

CHINA

Preparations rolling for horticulture expo

Many green concepts being applied in pavilions, including rainwater capture

By XIN WEN
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Preparations, including construction, for the upcoming 2019 China Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition will remain eco-friendly and intelligent, with four main pavilions for the expo already completed, according to Ye Dajun, deputy director of the 2019 Beijing expo coordination bureau.

Set to open on April 29, the 162-day exhibition will host more than 16 million people from 86 countries and 26 international organizations. Located 10 kilometers north of the Badaling Great Wall in the capital's Yanqing district, the expo park covers an area of 503 hectares.

Three ecological belts will line the expo park to provide leisure zones for tourists. A green area of 37.5 hectares around the pavilions will display many varieties of trees, including willows, spruces and locusts, Ye said.

Trees have already been planted in the designated places, he said. There will be 1.8 million flowers as well. An existing wetland has been renovated in the park to provide improved habitat for fish and birds.

Pavilion construction has also relied on green concepts. The International Pavilion, the largest in the park, was built with 94 steel columns shaped like flower umbrellas. Their special design allows them to collect rainwater from the roof.

"The water pouring down from the rooftop will go into a tank to be recycled for irrigation," said Wu Guangda, construction team director at the pavilion.

The roof is equipped with solar

16 million

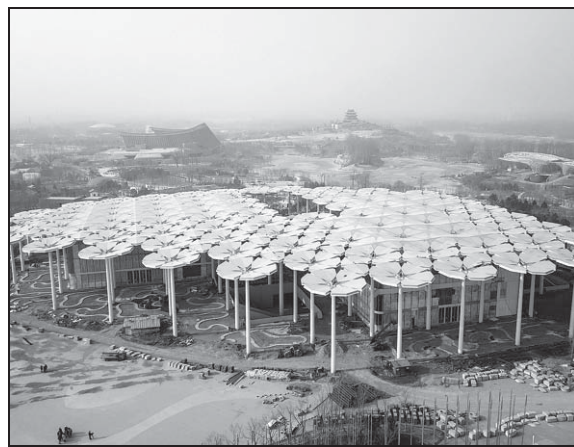
Estimated visits to the 2019 China Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition

1.8 million

flowers will be prepared for the horticultural event.

energy panels to generate power when the park opens, he said. Power cables were installed on the roof to help melt snow.

About 1 km west, the China Pavilion, which will display Chinese gardening and horticulture, is half underground to better preserve heat and humidity, said Li



Construction of the International Pavilion for the horticultural exhibition nears completion on Jan 11. ZHANG CHENLIN / XINHUA

Liang, designer of the pavilion.

Shaped like *ruyi*, a traditional Chinese decorative object symbolizing good fortune, the pavilion's rooftop also features solar panels, installed to reduce the energy consumption of its underground air conditioning system.

Visitors will also find 5G technology and service robots at the expo.

Yanqing district is preparing various modes of transportation to the expo park. Sixteen trains from downtown Beijing to the park will run each day, said Wu Shijiang, deputy director of Yanqing district. Five bus lines will also open, linking the park to downtown Yanqing.

It will be the second high-level horticulture expo hosted by China, following one in Kunming, Yunnan province, in 1999.

Feng Yaoxiang, director of the investment promotion division at the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, said organizers have scheduled more than 2,500 cultural activities for the expo, as well as parades.

FROM THE FRONT LINE



Qin Yuxin, inheritor of the traditional culinary art of making *huamo*, or flower-shaped steamed buns, shares his skills with students from Beijing's Yanqing district. LIU PING / FOR CHINA DAILY

Intensive training underway as Yanqing gears up for big events

By XIN WEN

Intensive vocational training is underway to equip Yanqing residents with the knowledge and skills needed to host an international horticultural expo and the Winter Olympics.

The northwestern district of Beijing, host of the upcoming 2019 China Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition and Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, has introduced 100 training programs in 60 vocational institutes to build a talent pool for the events.

According to the district's human resources bureau, nearly 20,000 people were trained in 2018, with 3,000 in modern horticulture and 5,500 in volunteering, security and canteen services. The number is expected to reach 100,000 by 2022.

Training programs featuring traditional craftsmanship are offered. Making *huamo*, steamed buns shaped like flowers, is one of them.

The traditional pastry, originally from Yuncheng in Shanxi province, was listed as national intangible cultural heritage in 2008.

Qin Yuxin, inheritor of the traditional culinary art, now teaches a class of 50 students at a training school in the town of Zhangshanying. The pastry-making is complicated, including procedures like cutting, kneading and twisting.

All the students are Yanqing residents, mostly women.

"The two big events have ignited local enthusiasm and I hope my skills will help them better prepare for the upcoming events," Qin said.

Wang Guiping, who runs a guesthouse at her 600-square-meter farmyard in Yanqing, has studied for two months. "The training is useful and provides us a good way to raise our earnings during the events," she said.

Training in hospitality is also useful, said Gu Jianfeng, 39, who opened a homestay in 2017.

"How to decorate the homestay hotels and entertain guests is new to me," Gu said. "After training, I am more familiar with the etiquette and hope our guesthouses will better serve the upcoming expo."

Zhu Jilin, deputy director of the human resources bureau, said training programs have boosted local employment and the economy.

"Three hotels in the expo park and one real estate company signed contracts with us to employ more of the trainees before the expo park opens," he said.

The 2019 China Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition is set to open on April 29 and run until Oct 7. Construction of the expo park is planned for completion by the end of March.

The 2022 Winter Olympics will use 26 competition and noncompetition venues in downtown Beijing, Yanqing district and co-host city Zhangjiakou, in Hebei province.

Guizhou bans officials' Moutai misbehavior

By CHINA DAILY

To prevent official corruption, authorities in Guizhou province have named the well-known liquor brand Moutai in the local disciplinary regulations of the Communist Party of China.

A regulation was issued on Thursday prohibiting officials from privately benefiting from five types of behavior related to Moutai, which is produced in the province.

The regulation bans officials, their spouses, children and their children's spouses from participating in business activities related to Moutai. Officials will also be strictly prohibited from taking advantage of their positions to obtain Moutai business licenses, increase sales quotas for existing stakeholders or facilitate resale of the liquor.

Officials are also banned from sending or receiving Moutai gifts,

abusing their authority in Moutai business approvals and other behavior that improperly participates in, or interferes with, the operations of Moutai-related businesses.

The regulation is a reflection of the effort to ban leading cadres from engaging in commercial activities or abusing their power, combined with the reality of the situation in Guizhou, said Yang Weidong, a professor at the Chinese Academy of Governance's Department of Law.

The regulation targeted Moutai mainly because of its special relationship with Guizhou and its huge impact on the province's development, Yang said.

Produced by State-owned Kweichow Moutai Co, Moutai is the most popular liquor brand in China. Distilled from high-quality sorghum grown in Guizhou, and 53 percent alcohol by volume, it is a mainstay at festive occasions in the country,

from New Year's dinners and wedding receptions to business banquets. An ordinary 500-milliliter bottle costs 1,499 yuan (\$221).

"Actually, the regulation is an extension of existing anti-graft regulations and rules and requires cadres to fairly exercise their power," Yang said. "I think it will be conducive to improving local Party conduct and upholding integrity, as well as to the Moutai Group's development."

In December, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection issued a notice banning officials from benefiting from well-known and valuable local brands.

But Ren Jianming, a professor at Beihang University's School of Public Administration, said it is still "quite rare to see a government regulation aimed at a specific commercial brand".

He said demand for Moutai is

always much greater than supply, meaning "those who obtain Moutai resources can win economic and even political benefits, which could make enforcement quiet complex".

"Also, asking cadres to self-report their violations has many uncertainties," Ren said.

The regulation was a necessity for Guizhou, since the liquor had featured in the cases of several corrupt local officials, Ren said, and it would prevent interference in the Moutai company's management and operations.

In February last year, the former director of Guizhou's Department of Natural Resources, Zhu Lijun, was removed from his Party post and demoted for buying Moutai with 570,000 yuan in public funds.

Former provincial vice-governor Wang Xiaoguang, who pleaded guilty to insider trading and taking bribes in December, was reported to

have been a heavy drinker of Moutai and often asked his subordinates to buy him the liquor with public funds. He also illegally owned four stores in Guiyang, the provincial capital, that sold top-brand liquor.

In May 2017, Luo Jianqiang, the former vice-mayor of Bijie, a city in Guizhou, was removed from office and expelled from the Party. The official announcement of his punishment said that he once received two bottles of vintage Moutai and 24 other bottles of Moutai for State banquets.

The liquor has also featured in the downfall of officials elsewhere in China.

The former secretary of the CPC working committee for the Zhumadian urban-rural integration demonstration area in Henan province, Li Xinzong, was sentenced to 10 years in prison in October last year for accepting bribes of 5.78 million yuan, including Moutai worth more than 2.36 million yuan.

The new regulation also requires those who have violated its stan-

dards in the past and those who do so in future to make a special report to the authorities within a month from the date of its issuance and rectify the situation as required.

Anyone who intentionally violates or circumvents the regulation or fails to take the required action will be strictly punished in accordance with law and Party discipline. The regulation also stipulates that retired cadres and former management personnel of Moutai Group also need to abide by the rules.

The regulation requires Kweichow Moutai Co to keep a record of officials who seek to interfere in its normal operations or who engage in any banned behavior.

Experts said the effectiveness of the regulation will mainly depend on its enforcement.

"Actually, I am not very optimistic about its effectiveness because Moutai is not only a luxury item but also a status symbol in China," Ren said.

Yang Zekun contributed to this story.

New direct shipping route cuts time from Taiwan

By HU MEIDONG in Pingtan, Fujian and ZHANG YI in Beijing

A direct sea freight route opened on Saturday between Taiwan's Kaohsiung and Pingtan in Fujian province, drastically shortening shipping times for fresh farm produce from the island to mainland markets.

In the past, shipments from Kaohsiung were required to make intermediate stops at other Taiwan ports. But now they can go directly to the mainland.

A freighter operated by Taiwan trade shipping agency Wagon departed from a port in Kaohsiung in southwestern Taiwan, bound for Pingtan off the east coast of Fujian, on Saturday afternoon.

The direct 330-kilometer journey between the two cities shortens shipping time from two or three days to just nine hours.

The freighter was loaded with more than 700 metric tons of goods,

including fruit, vegetables, frozen food, fruit juice and liquid crystal display panels worth more than 15 million yuan (\$2.2 million).

All the goods had been purchased by enterprises in Pingtan to supply the needs of customers during Spring Festival celebrations on the mainland.

The sale was the first export shipment from Kaohsiung since the Kuomintang party's Han Kuo-yu took office as the city's mayor in December.

During his election campaign, Han described the city as "old and poor" and said it should no longer ignore the mainland market. He gained popularity with his slogan, "The goods go out, people come in, and Kaohsiung makes a fortune".

Han said he recognizes the 1992 Consensus, which embodies the one-China principle, and hoped to deepen cooperation with the mainland to boost the city's economy.

At the launch ceremony for the



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freighter service on Saturday, Han said he expected more high-quality products manufactured in Kaohsiung, including farm produce, to be shipped to the mainland.

Farm produce trader Chen Mubin, from Pingtan, said shipping is fast so the freshness of the food can

9 hours

Shipping time from Kaohsiung to Pingtan by way of the new route

be guaranteed for customers' tables, and he can get a subsidy from the local government.

Pingtan fruit trader Zhou Binhua said fruit from Taiwan sells well on the mainland, and he bought 40 tons of oranges this time.

Media on the island reported recently that the number of mainland tourists to Kaohsiung is expected to increase by at least 20 percent around Spring Festival.

In response, Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, said on Wednesday that the increase is natural and to be expected because mainland tourists have seen the changes taking place in Kaohsiung.

More counties and cities in Tai-



Customs officials examine fruit exported from Kaohsiung, Taiwan, via the Kaohsiung-Pingtan freight shipping route.

HU MEIDONG / CHINA DAILY

wan with the correct political stance are welcome to cooperate with mainland cities to benefit people on both sides, he said.

Xinhua contributed to this story.

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