**Jining develops IT industry in bid to rival ‘Silicon Valley’**

By **LIYANG**

Jining, Shandong province, has put into practice the development of its information industry and plans to energize it with 10 billion yuan ($1.5 billion) worth of investment this year, said Li Ping, party chief of Jining.

“We are building Jining into a new IT industry development base with its competitive advantage in public service facilities, which drive innovation and training to rival ‘Silicon Valley’,” Li said.

In 2014, the city’s GDP reached 81.9 billion yuan, 9.8 percent growth from a year before. In the first three quarters of 2015, the industrial added-value of large-scale enterprises saw an increase of 8.3 percent, ranking ninth in the province, of which IT industries saw a growth of 20 percent, indicated a good result for the full year. The city was selected to be in the first batch of provincial IT pioneers, as well as the information industry base for the national Beidou Navigation Satellite System.

The Jining National High-Tech Industrial Development Zone is the nucleus of its high-tech industries, including information industry, to make it a technology research, development, production, teaching and research base, creative design center and IT and science and technology park.

Li said the city introduced new policies this March that upgrade the business environment for IT industries. These include favorable policies and adjustments that choose to invest in Jining.

As an official of the investment office of Jining, Xu Tingfu, an official at the investment office of Jining, pointed out that Jining is the hometown of ancient Chinese sages Confucius and Mencius. A national high-tech industrial park has been established in the high-tech zone of Jining.

Sixteen colleges and research institutions have joined the union and will coordinate with each other to drive the development of IT industry. Currently, high-tech industries have already surpassed the manufacturing sector in terms of growth rate.

In addition, the city government has already finished constructing its business center in Jining. With 14 net companies joining it, the center is expected to be the data center of southwest Shandong province. Guo has already put into practice its comprehensive-cloud service platform.

The core function of this platform includes cloud registration for its users, a core virtualization laboratory, a research center for the Institute of Computer Science and the Xin Siyu Culture and Leisure Prize. These put forward new targets and policies to drive the development of the industry.

In addition, the Institute of Computer Science and the Xin Siyu Culture and Leisure Prize will be held during the festival. The city government will open on Sept 26 in the Great Canal Cultural and leisure Prize will be held during the festival. The city government will open on Sept 26 in the Great Canal Cultural and Leisure Arts Centre, bringing new life to this old city.

**Introduction of Jining**

The city is located, as avo. of 1200 square kilometers, in the southwest of Shandong province. It is well known as the birthplace of ancient Chinese sages Confucius and Mencius. A national high-tech industrial park has been established in the high-tech zone of Jining. Sixteen colleges and research institutions have joined the union and will coordinate with each other to drive the development of the IT industry. Currently, high-tech industries have already surpassed the manufacturing sector in terms of growth rate.

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