

A Journey of Discovery and Exploration

By Gou Wen

From May 25 to 26, a delegation of diplomatic envoys from Asian countries toured Ningbo.

A total of fifteen Asian countries were represented in the delegation, including Indonesia, Vietnam, Mongolia, and more. The diplomats came to Ningbo to learn about the city's economy and social progress and to explore possible partnership opportunities under the Belt and Road cooperation framework.

"Every visitor will fall in love with Ningbo as I do"

Fujialu Village is located in the southwest of Chongshou Town, Cixi. After many years of development, this village has become a shining model of rural revitalization and shared prosperity.

Mr. Nawab Ali Rahoojo, the Deputy Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Shanghai received a gift of handmade clay figures and Chinese calligraphy from the villagers.

"Ningbo's efforts to promote rural revitalization are amazing. The city is rich, livable and harmonious with its neighbors. Friendly villagers waved to us as we walked along the road. I believe that every visitor will fall in love with this city as I do," he said.

Technology Powering Growth

In an unmanned warehouse, autonomous robots zoomed around, picking up items and placing them at designated locations. "I know it is AI, but I have never seen it in action before," said Mr. Murat Kocabas, the commercial attaché of the Consulate General of the Republic of Turkey in Shanghai.

This is just one of many automatic warehouses owned by Blue Dragon Meishan Logistics Company. The entire facility covers an area of 100,000 m². The brand-new, 6,000-m² fully-autonomous stereoscopic warehouse opened on July 15 last year. With 24-meter-tall shelves, up to 50,000 cubic meters of cargo can be stored here.

The impressed diplomats stood at the entrance of the storage space, using their phones to record the robots at work, sorting the goods.

At the Meishan port area, cargo trucks were still busily loading and unloading goods despite the rainy weather. The



Diplomats visiting Fujialu village.

[Photo by Xiong Zhou]

technology being used at this terminal is becoming increasingly advanced.

"By the end of this year, with the widespread application of 5G communication and cutting-edge high-precision Beidou positioning technology at the terminal, we will realize true intelligent management and control of port operations in the pilot smart zones," said the staff of Ningbo Meidong Container Terminal Company.

The Ningbo Meidong Container Terminal Company manages more than 40 international shipping routes, forming a network that reaches the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. In 2020, the container throughput of the company reached 5.44 million TEU, with a year-on-year growth of 13.4%. From January to April 2021, the container volume totaled 2.209 million TEU, up by 49.86% year-on-year and accounting for 36.8% of the annual target of 6 million TEU.

"Ningbo is an important city of Zhejiang. I am certain that it has a big role to play in terms of increasing economic figures," said Ms. Lada Phumas, the Consul General of the Royal Thai Consulate

General in Shanghai.

Increased Contact Deepening Mutual Understanding

On May 26, the opening ceremony of The Belt and Road Countries in Asia Exhibition 2021 was held at Ningbo Library.

This exhibition demonstrates the fruitful outcomes of extensive partnerships between Ningbo, a hub city of the Belt and Road Initiative, and Asian countries in commerce, technology, education, culture, and healthcare.

On display in Ningbo Library's second floor exhibition hall are 35 items gifted to Ningbo by its sister cities in South Korea, Vietnam, Brunei, Laos, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia and many other Asian countries. The fascinating, diverse collection contains plaques, commemorative plates, porcelain tableware, and vases, all bearing witness to the everlasting friendship between Ningbo and its international sister cities.

The exhibition is an important event

that has further strengthened cultural and people-to-people relations between China and other Asian countries. Mr. Rakhimov Rakhymzhan, the Consul General of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Shanghai made a speech in Chinese at the opening ceremony. "I believe that this exhibition will enable the residents in Ningbo to have a better understanding of the cultural and literary works of the Asian countries along the Belt and Road and the distinctive scenery of each country," he said.

Roads to Sister Cities is one section of the exhibition, featuring the timeline of the formation of sister-city relations between Ningbo and other Asian cities. Several sister cities are highlighted in this section, including Bandar Abbas, Iran; Sihanoukville, Cambodia; Ulan Bator, Mongolia; Irbid, Jordan; Haiphong, Vietnam; and Daegu, South Korea.

In addition, there is a photography exhibition as part of the event, where visitors can view the breathtaking natural scenery, unique history, and cultural customs of Asian countries along the Belt and Road.



INFO&TIPS

Passenger Surge Expected on the Yangtze River Delta Railway During Dragon Boat Festival

By Dong Na

Recently, the Yangtze River Delta Railway's updated train schedules for the 2021 Dragon Boat Festival was released. 122 new pairs of trains have been added to cope with the passenger surge.

During the Festival, the Yangtze River Delta Railway is expected to transport more than 12.8 million passengers, with the daily average passenger volume exceeding 2.5 million, higher than the same period in 2019. June 12 will be the busiest day, with an anticipated 3 million passengers. Both the number of passengers and the frequency of trains are expected to hit a record high.

In May this year, the Railway transported 65.988 million passengers, an increase of 1.327 million compared with the same period in 2019, with a year-on-year growth of 2%. It is the first time that the monthly passenger traffic on the Yangtze River Delta Railway witnesses positive growth since the outbreak of COVID-19. The daily average number of passengers for May was 2.129 million, accounting for 22.9% of the national railway passenger volume. 3.652 million trips were made on May 1 alone, setting a record high for the single-day passenger volume on the Yangtze River Delta Railway.

The first and final days of the Dragon Boat Festival will be peak travel times. The public's willingness to travel is returning, and demand for tourism is recovering rapidly.

Many short-distance passengers will be travelling between large cities and tourist destinations in the Yangtze River Delta area, while most medium-distance passenger will be making trips within the four-hour radius of high-speed rail.

Last year, a number of new railway lines were put into operation, connecting more towns and cities with regional urban hubs. The passenger flow will continue to grow.

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SPOTLIGHT

Children's Day Celebrated Across Ningbo

By Jin Lu

Children's Day falls on June 1 on the Chinese Mainland. Celebrations have been held in schools across Ningbo for children to have fun as well as to promote awareness of children's special place in society.

At Ninghai Experimental Primary School, the students organized a flea market. Each class had their own stall, selling toys, comic books, clothing, and stationery. All of the items were meticulously arranged by the students manning each booth.

"Our class's booth was in a corner. Not many people came over, so I walked around carrying the items for sale. In the end I made more than fifty yuan!" Liu Xuanhao, a student in a Spiderman costume, said excitedly.

There were also stalls set up by the school's administration, where teachers and students of the school's calligraphy club

auctioned off their best artworks. They will donate all the proceeds to charitable causes.

"We want to let children experience the joy of having a fair, while forming the habit of reusing items and conserving resources. This has been an unforgettable Children's Day," said Chen Xueying, a teacher at Ninghai Experimental Primary School.

Meanwhile, the annual Children's Art Exhibition opened at Ningbo Art Museum. It will last until June 20 and showcases the best art created by youngsters in Ningbo. With the theme "The Sun in the Heart", this year's exhibition received more than 1,800 submissions. 16 first prizes, 32 second prizes, 38 third prizes, 71 outstanding prizes were awarded by a judging panel of art experts.

The submissions reflect a wide range of topics and mediums, including painting, calligraphy, collage, pottery and installation art, fully demonstrating children's rich imagination and creativity.



Children in Ningbo complete paintings on Children's Day. [Photo by Xu Neng]

In Haishu District, a celebration party with the theme "One Dream Under the Same Blue Sky" was organized for sixteen children from disadvantaged homes by a

group of schoolteachers and volunteers. With joyful music playing in the background, the children made sand bottle paintings and straw hat art.

