

City promotes marine economy

By **JU CHUANJIANG** and **WANG QIAN** in Yantai

The coastal city of Yantai has seen rapid growth in marine industries since the Shandong Peninsula Marine Economic Zone development program became a part of the nation's overall development strategy in January last year.

“The marine strategy is a great opportunity for the coastal city and sets a new trend for its economic development. We are stepping up efforts to foster emerging industries and hope to take the lead in developing a marine economy,” Yantai Mayor Wang Liang said.

The mayor said the annual revenue from Yantai's marine sectors increased from 54.8 billion yuan to 126.5 billion yuan from 2006 to 2010, an average annual growth rate of 18.2 percent.

Over the last year, marine industry revenue grew by 16.2 percent over 2010 levels and reached 148 billion yuan. The industry accounted for around 30 percent of the city's GDP.

Its ports along the Yellow Sea handled a total of 240 million tons of bulk cargo

and 1.7 million containers in 2011.

Over the next five years, the city is planning for the further development of its ports and port-related industries, Wang said. Officials aim to make it a global center for marine science and technology as well as a regional shipping hub connecting China, Japan and South Korea.

The mayor said Yantai also strives to become a world-class coastal resort and an eco-friendly city.

Obvious advantages

Yantai has a number of obvious advantages that will allow the city to lead the nation's marine industries.

It has a 900-kilometer coastline, the second-longest coastal area of all of Shandong's cities, and a 26,000-square-kilometer sea area that is nearly twice the size of Yantai's land area.

Its advantages in terms of ports, coastline, islands, biology and mining mean the city's marine economy has great potential, Wang said.

Taking advantage of its marine resources, the city has now established a competi-

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WANG LIANG
MAYOR OF YANTAI



tive marine industrial system focused on aquaculture, fishing, marine equipment manufacturing, modern logistics as well as ocean energy and minerals.

To date, a total of 500 billion yuan has been allocated to develop a range of ocean-related projects, including a large-scale production base for marine equipment in Penglai, a research center for nuclear power facilities and a national wind energy base on Changdao Island with an installed capacity of 1 million kilowatts, Wang said.

To spur its marine sectors, the city needs more business

exchanges and cooperation with overseas companies, especially global giants in the fields of marine biology, equipment manufacturing, information technology, environmental protection and ocean-based transportation, Wang said.

In 2011, the city attracted foreign investment totaling \$23.3 billion, 80 percent of which was spent to modernize its marine sectors. A large number of foreign-funded companies have become powerful engines for the development of the city's marine economy, such as South Korea's Daewoo

Shipbuilding and Singapore's Raffles Shipyard.

The city is looking to develop modern logistics facilities that will enable it to act as a portal to the Northeast Asian countries. A total of 55 new berths will be built in the next few years, involving an investment of 24.8 billion yuan. The annual throughput of its ports is projected to reach 300 million tons by 2015.

New economic zone

Leaders at the provincial and city level have prioritized the construction of a new economic zone for marine industries on the eastern coast of the city.

Covering a total area of nearly 600 sq km, the zone is expected to become a marine industry powerhouse for the entire Shandong Peninsula. It includes an advanced marine industry cluster, a national technology-transfer center and a coastal tourist resort.

By 2016, Yantai's marine sectors will generate an estimated 300 billion yuan worth of revenue and will grow annually by 20 percent.

To reach the goal, the city's authorities will continue to look for high-caliber personnel from at home and abroad through a series of preferential policies and services.

The Yantai government is also encouraging local fishing and aquaculture companies to closely cooperate with research institutions.

Wang said strict measures will be taken to balance economic development and marine environmental protection. To date, 46 projects have been implemented to restore fishery resources.

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Mayor: Yantai's growth to exceed nat'l average

By **ZHAO RUIXUE** in Yantai
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Economic growth in Yantai in eastern China's coastal Shandong province will be well above the national average in 2012, the city's mayor said.

While Premier Wen Jiabao predicted the nation's GDP will grow by about 7.5 percent this year, Yantai is expecting an 11.5 percent increase, Yantai Mayor Wang Liang said.

The forecast was made at the recent Yantai People's Congress held on Feb 10. In 2011, its GDP was about 490 billion yuan.

Wang said the government aims for its financial revenues, fixed-asset investments, total retail value of consumer goods, and foreign trade to grow by 15 percent, 18 percent, 16 percent and 10 percent in 2012.

Besides, the Yantai government will work to improve living standards and raise incomes of urban and rural residents by 12 percent.

In addition, the registered unemployment rate and consumer price index are expected to be kept below 3.5 percent and 4 percent, respectively.

To achieve these goals, the city government proposed several measures designed to stimulate demand and increase consumer purchasing power.

The mayor predicts the total retail value of consumer goods will reach 187.5 billion yuan this year.

Throughout 2012, a total of 340 billion yuan will be invested in 195 large projects in Yantai. The government will use preferential policies to guide private investment to flow into affordable housing.

The mayor said at least 6,400 new affordable apartments will be available for rent this year.

To improve economic structure, the government will strengthen its support to five emerging industries: new energies, new materials, bio-technology, advanced equipment manufacturing, and information technology. Meanwhile, it will consolidate the five traditional sectors of machinery, electronics, food, gold mining and chemistry.

In the field of modern services, the government will place emphasis on tourism. The coastal city is expected to welcome a total of 45 million tourists this year.

Wang said the focus of agriculture will be on building modern farming facilities and developing safe and high-quality products.

He said the government will also give incentives for high-tech companies to improve their R&D capacity. The city is expected to have at least 180 technology companies by the end of this year.

Yantai's authorities also seek to expand cooperation with overseas enterprises, especially Fortune 500 enterprises in the advanced manufacturing and modern service industries.

The city's foreign trade is expected to reach \$50 billion this year.

Cutting emissions and saving energy are also high on the government's agenda.

Wang said stricter standards will be applied to energy consumption and pollution control.

Yantai will also invest a total of 50 billion yuan to launch 10 projects for the promotion of environmentally friendly technologies this year.



The Port of Yantai has business links with more than 70 countries and regions.

PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



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Dragon Bay Villa - 龙湾别墅
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detached, nice garden, floor heating



Park Avenue - 公园大道
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garden view, nice balcony, value for money



Yosemite - 优山美地
ID: 2729 498sqm, 4bedrooms ¥48,000RMB
type B1, detached, big garden, value for money



Plam Spring Marriot - 棕榈泉白金公寓
ID: 5887 286sqm, 3bedrooms ¥36,000RMB
middle floor, garden view, open kitchen



Dynasty Garden - 丽都花园
ID: 0353 520sqm, 5bedrooms ¥45,000RMB
type E, detached, big garden, big balcony



SanlitunSOHO - 三里屯SOHO
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Central Park - 新城国际(IV)
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Sanlitun Area

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3Br. 200sqm south facing ¥23,000

Lido Area

Upper East Side - 阳光上东
3Br. 160sqm high floor ¥12,000
3Br. 190sqm special offer ¥22,000 ¥16,000
3Br. 220sqm south facing ¥20,000
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4Br. 270sqm garden view ¥30,000

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3Br. 218sqm middle floor ¥25,000
3Br. 230sqm 1st floor, nice garden ¥30,000

Upper East Side(V) - 阳光上东(安生花园)
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Richmond Park - 丽都水岸
2Br. 121sqm middle floor ¥12,000
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4Br. K 480sqm nice garden ¥33,000

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4Br. 400sqm nice garden ¥35,000

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4Br. K 480sqm nice garden ¥50,000
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