of China's legal system, about 4,000 years ago.

Other historic figures include the educator Wen Weng of the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 24), the general Zhou Yu of the Three Kingdoms period (AD 220-280), and the painter Li Gonglin of the Song Dynasty (960-1279).

The area was an important



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revolutionary base before 1949 and is home to more than 100 generals, which has earned it the nickname, "cradle of generals". It is also one of the country's 12 major destinations for revolutionary, historically, and patriotically themed "red tourism".

Other riches

The city has a hydroelectric power capacity of 520,000 kilowatts, and accounts for nearly a third of the province's total.

Six reservoirs, one of the more prominent of which is Foziling, have a combined storage capacity of at least 7 billion cubic meters of water.



Foziling Reservoir, one of six major reservoirs in Lu'an, Anhui province, a major source of hydroelectric power for the area.

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Reaping a bountiful harvest near Lu'an, a key agricultural center that ranks near the top in China in yearly output.

It is also a key agricultural production center with many products such as grains, edible oil, cotton, tea, chestnuts, farm animals and aquatic products. Two of these - Lu'an Guapien (a green tea), and the Wanxi goose - have a national reputation.

The city also has 40 types of

minerals and one of its mining sites, Huoqiu, has 3 billion tons of iron ore reserves, the fifth largest in China.

Some of its natural beauty can be found in the Tiantangzhai National Forest Park, Baima Peak (the main peak of the Dabieshan Mountains), and the National Geologi-

cal Park on the Dabieshan Mountains.

The city's downtown area claims that it has a green coverage of 36 percent, and the eco-friendly city has won many honors, such as the "China Habitat Environment" award, "Demonstration City for Water Environment Man-

agement" title, and "Anhui Garden City" award.

The city is proud of its sound financial system and business-friendly environment, and is one of the "National Investing Cities", 2009's "Charming Chinese Cities" and 2010's "Cities with the most investment potential".

Getting ahead

The local economy has been on the fast track over the past 10 years and has shown some real improvements, rising to the seventh place among cities in provincial GDP, with an average annual growth of 13.1 percent.

Its revenues have had a growth rate of 29.7 percent per year.

The city's industries contributes at least 58 percent to that growth and there has been a boom in investment, bringing changes to both urban and rural areas.

And its opening-up and reform policies have yielded results in finance, healthcare, public institutions, and management of forest rights and water.

Thanks to these changes, more people have been starting up companies and the private sector now accounts for more than 60 percent of the city's economy.

What's next?

The authorities have decided that they want to turn Lu'an into a prosperous, civilized, harmonious, and happy city, so over the next five years, they will emphasize a scientific development plan, with priority given to red tourism, minerals, agriculture, and culture in general.

By attracting more investment, and increasing industrialization and urban expansion, Lu'an wants to use all its possible advantages to make itself more competitive and open a new chapter in its development.

Sun Yunfei is the Party chief of Lu'an and Zhang Shaochun is mayor of the city.

Anhui township has some big ideas for the future

By ZHU GUANGSEN

One township in Anhui province has some big dreams of becoming a real city and a regional logistics, trade and industrial center within five years, by relying on its geographic advantages of lying close to the Yangtze River Delta hub cities.

Chahe township is only 28 kilometers - less than half an hour by car - from the downtown area of Nanjing, the capital of neighboring Jiangsu province and an economic hub itself.

It takes only an hour to get to Nanjing Lukou International Airport.

Chahe is even closer to Nanjing's Northern Yangtze New District, which is home to some prominent universities such as Nanjing University, Southeast University, Nanjing Audit University, and the Nanjing University of Information Sciences and Technology.

The township is just a few miles from several of Nanjing's booming economic zones and

50
sq km
of urban area by 2030

20
billion yuan
in GDP by that time

parks - the Nanjing Chemical Industry Park, for example, and the Liuhe, Pukou, and Binjiang economic development zones.

It was Chahe's special location, that the government of Lai'an county, where Chahe is located, had in mind when it decided, in May 2010, to build a city out of the township - Chahe New Town. The plan was examined and endorsed by a panel of experts this March.

It calls for a 50-square-kilometer piece of land for an industrial, trade and logistics center that connect the city of Nanjing with Chuzhou, Lai'an and Quanjiao in Anhui.

It will have four parts: a Chahe economic development zone, Nanjing Bay trade and logistics park, Chahe urban-rural integration project, and an old Chahe renovation project.

By 2015, the Chahe New Town is expected to cover an 18-sq-km area and have a population of 150,000. It will also have a gross domestic product (GDP) of 4 billion yuan.

By 2030, it will expand to 50 sq km, with a population of 300,000 and a GDP of 20 billion yuan a year.

One major focus of development will be the logistics industry and construction work began on the Nanjing Bay trade and logistic park a year ago. It will handle lighting equipment, furniture, automobiles and auto parts, and industrial raw materials.

Ultimately, it is expected to accommodate as many as 100,000 companies and firms and create hundreds of thousands of jobs.

According to the Lai'an county government's 12th five-



Golden Sun Home Décor City is the area's largest trade and warehousing facility for home décor and building materials.

year plan (2011-2015), the park will cover 10 sq km, and do 300 billion yuan worth of business, in three to five years.

Currently, its largest enterprise is the Golden Sun Home Décor City Co, which is building a trade and warehousing facility for decorative and building materials.

The facility is set to cost 1.3 billion yuan and have a floor space of 1 million sq m, and do more than 10 billion yuan in business annually when it is completed.

Meanwhile, the Chahe economic development zone, had already attracted 124 companies by the end of October, with 10.58 billion yuan in investment in all.

The new town project has already had an effect on renovation work in older parts of Chahe - on a 1.22-sq-km island. This project will need about 15 billion yuan in investment.

The New Town project will obviously provide some good opportunities for China's real estate developers.

Country Garden, for example, a listed real estate devel-



Chahe township is only 28 kilometers from the center of Nanjing and conveniently linked to major cities in the region by highways, railroads and waterways.

oper, has plans to put 40 billion yuan into a residential community that covers more than 260 hectares. Other developers have ideas about residential

projects in the area as well. To make sure that everything in the New Town goes according to plan, the local government had already laid down

more than 32 km of roads, put up 12 bridges, fixed 820 street lamps, and laid down 19.3 km of water pipes, and 19.9 km of telecommunication cables.



Country Garden is investing 40 billion yuan in building a large residential community in Chahe.

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