

Emphasizing the Creation of a National Garden City and Endeavouring to Create an Ecologically Liveable Mountainous City



City in the Forest

Yangquan is located in the eastern of Shanxi Province, and is an emerging industrial city. The Taohe River penetrates through the urban area. With mountains and rivers inside, Yangquan has rich mineral resources, a pleasant climate, and is known as the “land of coal and iron”. Yangquan is one of China’s largest anthracite coal production bases, and one of the three major bauxite production bases. With a population of more than 1.3 million, Yangquan has a jurisdictional area of 4570 square kilometres, and there are two counties (namely, Pingding and Yu) and four districts (namely the urban district, the mining district, the suburban district and the economic & technological development zone) under its jurisdiction.

Yangquan is in the mullock mountainous area of Taihang Mountain. It has severe natural conditions and few plants. Meanwhile, as a resource-heavy city and a coal chemical base, the long-term coal mining has heavily destroyed the

ecological environment. The environmental problems such as air pollution, water and soil loss, destruction of underground water and sinking of the ground surface of the coal mining area are seriously affecting the construction of a harmonious Yangquan and restrict sustainable economic and social development. In recent years, guided by the important thought of “Three Represents”, Yangquan controlled the situation through scientific development, and strived to “develop Yangquan into a modern regional centre which has fine ecology, may serve as a safe and harmonious liveable home, and has powerful competitive strength”. According to the principles of “being organized by the government, making uniform planning, adapting to local conditions, welcoming the general public’s participation, highlighting the characteristics and seeking effects”, Yangquan adheres to “strict planning, high-standard construction, and efficient management”, makes full use of the unique natural resources such as the mountains, rivers and roads, and

carries out the ecological environment construction of creating a national garden city on a large scale by taking the opportunities of rebuilding urban villages, construction of new countryside, coal mullock treatment, greening along railways and highways, enlargement of the city capacity and improvement of the city quality.

In recent years, we endeavour to overcome many contradictions in city construction in respect of the land, funding, relocation, etc., and try every way to settle important and difficult problems. By building up parks and green belts with great efforts, improving the scenic views along the roads, creating garden-like residential areas, promoting environmental protection and strengthening the construction of municipal infrastructures, we are continuously improving the city's greening level and its image. Firstly, we built up parks and green belts with great efforts. We successively built up a number of major public green belt squares including: Taohe Park, Beishan Park, Yangmei Riverfront Park, Baojin Cultural Park, the Municipal Cultural Center Square, New Quanguan Square, Yueqin Park, Tongyu Park, Sakura Park, Peony Park and have formed a green belt system which is composed of connected green belts. Secondly, we successively accomplished more than 20 road-greening projects including the: Taobei West Road Greening Project, Saixi Road Greening Project, Yibai Road Greening Project, South Outer Ring Road Greening Project, Xincheng Avenue Greening Project and have preliminarily formed urban road greening scenic views. Thirdly, we went deep into carrying out the activities of making garden-like entities and residential areas to reach the greening standards. By way of exchange of experiences, typical leading, encouragement and publicity, etc. for several years, Yangquan makes the creation of garden-like entities and residential areas to be deeply rooted among the people, and a large group of garden-like entities and residential areas have arisen. Fourthly, we made more efforts on passage-greening and city-surrounding greening work. While rebuilding the old urban areas, we successively organized and implemented the greening projects of some major passages such as: Saixi Road Scenic Forest Greening Project, Shinaoshan Road Side Scenic Forest Greening Project and the No. 307 Double-Line Greening Project by demolishing unlawful buildings and planting trees and grasses as much as possible and therefore further expanded the greening space of the city. Fifthly, we strengthened the treatment of the ecological environment and the construction of urban infrastructures. We focused on implementing the thermal-power concentrative heating supply project, the urban gas project, the coal facility rebuilding project, the motor vehicle pollution control project and the project of prohibiting coal burning in the urban catering industry. The urban

concentrative heating supply rate is more than 90%, the urban gas popularization rate has reached 86.6%, and the city's innocuous treatment rate of domestic garbage has reached 91.02%. During the whole year, there are 353 days when the city's air quality reaches or exceeds Level II, the urban water supply popularizing rate has reached 100%, the comprehensive conformity rate of water quality has reached 99.68% and the city's sewage treatment rate has reached 82.24%. Especially, since 2005, we have carried out the large-scale comprehensive mullock treatment project. With more than four years of efforts, Yangquan has invested a total of 220 million Yuan, accomplished the tasks of 4300 mus of mullock treatment at 26 locations. The previous "hot mountain" is now dressed in green, and Yangquan is taking a lead in China, in respect of treating its mullocks scientifically.



Monument of the Great Battle of Hundred Regiments



Spring is Full of the Garden



Beishan Park

Forest City of Landscape — Liaoyuan



Liaoyuan, a small city in the east of Shanhaiguan, has green mountains, clear water, pleasant sceneries and a fine ecological environment, and is a wealthy and beautiful city.

Liaoyuan is located at the southeast of Jilin Province, the ending section of Changbai Mountain and the transiting zone of Songliao Plain. It has beautiful mountains and clear waters, an excellent ecological environment, and deep cultural deposits. In the Qing dynasty, it was a paddock in Shengjing where a deer official was appointed to take charge of sika deer tributes to the royal court. Since the government of Qing dynasty established Liaoyuan County in 1902, the people in Liaoyuan gave priority to urban planning. The county is located against a mountain and faces a river, with Yin at the back and Yang in the front, so as to gather the Qi coming from the southeast. The people living at that time also considered Longshou Mountain as the Long Mai, and built up Kuixing Building, so that some of them would be capable of passing the imperial examinations. They considered Dongliao River as the exit of water and Lishuhe Alluvial Plain as the exit of Qi, and in this way, the county is supported by mountains and rivers, so as to gain a momentum of preserving wind and having water.

Liaoyuan thrived for coal, and declined for coal, too. It is a typical resource-exhausted city. In 2006, Liaoyuan Municipal Party Committee and the Municipal Government seized opportunities, and was initially listed in the first group of 12 experimental cities of resource-pattern economic transformation in China. In the transformation process, the city transformation and the economic transformation were implemented simultaneously, and the economic and industrial structures were optimized by way of economic transformation; while the development space of the urban area was enlarged and the competitive force of the city



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was enhanced through city transformation. In respect of economic transformation, the development position of 6 succeeding and substituting industries (i.e., new materials, new energy, biological health, equipment manufacturing, metallurgy & building materials and socks textiles) was specified. The unique transformation policies were noticed by investors. The development was full of vitality and vigor, and successfully shook off traditional development modes.

A new industrial development layout has been formed. When facing the severe challenges brought by international financial crisis, the Municipal Party Committee and the Municipal Government seized up the situation, converted the crisis into an opportunity, made a strategic layout of city development, and established the positioning of creating an important industrial city in the southeast of Jilin Province, a satellite city of Changchun, and a ecologically livable city combining mountains, rivers and forests.

The city construction mostly embodies Liaoyuan's unique regional characteristics, cultural characteristics and industrial characteristics. The city development strategic planning has been made, according to the objective of keeping not backward for 50 years, the urban space planning of "one core, two axes, three districts and seven nodes" has been constructed, and a scientific and prospective planning system of overall consideration and urban-rural integrated development has been formed. In terms of city construction, Liaoyuan stresses excavating historical and cultural deposits and creating a well-arranged city pattern where the habitat environment and the ecology



People may visit and tour the scenic belt of Liaohe River, and fully enjoy the wonderful recreational times.



As a road network composed of three ring roads, four north-to-south roads and six west-to-east roads reaches out in all directions, the traffic is convenient and quick.

is harmonious with each other, the city is combined with forests, mountains and rivers which are integrated with and penetrate through each other. According to the network-based development strategy of "one axis, one belt, one center, a number of clusters", Liaoyuan always rebuilds the old urban areas and develops the new areas simultaneously, and has managed to make overall planning and will be fully

covered with the regulatory detailed planning. By stressing the quality of special planning, it has created good images of single plan and a fine style entirely. On that base, the Municipal Party Committee and the Municipal Government emphasizes the project of people's livelihood, make and implement plans with greater efforts, and contributes more investments, as well. They also rectify subsidence areas and rebuild shanty areas at large scales. From 2006 to 2008, 48000 households were relocated back to the rebuilt areas. In 2009, the relocation work continued powerfully, 9699 households were relocated to 485,000 square meters of rebuilt shanty areas, and 660,000 square meters of dwelling for back relocation to the rebuilt shanty areas were constructed. 4 coal mining subsidence areas under comprehensive management were constructed; 1,331,000 trees were planted in the urban area, 142 green belts were built or rebuilt, 466.01 hectares of green belts were added, and both the urban green coverage rate and the green belt rate have reached 30%. Meanwhile, Liaoyuan organized and implemented the infrastructural construction projects at the largest city construction scale in history, with the largest amount of investments, and involving the widest coverage. 56 roads have been built, broadened or rebuilt, and a road network composed of three ring roads, four north-to-south roads and six west-to-east roads has been formed. 4 parks and 3 cultural recreation squares have been newly built or rebuilt for visitors and for holding activities frequently, just like a beautiful painting of the age of harmony and prosperity. In addition, a number of major scenic spots and natural preservation areas will also become an important symbol of Liaoyuan.

In today's Liaoyuan, the buildings stand in great numbers but in different styles, the urban roads are wide and unimpeded, while the greening and illuminating effects are highlighted. Liaoyuan has now a population of 1.3 million including an urban population of 500,000, and its urban area has reached 86 square kilometers. In China, it is the well-known land of sika deer, land of peasant paintings, land of paper-cuts, land of Er Ren Zhuan, land of Pipa, and land of cotton socks. The city's savour is improved, its capacity of gathering and absorbing production factors is enhanced distinctively, and the people's happiness index is greatly uplifted. A garden city of fine ecology, which depends on and displays its mountains and rivers has its preliminary scale. In July 2009, the national work conference on sustainable development of resource-based cities was held in Liaoyuan, and Liaoyuan's experience in transformation was affirmed by the leaders of some ministries and commissions of the Central Government. Liaoyuan is praised as one of the "cities of the greatest development potential" at the national conference of city brands!

Longyan Is Promoting Great-leap-forward Development of the Urban System with All Its Strength



Bird's-eye view of the central city area of Longyan City

As one of the nine cities of Fujian Province divided into districts, Longyan City is located at the junction of Fujian Province, Guangdong Province, and Jiangxi Province, which is generally called “Minxi (the west of Fujian Province)”, and to the west bank of Taiwan Strait. There are seven counties/cities/districts with a total area of 19,000 square kilometers and a total population of 2,933,000 under the administration of Longyan City. Longyan City is an important traffic hub for expanding the economic region of the west bank of Taiwan Strait to the north and the south, connecting the Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta, and expanding economy to the central region of China.

In recent years, Longyan City has been energetically promoting the urban infrastructure construction with “Green, Bright, and Beautiful” projects as the focus according to the construction requirements of speeding up the construction of industries, infrastructure, and the “Three Systems” of the city on the principles of “City Expansion, Reconstruction, Perfection, and Improvement”, aiming at planning, gathering, managing, and constructing businesses, logistics, and dwelling. By the end of 2009, Longyan City had completed 36.8 square kilometers of built up area in the central city, an increase of 5.2 square kilometers compared with 2006; had a total urban road length of 317.9 kilometers, an increase of 32.9 kilometers compared with 2006; and

achieved a green coverage ratio of 39.13% in the built up area, increasing by 3.81% compared with 2006. By means of continual expansion of urban development space and improvement of city quality, the construction of the central city has effectively pushed forward the interactive cycle of industrialization and urbanization and the harmonious growth of economic society of Longyan City.

I. Construction of the road network and set-up the framework of urban road network

The political center and economic center of the central city extending to the west, south, and north as the “Ten-mile Road and New Cities at Two Wings” are developed and constructed and the Longyan Economic and Technological Development Zone and Longzhou Industrial Development Zone expands and extends. The road network pattern of the new built up area of Longyan City has taken initial shape as the road network expands, which has promoted the stream of people and materials of the economic and technological development zones at the levels of city and district, increased the price of land around the new built up area, and thus good social and economic benefits have been achieved and interactive cycle of industrialization and urbanization has been sped up.

II. Landscaping for improving the life quality

1. The urban landscaping level has been increased constantly. A comprehensive urban landscaping system with reasonable distribution and complete functions has formed basically.

2. The urban environmental hygiene has been improved obviously. There are 20 refuse transfer stations and 49 public toilets in the central city. The Huangzhukeng Garbage Disposal Plant can dispose 380 tons of garbage a day and all the garbage produced by the central city can be totally disposed by it on the same day when it is produced, thus the Huangzhukeng Garbage Disposal Plant has been honored with the title of “The First-class Innoxious Garbage Disposal Plant” by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development.

3. The reform of public utilities has achieved remarkable results. Public bidding has been adopted to realize marketized cleaning of the roads, marketized transportation of the garbage, and marketized maintenance of the road lamps and drainage ditches of the central city; the construction and operation of the three areas of urban gas pipeline have been franchised; the management and maintenance of the landscaping has been separated; and liquefied gas stations and outdoor advertisings of the central city area are operated through public auctions.

4. The development strategy of giving priority to public transport has been actively implemented. 30 to 50 new environmentally friendly hybrid buses are updated every year and the number of buses has increased to 225 from 180 in 2006. It is anticipated that by the end of 2010, the contribution rate of buses will be between 20% and 25%, there will be at least 320 buses in total; ten thousand people will share at least 12.09 buses, and environment-friendly and comfortable buses with air conditioning will account for at least 75% of total buses.

III. Housing construction for realizing the goal that every resident has his own house

According to statistics, 11 residence communities, each of which covers an area of over 50 mu (a Chinese unit of area, approximately equal to 666.67 square meters), were constructed in the central city during the last three years and the urban per capita housing construction area had increased from 33.5 square meters in 2006 to 35 square meters in 2009. The low-income housing construction has been sped up. According to preliminary statistics, the economically affordable housing of approximate 355,000 square meters and low-rent housing of approximate 42,000 square meters were completed in the central city between 2007 and 2009. It is anticipated that by the end of 2010, Longyan City will build approximate 9,277 sets of low-income housing, including the economically affordable housing in Liandong,

to basically resolve the housing problems of the low-income families in the central city and realize the goal that every resident has his own house.

IV. Construction of social undertakings for building a new city image

In recent years, Longyan City has built many public projects, such as the People’s Square, which have enriched the cultural and sports life of the masses. The newly built administrative service center and museum have come into service and have thus greatly improved the urban functions and overall quality of the city.

In the future, Longyan City will follow its objectives of “Constructing a New Longyan”, plan and construct an eco-friendly and livable central city from the perspective of development, and make Longyan a more beautiful city to realize great-leap-forward development.



Bird's-eye view of Longyan Administrative Service Center (at the People's Square)



Bird's-eye view of Longyan Avenue and the new area



High rise residential housing

Classical City with Modern Rhythm — Xiangfan



Xiangyang Moat is the widest one remained in China, and the widest position is 60 meters wide. After years of rectification, the moat is clear to the bottom now. This is a small part of the moat and Xiangyang's ancient circumvallation.

“This is a real city. By depending on steep mountains and a torrential river, it becomes a scenic spot covering miles around, which wins beautiful landscape externally and human culture internally. It was a business center in ancient times, and has nowadays become an important inland traffic and logistics hub. It gathers the essence of the landscape.” --- This is what was mentioned in the award speech when Xiangfan won the title of the first group of “Charming Cities in China”.

Xiangfan is located in the northwest of Hubei Province, in the middle stream of the Hanjiang River, and at the ending section of Daba Mountain of Qin Ling. Xiangfan is a combined name of Xiangyang (an ancient city) and Fancheng (an ancient wharf). It has a jurisdictional area of 19700 square kilometers with a population of 5.8 million and a built-up area of 1 million square kilometers with a population of 1.2 million, and is now sub-civic center of Hubei Province.

Having been described as “the strategic passage of the north and south” or “a thoroughfare of seven provinces” for long, Xiangfan is an important traffic and logistics hub connecting south with north and east with west. “One Hanjiang River, two airports, three railways and four expressways” constitute a convenient and developed water, land and air traffic system.

Xiangfan has a history of 2800 years as a city, and has cultivated eminent persons in history such as Zhuge Liang, Meng Haoran, Mi Fu, Song Yu and Liu Xiu. There are more than 700 cultural relics and scenic spots around the city. The stories in 32 chapters of the 120 chapters of Romance of Three Kingdoms happened here.

In recent years, Xiangfan actively followed the macro-control policies of the State and the trend of international industrial restructuring, speeded up the paces of structural adjustment, stressed developing advanced manufacturing industries and modern service industries, endeavored to promote the optimization and upgrading of reasonable industrial layout and structure, and enabled the overall national economic caliber and the industrial competitive strength to be improved distinctively. Up to now, an economic development system and commercial circulation pattern with a full range of specialties, sound functions, a reasonable structure and driving strength has been basically formed, a new-pattern industrial system headed by the automobile industry and supported by the industries of electric power, hi-tech, textiles, foodstuff, electronics, building materials, metallurgy and chemicals, etc. has been constructed. As a matter of fact, Xiangfan has become an economic center in the regions adjacent to the medium stream and upstream of Hanjiang River.



An ancient-style street in Xiangyang.

For the purpose of better promoting the progress of economic and social development, Xiangfan always considers people as the foremost and develops itself in scientific ways. By following the working ideas of “constructing the urban development framework according to generous plans, creating a comfortable and harmonious habitation environment with great efforts, and propelling the sustainable development of urban-rural construction with large-scale management”, Xiangfan highlighted three major measures, namely, mechanism adjustment, institutional innovation and policy making, and endeavored to strengthen the base, build up frameworks and make elaborate achievements. Consequently, it has propelled the strong development of the urban planning, construction and management undertakings. Since 2008, Xiangfan’s annual average urban construction investments have been over 3 billion Yuan, and the amount even reaches 7 billion Yuan in 2010. It has successively implemented the infrastructural

construction projects such as “One Development Zone and Four Industrial Parks”, the inner ring road and the outer ring road, rectification of the ancient-city area as well as water supply and sewage discharge system rebuilding with great efforts, endeavored to enrich and strengthen the connotation of urban culture, improved functions of the city, and built up a good platform for supporting the economic and social development. At present, the framework of Xiangfan as a large city has been basically established, the division of functional areas is increasingly improved, the city appearance is much better than before, and the outward attractiveness is enhanced continuously.

In the future urban development, Xiangfan will, by following the guidelines of “expanding the north, optimizing the south, controlling the west and developing toward east” and the pattern of “islet surrounded by five districts, multi-center development”, expand the space of the urban development; it will form “One Development Zone and Five Industrial Parks” in the downtown area according to the ideology of intensive industrial development, making infrastructural planning in advance and positioning the functions reasonably; it will endeavor to construct a fully developing new-pattern industrial system dominated and headed by the automobile industry, mainly composed of four major industries (i.e., hi-tech, electric power, textiles and electronic appliances) and other industries such as mechanical manufacturing, foodstuff, chemicals and building materials; it will try to develop itself into one of the traffic hubs in the Middle Regions of China, a regional logistics center, a landscape garden city, a national famous historic and cultural based tourist city, a tourism base of Wudang Mountain and Shennongjia Forestry Area in Hubei Province, a tourism service center in northwest of Hubei, and a production and processing base of agricultural by-products in Hubei Province.

The development objective of Xiangfan is to endeavor to, by 2020, stand upright at the bank of the Hanjiang River as a new vigorous and efficient industrial city, a regional center of balanced development, a livable home of security and ecology, a famous pioneering and innovative cultural city, and an indispensable central city with brand-new appearance among the Middle and Western Regions.



A number of physical exercise and recreation places have been built up in the urban area of Xiangfan. This is the stadium.

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