



A mangrove-themed original musical premieres in Zhanjiang on March 19. GUO LONGBI / FOR CHINA DAILY

City of Mangroves campaign on full display during culture week

Musical shows help to contribute to education and promotion

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Zhanjiang, a coastal city in Guangdong province, wrapped up its week-long series of events called "Cultural Activity Week of the 'City of Mangroves'" on Sunday.

Started on the evening of March 19, the culture week aimed to encourage residents to protect mangroves and biodiversity to fortify Zhanjiang's reputation as a "City of Mangroves".

Some 60 events that took place during the period included the premiere and subsequent performances of an original musical, the first Conversation Between Guangzhou and Zhanjiang Over Cultural Development, programs to disseminate the science of mangroves on campus, the selection of young ambassadors for the "City of Mangroves", the launch of a public-interest program called "Carbon Path of Zhanjiang", and online promotions praising mangroves.

The musical, named *Lighthouse Deep in the Mangroves*, integrates many local cultural elements in Zhanjiang, including fisherman's song and Leizhou folk song, drum performances and local traditional dance called *Nuo* dance.

It tells a story about two generations of beacon guards in Wuhao Island, who settle there like the deep-rooted mangroves.

They led fishermen and villagers to protect their homeland in the past and call on the young generation to return for rural revitalization.

Diverse stage arts are used to present the story and delve into culture related to the "City of Mangroves".

The first Conversation Between Guangzhou and Zhanjiang Over Cultural Development, held on Wednesday, aimed to set up a platform for high-quality



Zhanjiang's natural mangrove forests are a heaven for migrant birds. LI BO/FOR CHINA DAILY

advancement in the cultural sector.

During the week, a program for public interest called "Carbon Path of Zhanjiang" was launched on Friday, which according to Zheng Haoran, head of the city's publicity department, is an "unprecedented and significant exploration in the city's low-carbon initiative".

During the launch ceremony, Zhanjiang Mangrove Wetland Protection Foundation signed an agreement with several enterprises including Baosteel Zhanjiang Iron and Steel, BASF Zhanjiang Verbund site, Zhongke (Guangdong) Refinery and Tencent Charity Foundation for joint forces in the comprehensive protection, restoration, study and research of mangroves and in developing related carbon sinks.

Programs to publicize the science of mangroves on campus aimed to increase youth awareness of mangroves in hopes of encouraging the young people to

protect the plants and share knowledge of mangroves with others.

Ten ambassadors and 30 publicity group members were selected among students and employees aged 10 to 35 in Zhanjiang to help to display the city's charm.

A three-month online event titled "Loving Zhanjiang's Mangroves" was started on March 19. It encouraged netizens including noted bloggers to shoot and publicize the beauty of the forests, including food, landscapes, ecology or tourism routes.

The event is expected to showcase the city's strong ecology and efforts to build itself into the "City of Mangroves".

Wu Guoxiong, vice-mayor of the city, said at the culture week's opening ceremony: "We believe the series of cultural activities will further shape the distinctive culture of the City of Mangroves and better meet the public's cultural demands."

Zhanjiang has mangrove for-

ests covering an area of 9,960 hectares, accounting for 78 percent of the total in Guangdong and 33 percent in the country. The city also boasts the nation's largest nature reserve of mangroves.

Local officials announced the city's decision to become the "City of Mangroves" in late 2021. Ever since, it has doubled down on its efforts to implement the ecological restoration of mangrove wetlands as the world sees a decline of mangrove forests year by year. The city's mangrove forests are deemed by international wetland experts as an example of the world's wetland ecology restoration.

Liu Hongbing, Party secretary of Zhanjiang, stressed at a conference in July 2022 that the city should speed up creation of a mangrove demonstration area, which covers an area of more than 10,000 *mu*, or 666.67 hectares, and become a model of biodiversity protection.

Green development in Zhanjiang improves air and water quality

By YUAN SHENGGAO

The seaside city of Zhanjiang posted excellent air and water quality results again in 2022 thanks to city authorities' strategy in sticking to green development.

Its air quality composite index ranked second among the 21 cities in Guangdong province in 2022. And the surface water quality of all the sections monitored by the State environment watchdog was rated either excellent or good, while all the centralized water sources at and above county level were up to standard.

Analysts attributed the outstanding environmental status quo to the city's efforts to promote low-carbon development by advocating green manufacturing and even the green life cycle of products in main sectors such as steel, paper making and petrochemicals, prioritizing clean energy, promoting energy conservation and carbon reduction in other major sectors.

Baosteel Zhanjiang Iron and Steel is a model of green production in the city. Zhu Weilin, manager of the company's hot rolling factory, said the environmentally friendly treatment of wastewater is key in steelmaking and Baosteel Zhanjiang became the nation's first iron and steel maker in 2020 capable of recycling all of its solid or hazardous waste.

Baosteel Zhanjiang Iron and Steel has built 23 water treatment systems and can treat all its wastewater, 98 percent of which can be reused internally.

In total, 1.89 billion yuan (\$274.8 million) was invested in the shaft furnace project, which is expected to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide by more than 500,000 metric tons annually when put into use in late 2023.

Thirty-six companies passed the examination of clean production in Zhanjiang in 2022. Nine industrial parks were identified as pilots of cyclic transformation in 2022, of which the Zhanjiang Economic and Technological Development Zone was recognized as a national pilot and the other eight, pilots of Guangdong province.

Data from the Zhanjiang

development and reform bureau showed the city had finished construction of four offshore wind power projects, with the total installed capacity of 1.2 million kilowatts.

Its current onshore wind electricity installed capacity is 1.4 million kW and that of its photovoltaic power is the same.

1.2
million kilowatts

the total installed capacity of four offshore wind power projects Zhanjiang has finished

Construction of a nuclear power project in Lianjiang, a county-level city of Zhanjiang, is well under way, with capital of 3.79 billion yuan poured in 2022, 223 percent of the size planned in early 2022.

Several natural gas projects are also under construction, such as the Wushi oilfield cluster and Hainan-Guangdong natural gas pipelines.

To promote energy conservation and carbon reduction in other major sectors, Zhanjiang formulated a technical reform plan and guided 15 industrial companies that consumed over 5,000 tons of coal equivalent annually to improve technology in 2022 in hopes of axing 254,900 tons of coal equivalent.

The city also propelled green construction and developed prefabricated buildings. Green buildings accounted for more than 90 percent of newly built civil buildings in 2022.

Addressing the launching ceremony of the program "Carbon Path of Zhanjiang" on Friday, Zheng Haoran, head of city's publicity department, said that Zhanjiang's strategy to balance ecology protection and economic development has led to a win-win outcome.

According to the official, the city was able to realize a surplus of 1.58 million tons of carbon emission quota in 2022 as compared to a gap of 780,000 tons in 2021, to the effect that the city was able to rake in 126 million yuan worth of economic value from carbon quota trading in 2022 as compared to expenditure of 27 million yuan on the quota in 2021.



"Carbon Path of Zhanjiang" is launched on Friday.

LIU JICHENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

Cities' dialogue plants new seeds for their cultural industries

By YUAN SHENGGAO

The first Conversation Between Guangzhou and Zhanjiang Over Cultural Development was held in Zhanjiang on Wednesday. It was an important event as part of the City of Mangroves culture week this year.

The dialogue event promoted targeted matching in the cultural industry and in-depth cooperation between Zhanjiang and Guangzhou.

Zheng Haoran, head of the Zhanjiang publicity department, said at the event that Guangzhou is noted for its history and comprehensive economic and cultural strength, while Zhanjiang has a profound culture and distinctive advantages as it is situated at the juncture of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Hainan Free Trade Port and the Beibu Gulf city cluster.

"The partnership between Guangzhou and Zhanjiang is a beneficial exploration for Guangdong's region-



Huang Qifan, executive deputy director of the academic committee at the China Institute for Innovation and Development Strategy, delivers a speech on Wednesday. ZHANG FENGFENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

al collaborative development strategy to make new breakthroughs in the cultural industry," he noted.

Zhanjiang regards the dialogue

event as a new starting point to expand communication and cooperation in the cultural industry, he added.

Huang Qifan, executive deputy director of the academic committee at the China Institute for Innovation and Development Strategy and former mayor of Chongqing in Southwest China, delivered a keynote speech at the event, suggesting a path to the two cities' cooperation in the cultural industry.

Both cities should focus on promoting the development of their industrial culture, Huang said.

He said that Guangzhou's resources in terms of its industrial chains can work with Zhanjiang's cultural resources as the former's strong capacity for cultural content creation, investment and operations may help to develop the latter's heritage, natural resources and intellectual property.

He suggested that Guangzhou's leadership in cultural creation, innovativeness and the digital cultural industry be applied to the development of Zhanjiang's

historical and cultural resources such as Cantonese and Leizhou operas.

On the sideline of the event, several guests praised the city's endeavor to protect its mangroves and they talked of the roles mangrove resources can play in the city's cultural industry development.

Xiang Xi, chairman of Guangzhou-based Time Network, said: "Zhanjiang boasts rich cultural resources, and the mangrove forest culture is an important constituent of Zhanjiang's culture."

Protecting and making good use of its green resources, primarily its mangrove forests, will contribute to the green rise of Zhanjiang, Xiang said.

As open cities known for their culture, Zhanjiang and Guangzhou can utilize the mangrove resources to develop green tourism, which in turn can help to spread the cities' culture, Xiang added.

Lin Dihuan, a cartoonist and calligrapher from Zhanjiang who is popular nationwide, said that Zhanjiang has a long coastline and many naturally pretty mangrove forests. Each forest contains a huge ecosystem and looks romantic and vibrant.

He said he will continue to explore the cultural resources related to mangrove forests and create pleasant, interesting and representative cultural images based on fiddler crabs and egrets in the mangrove forests.

According to an action plan Zhanjiang released in late 2021, the city intends to build a mangrove eco-tourism economic belt by 2025 and to integrate tourism elements of the mangrove forests into the larger cultural industry chain.

Scan the codes to learn more about Zhanjiang.

