



Ligong Causeway, the only long dike along the Jinji Lake in the Suzhou Industrial Park, is the first commercial street with distinctive Chinese features in Suzhou.

By ZHOU FURONG

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The opening of the 14th China-Singapore Joint Steering Council Meeting is held today in Suzhou Industrial Park in the city of Suzhou, Jiangsu province.

The industrial park, which marked its 18th anniversary this year, provides a perfect platform for cooperation between the two nations, said local officials.

The park is co-developed through a collaboration between the governments of China and Singapore.

Over the last 18 years, the industrial park has served as a pilot project for China's reform and opening-up.

Since the 13th China-Singapore Joint Steering Council Meeting in 2011, the industrial park has been following the guidelines of the council and pushing forward new initiatives in terms of socio-economic development and

improving the partnership between China and Singapore, said the park's director of its administrative committee Yang Zhiping.

The park's growth has maintained strong momentum during recent years.

In 2011, it recorded a regional general budgetary income of 16.4 billion yuan, \$1.94 billion in newly added actual use of foreign investment, and a total trade volume of \$77 billion.

The industrial park has developed a diversified economy, and it has now entered a stage of transformation and upgrades.

A batch of key programs and emerging industrial projects has been launched, including Samsung's high liquid crystal panel, and nano-technology has also witnessed rapid growth as a prioritized sector.

The industrial park's Dongsha Lake Equity Investment Center has become the only national "Venture Capital

Center of the Top 1,000 Program". The regional service-centered economy continues to grow rapidly, with the incremental value of the service industry accounting for 35.7 percent of the GDP in 2011.

In terms of science and innovation, the park has strong vitality.

In 2011, the park's total number of newly added science and technology projects reached 630, ranking first in Suzhou.

Financial input in the science and technology sector further increased, with investment in R&D accounting for 4.6 percent of the GDP. This investment has paid dividends in terms of an increase in the amount of patented technology coming out of the park.

"Innovative professionals continue to flock to the park, which is taking a lead among the development zones nationwide in terms of talent attraction," Yang said.

Its urban construction is

also in full swing. Based on the premise of building a comprehensive business city, the design of Huxi CBD will be further optimized, the construction of Jinji Lake Financial and Trade Zone, Yangcheng Lake Resort, Moon Bay Business District and other key districts will be accelerated, and a batch of high-rises and ultra-high buildings will be built, the director noted.

Furthermore, the regional ecological environment will be continuously optimized.

The social undertakings of the park are also a highlight.

The industrial park's archives and cultural center are honored as National Grade-A Venues.

A group of schools, hospitals, supermarkets, galleries, museums as well as tourist and leisure amenities have been completed and put into service.

The social security system is being further improved and the integration of governance over districts and townships has been accelerated.

The park is thankful for the experiences it has gained from Singapore, according to management.

The park sent 188 professional managers to Singapore to attend software training, and two biology and nanometer technicians to JTC Corporation of Singapore for on-the-job training in science and technology carrier planning, construction and management, effectively propelling the second round of startup development in the park and marking a new success of its strategy to go global.

Premier Wen Jiabao once said that Suzhou Industrial Park has "kept its characteristics throughout the cooperation, made developments in practice, achieved innovation in the reference, made great achievements and accumulated rich experience". He hopes the park will "play a key pilot and experimental role in the overall development of southern Jiangsu."

## Suzhou Industrial Park strong at 18

By ZHOU FURONG

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Eighteen years is time enough for an infant to grow into an adult, and it is also plenty of time for an experimental industrial park to mature into a prosperous new district.

Over the years, the Suzhou Industrial Park has emerged as a marvelous new town within a city that is capable of attracting businesses and entrepreneurs from around the world. In the colorful days of May, the Suzhou Industrial Park holds a series of activities to celebrate its annual anniversary.

As it marks this grand anniversary, there is much good news to encourage people, entrepreneurs and government leaders within the park.

Suzhou Center, a new city complex in the industrial park, broke ground on May 20.

According to the blueprint, Suzhou Center covers 21.1 hectares and the floor area totals more than 18.2 million square meters.

Ten skyscrapers will be constructed in the future, two of which will be 450 and 500 meters high, respectively.

The total investment is expected to amount to 28.5 billion yuan, and the construction is to be completed by the end of June 2017.

Because of its unique location in the west of the Jinji Lake, Suzhou Center enjoys

the convenience brought by the development of transportation in the Suzhou Industrial Park, especially the Metro Line No 1 and Line No 5.

Besides that, hotels, shopping malls and other facilities will be constructed as well. Suzhou Center will be the biggest city complex in China in the near future, and it will also bring prosperity to the service industry of the Suzhou Industrial Park.

On the morning of May 20, department store Shinkong Mitsukoshi broke ground on a new location in the park, and it will welcome its first customers in 2014.

Shinkong Mitsukoshi is a leading retail chain brand in Taiwan.

After two decades of constant efforts, it continues to innovate and offer a pleasant shopping experience.

The Shinkong Mitsukoshi Suzhou Industrial Park store is to be located at the center of Jinji Lake business district, with a total floor area of 162,000 square meters dedicated to general merchandise shopping and offices.

In addition, to celebrate its 18th anniversary, the park organized on May 20 a joint contract-signing and opening ceremony at the SIPAC Building.

China Mobile Jiangsu unveiled a plaque for its e-business base, and the park's government signed contracts with 18 high-tech projects,



The two towers of the Oriental Gate, a new landmark building, were merged together at the top earlier this year. It is expected to become the highest building in Suzhou.

including Sepax Technologies and UNIHZ Technologies.

Also, 14 projects in emerging sectors, including Tongcheng and Snail, were announced at the ceremony. All these projects add up to a total of 46 billion yuan.

Huang Xueying of Sepax Technologies, Zhang Pengfei of Beken Corporation, and Jiang Biwang of Nano-Micro Biotech, recognized by the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee as Three Global Experts, said the Suzhou Industrial Park was the first choice for their business startups.

Officials also announced at the grand celebration ceremony that the Suzhou Industrial Park now has more than 4,600 multinational enterprises and 250 R&D centers.

The Suzhou Dushu Lake Education Innovation Park Administrative Committee and the National Library Board of Singapore



International staff members of companies in the Suzhou Industrial Park participate in a marathon.

announced the official opening of the China-Singapore Window on the morning of May 24 at Dushu Lake Library.

The cooperation program integrates several functions of literature search, exchanges, exhibitions, research, and consultancy services.

The two parties signed a long-term memorandum and

agreed to extensive cooperation in data exchange, content development and HR communication.

The project was initiated last year, and the China-Singapore Theme Literature Center will also serve as an important platform for studying and introducing the experience of the industrial park.

## SIP leads others in going global

By ZHOU FURONG in Suzhou, Jiangsu  
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After 18 years of development, the Suzhou Industrial Park in Jiangsu province has evolved from a concept on paper into a mature powerhouse capable of driving the surrounding economy.

Learning from the experiences of developed countries has been a shortcut to success for many economic zones in China. Formed through a partnership between China and Singapore, the Suzhou Industrial Park has been hailed as a successful model for cooperation between nations.

### Outside assistance

In 1994, the administrators of the industrial park selected nine young experts to go to Singapore to benefit from the country's vast experience in urban planning and management.

The success of the industrial park can be viewed as a result of the cooperation between China and Singapore. And the so-called Singaporean model has proven fruitful.

Since it first began to take shape, the park has borrowed from the experience of Singapore in three aspects: modern urban planning, construction and management; the development of an export-oriented economy; and social public administration, said its administrative committee director Yang Zhiping.

The park has absorbed many of the best features of the Singaporean model in terms of the objective and development pattern, which has pushed the industrial park to become increasingly integrated into the global economic system.

During the last 10 years, more than 2,000 people from the industrial park have been sent to Singapore to receive training, and every one of these was shocked by the meticulousness and rigor as well as scientific and humanized attitude of the Singaporeans.

There still are many things for the leadership of the industrial park to learn from the Singaporean model, as it guides the development of the park in the future.

The park is the biggest cooperative project between the governments of China and Singapore as well as an important window for China's opening-up and reform and a successful paradigm of international cooperation.

It is also one of the fastest-developing and most globally competitive development zones in the world.

The concepts taken from Singapore's model have become the foundation for the park's strategy of going global.

### Going global

In 2010, Jiang Hongkun, having just been appointed Party secretary of Suzhou City Committee, embarked on an investigation of the industrial park.

After listening carefully to the introduction of the park's development, he said "the experiences and management model of the industrial park should be effectively expanded to the entire city."

"We should also widen our vision to let this model be applied in Jiangsu and other places in China as well," he said.

Relying on its 18 years of experience, the park is now driving its own development rather than relying on outside forces.

The experience of the Singaporean model has been internalized by the industrial park and is now ready for export.

The establishment of the Suzhou-Suqian Industrial Park in 2006 symbolized the beginning of the Suzhou Industrial Park's going global strategy.

"With the development and upgrading of industries, the park itself cannot meet the increasing demands, thus new areas are required to carry on the development," said the person in charge of the industrial park's asset administration office, who declined to be named. As a result, "linked development" with other regions came into being.

"The intercity urban development was the culmination of the industrial park's 18-year development because it has both absorbed the external experiences and taken into consideration local conditions," the person said.

"It is a 'high-speed railway' of regional economic development and also an ideal way to explore more external opportunities," he said.

Another example of intercity cooperation happened in late 2011, when an agreement was signed in Hefei, Anhui province, to build the Suzhou-Chuzhou Modern Industrial Park project through the joint efforts of the Suzhou Industrial Park and the municipal government of Chuzhou.

The signing of the project agreement marked the start of construction on an Anhui version of the Suzhou Industrial Park. The Anhui park covers 36 sq km and has investments totaling 10 billion yuan (\$1.6 billion).

The industrial park was the largest project proposal Chuzhou has ever introduced, and was expected to drive a regional investment of 130 billion yuan.

As a leader among similar economic zones, the Suzhou park has had no other examples to follow during its efforts to go global, and the industrial park has to test each step before actually taking it. All models for going global, whether government-backed or market-based, have to be rolled out gradually.

The Suzhou-Suqian Industrial park has become a new model for trans-regional cooperation, and the Su-Tong Science and Technology Park has become a paradigm for commercial cooperation.

“Since it first began to take shape, the park has borrowed from the experience of Singapore in three aspects: modern urban planning, construction and management; the development of an export-oriented economy; and social public administration.”

YANG ZHIPING  
DIRECTOR OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SUZHOU INDUSTRIAL PARK