### Wenjiang: Model of ‘better city, better life’

**By ZEAL JIEN**

With the theme “Better City, Better Life,” the 2010 Shanghai World Expo opens today in Shanghai. Posters with the slogan are everywhere, so Expo visitors might ask: what is the obvious question — “where are the best cities in China that offer a better life?”

The list might be not very long, but Chengdu, Dongguan and southwest China, Sichuan’s provincial capital, is no doubt near the top.

Located at the heart of the Sichuan Basin — widely known as “the land of plenty” — Chengdu’s quality of life was recognized by the UN when it was placed in the organization’s Habitat Scroll of Honor in 1998.

The city is heading toward modernization at a steady pace and in a composed manner, allowing its people to benefit from the material gains in a sustainable, growing economy while enjoying the fruits of a millennia-old civilization and well-preserved natural environment.

**A role model**

Wenjiang district, a newly urbanized area west of downtown Chengdu, is now seen locally as a model of how to create a better life for urban residents.

In 1993, the urban area was only 237.4 square km, a population of 388,400 and a gross domestic product of 17.1 billion yuan in 2009.

Wenjiang’s administrators have also made great efforts in mapping out the urban area.

In 1995, the urban area of 31.9 km², with more than 500,000 residents.

Wenjiang was less than 2 square km, with an area of 277 square km, a population of 330,000, and a gross domestic product of 17.1 billion yuan in 2009.

Wenjiang’s administrators have also made great efforts in mapping out the urban area.

In 1995, the urban area of 31.9 km², with more than 500,000 residents.

Wenjiang was less than 2 square km, with an area of 277 square km, a population of 330,000, and a gross domestic product of 17.1 billion yuan in 2009.

Wenjiang has a long history. Recent archaeological discoveries show it was the capital of the state of Ba, dating back some 4,000 to 5,000 years ago.

Agriculture has flourished in the area for more than two millennia, making it one of the best places to live in the basin.

The nearby Jinjiang Dam built at the upper reaches of the Jinjiang River during the 1950s. The giant reservoir offers water from the mountains in its downstream area to downtown Chengdu.

Habitat Scroll of Honor in 1998.

Wenjiang has a long history. Recent archaeological discoveries show it was the capital of the state of Ba, dating back some 4,000 to 5,000 years ago.

Agriculture has flourished in the area for more than two millennia, making it one of the best places to live in the basin.

The nearby Jinjiang Dam built at the upper reaches of the Jinjiang River during the 1950s. The giant reservoir offers water from the mountains in its downstream area to downtown Chengdu.

Habitat Scroll of Honor in 1998.

Wenjiang has a long history. Recent archaeological discoveries show it was the capital of the state of Ba, dating back some 4,000 to 5,000 years ago.

Agriculture has flourished in the area for more than two millennia, making it one of the best places to live in the basin.

The nearby Jinjiang Dam built at the upper reaches of the Jinjiang River during the 1950s. The giant reservoir offers water from the mountains in its downstream area to downtown Chengdu.

Habitat Scroll of Honor in 1998.

Wenjiang has a long history. Recent archaeological discoveries show it was the capital of the state of Ba, dating back some 4,000 to 5,000 years ago.

Agriculture has flourished in the area for more than two millennia, making it one of the best places to live in the basin.

The nearby Jinjiang Dam built at the upper reaches of the Jinjiang River during the 1950s. The giant reservoir offers water from the mountains in its downstream area to downtown Chengdu.