



A bird's-eye view of Zhongshan in South China's Guangdong province. HE FEIKUN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Zhongshan eyes collaboration for both sides of Pearl River

Manufacturing integration most important aspect of cooperation with Shenzhen

By CHEN HONG

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Zhongshan is embracing a new opportunity arising from efforts to collaboratively develop the cities on the east and west banks of the Pearl River in South China's Guangdong province.

The city government took the opportunity in a new arrangement of Guangdong to be a province-level reform and innovation pilot zone in June. The move has been widely seen as an essential step to improve the overall strength of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Currently, the cities on the western side of the Pearl River, including Zhongshan, are lagging behind those on the eastern side, such as Shenzhen and Dongguan.

Zhongshan will take Shenzhen as a benchmark to improve its business environment, industrial performance, transportation infrastructure, technological innovation, social management and urban planning, so that the east and west bank cities can better integrate in the future, said Guo Wenhai, Party secretary of Zhongshan.

A 24-kilometer bridge is under construction to connect Shenzhen and Zhongshan, which is expected to open in 2024. It will reduce the travel time between the eastern and western sides of the Pearl River from two hours to 30 minutes.

"By building the pilot zone, Zhongshan will try to find a solution for the integrated development of the Bay Area," Guo said.

Creating an excellent business environment is what the city government has long been engaged in, and has been put at the top of its agenda. But Guo said there is room to improve.

These include "shortening the administrative approval process, enhancing the information exchanges and connections among different government departments and better serving the companies," Guo said, adding the city aims to be one of the best



The Shenzhen-Zhongshan Bridge is another mega-transportation infrastructure project in the Pearl River Delta. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



A smart production system of Hawley & Hazel in Zhongshan. WEN BO / FOR CHINA DAILY

in the Bay Area in government approval system for companies.

The most important aspect of Zhongshan's integration with Shenzhen lies in industrial integration, he said.

Shenzhen, which ranks third by GDP among Chinese mainland cities, has mapped out 20 major industries and eight future industries, including synthetic biology, blockchain, cell and gene, and aerospace technology.

Due to a land shortage in Shenzhen, Zhongshan is preparing spacious industrial parks to meet the manufacturing needs of the companies from the other side of the river.

The government of Zhongshan has invested 5 billion yuan (\$697 million) to help traditional manufacturing companies upgrade their facilities in a digitalized, intelligent way.

"Shenzhen and Zhongshan are complementary. We can make sure the safety and stability of the industrial chain and supply chain for Shenzhen," said Guo.

The two cities are complementary in fields of innovation — Shenzhen can make full use of Zhongshan's strong manufacturing capability to turn the technological achievements into mass production while Zhongshan could take advantages of Shenzhen's innova-

tion and talent resources to upgrade its traditional manufacturing, he noted.

To better propose the innovation collaboration between the east and west bank cities, Zhongshan will actively participate in construction of the high-tech hubs in the Bay Area. Meanwhile, it spares no effort to foster some strategic emerging industries locally, aiming to be an innovation center among the west bank cities. The industries include new generation information and technology, high-end equipment production and biomedicine.

The city is also increasing investment in transportation infrastructure to connect better with the rest of the Bay Area. It plans to invest 230 billion yuan in the next five years to build rail links and highways, for example, such as a high-speed rail linking Zhongshan with Guangzhou, Zhuhai and Macao. It will greatly cut the travel time to other Bay Area cities when these facilities are ready, the city government said.

Foreseeing a more frequent people flow between Shenzhen and Zhongshan after the operation of Shenzhen-Zhongshan Bridge in 2024, Zhongshan is thinking of a way to coordinate social management with its eastern counterpart.

It attaches emphasis on smart city construction, law reforms, sharing public services, handling the administrative matters of the two cities and public health collaboration, Guo said.

The city will work with Shenzhen to contribute experimental measures in social management for the integration of the Bay Area, he added. The two cities could also jointly develop the urban resources in culture, tourism and historic relics.

Zhongshan is working on raising its level to meet that of Shenzhen in terms of urban development, infrastructure and layout of public facilities, the Party secretary said.

Research, innovation pay dividends for city

By YUAN SHENGGAO

The Zhongshan government and local enterprises have been attaching great importance to research and development and recognizing innovation during the past decade as the core of long-term sustainable development.

Now that approach has paid off.

Mingyang Smart Energy Group, headquartered in Zhongshan, has grown into an industry-leading renewable energy solution provider and a smart equipment manufacturer.

According to the latest Top 500 Chinese Enterprises ranking released by the Chinese Enterprise Confederation on September 6, Mingyang ranked 385th in terms of annual sales revenue, representing a rise of 37 places from last year.

Over the past few years, Mingyang has made breakthroughs in the development of key technologies including wind turbine generators and photovoltaic equipment, thanks to its steady efforts in promoting R&D along with technological upgrades.

To date, it has rolled off 12-megawatt typhoon-resistant hybrid-drive offshore wind turbines, one of the largest in the world, and also 16 MW wind turbines, one of the largest in terms of capacity in the world.

It also carried out static testing of its 111.5-meter typhoon-resistant blades. The 160-meter ultrahigh reinforced-concrete towers were introduced to the market and are set to drive large-scale, high-end and smart development in the wind power sector.

To support its innovation, Mingyang has developed a national technological center, an engineering lab jointly supported by national and local research institutes, led in part by Guangdong Wind Power Technological Engineering Lab and the Guangdong Engineering Center and Postdoctoral Researcher Work Station.

It also built an R&D system which could gain support from engineers in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Silicon Valley in the United States and Hamburg in Germany.

Mingyang is not the only enterprise in Zhongshan that actively embraces technology.

Licheng Detection and Certification Group, established in 2012, has become a leading privately-

run testing and certification service provider in China.

Chen Xinwen, chairman of the group, said the enterprise attaches great significance to innovation and started projects to expand cooperation among industries, universities and research institutes.

It established long-term partnerships with South China Agriculture University and Jiangnan University to develop fast testing equipment and environmental monitoring systems. The company is also home to national small and medium-sized enterprise public service demonstration platforms, the Guangdong Engineering Center and Zhongshan Enterprise Technological Center. A postdoctoral research practice center was established in 2019.

So far, Licheng has registered 12 patents and took part in revisions of two international standards and three national standards.

Chen said the company will continue to invest in innovation by building high-end innovation platforms. It will also set up R&D and production facilities for biological diagnostic reagents and labs to test the effects of cosmetics.

Zhongshan identified innovation as the core of its development in 2015 and has been ramping up efforts to support businesses in recent years. The photon research center and Advanced Cryogenic Center were settled in Zhongshan, which contributed to the construction of the Zhongshan Technology Innovation Center.

More than 70 technology incubators had been established in Zhongshan by the end of September. A large number of research institutes were set up with leading universities including Wuhan University, South China University of Technology, and Intelligent Mobile Robot Research Institute (Zhongshan) and the Innovation Center of the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (Zhongshan).

"The local government has been attaching greater importance to innovation. Enterprises are investing in innovation and the overall environment is being optimized," said Huang Dehuang, assistant dean of the Zhongshan Research Institute of Beijing Institute of Technology. The institute was established in 2009 and is one of the first batch of research institutes set up by universities in Zhongshan.



Engineers work in a workshop of Mingyang Group in Zhongshan. MIU XIAOJIAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Region embraces investment with unique strength



A worker checks components in a smart production workshop of Galanz Group in Zhongshan. XIA SHENGGUAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Zhongshan, a city in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, is boosting the size and quality of its industrial parks and upgrading its manufacturing facilities to attract investments.

Official data showed that the city introduced 209 large projects from January to August with an aggregate investment amount of about 42 billion yuan (\$5.8 billion). Seventy-one of the projects will bring more than 100 million yuan each to the city, with six projects expected to surpass 1 billion yuan.

About 30 percent of the new projects fell into the categories of high-end equipment manufacturing, biomedicine and new genera-

tion information technology, key sectors that the city highlights. About 34 percent went to the service industry, said a senior official from the Zhongshan Investment Promotion Bureau.

The bureau, officially set up in early August, will consolidate the resources of the city and map out practical strategies to improve the attractiveness of the area, the official said.

One of the major efforts is to sort out inefficient industrial parks in towns and villages of Zhongshan and try to turn them into bigger facilities. In this way, the industrial parks could be more attractive to companies, vital at this time when first-tier cities in China are all facing land

shortages, the official said.

Many towns in Zhongshan have developed their locally featured industries. For example, metal fittings and underwear manufacturing in Xiaolan town, casual wear in Shaxi town and home appliances in Dongfeng town. Some industries have gained fame that way across the country.

Since the establishment of the bureau in August, it has introduced eight projects, mainly in strategic emerging industries, with a total investment of 2.3 billion yuan in fixed assets, which occupy a total of 230.3 mu (15.33 hectares) of land.

Under the new framework of the city to deepen cooperation with cities on the eastern side of the Pearl River, the bureau has contacted more than 200 investment projects from Shenzhen, of which 16 have signed agreements

with an investment of 7.4 billion yuan.

It also invited representatives of more than 100 companies and commercial associations from the Bay Area to visit Zhongshan and tap business opportunities.

Liu Liangui, general manager of Zhongshan Tianji Technology, said the city is more attractive to investors because of the continuous efforts of the local government to improve the business environment.

One of his company's projects is settled in Xiaolan, Zhongshan, and serves as an industrial platform to upgrade the industries of the town and as a bridge between the companies and public services. So far, 40 companies have entered the industrial park of the project after more than a year of operations, Liu said.