



2025 Tai'an City Application for UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour

Tai'an City: Sustainable Development of a Traditional Chinese Human Settlement in a World Heritage Context



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1. Overview of Taian

2025 Tai'an City Application for UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour

- In 1987, Mount Tai was inscribed by UNESCO as China's first World Heritage Site combining cultural and natural values.
- The World Heritage Committee praised Mount Tai as: The sacred Mount Tai, revered by emperors for over two millennia, harmoniously integrates cultural masterpieces with natural landscapes.
- It has served as a spiritual wellspring for Chinese artists and scholars, symbolizing ancient Chinese civilization and beliefs.





1. Overview of Taian

2025 Tai'an City Application for UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour

- In 1989, Taian was designated as one of the first batch of Provincial-level Historical and Cultural Cities in Shandong. In 2007, it was officially approved by the State Council as a National Historical and Cultural City.
- Taian City, built at the foot of Mount Tai, embodies the traditional Chinese ideal of human habitats. It is the only example in China where a World Heritage mountain site is seamlessly integrated with an urban area.





2. Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage

■ Conservation of Mount Tai's Natural and Cultural Heritage

Over recent years, Taian has secured over 200 million yuan in national and provincial funding for 64 conservation projects, including the implementation of the World Heritage protection plan, restoration of key cultural relics, and upgrades to fire prevention and lightning protection systems.



Mount Tai Ancient Architecture Preventive Conservation and Restoration Project



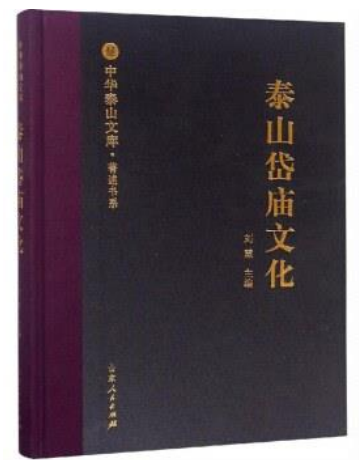
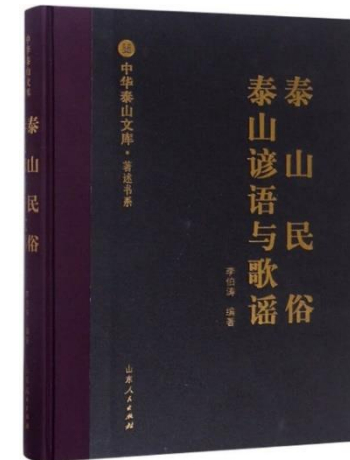
2. Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage

■ Conservation of Mount Tai's Natural and Cultural Heritage

Joint biodiversity surveys and conservation efforts are conducted by Mount Tai Scenic Area, volunteers, universities, and research institutions.



Public participation is encouraged through activities like adopting ancient trees.



The Chinese Mount Tai Library series, comprising 51 compiled volumes with 38 published, documents the heritage's cultural significance.



2. Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage

■ “Hongmen Road-Daimiao Temple-Tongtian Street” Historical and Cultural District Renovation

Road lighting has been upgraded in the historical and cultural district, and ongoing efforts focus on streetscape facade improvements to optimize the district’s environment.





3. Enhancing Living Conditions

■ Urban Renewal Practices Under World Heritage Protection

Since 2008, Taian has balanced World Heritage protection with improvements to living conditions in old urban areas and surrounding communities.

Urban renewal achievements include:

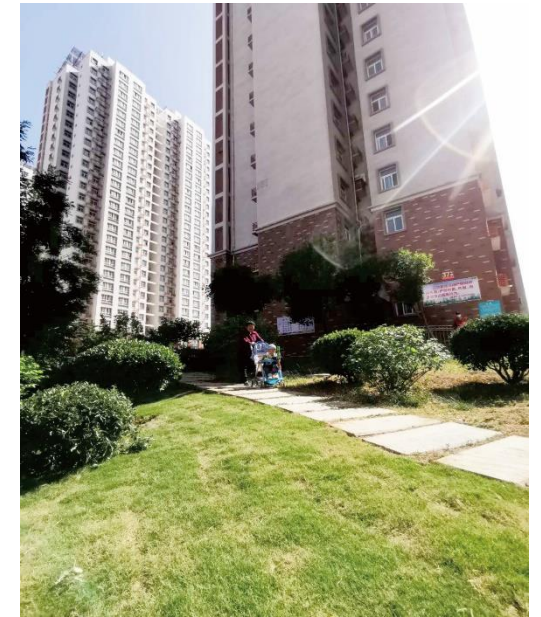
- Renovation of 721 old residential communities (2.1 billion yuan investment).
- Redevelopment of 26 urban villages and 22 shantytowns (11 billion yuan investment).
- Construction of 37,000 affordable housing units for low-income groups.



Old Residential Communities



Redevelopment of urban villages and shantytowns



Construction of affordable housing



3. Enhancing Living Conditions

■ Renewal Practices in Historic Urban Districts

Haolishan Area Renewal Case: The Lingshan Community renovation adopted a “public participation + design-first” approach, preserving historical elements while upgrading infrastructure and adding green spaces.





3. Enhancing Living Conditions

■ Haolishan Area Renewal Case: Lingshan Community Before Renovation

Built in the 1980s, Lingshan Community comprises 11 residential buildings housing 612 households, with a total floor area of 47,000 square meters. The aging neighborhood faced multiple challenges: cluttered environment, roof leaks, deteriorated facades, chaotic utility lines, damaged roads, insufficient parking, outdated drainage systems, and lack of public activity or recreational facilities.



Aerial View of Lingshan Community Before Renovation



Peeling Exterior Walls



Disorganized Overhead Wires



3. Enhancing Living Conditions

■ Haolishan Area Renewal Case: Lingshan Community After Renovation

- Residents, planners, and architects collaborate deeply in old community renewal.
- The post-renewal urban fabric achieves cohesive aesthetics, highlighting historical and cultural features while preserving the original urban texture.
- Preserving Historical Memory: Enhancing living conditions and environmental quality while retaining historical heritage and nurturing “nostalgia”.
- Green and Age-Friendly Retrofits : Parking facilities, elevators, and green landscapes added.



Protection of Historical and Cultural Buildings



Retention of Historical Stone Mills



Aerial View of Lingshan Community After Renovation



Addition of Parking Spaces



Installation of Elevators



3. Enhancing Living Conditions

■ Caiyuan Model for Old Community Renewal

- Songyuan Community Renewal in Caiyuan Subdistrict, Taishan District. Focused on enhancing community services and residents' quality of life, the project exemplifies the “Caiyuan Model” for old community renewal in Shandong Province, boosting residents' satisfaction and well-being.
- Award-winning projects like Songyuan Community integrated cultural heritage preservation with modern amenities.



New Landscape Corridor



Addition of Children's Play Facilities



New Community Plaza and Fitness Track



3. Enhancing Living Conditions

■ Diverse Models for Urban Village and Shantytown Renewal

- Multi-Channel Funding for Urban Village and Shantytown Renewal
- “One Village, One Strategy” Approach: “One Village, One Strategy” Approach
- Respecting Local Input in Renewal Planning. Encouraging self-driven renewal with mixed-use zoning for residential, commercial, and public spaces.
- Promoting Public Participation: Mobilizing enthusiasm and initiative among villages and residents.



Self-Driven Housing Upgrades by Villagers



Post-Renewal Outdoor Environment



Post-Renewal Indoor Environment



3. Enhancing Living Conditions

■ Affordable Housing Development Practices

- Supporting diverse housing needs, Addressing housing shortages for low-income groups, professionals, and contributors to Taian's development.
- Expanding Affordable Housing Supply. Current projects benefit over 110,000 residents.





4. Creating Public Open Spaces for All

■ Enhancing Historical Environmental Quality

The Daibei Area revitalization project (2.4 billion yuan investment) added 2,000 parking spaces and created cultural plazas and ecological parks.



Daibei Plaza Before Renovation



Aerial View of Daibei Plaza After Renovation



4. Creating Public Open Spaces for All

■ Enhancing Historical Environmental Quality

Transformed into public amenities: Daibei Cultural Plaza and Ecological Green Fitness Park, improving local livability.



Nighttime Activities at Daibei Plaza



Chronological Axis of Daibei Plaza and Its Connection to Mount Tai



4. Creating Public Open Spaces for All

■ New Eco-Park with Views of Mount Tai

The remediation project covering 20 kilometers of water systems including ShuXi River, Pan River, and Mingtang River, with a total investment of 1.9 billion yuan, has restored ecological self-purification capacity and provided habitats for various wildlife species. These revitalized waterways have become a daily leisure destination for nearby residents.



Mingtang River Before Restoration



Mingtang River After Restoration



4. Creating Public Open Spaces for All

■ New Eco-Park with Views of Mount Tai

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Pan River Before Dredging



Pan River After Ecological Restoration



5. Low-carbon Natural Heritage Conservation

■ Forest Conservation and Carbon Sink Expansion

“Mountain-Water-Forest-Farmland-Lake-Grassland” Ecological Restoration (2017–Present): 67 key projects with a total investment of CNY 166.37 billion: 9,090 hectares of coal-mining subsidence rehabilitated, 990 ha mines restored, 373 wild bird species recorded



Forest Conservation in Mount Tai Scenic Area



Wetland Restoration in Mount Tai Scenic Area



5. Low-carbon Natural Heritage Conservation

■ Forest Conservation and Carbon Sink Expansion

We have continuously advanced the development of the “Zero-Carbon Taishan” initiative by carrying out tree-planting donations. An average of over 40,000 trees have been planted annually in key areas including the Mount Tai Scenic Area, Taohuayuan, Tianwaicun, and Hongmen. These efforts have significantly increased the forest coverage rate on Mount Tai from 85% in 2017 to 95.8%.



Forest Conservation in Mount Tai Scenic Area



Forest Conservation in Mount Tai Scenic Area



5. Low-carbon Natural Heritage Conservation

■ Promoting Green Travel

Mount Tai Scenic Area has effectively reduced private vehicle usage by implementing a centralized shuttle transfer system powered by new energy buses, which currently account for over 40% of the total public transport fleet.



Electric Shuttle Activities in Mount Tai Scenic Area



Shared E-Bikes in Mount Tai Scenic Area



5. Low-carbon Natural Heritage Conservation

■ Carbon Reduction and Zero-Waste Scenic Area Development

The scenic area has innovatively implemented a “Trash-for-Rewards” incentive mechanism, reducing waste volume by 20 metric tons over three years. Transportation efficiency has been enhanced through technological innovations including robotic dogs and drones for garbage collection and transfer.



Robotic Dogs Transporting Supplies and Waste in Mount Tai



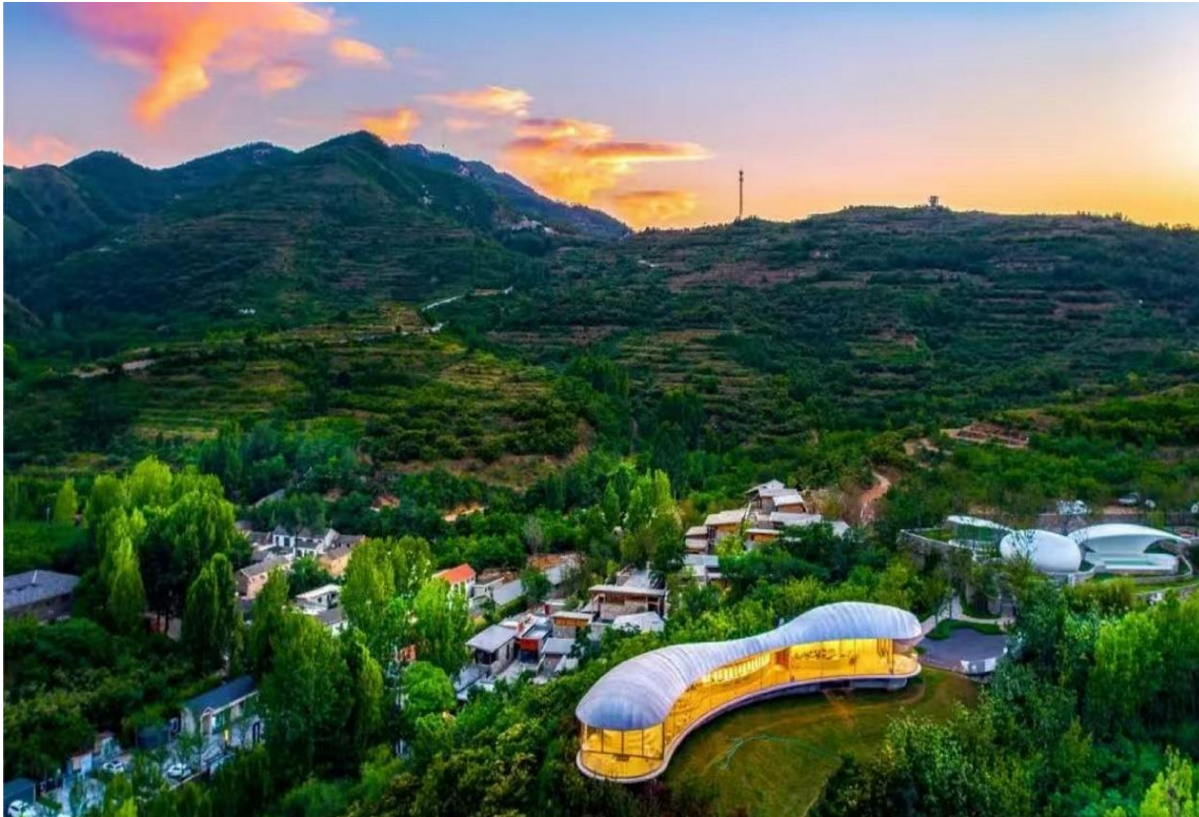
“Seeking the Most Beautiful Tourist” Campaign



6. Leveraging Heritage Value to Benefit Surrounding Communities

■ Jiunvfeng Rural Tourism Project

Daolang Town has attracted 21 business entities including Shandong Cultural Tourism Group and Lohui Agriculture, with accumulated social investment capital exceeding 1 billion yuan. This strategic capital injection has doubled the village collective income through coordinated public-private partnerships.



Aerial View of Jiunvfeng Area



Pre- and Post-Development of Homestay Industry



6. Leveraging Heritage Value to Benefit Surrounding Communities

■ Dajinkou Township Rural Revitalization

Dajinkou Township has implemented the “Five-Talent Rural Revitalization Program”, recruiting Ph.D. holders and economic specialists while training over 2,000 new-type professional farmers through structured vocational training programs. This human capital development initiative has significantly enhanced villagers' employment competencies, achieving 86% workforce participation in modern agricultural sectors.



Chilinyu Fish Farming Base in Dajinkou Township



Public Welfare Job Training in Dajinkou Township



6. Leveraging Heritage Value to Benefit Surrounding Communities

■ Matou and Caojiazhuang Village Tourism Projects

Over 3,000 residents in Matao and Caojiazhuang villages have boosted collective income through the Taishan Tea Cooperative and geocultural-themed homestays capitalizing on Mount Tai's geological heritage.



Cultivation of Mount Tai “Nver Tea”



Harvesting and Processing of Mount Tai
“Nver Tea”



6. Leveraging Heritage Value to Benefit Surrounding Communities

■ “Geocultural” Homestays in Matou and Caojiazhuang Villages

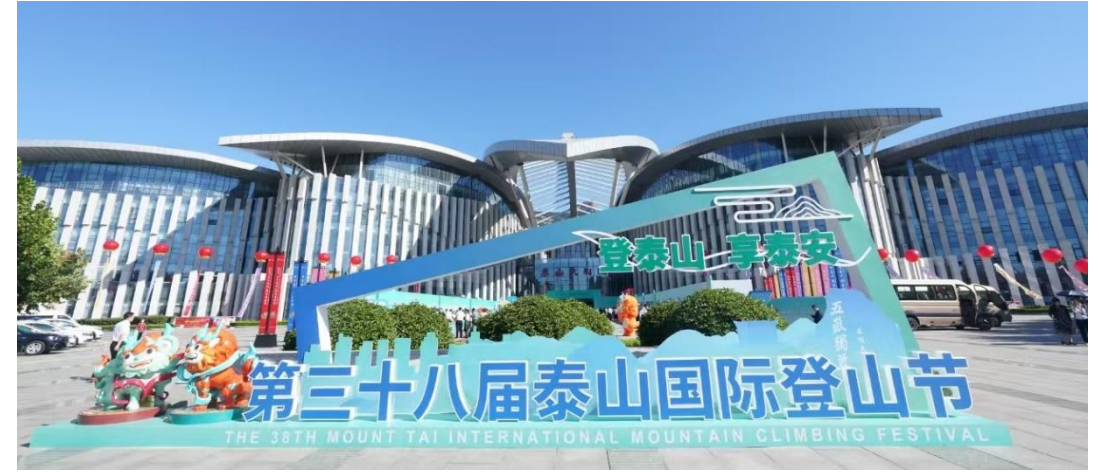




7. Leveraging Mount Tai's Cultural Influence

■ Mount Tai International Climbing Festival

The Taian Municipal Government, in collaboration with CCPIT, CMA, CPAFFC, and ICH preservation organizations, leverages the Taishan cultural brand to host the Taishan International Mountaineering Festival.

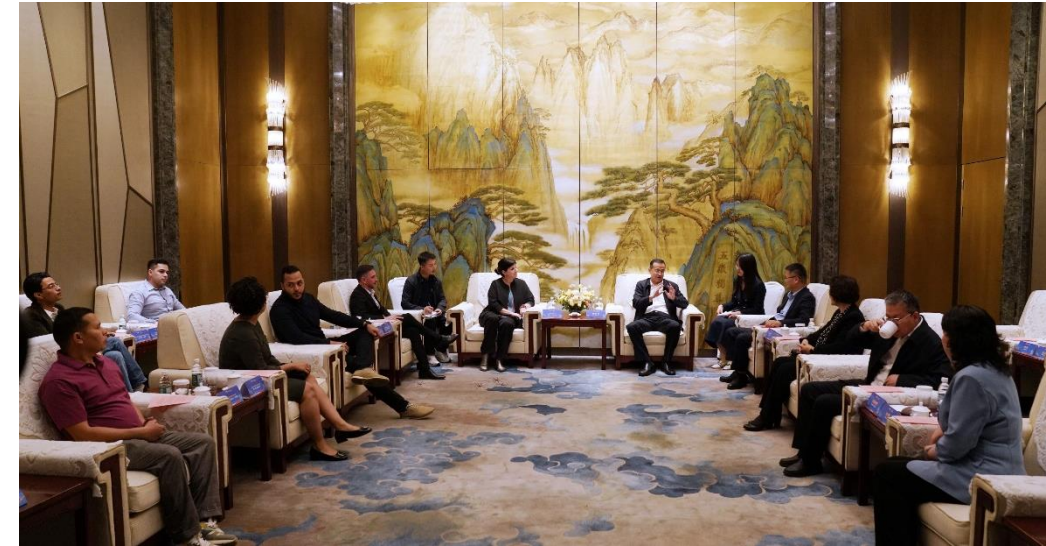




7. Leveraging Mount Tai's Cultural Influence

■ “Discover China Cultural Tour” For Diplomats in China

The “Discover China Culture Tour” campaign has engaged foreign diplomats stationed in China, amplifying the global recognition of Mount Tai’s natural and cultural heritage.





7. Leveraging Mount Tai's Cultural Influence

■ International Cultural Events



The 2024 Taian International Travel Agents Conference



Mount Tai International Floral Art Competition 2024



Mount Tai University Student Floral Art Event



7. Leveraging Mount Tai's Cultural Influence

■ International Cultural Events

“China, an Opportunity”
International Media Tour
of Taian

“Opportunity China · Vitality Shandong”
International Photo Festival

2024 Global Gen Z Dialogue at Mount Tai



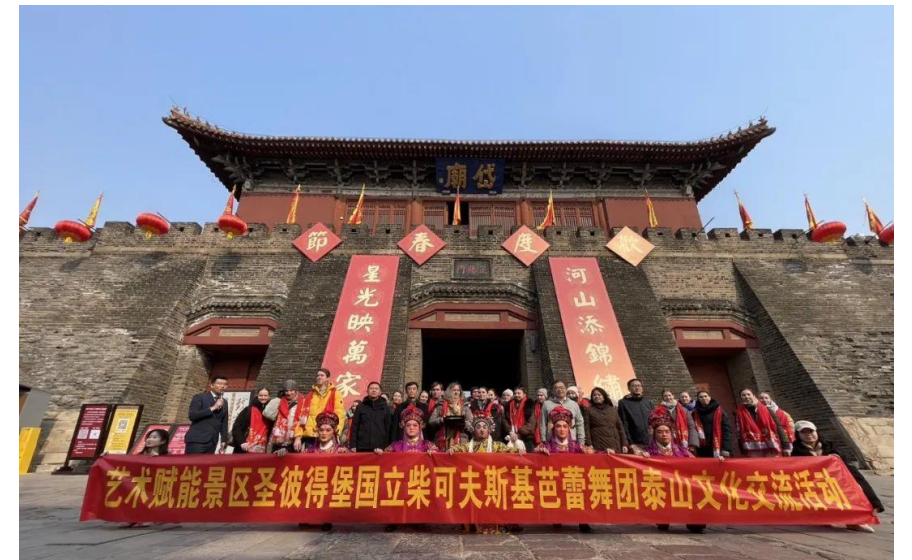


7. Leveraging Mount Tai's Cultural Influence

■ Taian Marathon



■ Art-Infused Scenic Area Activities





7. Leveraging Mount Tai's Cultural Influence

■ Dongyue Temple Fair

The Dongyue Temple Fair (Taishan Temple Fair), recognized as a national-level intangible cultural heritage, stimulates regional consumption and employment generation while enriching community cultural life and enhancing Mount Tai's international profile.

■ Intangible Cultural Heritage Market

Regular ICH-themed marketplaces and specialized ICH workshops have been institutionalized as sustainable preservation mechanisms.

Mount Tai's "Four-in-One" holistic conservation model received the 2024 Global Award for World Heritage Education Innovation (Trailblazer Category), marking Shandong Province's inaugural achievement in this UNESCO-affiliated accolade.



Cyber-Lion Robotic Dance Spectacle



Living Heritage Stage Productions



ICH Artisan Craft Labs



ICH Artisan Craft Labs



7. Leveraging Mount Tai's Cultural Influence

■ Mount Tai Libraries and Community Libraries

Social enterprises including Daqian Study Room, Wenyou Bookstore, and Anyu Bookstore have spearheaded study room construction initiatives, with municipal governments providing policy incentives such as naming rights allocation and integrated brand promotion in public campaigns.

Building upon existing cultural service networks encompassing township community centers and rural reading rooms, urban-rural study spaces have been systematically developed to upgrade cultural service parity across all settlement hierarchies.



Mount Tai Libraries



Recognition of the Initiative

- In 2012, Taian awarded the “China Habitat Environment Prize”.
- In 2018 and 2023, Taian received the “Shandong Livable Habitat Environment Award” twice.
- In 2021, Taian was named one of “Ten Most Scenic Cities in China”.
- In 2023, communities in Tai'an were selected as "Shandong Province Urban Renewal Demonstration Projects"; the renovation projects of community won the Shandong Province Engineering Construction “Taishan Cup”.
- In 2024, the rural revitalization model of Jiunüfeng, received the China Cultural Tourism Integration Innovation Award.



山东省人民政府
关于授予威海等8市“山东省适宜人居
环境奖”的通报
鲁政字〔2018〕211号

各市人民政府，省政府各部门、各直属机构：

2015年以来，按照《中共山东省委、山东省人民政府关于推进新型城镇化发展的意见》和《山东省人民政府办公厅关于印发〈山东省推进新型城镇化工作考核办法〉的通知》（鲁政办字〔2015〕171号）要求，省城镇化工作领导小组办公室牵头对全省设区的市组织开展了年度新型城镇化工作综合考核。根据考核结果，省政府决定授予威海、潍坊、青岛、泰安、烟台、济南、淄博、临沂市“山东省适宜人居环境奖”称号。

希望威海等8市再接再厉，进一步加大工作力度，让新型城镇化发展成果更好惠及广大人民群众。各市要深入学习贯彻习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想 and 党的十九大精神，坚决落实习近平总书记视察山东重要讲话、重要指示批示精神，以人的城镇化为核心，围绕全面实施乡村振兴战略和全省新旧动能转换重大工程，认真学习先进经验，解放思想，务实创新，扎实推动新型城镇化高质量发展，为全面开创新时代现代化强省建设新局面作出新贡献。

山东省人民政府
2018年9月20日