By Tracie Barrett

Mayor confident of bright future awaiting Zhanjiang

Zhanjiang mayor Wang Zhanjiang has confidence in a bright future for the coastal city in Guangdong province, as the local government works with residents to improve living conditions and strengthens the city's economic power. While in Beijing to attend the annual two sessions, Wang took time to explain Zhanjiang's current and future development plans as the national economy enters the "new normal," the term used by President Xi Jinping in reference to economic conditions in China that differ from the former high growth period.

"During past times, the Chinese economy was stimulated by tremendous investments," Wang said, "but that time has passed. Now we have to find a new engine for the development of our national economy. That new engine is mass entrepreneurship and innovation."

The mayor said that as China enters a new stage of social and economic development, Zhanjiang will build on its innovation-driven style of development. "That is the philosophy and focus of the local government," he said. "As part of a southern "maritime valley" the city is in, it will focus on creating a cluster of major industries, steel-making, petrochemicals refining, paper-making, home appliance manufacturing, bio-pharmaceuticals and aquatic products."

"This cluster of industries will push forward the Zhanjiang development," Wang said. "The city will also expand its economic power, businesses and academic institutions as a high-value engine for what Wang described as the high-tech valley."

"In the past, college research results only stayed on paper, not in practice," Wang said, speaking fluent English. "Now we will develop the relationship among the government, industry and colleges to put the research results into the companies, to make money and make mutual benefits.

As part of China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative, which refers to the New Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, Zhanjiang has been designated a pivot city on the maritime route. Wang said this designation creates huge potential for the development of the city's economic and social conditions. "Many opportunities" "One belt, one road will give us many opportunities," Wang, with a population of more than 6 million people, has rich forest, land and marine resources, particularly its deepwater harbor, which the mayor described as "the shortest route to the world from China."

"The harbor is a very important infrastructure of the city," he said. The throughput capacity of Zhanjiang Port exceeded 200 million metric tons in 2014 and Wang said that capacity would increase in the future. "Opening the door to the outside world will create more favorable conditions to adopt the new normal of the economy."

"In the next three or four years, the throughput of the harbor will reach 300 million tons and go into the top 10 national harbors," he said. "One reason for the port's achievement is the signal given to other companies by the current construction of major facilities for Baosteel, China's largest steel company, and Sunpaper, Asia's largest paper, petrochemicals refining. Wang said the two are "two giant projects," with total investment of more than 20 billion yuan ($3.2 billion). The local government is working with the companies and the local people, he said, "to make the best balance between economic development and environmental protection."

Both projects will increase the economic and competitive power of the city, Wang said, "but environmental protection is the most important for our local people." "Footprint City" "Keeping with that environmental awareness, Zhanjiang has also formulated the concept of a "Footprint City," with a focus on the rights and environment of residents and visitors. "The core of a city is the people," Wang said.

"We don't only want everyones to share in the success of our city, we want to contribute to our city's success. A bright future is ours to write. Let's begin the new page, let's start right now. We will unite together toward the same target, to improve our living conditions and strengthen our economic power. Our city will become a beautiful and brighter. We have confidence in our future."

One part of this would realize the creation of "life-enhancing streets," where people "can sit in chairs, can stop and talk, not only walk, not only running but enjoying the life of the city and having time to talk with each other."

"We will build long walking corridors, greenies, greenery, parks, places where the city has comfortable and favorable living conditions for residents, not only for our city's mayor and energy enthusiasm who were obvious as he spoke of his expectations for the city's future."

"Zhanjiang is a large and beautiful city for traveling, for living and working." he said. "Almost 30 years have passed since Zhanjiang opened to the world in 1984. Now Zhanjiang will turn a new page, a new page for living, conditions improving, for industries, for entrepreneur, also a new page for the image of our city. Also a new page for the success of local people, everyone, including men, women, the young and old."

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The concept focuses on respecting nature and the ecosystem, while creating comfortable living and leisure conditions. "The core of a city is the people," Wang said. "We don't only want everyone to share in the success of our city, we want to contribute to the city's success. A bright future is ours to write. Let's begin the new page, let's start right now. We will unite together toward the same target, to improve our living conditions and strengthen our economic power. Our city will become a beautiful and brighter. We have confidence in our future."

A panel discussion during the NPC session, Lin called for more use of large-scale concentrated farming in new resource-concentrated farming. "Concentrated farming and mechanized production would help reduce sugar production costs," Lin said. The Jinling Group sold more than 400,000 tons of sugar and generated sales revenue of 3 billion yuan in 2014. "Our strong years for most domestic sugar producers, who failed to make profits because of the low sugar price and increased production costs," Lin said. "The Jinling Group sold more than 400,000 tons of sugar and generated sales revenue of 3 billion yuan in 2014. "Our strong years are for domestic sugar producers, who failed to make profits because of the low sugar price and increased production costs," Lin said. The Jinling Group sold more than 400,000 tons of sugar and generated sales revenue of 3 billion yuan in 2014. "Our strong years are for domestic sugar producers, who failed to make profits because of the low sugar price and increased production costs," Lin said. The Jinling Group sold more than 400,000 tons of sugar and generated sales revenue of 3 billion yuan in 2014. "Our strong years are for domestic sugar producers, who failed to make profits because of the low sugar price and increased production costs," Lin said. The Jinling Group sold more than 400,000 tons of sugar and generated sales revenue of 3 billion yuan in 2014. "Our strong years are for domestic sugar producers, who failed to make profits because of the low sugar price and increased production costs," Lin said. The Jinling Group sold more than 400,000 tons of sugar and generated sales revenue of 3 billion yuan in 2014. "Our strong years are for domestic sugar producers, who failed to make profits because of the low sugar price and increased production costs," Lin said. The Jinling Group sold more than 400,000 tons of sugar and generated sales revenue of 3 billion yuan in 2014. "Our strong years are for domestic sugar producers, who failed to make profits because of the low sugar price and increased production costs," Lin said.