

# Zhanjiang hosts Ocean Economy Expo

Navy ships and equipment, range of marine resources

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As the South China base for the country's navy and an important port city in Guangdong province, Zhanjiang will host the China Ocean Economy Expo starting Wednesday, offering participants a showcase of the country's national defense and the latest in global marine science.

The expo's main exhibition hall will show the public the high-tech side of the marine industry and state-of-the-art equipment for shipbuilding. It will also promote tourism, cultures and arts related to the sea.

The military pavilion will be the big highlight of the expo, according to the organizing committee. Visitors will be able to take a close look at a great variety of cutting-edge equipment — from tanks to aircraft, armored vehicles and missiles — including actual equipment in service.

Designed and built by China Poly Group, the military pavilion is divided into an indoor hall and an outdoor exhibition space.

The indoor area includes displays of fighters, helicopters, tanks and missiles, while the outdoor space is set aside for equipment in active service including the J-10 fighter, amphibious tanks and a wide



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WANG ZHONGBING  
MAYOR OF ZHANJIANG

range of armored vehicles.

Visitors can also play games in the indoor hall that include shooting, machine assembly and an obstacle course.

The South China Sea Fleet will also organize tours onto its warships.

The China Ocean Economy Expo from Dec 3 to 7 will host over 3,000 exhibitors from more than 20 countries, including displays by 80 multinational companies and institutions, 14 Fortune 500 corporations, as well as 11 large State-owned companies and 56 listed companies.

The State Oceanic Administration will display a full-size model of the Jiaolong-class submersible that represents the nation's most advanced deep-sea research technology.

The city government of Yangjiang in Guangdong province will send a replica of the Nanhai No 1, a sunken merchant ship from the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) discovered off the coast of Yangjiang.

The expo covers 215,000 sq



An important shipping hub in Guangdong province, Zhanjiang is the gateway linking China's southwest to the world.

PHOTOS PROVIDED CHINA DAILY

m including an expanse of sea and has 2,018 booths.

The display area for warships and yachts on a 75,000-sq-m area of the sea is also expected to be a popular site for visitors.

In the international section, exhibitors representing coastal cities across the world will introduce themselves to the audience with videos and displays. They will also share their ideas about some common challenges and opportunities that coastal cities around the globe face such as rising of

sea levels.

The China Ocean Economy Expo is China's only comprehensive expo focusing on the ocean.

The biennial event was co-founded by the provincial government of Guangdong and the State Oceanic Administration. The first event was held in Guangzhou in 2012.

Beginning this year, Zhanjiang will be the permanent host for the expo.

"Zhanjiang's development is closely related to the ocean, with an important position

in China's strategy to become a maritime power," said Liu Xiaohua, Party chief of Zhanjiang, explaining why the city was chosen as the expo's permanent host.

Output from Zhanjiang's marine industry was valued at 127.58 billion yuan (\$20 billion) in 2013. The city has the biggest production of aquatic products in Guangdong and produces two-thirds of the country's sea pearls.

Big producers in the city including Guangdong Evergreen Group, Guolian Aquatic

and Ronghui Pearls will exhibit their products at the expo's fishery section along with more than 100 enterprises in the trade from all over the country. Zhanjiang Mayor Wang Zhongbing said that the city will make good use of the expo as a stage to showcase its ocean resources, the bright prospects for its marine industry and to explore markets in Southeast Asia.

Zhanjiang was an important port on the ancient Maritime Silk Road.

"Our goal is to develop

Zhanjiang into the bridgehead of cooperation between Guangdong and Southeast Asia and the new start of the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road," said Wang.

He made official visits to the Guangzhou consul generals of Thailand, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, Russia, Australia and Italy on Nov 14, inviting them to the ocean expo and seeking more cooperation.



## Port reform to boost international business

By LI WENFANG  
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A starting point for ancient ocean-going trade and a gateway to Southeast Asia, modern Zhanjiang has received the green light as a pivotal city in the country's 21st Century Maritime Silk Road strategy.

Ports on Baoman and Donghai islands have been allowed to open up, bringing the total number of open ports in the city to six.

A bonded logistics center to be built by Zhanjiang Port Group has been approved, becoming the 38th such center in the country.

A number of projects in Zhanjiang are included in provincial plans to meet the national 21st Century Maritime Silk Road strategy.

They include Guangdong (Fenyong) ASEAN Industrial Park, South Marine Valley High-Tech Park, an aquatic and agricultural technology park, seaside tourism park, maritime high-tech base and a sugar-making center.

City authorities are also studying further measures for reform.

The opening of Baoman and Donghai ports means 44,400 meters of coastline and 29 berths will open up to foreign trade.

Zhanjiang port will be better positioned to attract multinational shipping companies and to enhance economic cooperation with Southeast Asia, Europe and the Americas, said Wang Xiaosui, director of the city's bureau of commerce.

Zhanjiang port serves major ocean-going shipping in southwestern and southern China and offers one of the shortest routes between the Chinese mainland and South-

east Asia, Africa, Europe and Oceania, according to Zhanjiang Port (Group) Co.

Cargo throughput at the port hit 181 million tons last year and is expected to exceed 200 million tons this year.

The latest opening-up move is set to boost the capacity of Zhanjiang port, speed up development and help promote seaside industries and logistics, said Guo Rongbo, deputy director of the city's bureau of commerce.

### Bonded center

The newly approved bonded logistics center will enable companies to expand the exporting, international

trans-shipment and re-exporting businesses, according to Zhanjiang Customs.

Although it is an important distribution hub for bulk goods such as crude oil, iron ore, coal, fertilizers and sulfur in South China, Zhanjiang port has not achieved substantial growth due to limited storage space.

The bonded logistics center will provide Guangdong Jinling Sugar Industry Group Co, one of the leading sugar makers in the country, with ample storage space. Zhanjiang is one of the strategic sugar reserve centers in the country but bonded warehouses in the city had been

scattered and small.

Without such a center, some Zhanjiang companies had to use facilities in other cities.

The center will help companies cut operating costs, be more flexible in exports and better withstand risks in global market.

It will also push forward the transformation of the processing trade in Zhanjiang, said Guo.

The center is located in the seaside industrial park that has a planned area of 390,000 sq m and total investment of 535 million yuan (\$87.12 million). With construction beginning this month, it will

include 40,000 sq m of warehouses, a 130,000 sq m storage yard and a dedicated rail line.

A total of 212 logistics and foreign trade companies, including China Merchants Holdings (International) Co, Sinotrans Guangdong Co, Shenzhen Yantian Port Group and Baosteel Group, have expressed their intention to move into the area.

**212 companies**  
in logistics and foreign trade intend to move into the bonded logistics center



Cargo throughput at the Zhanjiang Port reached 181 million tons last year and is expected to surpass 200 million tons this year.

## The rising tide of marine industries

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Early this year Zhanjiang became one of eight coastal cities in China to be an experimental site for high-tech marine industries.

The initiative calls for the city to focus on breeding seafood and healthy farming by creating demonstration industrial zones and parks.

With 2,023 kilometers of coastline and 20,000 square kilometers of sea within its boundaries, Zhanjiang is the largest demonstrative city for the marine economy in Guangdong province.

Output from marine industries in the city totaled 127.58 billion yuan (\$20.77 billion) last year, following only Guangzhou and Shenzhen in the province. The fishery industry generated 43.37 billion yuan for the year.

Ocean-based industries include offshore oil and gas exploration, oceanic chemicals, shipbuilding and maintenance, marine equipment manufacturing and fishing.

Zhanjiang leads all Chinese cities in the cultivation area, output, processing volume and export of shrimp.

Estimates say that one of every three shrimp sold in China comes from Zhanjiang and one of every five on the dining table in the United States can be traced to the city.

In the first three quarters of the year Zhanjiang exported 88,300 tons of aquatic products valued at \$719 million.

The city's sea-related

industries are expected to be spurred by the mega steel and petrochemical complexes being built on the Donghai Island, China's fifth-largest island.

The first blast furnace by the country's leading steel maker Baosteel Group is scheduled to go into operation in September next year.

When complete the facility will have an annual capacity of 9.2 million tons of iron and 10 million tons of steel.

The other giant project, a petrochemical joint venture between Sinopec and Kuwait Petroleum Corp, will include a refinery to process 15 million tons of crude oil a year and an ethylene facility with an annual output of 800,000 tons.

Operation of the refinery is due to start in 2016, with the ethylene plant scheduled to go online in 2017.

City authorities and owners of the two projects are creating a circular economy park for the steel and petrochemical complexes just 500 meters apart as the government pledges to conserve the city's environment.

The government encourages businesses to invest in the city's various industrial parks, new industries, infrastructure, new city areas, seaside tourism and port-related logistics.

The new industries include oceanic development, alternative energy, electronics, pharmaceuticals and new materials.

Output from the city's marine economy is expected to surpass 180 billion yuan in value next year.