

Ningbo Marks National Science Popularization Day

By Jin Lu

Ningbo marks this year's National Science Popularization Day with a wide range of activities from Sept. 18.

The National Science Popularization Day is held in China on the third weekend of every September each year to promote the public's understanding of and interest in science. Every year, Ningbo organizes a series of unique local activities that engages the public in creative ways.

Science Activities Held Citywide

This year in Ningbo, there are a science fair and numerous other events. Notably, many were collaborations between Ningbo-based scientific organizations, schools, universities, enterprises, and research institutes.

New exhibitions at the Ningbo Science Exploration Center focuses on sci-tech innovation, public health, and Ningbo's achievements in sci-tech development. A series of events on popular science literature, health, public safety, and low-carbon lifestyles are held citywide.

To encourage public participation while minimizing health risks, many of the activities are organized online.

A dedicated official Wechat account for Ningbo's National Science Popularization Day was launched as a portal to all the activities hosted by the city's districts and organizations. This year, over 300 activities can be accessed online, including livestreams, a knowledge contest, virtual tours of popular science museums, and science classes and videos for the general public.

"With the city entering a crucial growth and transformation period, environmental awareness, innovation, entrepreneurship, sci-tech progress, and innovation-driven development are needed more than ever," said Chen Wenhui, Chairman



Children observing a science learning device in Ningbo.

[Photo by Gao Xiaojing]

for Ningbo Association for Science and Technology.

Ningbo Sees Rapid High-Tech Development

In recent years, Ningbo has been attaching increasing importance to stimulating scientific innovation.

A total of 1,667 Ningbo enterprises met the national criteria for "high-tech companies" in 2020, accounting for 53.7% of the city's total, official data shows. As of the end of last year, Ningbo was home to 3,102 high-tech enterprises, ranking 18th in the nation.

Although the total number of high-tech enterprises in Ningbo is still much smaller than first-tier cities such as Beijing, Shenzhen, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, the pace of increase has been remarkable. Official data shows the number of high-tech companies in Ningbo increased from 1,212 in

2015 to 3,102 in 2020; the number of tech SMEs rose from 6,982 to 14,300 over the same period.

Talent introduction has been playing a pivotal role in bolstering the growth of high-tech enterprises in Ningbo. In 2020, the city witnessed an increase of 1,372 new PhD holders and 67,000 new high-tech skilled workers, bringing the total to 9,265 and 551,000 respectively.

The local government has set the goal of raising the total number high-tech enterprises to 8,000 by 2025, with 60% making R&D investments, according to an roadmap released in July to bolster Ningbo's scientific and technological innovation during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period.

The city's innovation capability has also grown significantly during the past five years. It jumped to 15th place in China in the latest ranking

for national innovation-oriented cities.

Before 2022, the city plans to develop two key laboratories at or above the provincial and ministerial level, introduce six new high-level industrial technology research institutes, and attract more top talents, including academicians from CAS and renowned international institutions.

Increasing Public Understanding of Science

In the meanwhile, Ningbo continues to enhance the public's understanding of science.

There has been an ongoing effort to increase the citizens' scientific literacy. More than eighty municipal science associations, tech parks, and corporate-based science associations have been founded in Ningbo. Five hundred science and technology volunteer teams were

formed, recruiting more than 20,000 volunteers.

This year, the Ningbo Municipal Science and Technology Association outlined Ningbo's main sci-tech development goals for the 14th Five-Year Plan period:

- 1) Getting Ningbo recognized as one of the first pilot cities of the "Science and Innovation China" initiative;
 - 2) Becoming a "national science and innovation model city";
 - 3) Raising the population's scientific literacy rate to 20%, or at least 4.6 percentage points higher than 2020.
- According to the roadmap, this year, Ningbo will build the "Science and Innovation China" Ningbo Center, five "Science and Innovation China" innovation bases, ten industrial innovation service centers, and three to five national or provincial public science venues.



SPOTLIGHT

Building Stronger Bonds with the Bridge of Language

By Gou Wen

As an international student in Ningbo University, Gao Weiyi has been studying Chinese for more than seven years. In 2014, he majored in Chinese Studies at the University of Sofia, Bulgaria. Now, he can speak fluent Chinese.

Gao's Bulgarian name is Stoyan Valentinov Gegovski; Gao Weiyi is a Chinese name he adopted after starting Chinese Studies. In fluent Chinese, he explained, "Gao stands for the Chinese word *gaoda* (tall and grand), Wei stands for *weida* (great) and Yi stands for *zhengyi* (justice)."

The reason that Gao chose to major in Chinese Studies was because he found it "interesting". At first, he had trouble deciding which subject to major in and asked his father for advice.

Gao's father told him that China's economy has a strong momentum of development and recommended Chinese. Although he also considered history, he eventually decided on Chinese Studies.

Two years ago, he came to Ningbo University for his master's degree. "It is a good place with lots of people and young students. Also, there are beautiful green spaces with trees and flowers. It is pretty amazing," said Gao.

As an international student, he also contributes to the deepening of the rest of the world's understanding of China. Last year, he participated in the Maritime Silk Road Culture and Tourism Expo as a foreign language host. At the exhibition booth, he introduced specialty products from Central and Eastern European countries to visitors.

"If you asked anybody in China about Bulgaria, they will think about two things, Bulgarian rose and yogurt," said Gao. He describes his homeland as a country of countless beautiful rose gardens. Local people make rose oil and many other rose-based products with the flowers.

Moreover, there is a China Culture Center in Bulgaria's capital, Sofia. "It showcases how Ningbo, my country, and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe are cooperating together," he said.

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0 双语汇 Different Tongues

东钱湖：西湖风光、太湖气魄

By Dong Na

Dongqian Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in Zhejiang Province, consisting of Guzi Lake, Mei Lake and Outer Lake. Its area is equivalent to four times that of West Lake in Hangzhou. Renowned Chinese writer Mr. Guo Moruo praised Dongqian Lake as being "as beautiful as West Lake, as majestic as Taihu Lake".

东钱湖是浙江省最大的天然淡水湖，由谷子湖、梅湖和外湖组成，面积相当于4个杭州西湖，被郭沫若先生誉为“西湖风光、太湖气魄”。

Fuquan Mountain is one of the main scenic spots of Dongqian Lake, known for its pristine fresh air. Most of the peaks are between 200 to 300 meters above sea level. The tallest is Wanghai Peak, at 556

meters. It is the best place in Ningbo to view the sunrise over the East China Sea.

福泉山是东钱湖核心景区之一，被誉为“天然氧吧”。山峰多在海拔200米至300米，其中望海峰为556米，是宁波市内观看东海日出最佳之地。

Dongqian Lake was called "Qian Lake" in ancient times, after "Qian Dai". According to legend, Fan Li, a scholar-official of the State of Yue in the Spring and Autumn Period over two thousand years ago, lived on the shores of Dongqian Lake after retiring from office with Xishi, one of the four legendary beauties of ancient China.

东钱湖古称“钱湖”，以其上承钱埭之水而得名。相传春秋时越国大夫范蠡隐退后，携西施避居东钱湖畔，流传着财富与爱情的动人传说。

Dongqian Lake served as



Dongqian Lake./东钱湖

[Photo by Yang Yulin] 杨雨林 摄

an inspiration for 11th-century poet Wang Anshi. In more recent times, 20th-century painter Sha Menghai chose Dongqian Lake as the location for his art school. Around the lake are many temples, stone inscriptions, historical buildings, and monuments, forming a profound cultural legacy that complements

the beautiful landscape of Dongqian Lake.

东钱湖古有王安石留下的足迹，今有沙孟海挥过毫的书院。环湖遍布庙宇、石刻、牌坊、楼台等古迹，给山水秀丽的东钱湖奠基了深厚的文化底蕴。

Tiantong Temple near Dongqian Lake is one of the world's five main Buddhist pilgrimage sites, with a history of

1,600 years and well-known in Japan and Southeast Asian countries. Two other historical temples, King Ashoka Temple and Daci Temple, are also situated on the shores of Dongqian Lake.

东钱湖区域内的天童寺为佛教禅宗五山之一，至今已有1600年历史，在日本和东南亚各国影响很大，另有阿育王寺、大慈禅寺等千年古刹闻名中外。

