



Night view of the Caofeidian International Club for the conference

# Caofeidian Forum fosters sustainable future

► Prestigious inaugural event offers visions of a new economy

By LIU XIANG

While the curtain is coming down today on the first Caofeidian Forum, its theme – exploring sustained growth – is likely to long continue in the thoughts of participants.

Organized mainly for Chinese and foreign mayors, the international forum that started Thursday in Caofeidian, part of Tangshan in north China's Hebei province, attracted more than 1,000 participants from around the world, including high-ranking governmental officials, senior corporate executives and internally renowned scholars.

The global economy has already begun to show signs of recovery, yet the hangover from the international financial crisis remains – giving rise to this year's event. It focused on sustainable development and new industrialization as ways to emerge stronger from the economic turmoil now gripping the world.

Participants exchanged insights on a wide variety of topics including the recycled economy, new industrialization, sustained development for cities, construction of eco-friendly urban areas and regional economic cooperation.

Speeches, symposiums, investment promotions, trade talks, displays of energy-efficient products and technologies and inspection tours were also part of the event.

Organizers said the prestigious forum illustrates China's determination to develop a sustainable economy while showcasing the emerging Bohai Bay Rim's strategic significance in the country's modernization, promoting the host city Tangshan as an example of the move from a resource-based city to an eco-friendly, sustained economy.

The bay rim region of Hebei, Shandong and Liaoning provinces along with Beijing and Tianjin now generate a combined annual gross domestic

product of nearly 7.76 trillion yuan – about a quarter of the nation's total.

The figure is expected to surpass 8.7 trillion yuan in 2010, 30 percent of the nation's projected total.

Accelerating development and reform in the region is seen as key to the nation's development strategy, helping stimulate demand and tackle the economic meltdown. The region is also expected to play a significant role in China's continued growth over the next three decades, organizers said.

The Binhai New District in Tianjin was named a pilot area for comprehensive reforms by the central government in early 2008. Caofeidian is among the nation's first model industrial parks using a recycled economy.

The forum is jointly sponsored by the ministries of land and resources, and environmental protection, the Development Research Center of the State Council and the Hebei provincial government.

Centering on sustained growth, the theme of the biennial international event will vary each year.



Zhao Yong (right), Party chief of the Tangshan municipal committee, talks with a foreign businessman at the forum.

Liu Xiang

## Tangshan: 'Steel city' forging an innovative model

By XIN YI

Host city of the Caofeidian Forum, industrialized Tangshan, was long known for coal mining, iron and steel, but today it is moving away from the traditional resource-based economy to a new model for sustained growth.

"In pursuit of sustained development and new industrialization, we are changing the development pattern, upgrading industries and focusing more on construction of an eco-friendly, modern city," said Zhao Yong, Party chief of the city commission.

Local authorities have decided to extend and improve the city's industrial chain in seven of its sectors – steel, machines and equipment manufacturing, chemicals, modern agriculture, service, hi-tech and environ-

ment protection – to promote efficient use of resources as it secures additional investment and regional cooperation.

"In this way, our city will realize industrial restructuring and integration and help develop a number of local companies with an edge in the international market," Zhao added.

President Hu Jintao praised the efforts by local authorities during an inspection tour in Tangshan in 2006 and proposed building the city into a model of scientific development.

Encouraged by Hu's remarks, the city government launched a three-year campaign for efficient use of resources and reducing emissions.

The campaign covers 10 key industries, including steel and iron. Tangshan is the biggest steel maker in Hebei, a province that tops the nation in annual



Venue for the Caofeidian forum

steel output.

More than 1,000 high energy consuming and polluting enterprises have now been shuttered and nearly 4,600 companies have been requested to improve industrial pollution control over the past three years.

Heavy industry contributes 93 percent of added industrial value to the city – typically relying on enormous amounts of energy – contributing one-fifth of Hebei's GDP, but also consuming one-third of the province's energy.

In early 2008, the city government announced a policy requesting designated heavy energy consuming enterprises

– well its counties and districts – meet emission standards within three years.

If they fail to meet standards, county or district leaders will be asked to step down, while heads of non-compliant State-owned companies will be removed and private companies will be forced to suspend operations.

In addition to enhancing pollution control at existing companies, the authorities have also taken the environment into consideration in securing and selecting new investment projects.

Last year alone, more than 60 projects were rejected for not meeting environmental standards.

Authorities of Caofeidian, a new district and a burgeoning economic hub of the city, refused projects worth more than 10 billion yuan in total.

The strict screening procedure in selecting projects ensures a high-quality investment environment. As a result, more quality projects have attracted to the city.

Since 2006, about 160 key projects have been built, with a total investment of 153.5 billion yuan, spurring continued growth of local economy.

The city's GDP jumped from 236.2 billion yuan in 2006 to 356.1 billion yuan last year.

## Once-obscure island on course to economic fame

By BIAN YI

Before a small, little-known island, Caofeidian is emerging as a new star along the Bohai Bay for its robust growth momentum and development potential.

With natural conditions for developing large deepwater harbors, modern harbor industries and an environmentally friendly city, construction of the district has been listed in the nation's 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-10).

Unveiled as a new district in March, Caofeidian entered a new stage in its history.

The new district, 70 km to the south of downtown Tangshan, is planned to cover a total area of about 1,944 sq km and include the Caofeidian Industrial Zone, Nanbao Economic Development Zone, Caofeidian new city and Tanghai county.

Recent years saw more than 40 State leaders visit the island. Among them, President Hu Jintao noted during his trip to the island in 2006 that the area is a treasure to be tapped. He encouraged local authorities to develop the island into a model for sustained growth.

A year later, Premier Wen Jiabao also made an inspection tour of Caofeidian and proposed building the island into a first-class international port.

At the same time, some 60,000 businesspeople and investors from home and abroad have also been attracted to the bustling area.

Shougang Group, one of China's steelmaking giants, has moved its operations to Caofeidian and is expected to

generate an annual steel output of 10 million tons before 2010. China National Offshore Oil Corp has begun a number of projects in the area, including a 48-sq-km machinery and equipment park.

As well, a 50 billion yuan energy project has been signed with China Huadian Corp. Other projects totaling more than 3 billion yuan have already begun construction.

According to a development blueprint mapped out by local authorities, Caofeidian is designed to become a port and storage base for bulk goods, energy resources and minerals, a new industrial center and a model State-level recycling economy.

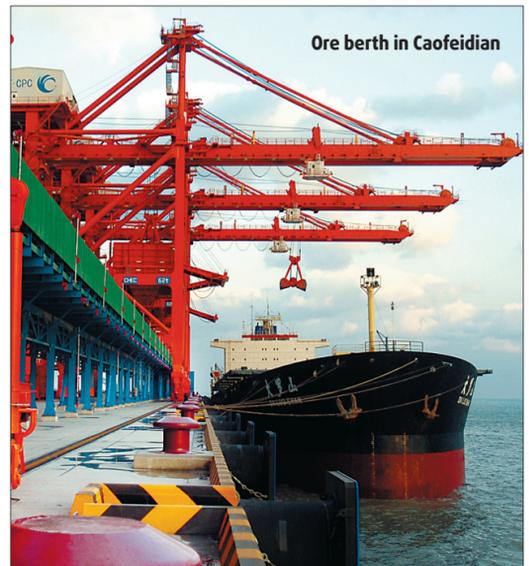
With a 62-km-long coastline, the island is planned to

have more than 260 berths for minerals, coal, crude oil, liquefied natural gas, chemicals and containers, including 16 berths each with a handling capacity of at least 300,000 tons.

After all the berths are completed, Caofeidian will become one of the world's largest ports with an annual throughput surpassing 500 million tons.

In addition, five industries – logistics, iron and steel, machine and equipment manufacturing, petrochemicals and maritime chemicals – have been designated as pillar sectors of local economy.

In the first half of this year, 32.8 billion yuan was invested in the new district. About 100 billion yuan is expected to be invested in the area for the entire year.



Ore berth in Caofeidian



A Singaporean company signs a deal for a new project in Tangshan.