Haikou invests millions for complete makeover

By HAO NANN and HUANG YIMING

Haikou, the capital of Hainan province, has spruced up its sidewalks by planting new trees and flowers and brightened the walls of public buildings with watercolor paintings.

The aesthetic facelift is part of the city government’s efforts to build Haikou into a national demonstration city of urban civilization and clean environment within three years.

The project, which began on July 31, 2015, focuses on the construction and improvement of five major aspects: traffic order, public safety, city appearance, sanitation and public health in urban and rural areas, said Ni Qiang, mayor of Haikou.

Ni said the city government invested 400 million yuan ($60.86 million) to rebuild streets and alleys in old towns and districts at the start of the project.

It will spend another 300 billion yuan investing in industries, infrastructure construction and renovation of shanty towns.

In the past five months, it has handled 400,000 metric tons of cargo to cater to 35 million visitors and 59 parking aprons. The new 296,000-square-meter terminal of Haikou Port to build a 3,600-meter runway, a national-level civil aviation port to make Haikou a special tourism zone.

The airport also has flights to Singapore, Bangkok, Seoul, Hong Kong, Macao and Taipei.

There are also a number of passenger liners connecting Haikou with Southeast Asian cities.

On Nov 4, Star Cruises’ SuperStar Libra began a five-month season from Haikou Port. Many more liners have routes to Vietnam’s Ha Long Bay, Hue and Da Nang.

Haikou Vice-Mayor Sun Shiwen said the routes from Haikou Port are crucial waterways to attract more visitors to Haikou, increase travel spending in the city and help turn Haikou into a special tourism zone.

The project brought significant changes to Haikou after about five months of implementation.

The city aims to be a major tourist destination in Asia.

As tourism surges, city lays out transit welcome mat

By LI FUSHENG and ZENG YUQING

The authorities of Haikou, the capital of Hainan province, have made strides in improving the city’s transport infrastructure.

On Nov 18, the city began expanding Haikou Meilan International Airport to build a 3,600-meter runway and 296,000 square-meter terminal and 59 parking aprons.

Officials said the 14.4-billion-yuan project will enable the airport to cater to 35 million passengers and handle 400,000 metric tons of cargo each year.

The expansion plan comes at a right time when the number of international flights through the city is rising. Two flights to Japan opened on Dec 10, increasing the number of flights to Japan to four per week.

The airport also has flights to Singapore, Bangkok, Seoul, Hong Kong, Macao and Taipei.

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Second East Asia Summit Clean Energy Forum held in Haikou from Nov 18 to 19.

The city currently works on repairing and rebuilding 600 fire hydrants on main roads, with a goal of finishing this part of the plan by the end of 2017.

Sun Xinyang, Party chief of Haikou, said the government investment of a national-level civilized and hygienic city is to give residents a more comfortable and happier life.

An assessment system of the reconstruction will pay attention to residents’ living quality and their sense of happiness, Sun added.

The project brought significant changes to Haikou after about five months of implementation.

Alan Pears, a senior industry fellow at RMIT University, Australia, spoke highly of the city’s ecological environment when he attended the Second East Asia Summit Clean Energy Forum held in Haikou from Nov 18 to 19.

Nguyen Duc Cuong, another participant of the forum and head of the Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade, said Haikou is unlike many of China’s smog-choked cities.

He said he enjoyed the city’s fresh air, blue skies and green mountains.

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