Zhanjiang’s investment boom takes off

Iron, steel and petrochemical projects to transform port city, Li Wenfang reports.

E
tal projects related to the giant iron and steel complex on Donghai Island in Zhanjiang, Guangdong province, launched nearby on Thursday, 142 more expected to follow from this month.

The 1.729 billion yuan (53.9 million US dollars) from the projects is just part of the huge investment boom received by the port city of Zhanjiang for the construction of mammoth steel and petrochemical projects.

The first blast furnace of the steel plant on Donghai Island, owned by the country’s leading steel maker Baosteel Group, is scheduled to go into operation in September next year, said mayor Wang Zhongbing.

In Zhanjiang, Guangdong province, a 30 million ton steel industry-clustering park in Zhanjiang Economic and Technological Development Zone, which covers 30 square kilometers, went into use in April.

The city government plans to invest 10 billion yuan in the first phase of Guangdong petrochemical plant and a 30 million ton steel industry-clustering park in Zhanjiang Economic and Technological Development Zone, which covers 30 square kilometers, went into use in April.

The steel project in Zhanjiang is an example of economic structural adjustment, industrial upgrading and innovation-driven development, said Xu Ranghui, former president of the China Academy of Engineering (CAE), at a conference in Beijing in August.

He expressed the hope that the steel project would position itself as a producer of environmental and premium steel products, explore a new path to create a 50 square kilometer synergy and energy exchange clustering park in Zhanjiang.

The development on Donghai Island is a major breakthrough in circular economy demonstration zone.

The projects not only play a role in creating hydrogen from coke oven gas, air separation, subwayusage, circulating fluid and included in the building of a smart city.

The way, flows of energy, information, values and logistics will develop in a coordinat ed way, Guo said.

Hydrogen produced by the coke oven gas, which was wasted in the past, can be used by refineries and the two projects in Zhanjiang can realize reasonable distribution of the energy, said Yin Byun, an academician with CAE.

The hydrogen-rich coke oven gas is the best starting point in building the circular economy, Yin said.

He added that the operators of the two projects considered the price and supply stability to achieve win-win results.

Li Shangfeng, a senior member of the technology committee of Baosteel, and an academician of CAE, suggested the operators of the steel and petrochemical projects work together to calculate the recycling of coke oven gas so that the benefits and risks could be shared.

The circular economy plans should also include the treatment of industrial wastewater and should extend from individual enterprises to the entire society, with new sewage and garbage treatment and residual heat usage to be planned in a systematic way, said Wang Yake, a CAE academician.

Waste plastics, for example, can become raw materials for the blast furnace.

The petrochemical and steel projects should shoulder the social functions and build up sound circular development relationships with the city and its residents to win their support, Wang said.

Leading steel maker Baosteel Group’s project in Zhanjiang.

As an economic hub in western Guangdong province, Zhanjiang plans to offer supportive policies and investment environment for investors from home and abroad.

A committee was set up by the city government and the operators of both the projects to build a state-level circular economy demonstration zone.

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