

City cluster to boost cooperation

Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei plan steps to raise competitiveness

By ZHENG YIRAN

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The past four years have witnessed positive outcomes of the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, and the three areas plan to further strengthen cooperation, to improve the overall competitiveness as a potential world-class city cluster, said officials on the sidelines of the ongoing first session of the 13th National People's Congress.

Yang Maorong, head of the Tianjin Binhai New Area, said that "with the aim of promoting regional coordinated development, we have set up the Tianjin (Binhai)-Zhongguancun Science Park, integrating the innovative achievements and resources from Beijing with Tianjin's advanced manufacturing capacity and thus bringing the utmost benefits to both parties."

Yang, who is also an NPC deputy, noted that in the future, Hebei, Tianjin and Beijing are expected to make full use of their respective advantages, and boost joint development with concerted efforts, further realizing the nation's "Made in China 2025" strategy, as well as creating an internationally oriented platform for reform and opening-up.



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The Belt and Road Initiative, reflecting common ideals and the pursuit of fairer, more connected human societies, endeavors to seek new models of international cooperation and inject a new sense of positivity into efforts aimed at promoting world peace and development.

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Containers from a cargo ship being loaded onto a truck at the Tianjin Port. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Zhang Gong, vice-mayor of Beijing, agreed. "In the past three years, Beijing has injected a total of 560 billion yuan (\$88 billion) into Tianjin and Hebei, further deepening the industrial integration among the regions. To date, companies from the Zhongguancun Science Park have set up more than 6,100 subsidiaries in the two regions."

Last November marked the first anniversary of the establishment of the Tianjin (Binhai)-Zhongguancun Science Park, where many enterprises have benefited from the integration of innovative and industrial resources from Beijing and Tianjin.

"The reason why we choose to bring our company here is

that we see the science park as an industry agglomeration district where science, technology, healthcare and finance industries can develop alongside each other," said Ning Shuxing, chief executive officer of Enduxinneng (Tianjin) Tech Co Ltd, a big data company that has just entered the Tianjin (Binhai)-Zhongguancun Science Park.

Liu Qi, general manager of Subblue Tech Co Ltd, an underwater robot company that was set up in the Tianjin (Binhai)-Zhongguancun Science Park last March, agreed.

He said that he and his team were attracted to the science park because they get favorable policies from not only the science park, but also from the

Binhai New Area and Tianjin.

"Our employees in the Binhai New Area get subsidies for three consecutive years. The annual living allowances for each employee with a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and a PhD are 12,000 yuan, 24,000 yuan and 36,000 yuan respectively. The company also receives construction and rent subsidies," Liu said.

Duan Haibo, deputy director of the Administrative Committee of Zhongguancun Science Park, told the Xinhua News Agency that the Tianjin (Binhai)-Zhongguancun Science Park plays a crucial role in deepening the innovative collaboration between Beijing and Tianjin, as well as accelerating regional transformation and industrial

upgrading of the two regions.

According to Duan, the enactment of the government's favorable policies in the future will promote more cooperation between Beijing and the Binhai New Area by docking resources from the two regions, setting up industrial development foundations, as well as promoting communication between research institutes from Beijing and Tianjin, to build a cross-region innovation and entrepreneurship ecological system.

Besides, monthly intercity railway tickets between Beijing and Binhai have been issued to attract talents from Beijing to start businesses in the new area. Binhai also canceled driving restrictions in the new area for cars with a Beijing license, Yang added.

Beijing and Tianjin's efforts for coordinated development were echoed by what has taken place in Hebei. Yuan Tongli, vice-governor of Hebei province, said that during the past four years, Hebei has been sparing no efforts to contribute to the joint growth of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, and the province had witnessed significant progress on many fronts, including transportation, industrial manufacturing, education, healthcare as well as the environment.

Ouyang Shijia contributed to the story.

New policies give fresh impetus to cross-Straits ties

By JIANG XUEQING

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Members of China's top political advisory body have urged the government to unveil detailed implementation measures as soon as possible, following the launch of a series of policies to further expand economic and cultural exchanges across the Taiwan Straits.

On Feb 28, the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council issued a document composed of 31 measures to promote cross-Straits economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation. According to the latest policies, Taiwan people will be granted equal treatment with residents of the Chinese mainland gradually with regard to entrepreneurship, employment, education and living.

"Following the issuance of the measures, many young people have called us from Taiwan, asking how they can take qualification exams for permission to practice certain professions such as medicine in the mainland. We told them to wait for the release of detailed implementation plans," said Yang Yizhou, vice-chairman of the All-China Federation of Taiwan Compatriots, on the sidelines of this year's session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Nowadays, Taiwan youth have become major participants of cross-Straits exchanges and an important force to influence the development of cross-Straits relations, said Xiao Qingwei, vice-president of Minnan Normal University in Zhangzhou, Fujian province, at a forum on youth innovation and entrepreneurship in Beijing last year.

By the end of 2016, the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council had approved the establishment of 53 cross-Straits youth entrepreneurship bases and demonstration sites. In Fujian province alone, such bases have attracted more than 2,000 young people from Tai-

wan to start their own business in the mainland, said Yang, who is also a member of the 13th National Committee of the CPPCC.

"Some policies concerning cross-Straits youth entrepreneurship should be adjusted to better serve the needs of the Taiwan people. We hope to improve these youth entrepreneurship bases and to help them attract more Taiwan youth to the mainland for entrepreneurship and employment," Yang said.

The central government has created many favorable conditions in this regard, said Zhang Jiayi, a member of the Central Committee of the Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League and a member of the 13th National Committee of the CPPCC.

31

number of measures in a document issued by the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council on Feb 28

Zhang stressed that how to carry out the central government's decision to grant Taiwan people equal treatment with residents of the Chinese mainland is the most crucial part of the recently introduced policies.

"These 31 measures have shown the consistency and steadiness of the central government's policy on Taiwan. Although Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen has refused to recognize the 1992 Consensus, the central government is still sticking to its Taiwan policy and keeps on delivering goodwill to Taiwan people while cross-Straits relations are at a low ebb. It shows that central authorities have a big heart," he said.

"Further studies must be conducted to make these 31 measures easy to understand and easy to implement. The relevant government authorities should also supervise the implementation of the new policies, identify problems and make timely adjustments," he said.

Aviation to drive Guizhou growth

By ZHU WENQIAN,

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Guizhou province is focusing on the growth of its aviation industry in a bid to forge an advanced transportation network and help the province to become more open.

Currently, Guizhou has 11 airports, which is 1.6 times higher than the nation's average density level and makes it the province with the highest density of airports in Southwest China.

By 2030, the province aims to have 88 airports, which can cover all the small towns in the area.

"The civil aviation and general aviation markets in Guizhou will grow rapidly. In the future, when tourists come to Guizhou, they can come by commercial flights, business aircraft or helicopters," said Wang Yong, a deputy to the 13th National People's Congress and president of Guizhou Airports Group Co Ltd, on the sidelines of the ongoing two sessions in Beijing.

The Guiyang Longdongbu International Airport, the only international airport in the province, currently operates on 173 domestic routes, a 60.2 percent jump from 2013. During the same period, the number of its international routes rose from eight to 22, surging 75 percent.



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Wang Yong, president of Guizhou Airports Group Co Ltd

The Guiyang airport plans to add more routes connecting countries and regions involved in the Belt and Road Initiative. At present it has flight connections to Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. Last year, the airport launched its first intercontinental flight to Milan, Italy.

"In addition, the operational quality of the flights in Guizhou province has improved significantly. During the Spring Festival holidays this year, more than 90 percent of the flights departed from the Guiyang airport on time," Wang said.

In 2017, a few regional airports in Guizhou province, including those in Zunyi, Tongren and Bijie, saw passen-

ger flows exceed 1 million people. Moutai airport in the city of Renhuai, which started operations last year, has launched flights to most major Chinese cities. Within two months of opening, its passenger flow reached 100,000.

It is projected that by the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-20), China will have 500 civil airports, and more than 5,000 general aviation aircraft will be in operation. The industry's value will exceed 1 trillion yuan (\$1.6 billion), according to the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

"The regional aviation market is still in its initial stages of development in China. For the sector, this is one of the best markets and there are a lot of opportunities. There should be more suitable aircraft produced for flying in high-altitude areas in western China," said Li Guijin, a professor at the Civil Aviation Management Institute of China.

Wang added that Guizhou will continue to quickly expand the local civil aviation market to help the inland area to further open the door to the outside world, and it will also help to attract more tourists to visit the region.

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