

Briefly

Green tech event draws experts

The 2017 International Conference of Green Manufacturing was held in the Weifang Hi-tech Industrial Development Zone on Sept 14. Global experts, scholars and business representatives exchanged new findings and concepts to promote the development of environmentally friendly technologies, standards and products. Chu Baojie, Party chief of the zone's working committee, said that hosting the conference is the zone's latest effort to replace old economic growth engines with new ones. Companies in the zone have long been committed to promoting green development. The Weifang Special Steel Group has upgraded its production facilities, seeking advice from experts from Peking University to promote environmental protection.

Executives win inventor awards

Vice-President of Weichai Power Tong Dehui and Chairman of Shengrui Transmission Liu Xiangwu, whose companies are based in the Weifang Hi-tech Industrial Development Zone, were both awarded the title of Shandong Excellent Inventor. Altogether 10 people in Shandong province were awarded the title this year. Tong and Liu are the only winners based in Weifang.

Weichai Group in China 500 list

Leading equipment manufacturer Weichai Group, which has branch companies in the Weifang Hi-tech Industrial Development Zone, ranked No 155 in the Chinese Enterprise-500 list, released by the China Enterprise Federation and the China Enterprise Directors Association on Sept 10. Companies included in the list have annual revenue of at least 28.3 billion yuan (\$4.28 billion), increasing by 3.97 billion yuan from 2016. The total income of all 500 named companies hit 64 trillion yuan, an increase of 7.64 percent year-on-year. A total of 157 companies on the list had an annual turnover exceeding 100 billion yuan last year.



Two workers assemble auto engine parts at a Weichai factory. ZHU ZHENG / XINHUA



Constance Stella, principal of Weifang Hansen International School in the Weifang high-tech zone, welcomes students when the new term begins. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Educational services undergo major overhaul

Schools upgraded across the Weifang Hi-tech Industrial Development Zone in recent years, providing outstanding facilities, faculty

By YUAN SHENGGAO

The Weifang Hi-tech Industrial Development Zone has made significant achievements in upgrading its basic education services over the past few years.

Outstanding school facilities, excellent teams of teachers and many famous school principals have strongly boosted the zone's basic education quality enhancement campaign over the past few years, according to local authorities.

Weifang Hansen International School launched swimming and skating courses in the autumn semester this year. The school management said they have received positive feedback from students over the past month.

"It is the first time Hansen has included swimming and skating as compulsory courses," said Shi Yugang, vice-principal of Hansen. "We also built more than 30 functional rooms for the students' various interests."

Hansen, a high-end education institution in the zone, is making a name for itself thanks to its good facilities and infrastructure. The school has five blocks: two teaching buildings, a student apartment, a sports center and a catering center.

Hansen is not the only school in the zone with high standards.

"Our demands were fully respected and presented in the new school's design and

construction processes," said Li Hongwei, principal of Fenghuang School. "The design and layout of our new school is completely different from the old ones.

"The new school has more human-care elements, which will better serve future education demands," Li added.

In addition to upgrading its school facilities, the zone has also supported upgrades in its pre-school education system.

A pre-school education upgrade plan was released in June this year to enhance kindergarten service quality. The zone plans to invest 3 billion yuan (\$451.2 million) over the next few years to build 26 schools and kindergartens.

The local government said it is aware that an energetic faculty is the foundation for supporting the enhancement of its fundamental education services.

The zone has made great efforts in training teachers and talent recruitment. More than 100 job positions have been offered on an annual basis over the past few years.

An education system led by provincial-level renowned teachers, supported by city-level excellent teachers and mainly comprising zone-level outstanding teachers has been developed in the zone, according to local officials.

The zone's government is also sparing no efforts in retaining excellent teachers.

An awards ceremony was held in the zone on Sept 8, two

\$451.2 million

planned investment to build 26 schools and kindergartens

days before Teachers' Day, to celebrate outstanding teachers' achievements. The zone provided more than 7 million yuan in bonuses to the winners.

In 2018, the zone will provide nearly 10 million yuan in awards to teachers. Those who qualify as famous school and kindergarten principals will share 2 million yuan next year.

The zone has released a series of incentive plans to encourage principals and teachers to identify new ways to provide quality education services. Three principals in the zone have been awarded the title of Qilu Famous Principal.

The zone has 39 provincial-level excellent teachers and 400 city-level or above outstanding teachers.

New concepts

The local authorities said they have long been committed to promoting technological development and implementing new concepts to support education service enhancement.

The Weifang Hi-tech Experimental School has partnered with East China Normal

University to introduce new teaching methods. Students in the school achieved outstanding academic results this year, according to Wu Kebo, principal of the school.

The local education authorities have streamlined administration processes and improved services based on schools' and kindergartens' real needs.

Third parties have been introduced to provide services such as legal advice, safety, school vehicle operation and supervision.

Shanghai-based Epoch Education Group was invited to manage the daily management of Xinchang School, one of the publicly owned schools in the zone.

Weifang Hi-tech Bilingual Education Group was established to promote the expansion of premium education brands. Three privately owned kindergartens obtained support from the government to increase the supply of pre-school education services in the zone.

Zhuang Jian contributed to this story.



Improved approval efficiency speeds up construction, projects

By YUAN SHENGGAO

The Weifang Hi-tech Industrial Development Zone is taking measures to support business development and accelerate key projects construction in the area, by improving project approval efficiency and innovating its service models.

This year, four government departments of the zone have made considerable efforts to shorten approval processes: the economic development, education, urban planning and urban construction bureaus.

The targeted processes involve six types of projects, including those related to industry, real estate and shanty town upgrades, and government-supported public school construction.

"We strive to approve projects in the shortest time. We have canceled unnecessary steps in the approval processes and project applications will be processed by several government departments at a time rather than one-by-one," said Chen Jiancheng, director of the zone's government service center.

The zone has designed and printed detailed approval procedures so businesses can know exactly what should be done to gain project approval, which government department will process their applications and how long the process will take.

Currently, industrial project approval takes 33 working days, a decrease from 78 working days in previous years. Real estate project approval takes 37 working days, a decrease from 78 working days in 2016. Government-supported public school construction projects require 56 working days to gain approval, decreasing from 136 working days last year.

Zhao Xia, manager of a real estate project in the zone, said that the improved approval efficiency helps companies to reduce financial burdens and gain investment returns much more quickly.

Shengrui Transmission, developer of the world's first front-engine, front-drive 8-gear auto transmission, is also benefiting from the zone's efforts.

The Shengrui's residential community construction project, designed to support businesses moving into Shengrui's Auto Gearbox Industrial Park, obtained approval from the authority in about a month.



Project applications will be processed by several government departments at a time rather than one-by-one.

Chen Jiancheng, director of the government service center at the Weifang high-tech zone

The second phase of the industrial park, which will launch construction soon, is also benefiting from the zone's improved approval efficiency.

The industrial park will produce all the spare parts for Shengrui upon completion, which will help to significantly lower the company's logistics and packaging costs.

The zone's efforts to enhance approval efficiency has helped the government to strengthen its reputation for credibility and reliability among the local people.

Qi Zhenjie, who is in charge of the second phase of construction of Qinghe Community East, said that improved government approval speed and efficiency strongly supported shanty town demolition and upgrade projects in the zone.

Wang Weidong contributed to this story.



A worker at the government service center at the Weifang high-tech zone assists a local company representative with an approval procedure. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Traditional Chinese medicine given new vitality, rises in popularity in area

By YUAN SHENGGAO

The Weifang Hi-tech Industrial Development Zone was recognized as a national model for local-level traditional Chinese medicine services by the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine this year.

It is the top honor granted by the administration to local governments in recognition for their efforts in promoting TCM development.

The zone obtained 436,800 yuan (\$65,964) in financial support from the provincial government to build four TCM clinics in community healthcare service centers this year.

Li Zongyang, director of the healthcare service center of a local residential community called Hanlin New City, said he has seen an increas-

ing number of people seeking TCM advice in recent years.

So far, all community healthcare service organizations and 70 percent of Shandong province-supported community healthcare offices in the zone provide TCM services.

"Very few people sought TCM services in previous years," Li said. "Now, about 60 percent of patients visit our service center to seek advice from TCM doctors."

Many local residents who with digestive problems have visited the zone's TCM doctors. They said the low costs, quick effects and lower chance of side-effects are key reasons behind choosing TCM.

The zone has been taking measures to expand its TCM doctor team over the past few years. Seven TCM professionals, including 34-year-old Yang Fan, have been recruited to



A traditional Chinese medicine doctor examines a patient at a community healthcare service center in Xincheng subdistrict in the Weifang high-tech zone. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

the local community healthcare service centers.

Yang, who spent eight years

studying TCM and has three years of clinical experience, became a doctor at the health-

care service center of Xincheng subdistrict in 2016.

Yang is making a name for

patients, 2,700 of whom were hospitalized.

The healthcare service center of Qingchi subdistrict, supported by the zone's people's hospital, was awarded the title of national model for local-level traditional Chinese medicine services in 2016. The award marks the hospital's TCM services becoming a famous brand, said local officials.

Cui Chengwang contributed to this story.

436.8k yuan
financial support from the Shandong provincial government to build TCM clinics in community healthcare centers in the Weifang high-tech zone

himself, providing ancient TCM prescriptions for local residents. Many patients visit him from other parts of the city.

The people's hospital in the zone is also seeing more professionals join its TCM department. The department has 18 licensed TCM doctors and eight licensed nurses.

Last year, the TCM department in the people's hospital of the zone treated 6,500

To comment or contribute, please e-mail wangqian2@chinadaily.com.cn or call +86-531-58775018.

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