Ruzhou rejuvenates ceramic industry

By LIU XIANGUI
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The 2015 China Skills Competition, which included the first Ceramic Molding Skills Competition in Henan province and the final of the Henan provincial competition for ceramic hand molding, opened on August 29 in Ruzhou, in western Henan.

More than 100 ceramicists from regions including Henan and Shandong provinces competed in the three-day event.

The competition included theoretical tests, onsite hand crafting and evaluation of the finished pieces. Contestants demonstrated their skills in painting on ceramic bases, sculpting, hand throwing and ceramic design.

Six national-level ceramic experts judged the contestants’ works.

The competition hoped to discover talented artists and boost the inheritance and innovation of ceramic art.

“The event can serve as a platform for ceramicists to improve their skills through competition, and create a healthy development environment for the ceramic industry,” said Wang Aichun, chairman of the ceramic industry, “The event can serve as a Good start of the development of ceramic enterprises to establish factories in Ruzhou, according to Gao.

As the mainland and the island intend to boost the development of the Internet Plus and e-commerce industries, the city is seeking opportunities to strengthen cooperation with major Internet platforms including Alibaba and JD.com.

Ruzhou will leverage international trading and online auctions to boost the integration of ceramic-related tourist and cultural industries and e-commerce to turn the modern ceramic sector into Ruzhou’s pillar and brand industry, according to Gao.

Ruzhou, Henan province, has a rich history, myriad cultural resources and many scenic attractions. According to historians, people lived in Ruzhou as far back as 500,000 or 600,000 years ago. It is one of the birthplaces of the famous Yangshao and Longshan cultures.

A pottery jar unearthed in Ruzhou and painted with the pattern of a stork holding a fish in its mouth is the earliest and most complete painted earthenware in China. More than 6,000 years old, it was included in the first list of 64 relics forbidden to be taken outside China by the nation’s top cultural authority.

Ruzhou has made great efforts to maintain the brand of Ru Ceramic, according to Gao. Party chief of Ruzhou city, who addressed the opening ceremony, the event will further enhance Ruzhou’s ceramic industry and facilitate economic and cultural exchanges between the city and other regions.

Gao said Ruzhou has put emphasis on boosting its ceramic industry since the beginning of the year. Taking advantage of its good foundations and leading position in the production of Ru Ceramic, the city has made modern ceramics the leading sector to upgrade its industries.

The city has planned a Ru Ceramic e-commerce industrial park near its Yanhedian trial park.

The local government reached agreements with several enterprises to speed up the development of the park through Build-Operate-Transfer and Public-Private-Partnership models.

A ceramic identification center, a tourist service center, a Ru Ceramic masters garden, a museum and an e-commerce center are under construction in the park.

The park is expected to attract local Ru Ceramic factories, producers of other ceramics and national-level ceramic experts. The park is expected to help achieve industrialized production of two types of Ru Ceramic, high-edged art pieces and artistic pieces for daily use.

More than 80 Ru Ceramic enterprises in the city have agreed to move into the park so far.

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Fenghuang special

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By LUI XIANGGUI

Henan’s once vital base for Chinese ceramics

Ruzhou and painted with the pattern of a stork holding a fish in its mouth is the earliest and most complete painted earthenware in China. More than 6,000 years old, it was included in the first list of 64 relics forbidden to be taken outside China by the nation’s top cultural authority. The site in Ruzhou is the official kiln site of the Northern Song Dynasty (960–1127) and at the time an important production base of Ru Ceramics. The site is located on the axis of the famous Song Dynasty Imperial family. Its development is important to the historic development of ceramics in China. The kiln site is the only national intangible cultural heritage in Henan province.

Ruzhou is now the professional venue in China to collect and exhibit Ru porcelains. More than 6,000 years old, it was included in the first list of 64 relics forbidden to be taken outside China by the nation’s top cultural authority.

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