

# Dynamic Tianjin



### What they say

International celebrities, economists, experts, investors and foreigners living in Tianjin share their insights into the city's rapid development and their other impressions of the city.

I have been witnessing during the past 13 years the massive change of Tianjin. It is the progress in infrastructure that has allowed the city to transform so rapidly. With the integration of the notions of sustainability, high tech and AI, Tianjin will become one of China's smartest cities. As Tianjin was one of China's first modern cities in the first half of the 20th century, it has the potential to become a 21st century super smart city. As a Frenchman born in Paris, I can see some correspondence between the language of architecture in Tianjin and the European style. Tianjin might be geographically located far away from Italy, Germany or France but it is in fact a bridge connecting Europe and China.

**David Gosset**, founder of the Europe-China Forum and author of *Limited Views on The Chinese Renaissance* (2018), who won the Tianjin Friendship Award in 2015

I'm actually really enjoying getting used to being here because of my traveling experiences. I hope to stay tomorrow of the dynamic city. The design of the Tianjin Culture Center is distinctive. The library, theater and museums in the city are amazing.

**Klaus Schwab**, World Economic Forum founder and executive chairman

The World Economic Forum's cooperation with Tianjin has established a sound foundation. The WEF was confident about the momentum for Tianjin's future growth and believed that through its cooperation, the forum would achieve still greater success with Tianjin in the future.

**Borge Brende**, President of the World Economic Forum

I have been living in the coastal city for 22 years. There were no public bicycles but no paths or roads, and very few people owned cars. At that time the roads were not in good condition and few trees were being planted. Tianjin, which has gradually connected with the world, is turning to become a green city and has provided a lot of convenience for people in their living environment.

**Hugo Montanari**, former general manager of The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin

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to me and my family ever since the beginning. We love this city because of its long history. For me, it is the food I want to learn more about. Right now, my favorite food is in Tianjin pancake. I think Tianjin is in the right spot and Tianjin is on the road map. We see great development taking place in the city. The trend is going to be the luxury hotel industry. I think the government has done a great job investing, trying to attract domestic and international tourists to come to the city.

**Steve Moody**, director of the Cameron Pace Group Vice Pace and me, has moved into 6,000 square meters of space, designed for postproduction, exhibitions, and research and development, and with room to spare for the future. I think Tianjin will have a bright future.

**Mark Widdell**, chairman of AmCham China's Tianjin Chapter

It is very easy to come here and it is a great place to live here. I think credit goes to the Tianjin government.

They preserve the cultural heritage, not only from the long distance past, but also the last few centuries. It is just for the beauty of it. China is the future and we want to be part of the future. I think Tianjin is already a center for healthcare in Asia and I think Tianjin has the potential to become a leader in China and the world.

**Masoud Afshar**, honorary chair of Tianjin's Binhai New Area features a large, futuristic sphere in the center of the facility, which serves as an auditorium with a capacity for 110 people.

**James Cameron**, movie director

I was fascinated with the architecture and the relaxed and easygoing Tianjin people.

**Toy Rattcliff**, US photographer

## City gets in front of the revolution in manufacturing

By DAVID BLAIR  
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Manufacturing is changing around the world because of the robots, sensors, artificial intelligence and other technologies that are leading to what the World Economic Forum calls the "Fourth industrial revolution". So, Tianjin, which has a long history in manufacturing and is often called "the cradle of modern Chinese industry" is seizing the opportunity to build on this legacy by embracing its role as a national center for advanced manufacturing that integrates industry with the new technologies.

In the past two years, the city has devoted up to 100 billion yuan (\$14.6 billion) to a fund-of-funds that targets the intersection between AI and manufacturing.

It will invest in AI companies in Tianjin, focusing on smart robots, smart hardware and software, smart sensors, virtual and augmented reality and internet-connected cars. In addition, 10 billion yuan is targeted at the technological upgrading of intelligent manufacturing enterprises.

Tianjin Binhai New Area announced in 2017 the establishment of a 30 billion yuan fund with China Traffic Construction Group. That fund, as China Daily earlier reported, will primarily be used to facilitate cooperation among global intelligent engineering technology centers and Binhai Sino-German Industry 4.0 intelligent manufacturing center. Its inaugural client center, automotive electronics and automated driving center, and its intelligent manufacturing center. It will also concentrate on applying the internet of things to create smart city systems.

In June 2017, the Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area announced the Intelligent Industrial Zone, a 20-square-kilometer area intended to host companies developing new technologies, including AI, intelligent finance, healthcare and smart logistics.

Overall, there are roughly 60 TEDA-based companies that specialize in the China manufacturing, including industrial robot maker Baidi and Yieros Easy-Robot, which provides automatic assembly services for industrial systems, according to the online professional journal Engineering.

Investors in Chinese technology see this integration of digital technologies with the real world, especially in manufacturing, as a turning point in the world economy.

Edward T. founder and CEO of Gao Feng Advisors, who formerly led the China operations of the large US-based corporate strategy advisors Boston Consulting and Booz Allen Hamilton, told China Daily: "What is happening right now is that there are a few major disruptive technologies — the internet of things, and blockchain distributed ledgers — all happening at the same time over the next few years."

Tianjin is building on its legacy in manufacturing and shipping, and on the opportunities made possible by the Belt and Road Initiative to become a leader in this revolution that will transform the entire economy.



An expert shares his insights into virtual reality and augmented reality technologies at the World Intelligence Congress in Tianjin in May 2018. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



A robot services as a hospital guide in Tianjin. Using artificial intelligence technology, it can help patients find their clinics. TONG YU/CHINA NEWS SERVICE



Researchers check the Tianhe supercomputer developed in Tianjin. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

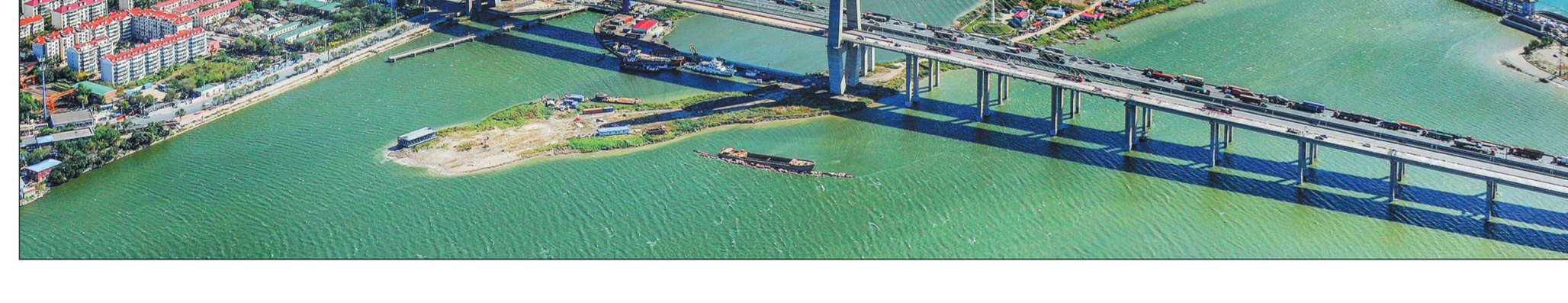


A futuristic library at Tianjin's Binhai New Area features a large, futuristic sphere in the center of the facility, which serves as an auditorium with a capacity for 110 people. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

## Industrial parks offer chance for companies



Tianjin Port has slashed its service fees and increased its efficiency, aiming to join the ranks of the world's top-class ports. JAO YONGYU / FOR CHINA DAILY



The Sino-European Regional Collaborative Park will focus on intelligent reality technology and an ocean economy. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



The Binhai Zhongguancun Science Park has drawn investment projects worth hundreds of millions of yuan. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



A wetland park near Tianjin's bonded port area is a popular destination for birdwatchers. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Children relax after class at an international school in Tianjin's Binhai New Area. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



The Binhai Zhongguancun Science Park has drawn investment projects worth hundreds of millions of yuan. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Scheduled high-speed train services have reduced travel time between Beijing and Tianjin to 30 minutes. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



A financial center in the Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

“Of the nine global bird migration routes, two run through Tianjin. Each year, about 2 million birds stop to perch, rest, breed or spend their winter in the northern city... thanks to the city's environmental efforts.”

Mo Xiangjing, a professor with the School of Geographic and Environmental Sciences at Tianjin Normal University.

100 billion yuan Amount earmarked over the past two years to support the next-generation AI industry in Tianjin

900 companies Number of high-tech businesses relocated from Beijing to the Binhai Zhongguancun Industrial Park in Tianjin, since November 2016

## TIANJIN TOUTS ITS TOP BUSINESS CLIMATE, COMPETITIVE STRENGTHS

### Port city continues to seek high-quality growth and lead way as major commercial center, Yang Cheng reports.

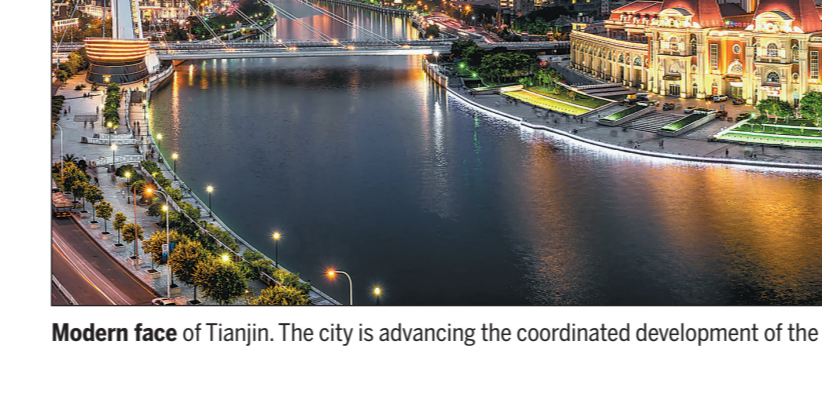
Known for its unique Chinese and Western architecture, and the relaxed way of life of its citizens, the northern port city of Tianjin is also making steady progress in strengthening its historic position of a hub of business growth. According to some recent reports evaluating Chinese cities' business environments released late last year, Tianjin has climbed higher relative to the progress made by any other city in China.



A park along the Haihe River in a central business district in Tianjin. The city boasts a friendly environment. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



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Modern face of Tianjin. The city is advancing the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

The city first gained its reputation as a key commercial center in the 19th century and a major trading port both domestically and internationally, and today hosts the Summer Days and Asia every two years, luring global business champions.

Amid an international trend of shrinking investment, South Korean electronics manufacturer Samsung announced early this year to invest a hefty \$2.4 billion in Tianjin, thanks in part to the city's favorable investment climate.

The Tianjin government is making continuous efforts to boost the city's competitive strengths across a range of economic and environmental areas, including artificial intelligence manufacturing, creating an ecological protection belt and playing a pivotal role in the coordinated development strategy of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.

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A fund of 30 billion yuan has been set up for the biopharmaceutical sector.

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Its presence is key in enhancing domestic strength in security and breaking overseas monopolies in the computing sector, industrial experts said.

To sharpen the sector's competitive edge, Tianjin is in close discussions with other market leaders in a bid to contribute more toward China's homegrown chips, cybersecurity and software.

Many companies are keenly interested in moving to Tianjin, partly because the city is riding high on the tide of China's integrated strategies to boost the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region in North China.

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