



A renowned coastal city in China, Zhanjiang offers a good environment and favorable policies for marine industries. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Port expansion underway

Coastal development to turn Zhanjiang into international shipping hub, **Li Wenfang** reports.

After Zhanjiang port hit the 200 million ton throughput mark last year, the city government embarked on a plan to expand the main port and develop ports in surrounding counties to form a chain and better use the extensive coastline.

The main port, which serves the East, Central and western parts of China, became the first in Beibu Bay rim and the third in Guangdong province to reach the 200 million ton milestone and ranked it 13th in the country, according to the city government.

Zhanjiang's coastline stretches 1,243 km. If the 143 nearby islands are taken into account, the coastline totals 2,040 km.

Zhanjiang port serves major ocean-going ships in Southwest and South China and offers one of the shortest routes between the Chinese mainland and Southeast Asia, Africa, Europe and Oceania.

The port area is concentrated in Zhanjiang Bay, which has left the lengthy coastline along the Leizhou Peninsula underdeveloped.

The plan for the port includes 164-km of coastline with 12 port areas that extend 102.7-km outside the bay. In the bay 28-km of coastline has already been developed but only 1 km outside the bay has been used.

20.77
million tons

of imported iron was dealt with by Zhanjiang port last year

The government set a goal to handle 300 million tons of cargo at all the port areas by 2017 and turn the city into a coastal trading center of bulk goods and international shipping and logistics center in South and Southwest China.

Zhanjiang port dealt with 20.77 million tons of imported iron ore worth \$2.23 billion last year, up more than 14 per cent year-on-year.

For the development of the main port, work will press ahead for construction of port areas in Xiashan, Baoman and Donghai Island as well as the expansion of the shipping channel from the current 300,000-ton level to a 400,000-ton level.

The port received 95 300,000-ton vessels last year, a 20 percent annual increase. Berths capable of handling 300,000-ton vessels are expected to increase to six or seven by 2020, from the current three.

Efforts will also be made to further open-up the port, to increase the sources of cargo, to upgrade modern port logistics, to multiply international container shipping lines and



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to build a bulk goods trading center.

Zhanjiang Port Group Co, a major operator at the port, plans to open new container shipping lines to Southeast Asia this year, following the launch of a container line to Singapore last year.

For areas outside the bay, work will be sped up to build Nanshan port in Xuwen,

Wushi port in Leizhou, Longtousha port in Lianjiang, Caotan port in Suixi and Wuyang port in Wuchuan.

Nanshan port made its name as a starting point of the ancient Maritime Silk Road. The provincial government designated Wushi as a place for petty trade with Taiwan residents in 2013.

Longtousha port lies in the startup zone of the economic cooperative area between Guangdong and neighboring Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, which is intended to facilitate economic integration.

The government will lead the work in developing these ports, with Zhanjiang Port Group Co as a main party

and other investments to be introduced.

In building the ports, Zhanjiang government has attached importance to the development of side industries and industrial parks, which it said would boost the economy in the counties.

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Ships set sail from upgraded port

The newly upgraded Hai'an port in Xuwen county, Zhanjiang, was opened after a container vessel set sail to Hong Kong and Macao on Jan 28.

A loading area at the port became a port of entry in 1981 and an experimental port for petty trade with Vietnam in 1995. It was consolidated as Hai'an working area of Zhanjiang port in 2010.

Xuwen holds a strategic position as a gateway to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. It accommodates imports of commodities such as coal ore and dried cassava from ASEAN and waste plastics from Hong Kong. Canned pineapple, frozen aquatic products, alcohol, timber and vegetables are exported to Hong Kong, Macao, Europe and the United States through the port.

The rapid development of export-oriented industries and port-side manufacturing are the result of the improved port and customs services. The new port occupies 1,400-meters of coastline and covers an 800,000-square-meter area and is equipped with terminals for hazardous goods, roll-on/roll-off ships, bulk goods and container vessels.

CHINA DAILY

Xuwen named as longevity town

By **ZHANG YUCHEN**
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Xuwen, a Cantonese county in Zhanjiang, Guangdong province, was named a "Chinese town of longevity" in February as the percentage of its residents aged 100 or older is five times the central government's standard for the honor.

With a population of 730,000, including 112 residents who have celebrated their 100th birthday, Xuwen became the 20th such town in the country. The standard states that a location with more than three centenarians per 100,000 residents can be considered a place of extraordinary longevity.

The Journal of Natural Medicine, a Japanese international health journal, once recognized six locations around the world as longevity towns, three of which are in China. They are Rugao, in Jiangsu province; Bama Yao autonomous county, in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region; and Hotan County, in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

In one village of Xuwen, being 80 or 90 years old is not a phenomenon. Jintu Village, or Golden Earth Village,

in Xilian township, Xuwen County, has 11 of the 2,100 villagers who are older than 100 years. Its oldest resident, Chen Lipo, was 121 when she died in 2006.

Xuwen is known as China's largest pineapple and off-season banana base, and is in the narrow tropical zone of mainland China, where the sunshine hours are the longest. Experts said the secrets to long life in the villages included some of the best air quality in the country, fresh spring water and nurturing red soil and beautiful scenery that contributes to the peaceful minds of the villagers.

Villagers in the county have been farmers and fishermen their whole lives. Four thousand square kilometers of sea area borders the small county, and older people consider fresh seafood from the area the best nutrition for life, said Wang Bingzhong, the mayor of Zhanjiang city.

All the centenarians live with their families following a tradition of two thousand years where four or five generations live together under the same roof. Due to the agreeable weather — close to 24 C throughout the year — many even wear slippers while working in the fields in winter.

Chen Jinchao, director of the Longevity Institute in Bama Yao autonomous county, said long life is only 15 percent genetic and 85 percent environmental impact. Liang Quancai, the director of Xuwen county, said the natural way of living is among the secrets of its residents' longevity.

The local government gives each centenarian 600 yuan (\$97) per month as a pension. The latest census said the life expectancy of the residents in the county is about 77.75, nearly one year longer than the national average.

Xuwen is one of the less developed areas in the province, although it has well-protected coral in the sea and 200 kinds of seafood. Liang said recognition as a longevity county would be a start for Xuwen to embark on leisure and green tourism development.

Zhang Yifeng, who specializes in tourism planning for the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, at the China Academy of Sciences, suggested the county could make good use of the longevity town brand. When Bama Yao autonomous county was recognized as one of three famous lon-



Xuwen county in Zhanjiang embarks on leisure and green tourism development.

gevity locations, tourists and people wanting to live long lives flooded into the small county. Media reports said the residents of the county got wealthy quickly and subsequently their diets changed. Soon the number

of the county's centenarians declined. Zhao Baochang, the deputy director of Gerontological Society of China, said the success of Xuwen being named a longevity county is due to its good environmental protection.

Zhao, who led the recognition process for Bama longevity county, said Xuwen should stay on its path of protecting the environment as well as maintaining its low carbon development.