

# Comprehensive plan for cooperation sees host of investments

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Xuwen of Zhanjiang, Guangdong province, commenced construction of eight projects and signed contracts for another 16 projects in late March.

The 24 projects, involving an investment of 40.3 billion yuan (\$5.57 billion), have one thing in common: they represent a key move in Zhanjiang's efforts to facilitate the Qiongzhou Strait integration; establish the Xuwen area of the high-quality development demonstration zone; and build a southern gateway city that offers high-standard services for Guangdong-Hainan collaboration while promoting coordinated development between Zhanjiang and Hainan, local officials said.

They encompass sectors including port industries, water resource conservation, low-altitude economy, new energy, equipment operation and maintenance, modern agriculture, marine ranching, smart cities, healthcare and coastal tourism.

One of the eight projects that have started is a logistic park at the Xuwen area of the Qiongzhou Strait Integration High-Quality Development Demonstration Zone.

"The logistics park will become an enclave park for us in the Xuwen area after Hainan's closed-loop customs operation and will work together with Haikou Xinhai Ludao Logistics Park," said Liu Hairong, chairman of Hainan Logistics Group, one of the investment and construction parties of the Xuwen area logistics park.

"After the project is implemented, efforts will be made to extend Hainan Free Trade Port policies to the Xuwen area to drive local development," Liu said.

Located on the southernmost tip of the mainland, across the Qiongzhou Strait from Hainan Island, Xuwen Port is the world's largest ro-ro port — the method of loading and unloading ships that involves vehicles boarding the vessels on ramps — and serves as a crucial transportation hub for promoting coordinated development and interconnection between Guangdong, Hainan, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Over the past year, Zhanjiang has formulated a dedicated blueprint to foster development of Xuwen Port in wider sectors as part of its effort to achieve coordinated progress with Hainan. The Zhanjiang city government has rolled out guidelines to promote coordinated planning of channels, hubs, networks, and

## 40.3 billion yuan

worth of projects that have been agreed or commenced construction recently in Zhanjiang

the integration of port, industry and city development with an eye to facilitating the rapid, convenient, smart, safe and green development of Xuwen Port and the Zhanjiang port complex.

According to the guidelines, efforts will be made to enhance the technical capabilities of the Qiongzhou Strait crossing, ensure smooth and secure crossings, increase shipping value and improve service quality. The city also plans to build a modern comprehensive transportation hub by improving transportation infrastructure such as highways, waterways, railways and aviation in a bid to upgrade the transportation infrastructure.

According to the plan, by 2035 a modern comprehensive multi-dimensional transportation network will be in place, connecting the Bay Area and Hainan Free Trade Port. It will include three ports, three expressways, two national highways, one high-speed rail, one regular rail and one airport, as well as seaplanes, cruise ships and pleasure craft.

Zhanjiang has also gone the extra mile to continue to deepen comprehensive cooperation with Hainan in areas such as cooperation mechanisms, industries and tourism. For example, the city has worked with Hainan to boost the Qiongzhou Strait Economic Belt by strengthening agricultural cooperation and promoting cultural and tourism exchanges. Those efforts include building two fruit and vegetable production bases with an annual output of approximately 2,000 metric tons, developing special tourist routes and creating a national-level Beibu Gulf marine culture and tourism zone.

In the next phase, Zhanjiang will leverage the synergy of the port resources in Zhanjiang to establish a more efficient Qiongzhou Strait maritime transportation route, foster industrial clusters, and deepen cooperation with Hainan in fields including advanced manufacturing and modern agriculture.

As well, the city will cooperate with Hainan in areas such as industry, tourism, emergency response and more to further integrate with the Bay Area.

# Zhanjiang plotting course for expansion of marine ranching



Haiwei No 2, a giant mariculture platform in South China's Guangdong province, comes into operation in Zhanjiang in June 2023.

ZHANG LING / FOR CHINA DAILY

## New projects lead development of industry chains

By HAO NAN

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Hengyi No 1, the largest mariculture platform in South China's Guangdong province, arrived at a modern marine ranching zone in Zhanjiang, a coastal city in the west of the province, on Monday, in preparation for official operation soon.

The platform, 101 meters long, 47.5 meters wide and 27.5 meters high, has a total mariculture water capacity of 60,000 cubic meters, twice the size of Haiwei No 2, which went into operation last June. Hengyi No 1 is the largest and smartest deep-sea mariculture platform in Guangdong province and can be used for the aquaculture of such fish as golden pomfret, red porgy, and flounder. If used solely for the rearing of golden pomfret, it is forecast to realize an annual output of 72 million yuan (\$9.95 million) or 135 million yuan if rearing red porgy.

Taking advantage of modern mariculture equipment and technology is

among the city's recent measures to step up development of the marine ranching industry. Zhanjiang has also relied on new projects to boost the growth of the sector. In early January, 10 projects, including a national cold-chain logistics base, started construction in the coastal city of Guangdong province, with a total investment value exceeding 10.8 billion yuan.

On the same occasion, the city government signed investment contracts for an additional 10 projects, including an aquatic animal breeding platform powered by wind energy, with a total contract investment value of more than 11.5 billion yuan. Together, they are expected to promote the development of the whole industry chain of the modern marine ranches and consolidate Zhanjiang's position as a global leader in the aquatic industry, local officials said.

Since 2023, Zhanjiang has taken measures to support high-quality development of its modern marine ranching industry and fortify its foothold as a national modern marine ranching demonstration city, said Mayor Zeng Jinze. The city has also launched 15 relevant policies while earning recognition as China's home-

town of prawn, golden pomfret fish and other seafood cuisine.

In 2023, Zhanjiang's total fishery output reached 1.29 million metric tons, an increase of 5.1 percent year-on-year, and its output value surpassed 29 billion yuan, up 4.1 percent year-on-year.

Promoting large-scale upgrading of marine equipment, the city now boasts the province's largest breeding platform for offshore aquaculture and is home to 3,563 deep-sea fish cages, accounting for 70 percent of the provincial total.

The city has also accelerated its development of smart fisheries, including an effort to inaugurate an intelligent data center aimed at the transformation and upgrading of marine fishery toward informatization and modernization. To that end, the center issued a Zhanjiang golden pomfret indicator last year. As well, the city has formulated the first national standard system for the golden pomfret industry chain, and its golden pomfret industry cluster has been selected as a State-level one, featuring special characteristics.

To further develop the modern marine ranching industry, Zeng said Zhanjiang plans to implement the

"finance plus maritime" project and set up a cooperation mechanism involving the government, enterprises and financial institutions to establish a marine industrial development fund and attract private capital to participate in the construction of its modern marine ranches. The mayor added Zhanjiang will cultivate a number of leading professionals in marine science and technology, as well as high-level innovation and entrepreneurship teams in the sector, leveraging its expansive sea area of more than 20,000 square kilometers and a coastline spanning nearly 1,250 km.

The city government recently released an overall plan for the development of a modern and characteristic maritime city — the first of its kind in Guangdong. According to the plan, Zhanjiang will integrate and optimize its maritime resources while taking digitalization, ecology and modernization as its major development directions. It will strive to build itself into a world-class green port industrial cluster, a national "blue granary", a marine ecological demonstration city, and an international coastal tourism destination.

# Mangroves flourish with green efforts

By WANG JINHUI

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Taking advantage of its distinctive cultural and green resources, Zhanjiang in Guangdong province is constructing a mangrove eco-tourism economic belt and promoting harmonious coexistence between humans and nature in the context of Chinese-style modernization.

The city has China's most concentrated distribution of natural mangrove reserves, covering 6,398.3 hectares and accounting for 60.1 percent of the total in Guangdong and 23.7 percent of the national total.

Making good use of the advantageous resources of its mangrove areas, Zhanjiang has launched several high-quality tourism routes highlighting sustainable gastronomy, rural vitalization and family-friendly activities. The Jinsha Bay Mangrove Ecotourism Center in downtown Zhanjiang is a typical example, always crowded with visitors thanks to its picturesque natural view and educational values.

"In the past, tourists in Jinsha Bay were mainly concentrated along the southern beach and in the swimming area. The center greatly enhances both the city's ecological and social benefits," said Li Haifeng, who oversees environmental sanitation



Young people from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao get together to plant mangroves in Zhanjiang, Guangdong province.

WU DONGJUN / FOR CHINA DAILY

management at the center.

The Zhanjiang Mangrove Wetland Protection Regulations came into effect in January, establishing the first local policy in Guangdong specifically aimed at the protection of mangrove wetlands and the first city-level mangrove protection and restoration plan in the country. The regulations standardize activities related to the protection, restoration, management and utilization of the city's mangrove wetlands, providing a legal guarantee for the construction of a beautiful and green "City of Mangroves".

During the National People's Congress in early March, Zhanjiang

Mayor and NPC deputy Zeng Jinze said the city is boosting the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of the mangrove areas of Jinniu Island at a high level, noting it has formulated the Zhanjiang Jinniu Island Mangrove Area Protection and Utilization Plan and made the Jinniu Island mangrove area a demonstration zone for the construction of landscape sites at the provincial, city and district levels.

Currently, Zhanjiang is accelerating construction of two mangrove demonstration areas each covering an area of more than 666.67 hectares in Leizhou city and Xuwen county. By

2023, Leizhou had created 133.4 hectares of mangroves and restored 107.6 hectares, while Xuwen had created 431 hectares of mangroves.

The city is also making efforts in service, financial support and charity to bolster sustainable development of mangroves. For example, China's first charity trust project targeting the protection of mangrove ecology, called the Marine Saihanba Blue Carbon Promotion Charity Trust Plan, was initiated in Zhanjiang in August 2023, and the Zhanjiang Mangrove Wetland Protection Foundation has signed cooperation agreements with key enterprises, including Baosteel, BASF, Sinopec and the Tencent Charity Foundation.

Other key initiatives include the Guangdong Mangrove Carbon Inclusive Methodology, the first blue carbon inclusive methodology in the country, aimed at solving the problems of quantifying and realizing carbon sequestration in mangroves, and innovating the "Zhanjiang Standard" for carbon sequestration accounting.

In addition, Zhanjiang has taken the lead in Guangdong in carrying out pilot projects of coupled planting and aquaculture in mangrove areas, effectively solving restoration problems, obtaining seven technical guides and a series of technological achievements, developing high value-added products, and striving to forge a new model of win-win cooperation between mangrove protection and aquaculture development.



Local officials and business representatives attend a recent investment contract signing ceremony held in Zhanjiang, Guangdong province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

# Optimizing water resources a top priority

By WANG JINHUI

With the goal of bolstering ecological civilization, Zhanjiang city in Guangdong province is comprehensively advancing its role in the Guangdong water resources allocation project in the Beibu Gulf region, ensuring land use while optimizing water resources to provide strong support for high-quality leapfrog development.

As the largest water diversion project in Guangdong, the 61.46 billion yuan (\$8.48 billion) project covers 490.33 kilometers of pipes on a main line and three branch lines. The main line stretches 201.68 km, while the branches total 288.65 km, including the 168.85-km Zhanjiang branch.

The project, which draws water from the main stream of the Xijiang

River in Yunfu and ultimately transports it to the Dashuiqiao Reservoir in Xuwen county, is expected to commence operation by 2030.

Once completed, the Zhanjiang branch will fundamentally solve the long-standing drought problem on the Leizhou Peninsula, increase the regional water supply capacity, improve the regional water ecological environment and support high-quality development of the regional economy and society.

The Zhanjiang branch commenced construction in April 2023, with a total investment of 21.16 billion yuan. It has a designed water diversion flow of 110 cubic meters per second, and an average annual water diversion volume of 2.08 billion cu m. The project focuses on urban and rural domes-

tic and industrial water supply, while also considering agricultural irrigation.

Zeng Jinze, mayor of Zhanjiang, said that by mid-February, cumulative investment in the Zhanjiang branch project had reached 3.36 billion yuan, and construction had commenced at all 22 construction sites, with 29.75 km of pipelines completed.

To ensure full utilization of Xijiang River water after its introduction, Zhanjiang has formulated a plan to finish several supportive water network projects by 2028.

At present, the city is building a water supply and storage network project for the Leizhou Peninsula, connecting 397 reservoirs, 1,334 mountain ponds and 10,078 small ponds in a tailored manner to form



Dashuiqiao Reservoir in Xuwen county is set to store water delivered by Guangdong's water resources allocation project around the Beibu Gulf. LUO LINZHU / FOR CHINA DAILY

an interconnected water supply and storage network.

Zhanjiang is also coordinating the integrated urban and rural water

supply to build 79 large-scale surface water supply plants and expand

or replace 21,263 km of water supply pipelines, with a total water supply

capacity reaching 3.32 million metric tons per day. By the end of 2025, the proportion of large-scale water supply in the entire city is expected to exceed 80 percent.

Furthermore, Zhanjiang is accelerating completion of reinforcement projects for 171 vulnerable reservoirs throughout the city. Currently, it is protecting the drinking water source of the Dashuiqiao Reservoir, striving to upgrade quality of the reservoir to Class II. The city is also tapping into surrounding tourism resources to develop the reservoir into a provincial-level water conservancy scenic area by 2025.

In addition, Zhanjiang has built a number of distinctive riverside greenways such as the Binhu Park Greenway, Nandiao River Greenway and Anpu River Greenway and launched 12 river and lake ecological restoration projects, with a total investment exceeding 6 billion yuan.