

Striving Towards a Modern Coastal Metropolis

In Expats' Eyes: Ningbo Making Progress

By Dong Na, Xu Zhuowei

This week, the CPC Ningbo Municipal Committee convened its 14th congress. The meeting calls for ushering in a new chapter in the city's development. In the past five years, Ningbo has made great efforts to accelerate the building of a modern coastal metropolis, and the rapid changes of the city have also attracted the attention of expats.

City with Beauty and Fashion

"Ningbo is known for its garment production industry around the world. The Ningbo Fashion Fair is a great opportunity to look for new trends in the Chinese and International fashion industry." Loko, a Canadian graphic designer who lives in Ningbo, attends the Fair every year to learn about new production techniques for cloth making, graphic design and color trends.

In recent years, Loko has seen many international brands with which he is familiar come to shopping centers in Ningbo. "I love to go around and take a look at all of the new products created by big international and local brands. It gives me lots of inspiration as a graphic designer which I can use in my projects."

He has also seen a big change in the way people dress in Ningbo over the years, especially the youngsters are becoming way cooler. He also finds that Ningbo has made huge progress in terms of interior and space design, as there are tons of cool restaurants and shops now that were not around back when he first came to Ningbo.

In his view, Ningbo has done a great job in improving the city's architectural appearance over the past decade. "For example on Zhong Shan Dong Lu (中山东路), there are many new buildings and roads, sidewalk and bike lanes are way better than before. I can see the city improving from the center outwards." His one piece of advice would be to keep a good mix of modern and classic architecture, which makes the city more interesting to look at.



City view of Ningbo.

[Photo by Xu Neng]

City with Intelligence and Creativity

"When I think of Ningbo, I think of a 'smart city'. I haven't used cash in years! I think most people are like me," said Stoyan Valentinov Gegovski, a Ningbo University Bulgarian student.

Compared to the first days when he arrived in Ningbo, he finds that there are many innovations taking place in the city that are making him feel more convenient. "There is face recognition equipment installed in the campus libraries; the shared bikes you can unlock with a simple scan; and you can order a taxi/Didi on an app, or through WeChat, Alipay or any of the map apps."

As he sees it, China in general is going through a pretty creative and innovative process. Nowadays, he thinks that the innovation-centered enterprises are trying to improve and upgrade their already existing services and smart solutions, so this sector has somewhat matured.

"There is a new trend to start paying more attention to the creative and innovative field. I've heard that there are benefits for new startups, and the local uni-

versities are preparing well-qualified new talents to enter the market, so maybe Ningbo can soon turn into a second Shenzhen." Additionally, he noticed that parents are starting to value the creative classes, such as art & music, which was maybe not the case in the past.

City with Good Environment

Ningbo has the most important international port in China and even Asia, and it is characterized with strong "water culture" with water ways, lakes, and lagoons. Citizens are commonly concerned about the environmental quality and livability of Ningbo.

Faith Chan is an Associate Professor from the United Kingdom who has been working at the School of Geographical Sciences, UNNC for a decade. The city's blue (water) heritage and conserved blue-green spaces such as urban parks made a good impression on him.

"There are many successful sponge measures in the city, such as the eco-corridor at the New East Town and Cicheng Urban Wetland that are completely free and accessible to the public," said Chan. "These Sponge measures

can absorb excess urban rainwater and build storage up for the dry period, and simultaneously provide recreation and green spaces to the public, while reducing carbon budget by planting more trees and vegetation to improve living quality."

Chan believes that with the support of the Ningbo public and communities in further Sponge City and Blue-Green Infrastructure initiatives, the city will even shine brighter with the strong "water heritage and culture" of Ningbo. "In light of climate change and the national target of carbon neutralization and reduction, promoting more green spaces is also a 'win-win' strategy and co-benefits the direction with the national government," said Chan.

City with Enhanced Order and Better Behavior

"Looking back on 5 years before, it is obvious that many improvements have been made in Ningbo," said Erdem Ozturk, a Turkish entrepreneur in Ningbo and one of Ningbo's Overseas Communication Officers. He enjoys the conveniences that he didn't have before.

"Improvements are made to the city traffic, which has been

becoming more organized by new elevated roads and unobstructed sidewalks. Motorcycles and three-wheeler motorized tuk-tuks have been replaced with safe transportation suitable for a modern city," said Ozturk. "Using ride-hailing apps, prices are standardized for locals and visitors alike. Furthermore, traffic moves a lot faster when nobody runs red lights or drives the wrong direction on the road."

Ozturk also actively participates in the campaign for environmental sustainability. "We are categorizing our rubbish in order to increasing recycling. Government policies have fostered the usage of biodegradable products in Ningbo, which means less plastic demand and waste," he believes these efforts are really meaningful for a big city like Ningbo.

"Ningbo is playing a leading role for becoming a smart city. Five years ago, the vegetable market I often visit did not have any digital conveniences. Today, you can easily shop with smart phone from every vendor, and even can see all the information from the big display screen at the market such as lay out, historical, and current price of goods," said Ozturk.

SPOTLIGHT

Stories in Five Years: Their Retrospectives and Expectations

By Gou Wen

In the autumn of 2017, Ryan Godlewski came to Ningbo from the United States and became a teacher of the Access International Academy Ningbo, and now, he becomes the head of the school.

When asked to describe this city he lives, Ryan gave four words: diverse, comfortable, friendly and beautiful. "I think Ningbo is a very comfortable place. If you're looking forward to excitement, entertainment, culture, art, and nature, it has everything," said Ryan.

In the past five years in Ningbo, his work and life have changed a lot. Two years ago, he became a father, and now his two-year-old daughter is studying at the school where he works. One year ago, he was appointed Head of the Access International Academy Ningbo.

Meanwhile, Ryan witnessed the development of Ningbo. He said that the level of city's safety, cleanliness, and people's awareness of environmental protection have been greatly improved. He also hopes that Ningbo can continue to move in this direction, and everyone should work together to make the city more beautiful in the future.

As a staff who works in the Ningbo Zhoushan Port, Zhu Shijie witnessed the great changes of the port in five years. He said Ningbo Zhoushan Port has changed from a grand port to a strong one and is striving to become a world first-class. Last year, Ningbo Zhoushan Port became the world's third port whose container throughput over 30 million TEUs.

Zhu believes that his dream for the next five years is clear and firm, which is training more port crane drivers through his innovation studio and efforts. At the same time, he hopes they can make contributions to building Ningbo into a modern coastal metropolis and that Ningbo Zhoushan Port will truly become a world first-class strong port one day.

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双语汇 Different Tongues

梁弄古镇：街街弄弄烙着红色印记

By Xu Zhuowei

Located at the north of the Siming Mountain and south of the Yaojiang River, the Lianglong Town has a history of more than 1,400 years. It is named "Lianglong Town" because there are many alleys in the town ("long" means "alley" in Chinese). Many ancient buildings are preserved there. Walking along the old streets of flagstone road of Lianglong, you can see white walls and black tiles everywhere.

四明山北麓、姚江之南，有一座千年古镇，因镇内弄堂众多而得名“梁弄镇”。梁弄至今已有1400多年历史，镇内保存了许多古建筑，走在梁弄的街道上，低头是青石板

路，抬头是白墙黑瓦。

During the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, Lianglong was the centre of the resistance base in eastern Zhejiang. After the foundation of new people's republic, the "Eastern Zhejiang Anti-Japanese Aggression Revolutionary Base Memorial Hall" was established here. Today, it has become a patriotic education base.

抗日战争时期，梁弄是浙东敌后抗日根据地的中心，新中国成立后，在此建立了“浙东抗日革命根据地纪念馆”，如今，这里已成为爱国主义教育基地。

Currently, the Lianglong Township is focusing on the development of the tourism industry, promoting the building



Hengkantou village, Lianglong Town./ 梁弄镇横坎头村。

[Photo by Tang Yan] 唐严 摄

of a beautiful countryside, developing agriculture with local features, and writing a new chapter in the rural revitalization of the old revolutionary base. Now Lianglong does not only

have old streets, but also a brand-new downtown area. New industries, such as homestay vacations, ecological health care, sports and leisure, are equally blooming in Lianglong.

梁弄镇着眼旅游产业发展，推进美丽乡村建设，发展特色农业，谱写了革命老区乡村振兴的新篇章。现在的梁弄，不仅仅有古老的街道，更有崭新的城市。民宿度假、生态康养、运动休闲等经济业态在梁弄多点开花。

