

# CHINA

## Plan sets 'red line' for key river basin

Comprehensive protection of Yangtze to be basically in place by next year

The first national-level territorial space plan tailored to a specific river basin was recently approved by the State Council, China's Cabinet, a senior environmental and territorial planning official said on Thursday.

"The plan provides comprehensive guidance and oversight for the protection, development, utilization and restoration of the spatial area in the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the Yangtze River Basin, acting as an important basis for local authorities to lay down and carry out spatial plans at all levels," Miao Ze, deputy director of the Ministry of Natural Resources' territorial space planning bureau, told a news conference.

The plan covers the land territory, inland waters and related territorial waters of the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the Yangtze River Basin. The land area of 2.4 million square kilometers includes 11 provinces or municipalities in the Yangtze River Economic Belt and some county-level administrative regions in eight other provincial-level regions in the Yangtze River Basin. In total, it covers 1,173 county-level administrative regions.

Upholding the principle of China's first national territorial space plan, issued in 2022, Miao said that management of the ecological environment, arable land, permanent basic farmland, and urban and rural development should be subject to a "red line" to protect food production and the area's ecological, geological, cultural and historical features.

The plan said that by 2035, the ecological conservation red line in the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the Yangtze River Basin should cover an area of no less than 806,600 sq km, and the area of arable land should be no less than 400,000 sq km, with a minimum of 330,000 sq km designated as permanent basic farmland. Urban development should be confined to an area of 79,700 sq km.

Miao said the comprehensive protection of the Yangtze River will be basically in place by next year, with inter-regional coordination along the river notably improved. By 2035, China is expected to establish an economic belt that is healthy, tranquil, beautiful, well-connected, pros-

perous, habitable and distinctive.

The development of the Yangtze River Basin should be tailored to local conditions to establish modern, efficient and high-quality agricultural areas, making it a key region for national food security and a model area for agricultural modernization and rural vitalization, the plan said.

One area of focus is the protection of prime farmland in areas along the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River and in the Sichuan Basin to consolidate the proportion of arable land in the Yangtze River Basin in the national total and reinforce its role as a cornerstone of the nation's food reserves. The plan also encouraged the leverage of regional characteristics to develop a diverse food supply system, such as fostering distinctive agricultural practices in hilly and mountainous areas, and developing marine ranches based on fishery resources.

The region's population and economic output account for about half the national totals, and Miao said the plan would help drive the coordinated development of the Yunnan-Guizhou-Sichuan-Chongqing region, the middle reaches of the Yangtze River and the Yangtze River Delta region.

The plan called for the creation of a high-tech industry hub based on urban clusters, metropolitan areas and central cities to advance the establishment of a new development pattern, with strict restrictions to be imposed on the establishment of new chemical industries along the river.

The plan also incorporated the protection and inheritance of the Yangtze River culture, proposing the exploration of multiple natural heritage values and the integration of the Yangtze River's natural landscape, historical culture and urban-rural living spaces.

"The enactment and execution of the plan will undoubtedly be instrumental in furthering the high-quality development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt, assisting in the establishment of a new development pattern, and promoting the comprehensive construction of a modernized socialist nation," Miao said.

CHINA DAILY

## Bridge brings revelers



People gather at the Taiping bridge in Quanjiao county, Anhui province, to watch a parade and folk cultural performances on Sunday. The traditional folk event, called *zoutaiping*, kicks off on the 16th day of the first lunar month. It features a procession crossing the bridge, along with a splendid array of folk performances. LIU YUCAI / FOR CHINA DAILY

## Park forum exemplifies democracy

By ZHOU WENTING in Shanghai  
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A recent public discussion in southwest Shanghai's Minhang district, where more than 300 community representatives gathered to talk about preparations for the district's largest park to be open around the clock, was the latest example of whole-process people's democracy in the city.

The discussion on Jan 29 focused on how to enable 24-hour access to Minhang Culture Park, which is nearly the size of 120 soccer fields. Issues addressed included how to designate the park areas to be open at night, how to ensure visitors' safety and how to provide the best visitor experience at nighttime.

Along with local legislators and political advisers, participants also included representatives from the district government, media, the park authority and academia. Some representatives of nearby residential areas, schools and commercial areas also took part in the three-hour discussion.

It was organized by the district's legislative body and political advisory body with the aim of putting whole-process people's democracy into practice and collecting people's ideas and wisdom to better make decisions related to public affairs.

Shanghai Mayor Gong Zheng said in late January that becoming a park city is not simply a matter of building more parks, but means

turning the city into a large-scale park and striving to realize the unbounded integration of parks and urban space.

Shanghai opened another 162 parks — including pocket parks — last year, bringing the city's total to 832. It aims to have 1,000 parks by the end of next year.

Parks have been encouraged to better integrate sports, culture and tourism functions, and to extend opening hours. More than 60 percent of the parks in the city are now open around the clock.

Many participants looked forward to the nonstop operation of the park in Minhang in the near future.

"A large proportion of the enterprises in our industrial park are internet businesses, where employees usually work overtime," said Zhang Baoqin, from the asset operations department of the Qibao Ecological Business District. "After getting off work, they have a strong fitness demand to keep healthy in both mind and body.

"When I go to a park at night, I feel it's quite different from the daytime. It is quieter when I run, and the smell of plants and trees is fresh. I feel like I'm deep in a natural environment."

Liu Jun, deputy head of Qibao town, where the park is located, said: "A park is like a furniture piece in a city, similar to a chair or a table in someone's home. It's abnormal that the duration of our use of a fur-

niture piece is limited every day."

Guidelines released by the Shanghai Landscaping and City Appearance Administrative Bureau in December advocated 24-hour access to parks to benefit residents.

Qin Chang, who hosts a Shanghai Radio Station program that regularly discusses civic topics, said that tearing down parks' walls and lifting time limits "means a shift from the mindset of public administration to community governance".

To boost safety and convenience at night, some participants in the discussion suggested adding lights and fences around lakes, and said restrooms needed to be accessible at night.

"Amusement facilities must be powered off and boats must be locked on the shore after sunset, and relevant notices need to be clearly shown at park entrances," said Lu Weirong, a manager from Shanghai Shenzhou Greenery Co, which supports the operations of multiple parks.

"Park visitors at night must also maintain good public order. Activities that produce noise and disturb residents nearby, such as square dancing, must be refrained from."

In October, Yangpu became one of the city's first districts to operate its 18 district-level parks around the clock. To strike a balance between the needs of park visitors and nearby residents, parts of the parks close to residential areas are closed from 6 pm to 6 am.

### Briefly

#### Yellow alert renewed for low temperatures

A yellow alert for low temperatures in vast areas of the country was renewed by China's national observatory on Sunday. From Sunday morning to 8 am Wednesday, the lowest daily temperatures in some regions, including parts of Guizhou province, the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region and the Sichuan Basin, will be 5 to 7 C lower than the historical average for this time of year, according to the National Meteorological Center. Other areas, including parts of the provinces of Hubei and Hunan and the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, will see their minimum daily temperatures drop over 7 C below the historical average for late February, according to the center.

#### 4 rescued after boat sinks off Zhejiang

Four people were rescued after a Chinese fishing boat sank near the coast of East China's Zhejiang province on Saturday morning, local authorities said. The vessel, carrying 12 people, sank in the East China Sea at around 1 am on Saturday, the East China Sea Rescue Bureau of the Ministry of Transport said. Search and rescue operations are continuing.

XINHUA

### FROM THE FRONTLINE

## Young artist helps further inner painting tradition

By YANG ZEKUN  
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Seated at her desk and holding a brush in her right hand, Li Shaoyue completes an exquisite miniature ink painting on the inside of a glass bead.

The 30-year-old from Zibo, Shandong province, has been working as an inner painter since 2015.

Inner painting, a traditional art in China that involves painting in reverse, is a national-level intangible cultural heritage that uses materials such as glass, crystal and amber as a base. Artists use special, fine brushes that can enter tiny containers to create their paintings.

With a history of over 200 years, inner painting is mainly divided into four major schools: Beijing, Hebei, Shandong and Guangdong.

Li, a fifth-generation inheritor of the Shandong or Lu school, learned the skills from her father, Li Huitong, a master of traditional Chinese arts and crafts.

An introverted child, Li Shaoyue started learning how to sketch in primary school. In college, she majored in traditional Chinese painting in Jingdezhen, Jiangxi province. After graduation, she decided to focus on inner painting after giving it considerable thought. She said that besides her love of

drawing, her father's artistic career had a significant influence on her pursuit of painting.

"I saw my father doing this since I was a child and knew that his journey was not easy because he couldn't hear since childhood due to illness, making many things inconvenient," she said. "I also particularly wanted to inherit his profession because I knew that fewer young people were continuing to learn inner painting, and if it were to be discontinued here, it would be a pity."

Li Shaoyue said inner painting is different from other forms of painting. Even with a foundation in painting, one must start from scratch with line practice when transitioning to inner painting.

With a background in traditional Chinese painting, she helped with some color work in her family's studio while she was at college, and her study gave her a relatively strong wrist, the key to ensuring smooth lines in inner painting.

Li Shaoyue started to create some relatively simple finished products that could be sold in stores after about four months of intense practice.

Zhang Luhua, a fourth-generation inheritor of the Lu school of inner painting from Zibo, said the production of inner painting is

demanding, requiring extremely high precision. During painting, there is no sketching or room for corrections. Only those skilled and confident in their abilities can handle it proficiently.

Zhang, 45, began learning inner painting in 1992. His father, Zhang Guangqing, also a master of traditional Chinese arts and crafts, had a significant impact on his painting career.

Zhang said inner painting relies on wrist strength, because a trembling hand leads to mistakes.

"Training was very tedious," he said. "When my hand trembled, I would bite my wrist. If it hurt, it would stop trembling. It took me about a year of training before my hand stopped trembling, and then I began drawing various lines."

As he learned more about inner painting, Zhang realized he needed further education in painting. Over the next two decades, he pursued studies at the Nanjing University of the Arts, the Central Academy of Fine Arts, the China National Academy of Painting, Tsinghua University and Renmin University of China.

Both inner painting and Chinese painting have similar standards, but they have different forms of expression, he said.

"The Shandong school of painting

did not arise from one person but a group of people," Zhang said. "To truly become a school of painting, the group had to incorporate Shandong's inherent culture into its landscapes."

Inner painting has its advantages due to its uniqueness, he said, but also has disadvantages in the lack of a market and a shortage of learners and talented artists to drive its development.

One peculiar inner painting phenomenon is that only snuff bottles have foreign collectors and collector groups. Many collectors contact artists directly to purchase and collect high-quality works. The remaining mid- to low-end works flow into the mass market, he said.

Li Shaoyue now works in her father's studio. She can create up to five pieces a month for sale in the store, and spends the rest of her time conceiving and creating exhibition pieces.

The studio's operation was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but when large numbers of tourists flocked to Zibo to eat barbecue last year, its business improved.

The first artwork Li Shaoyue sold was a complex figure painting. Her mother helped her sell it for over 2,000 yuan (\$278) at an exhibition in Jinan, Shandong, in 2016. Li Shaoyue was delighted to have her



Li Huitong exchanges insights into inner painting with daughter Li Shaoyue in Zibo, Shandong province, on Jan 24. WANG JING / CHINA DAILY

work recognized by the market.

"I want inner painting to be more integrated into our lives," she said. "It originated from snuff bottles, and it has passed its peak period. Now, I am sharing the painting techniques via social media platforms to make more people aware of inner painting, trying to make everyone recognize inner painting as the main focus, rather than just recognizing it in the form of snuff bottles."

The most marketable patterns are landscapes, followed by flowers and birds. Flowers and birds are priced lower than landscapes and figures because they are easier to paint. Figures mainly focus on auspicious themes, she said.

The process of creating inner painting products is relatively long,

and their price is usually higher than other handmade products, ranging from hundreds of yuan to tens of thousands. Without prior fame, an artist's works may not be readily accepted by the market, she said.

Building upon traditional inner painting mediums, Li Shaoyue has also ventured into creating inner paintings on accessories. Many of the bead accessories she paints are purchased and worn by enthusiasts of *hanfu*, traditional Chinese-style clothing, resulting in high market acceptance.

"I hope that more young people will join inner painting, such as starting it on campus as an elective course," she said. "I wish the market would put more focus on such techniques."