

Weihai port pivotal to coastal economic zone

By WANG PEITING

During an inspection tour of Shandong province in April, President Hu Jintao reiterated his support for building a marine economic zone on the Shandong Peninsula.

Soon after his visit, "guidelines for building the Shandong Peninsula Marine Economic Zone" were released and the Shandong Party committee and provincial government held meetings to plan implementation of the strategy.

An important part of the ini-

tiative centers on Weihai, a port city with 986 km of coastline that is surrounded on three sides by the Yellow Sea.

The city's established industrial base, strong technological foundation and vibrant ecology are also advantages in developing a marine-based economy.

Weihai authorities are focusing on developing six industrial sites to boost the marine-based economy.

Seafood production

Weihai has more than 300 kinds of seafood products including prawns, sea cucumber,

abalone, shellfish, algae and a variety of fish.

Its fish farms cover 220,000 hectares and 245 ocean-going fishing vessels are based at the port. Annual output of aquatic products from Weihai surpassed 2 million tons in recent years, ranking it first among all prefecture-level cities in China.

While the area will continue to emphasize cultivation of seafood species like sea cucumber, abalone, prawns and flounder and support large ocean-going fishing companies, seafood processing will also be a highlight of its economic growth.

Shipbuilding

With a number of deep-water harbors along its coastline and more than 90 shipbuilding and spare parts enterprises, Weihai has enormous further potential for shipbuilding.

Marine transport still leads the international freight business despite the international economic downturn that resulted in dwindling demand for new ships, so shipbuilders in Weihai are retrofitting to develop more large and advanced vessels using their own intellectual property rights.

Weihai's shipbuilding capacity is expected to surpass 2 million deadweight tons this year, with 1 million tons ready built.

Port logistics

Weihai has 17 commercial ports, including 19 berths that can accommodate ships over 10,000 tons.

Plans for the Shandong Marine Economic Zone call for increased investment in logistics and expansion and renovation of existing ports.

Other key Weihai projects include an international passenger transportation center and the shipping service center,



Shidao is the largest fishing port in the country.

as well as a logistics and distribution center at Shidao Port. Bonded logistics services for export processing zones are also expected to be enhanced.

The city is now developing a transportation system integrating ports, highways, railways and air transport.

Tourism

Weihai has received a UN Habitat Award for its "outstanding contribution in improving living environment".

Its temperate climate, more than 80 resorts, a string of beaches and seaside scenery are all appealing to tourists.

Four of its resorts are ap-

proved as national 4-A class sites, including Liugong Island — headquarters of the Chinese navy and battle site in the 1894 Sino-Japanese war — Cape Chengshantou, the eastern tip of Shandong peninsula, Chishan Fahua Temple and the Silver Beach.

The city also has nine large hot springs that add to its appeal in efforts to forge a first-class tourism and entertainment destination in east China.

New energy

The development of new energy in Weihai includes coastal wind power plants with combined capacity of 130,000 kW.

Five more facilities with total capacity of 290,000 kW are under construction.

The Shidao Bay nuclear power plant, a high-temperature gas-cooled reactor, has received preliminary approval from the central government.

Adding to the energy mix is the now-operational Kunyushan power storage station, which pumps water into an elevated reservoir at night to generate electricity during peak demand.

Modern petrochemicals

Nearby 5.8-sq-km Moye Island is well suited for development as a large-scale

petrochemical zone due to its favorable conditions for deep-water berths.

The city government is now negotiating with the nation's major petrochemical companies to build the petrochemical industry zone, while construction of large-scale facilities for crude and refined oil storage as well as refining and natural gas are scheduled to begin soon.

Wang Peiting is the secretary of the Weihai committee of the Communist Party of China and director of the standing committee of the People's Congress of Weihai



Fish farms cover 220,000 hectares in Weihai, the largest seafood cultivation center in China.



Wind power plants in the city now have a combined capacity of 130,000 kW.

Hi-tech fueling city's prosperity

By ZHAO RUIXUE

As many areas of Shandong province gear up to develop hi-tech industries, the coastal city of Weihai plans to lead the pack using its existing advantages and new policies.

"To build a hi-tech industrial cluster in five to 10 years is a strategic target for Weihai," Sun Shutao, mayor of Weihai, told China Daily.

"This cluster is set to be a new engine to drive Weihai's economic growth to usher in a golden period for cities in Shandong," he said. "Weihai will definitely grasp this opportunity to be competitive."

The mayor said the city already has an ambitious plan in place for developing the hi-tech industry.

According to the blueprint, the output value of hi-tech industries is projected to account for 38 percent of the city's total industrial output value in 2020.

Weihai's hi-tech sector generated 143.4 billion yuan last year, an increase of 33.8 percent over 2007. The first nine months of this year saw a 14 percent increase.

Sun said the city's current competitiveness in developing the hi-tech industry builds on its capacity as the nation's largest production center for tires, hand tools, woodworking machines and medical polymer products.

New hi-tech products include modern equipment

manufacturing, electronic information and new materials, the mayor said.

According to Liu Shuwei, deputy director of the Weihai Development and Reform Committee, the city is especially proficient in new materials including radial tires, polymers,



Weigao Holding is a leading medical polymer producer.

carbon fiber composites, low-radiation coated glass, magnesium and aluminum alloys, nanotechnology textiles and wear-resistant materials.

Because of the extensive use of high technology, 30 of those products have leading positions in the domestic market and some reach the international level.

New investment

Dozens of investors have established hi-tech facilities in the city this year, including Wei-

hai Huadong Heavy Industry Machine Co Ltd jointly invested by Weihai Huadong CNC Co Ltd and Schiess Brighton GmbH in Germany, which began operation in January. It is one of the few companies in China that have the key technologies needed for manufacturing

30 billion yuan by 2020.

Leading the city's medical polymer sector is Weigao Holding, which is investing 13 billion yuan to build an industrial park in Weihai to produce medical implants. When complete in 2013, the park will generate annual sales revenue of 22 billion yuan.

In the new materials sector, Weihai's local Guangwei Group and its Russian partners have jointly established the Guangwei International Scientific Cooperation Base for New Materials.

The center and Guangwei's existing facilities are expected to have a production capacity of 10,000 tons of new materials in 2012 and generate sales revenue of 10 billion yuan.

Confident in its advanced radial tire technology, Triangle Group — the largest tire enterprise in China integrating R&D, manufacturing and sales — has invested 3.2 billion yuan in a new industrial park in Weihai.

The facility is designed to produce 5.6 million all-steel radial tires each year. With the completion of the park in 2012, the annual gross production of the whole group is expected to reach 40 million tires and total sales revenue of 24 billion yuan.

Mayor Sun said Weihai will complete development of 10 hi-tech industrial parks in the near future that are expected to become favorable investment destinations for both domestic and foreign companies.



One of the 10 industrial parks Weihai plans to develop.



A 20,000-ton vessel produced by the Rongcheng Huanghai Shipbuilding Co Ltd is ready for delivery to its German client.

Ju Chuanjiang

Alluring environment for living and business

By DAI YAN

Foreigners walking on the streets of Weihai might be surprised by the number of signs written in Korean and English.

Increasing numbers of residents from overseas have been attracted to the coastal city in Shandong due to its quality of life and business environment.

Local statistics show there are more than 30,000 foreign nationals living in the medium-sized city, mostly from its biggest trading partner South Korea.

Noted for its red roofs, green trees, azure sea and blue sky, Weihai is neither arid nor muggy. It is surrounded by sea but not foggy. Its pleasant climate has an average year-round temperature of 12 C with air quality that meets the national first-class standard over half of the year.

Weihai was awarded the UN Habitat Scroll of Honor in 2003, was the first city to be honored by the Chinese government as a "National

Hygiene City" and was twice granted the Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment.

In the more than 20 years since it became a prefecture-level city, Weihai has made enormous strides and entered the list of China's top 50 cities for comprehensive competitiveness.

As the biggest fishery base in China, it has more than 300 different kinds of seafood products and is best known for its "three sea treasures" — sea cucumber, abalone and sea urchin.

It is also an important production center for cereals, cooking oil and fruit. Peanuts, apples and cherries are considered as the "three land treasures" of Weihai.

The open city is one of the nation's most active in foreign trade with business links in 196 countries and regions around the world. It is one of the nation's biggest exporters of seafood, peanuts, tires, fishing rods, woodworking machinery and embroidery.

A number of Fortune 500 companies including Merrill Lynch from the US, Invenys in Italy, Samsung of South Korea and Mitsubishi Electric from Japan have established operations in Weihai.

It has sister city relationships with eight foreign cities including Cheltenham in Britain, Ube in Japan and Yuso in South Korea.

Korean hotels, supermarkets, schools and hospitals have been built in Weihai to serve its residents.

Its tourism resources include Shengjing Mountain, Liugong Island, Fahua Guard, Swan Lake and Silver Beach. Tourists visit a wide range of sites while on seashore eco-tours, fishing trips, bathing in hot springs and on leisure vacations.

Not surprisingly, its locale produces delicious seafood. The city has 59 star-level restaurants. More than 40,000 workers are directly involved in the tourism industry.

Weihai was also one of the first cities awarded the honor of Excellent Tourism City in China.