

Jilin special

中國日報 CHINA DAILY



Briefly



Chinese and foreign participants attend the third "Talk About Jilin" meeting.
QIU ZHAOMIN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Expats find comfort in Jilin's hospitality

The third "Talk About Jilin" activity was launched in Northeast Normal University in Changchun, Jilin province, on April 20.

The government-organized activity asked expatriates in Jilin to share their views on the province in order to deepen mutual understanding between foreigners and locals and to help the government improve its governance.

Students from Mozambique, Vietnam, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States shared their views with Chinese students at the activity, which was attended by provincial government officials.

"I had heard of Jilin when I was a kid," said Russian Ipatenkova Yulia, who is a student in the province. "It was far and mysterious, and where China meets Russia. In my heart, it is a refreshing green place, like its grassland, farms and forest. Local people are nice."

Hong Seung Woo, a student from the ROK, said he has been studying in Jilin for the past eight years.

"Apart from the beautiful views, Jilin's fast economic growth is also impressive to me. I have made so many good friends here. Jilin has seen me grow up and it has created many beautiful memories for me."

Damission Celso Emilio, a student from Mozambique, and Mac Anh Dung, a student from Vietnam, praised Jilin's picturesque natural views, its cuisine, people and standard of living.

More than 8,000 foreigners from over 140 countries work or study in Jilin. More than 1,000 of these expats have shown their support or have directly participated in the "Talk about Jilin" activities.



A night view of the city of Jilin in Northeast China's Jilin province. Hadawan, an industrial base, is in the northern part of Jilin's old city. LIU BAOCHENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

HADAWAN WORKERS REJOICE IN AREA'S NEW VITALITY

Residents hope region can become a model for China's economy

By LIU MINGTAI
liumingtai@chinadaily.com.cn

"I am happy to see Hadawan regain its vitality," said Zhao Weili, a 54-year-old laid-off worker from a ferroalloy factory in Hadawan. "The previously dilapidated industrial zone is becoming a clean and tidy habitable community."

The area is in the northern part of old Jilin city, in Northeast China's Jilin province. It sits beside the Songhua River and at the foot of mountains. During the First Five-Year Plan (1953-57) and the Second Five-Year Plan (1958-62), Hadawan developed into an industrial base of national importance.

"Nearly 200 key industrial projects are located here. A job in Hadawan equates to a decent and enviable life in the city," Zhao said of the old days with his fellow workers. The four main industries in Hadawan are producing charcoal ink, ferroalloys, cement and paper.

However, enterprises in Hadawan started going bankrupt in large numbers from the 1990s. The large amount of unemployed workers,

out-of-date industrial and life infrastructures and the deteriorating environment in Hadawan made it a quasi-shantytown in the north of the city.

Jilin city needs bigger development space. Hadawan's closeness to the river and mountains makes it an ideal option to develop into a new urban area, suitable for emerging industries and housing.

The city government initiated the Hadawan transformation project in 2010. All existing factories were relocated in the Jinzhu industrial zone, 30 kilometers from Hadawan, making way for environmentally friendly emerging industries.

Chenming, a paper-making company, increased its annual production capacity from 180,000 metric tons to 300,000 tons after moving to the new industrial zone. With better infrastructure and ample space, the company imported advanced equipment to produce paper and minimize its environmental influence.

Zou Daming, the project office director, said: "Money is a big problem. The government obtained sufficient funds through granting the

investors land development rights in Hadawan."

The government invited city-planning experts from the United States to design the new Hadawan, and professional ecology restoration companies to treat the soil in Hadawan, as the former factories had contaminated the land with their waste.

Only after the soil was restored did the government start introducing cultural and tourism projects and real estate industries.

To control the noise generated by the Changchun-Jilin high-speed railway, which runs through Hadawan, the city government built soil slopes covered with thick wood and noise barriers on either side of the lines. The distance affected by the noise shrunk from 200 meters to 50 meters. The wood belt, 5-km long, is now a popular public park.

The government also relocated a road along the riverside further inside Hadawan. The new road has become a commercial zone, and the riverside has more space, which now forms a public park, giving Hadawan a picturesque view of the second-largest river in Northeast China.

New high-rise modern apartment buildings are scheduled to be finished soon to accommodate previous residents as well as newcomers. Not far from these residential communities are schools, hospitals, a city complex, an industrial heritage park that was built in the workshops of a cement factory, and office buildings.

"The relocation and transformation of old industrial bases will not only help restructure the economy, but also constitute an important growth point for the economy in Northeast China," said Sun Zhiming, an economist at the Jilin Provincial Academy of Social Sciences.

Zou said Hadawan's transformation project pays special attention to making use of what it had and turning unfavorable factors, such as the high-speed railway cutting through the area, into integral parts of the city.

All garbage is sorted in the new Hadawan and refuse that cannot be recycled is burned in a local power plant to generate energy.

Zou said he hopes Hadawan could become a model for similar projects in China.



Sun Xiaotian, an entrepreneur in Jilin, makes customized socks.
DING LUYANG / FOR CHINA DAILY

Upgrades help maker of socks find market success

By LIU MINGTAI

The Northeast China Sock Industry Park in Liaoyuan, Jilin province, is the largest cotton sock production base in China after 11 years of development. About 7 million pairs of cotton socks are transported to every corner of the world from the park each day.

The industry park has its own brands, whole-industry-chain services and strong research and development capabilities.

Sun Xiaotian, who returned from Japan in 2002, set up his own business in the industry park. His company is committed to producing customized socks, such as red socks folded in rose patterns to be used in traditional Chinese wedding ceremonies, and socks packaged as Christmas and birthday gifts.

"To win out in the competition, we need to not only control costs, but more importantly increase the value of the products," Sun said.

In the early development stage, many factories in the park operated as original equipment manufacturers. There was a lack of innovation or the ability to adapt to market changes. Many of them collapsed.

The industrial park administrative committee then set up a research and development center, providing new designs and updated market information to companies.

Wang Mingna, director of the R&D center, said her team is making socks with new nanomaterials.

"The socks can even 'breathe', and are wrinkle-free."

Her team is working on more than 20 kinds of socks made in new materials. The most expensive pair costs nearly 400 yuan (\$61.50).

The center is looking for all possible materials that can be used in the production of socks. The researchers often go to the United States and Japan to keep abreast with the latest market developments to understand the new trends.

With the help of e-commerce, for domestic orders of fewer than 100,000 pairs of sock, the companies ensure that their customers receive their products within seven days of receiving the orders. The whole process includes purchasing cotton, spinning, dyeing, weaving, packaging and transportation.

"All needs of the sock companies can be satisfied in an area with a diameter of several hundreds of meters in the park," said Tian Zhongjun, president of the industry park.

The central government earmarked Liaoyuan as one of the first batch of resource-depletion cities that must transform their economies in 2005, when the sock industry started taking off in the city.

Tian said a large number of related enterprises on the sock industry chain concentrate on the e-commerce platform. The internet will be an important driver to the future growth of the industry park.

Company reaps profit despite slower product demand

By LIU MINGTAI

China National Petroleum Corp's petrochemicals branch in Jilin was known as the Jilin Chemical Industry Co before it was merged with its current parent firm in 1998.

The Jilin Chemical Industry Co was built in 1954 as China's first large-scale chemical industry base, produced dyes, chemical fertilizers and calcium carbide.

Overcapacity in the industry, the economic slowdown and weakening market demand in the past three years have aggravated uncertainties and risks to the company's operation.

To overcome these difficulties, the company has raised its employees' awareness of possible crises, improved its management and boosted innovation.

Last year, the company processed 8 million metric tons of crude oil and 670,000 tons of ethylene. Its main business revenue reached 46.6 billion yuan (\$7.179 billion), and it paid 11.2 billion yuan in taxes, a steep rise of 32 percent year-on-year.

In the first quarter of this year, the company grabbed opportunities in the market's recovery to expand production. By the end of March, it had processed 2.24 million tons of crude oil, and 190,000 tons of ethylene. Its

main business income was 11.3 billion yuan and it paid 3.3 billion yuan in taxes, up 5 percent year-on-year.

The company lost 6.9 billion yuan in 2012. However, in the first three months of this year, the branch's profit from its refining and chemical businesses was 770 million yuan. During the same period last year, it lost 400 million yuan in those sectors.

General Manager Sun Shuzhen said: "State-owned companies should change their image of always incurring losses. Our workers are a dependable force. If the market environment remains as it is, our company can forever get rid of the situation of losing money."

Sun also said enterprises have no "right of existence" if they don't have new products.

The company ended its losses this year, after producing new products, such as Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, polyethylene pipe material and aviation kerosene. Its research and development team for ABS made key breakthroughs in production technology after more than 1,300 experiments last year. The company made 475 million yuan in profit from its ABS production.

The R&D team in the high alcohols factory found new ways to remove impurities and nitride



China National Petroleum Corp's petrochemicals branch in Jilin makes a profit in the first three months of this year, thanks to breakthroughs in production technology. LIU BAOCHENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

oxides in the processing of crude oil. Because of those findings, the company can produce aviation kerosene with higher added value. Di Hong, director of the factory, said: "The price of our aviation kerosene is 500 yuan more than that of 1 ton of diesel. The factory's sales revenue increased five times from 2013 to 2015. The high added-value product has saved the factory."

Qiu Ke, Party chief of the company, said: "The innovation concept

is ingrained in people's hearts in this venture. I cherish contributions from teamwork as well as individual employees, be it a technology innovation or a valuable suggestion."

Qiu said the company will upgrade its utility boilers to make them more environmentally friendly, make the gas they produce cleaner and replace ethylene glycol with ethylene oxide. He said the company will focus on the research and development of new technologies

and products, and the upgrading of production facilities. According to Qiu, the company's target this year is to process 9.1 million tons of crude oil and 800,000 tons of ethylene. Its main business revenue is expected to reach 60 billion yuan, with a net profit of more than 1.5 billion yuan and 13 billion yuan in tax paid.

"Meanwhile, there should be no serious job-related accidents, and no environmental pollution incidents," Qiu said.