

Hainan Special



With fresh air and blue skies, Haikou in Hainan province aims to provide residents a happier life. PHOTOS BY HUANG YIBING / FOR CHINA DAILY

Haikou invests millions for complete makeover

By HAO NAN
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 con-

struction 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

700 million yuan
investment for improving environment and infrastructure

rebuilt 832 streets and alleys, and is working on 26 roads.

The city repaired 4,159 manhole covers, more than 81,000 square meters of carriageways and 53,029 square meters of footpaths, demolished over 3.1 million square meters of illegal buildings and upgraded a farmers' market.

The city is currently working 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 goal of the construction 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.

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, a new 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 visitors 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, Macau 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 to Vietnam are crucial waterways to attract more visitors to Haikou, increase travel spending in the city and help turn Haikou into a special tourism zone.

He said city officials will also facilitate cultural and economic exchanges between China and countries in Southeast Asia and boost the image of Haikou as a major tourist destination in Asia.

On Nov 11, the Haikou Port Administration signed a memorandum with Malaysia's Port Klang Authority, a government agency that regulates and owns the Southeast Asian nation's largest port.

The move made Port Klang the first sister port of Haikou Port since authorities in Haikou began imple-



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

menting its 21st Century Maritime Silk Road strategy. According to the memorandum, the two sides will conduct in-depth exchanges and cooperation in port studies, staff training, information exchanges, technical support and cargo transport.

Port Klang is situated at the Strait of Malacca and is an important port

for China to promote its 21st Century Maritime Silk Road strategy. Haikou is also hosting sports events that are attracting international participants.

On Nov 19, more than 4,000 runners from Ethiopia, Ireland, Australia, Pakistan and the United States as well as China's Hong Kong and Taiwan, took part in a

beach marathon.

The city, which is the largest of its kind in Asia, hosted the beach marathon for the third consecutive year.

On Jan 10, the Haikou Marathon was successfully held in the city. A total of 10,038 athletes from 15 countries and regions attended the event.