

Striving Towards a Modern Coastal Metropolis

Interprovincial Collaboration Guarantees Timely Shipment

By Gou Wen

"I didn't expect the shipping of these vehicles to go so smoothly in Ningbo. We're on our way back to Hefei. Almost there now!" This was a message sent by Wang Shaokai of Anhui Ankai Bus Company to our correspondent.

You would never know that just several days ago, he was deeply anxious over the international shipping of a fleet of buses. Thanks to a cross-Yangtze collaboration between local authorities, the company was able to meet the deadline of its international shipment.

An Urgent Task

"We are very anxious about this order. A public sector client from Mexico placed an order for 800 buses, the largest order from Mexico that a Chinese bus maker has ever received. Originally, the buses were to be shipped from Shanghai's port, but due COVID-19-related travel restrictions, we decided to ship the first 70 vehicles from the Ningbo Zhoushan Port instead," said Zhang Haiyang, an employee of Anhui Ankai Bus Company. According to the sales contract, the buses must be shipped on May 1, otherwise Ankai would have to bear contractual penalties and perhaps even lose the trust of an overseas public sector client.

At 5 PM on April 23, Ningbo received a request from Anhui to facilitate the Ankai buses' passage. After arranging for clearance with Ningbo's public health authorities and transportation authorities, a fleet of 35 buses departed from Anhui at 8 AM, April 24, bound for the Ningbo Zhoushan Port.

Because Ankai buses are powered by natural gas, the fleet went off the expressway at Huzhou, Zhejiang for a gas refill at 7 PM on April 24.

"We have a lot of buses. The refilling took about four or



Chinese-Made Buses, to be exported to Mexico.

[Photo by Wang Peng, Yang Jiangqi]

five hours," said Wang Shaokai. At the gas filling station, he was very worried about potential further delays at Huzhou and Ningbo's toll stations, leaving the fleet stranded on the road.

Close Cooperation Between Authorities Provide Express Passage

Fortunately, the Ankai fleet was not delayed, as Zhejiang's provincial transportation and public health departments had already given advance clearance. In no time, the fleet was back on the road again after their refueling stop. Ningbo's transportation department and Ningbo Zhoushan Port suggested that Ankai forward the drivers' identity and health information

to them in advance, to make for an even faster entry into the city and the port.

Wang Shaokai did not sleep a wink on the journey. As required, he collected all 39 Ankai members' PCR testing results and sent them to Ningbo's authorities; he also made sure the drivers were all wearing proper PPE before exiting the Beilun Guoju Expressway toll station.

At 7 AM on April 25, the Ankai fleet arrived at Guoju. The toll station staff had been informed of their arrival and even opened up additional lanes, letting the buses pass through quickly.

At 10 AM, the fleet reached the Ningbo Zhoushan Port, where port staff were already waiting. They led the

fleet to a specially-reserved terminal, where the buses were quickly driven onto the ships.

Afterwards, the Ningbo Zhoushan Port set up a "green channel" to transport the 35 drivers and 4 Ankai employee back to Anhui.

The Start of a New Journey

Ningbo and Hefei jointly arranged expedited passage for 70 Ankai buses to the Ningbo Zhoushan Port, where they were shipped overseas.

At the customs checkpoint at the Meishan terminal, license plates are recognized automatically by smart sensors. It takes less than a second for the recognition to be completed and the barrier gate to open. The

first fleet of 35 buses passed in only 6 minutes. Paper forms are no longer required.

After more than ten hours on the road, Wang Shaokai appeared tired as he stood at the terminal. But he was grateful. "The pandemic has led to travel restrictions on the roads, which made things difficult for exporters like us. But thanks to a partnership between Ningbo and Hefei's local authorities, we were afforded a 'green channel' to the port. Thank you for your support and help."

Of the 800 buses that Ankai is exporting to Mexico, several dozen have already left via the port in Shanghai. There are plans to ship all of the remaining buses via the Ningbo Zhoushan Port.

SPOTLIGHT

Xiangshan Artisan Sculpts Root Carvings to Celebrate Asian Games

By Dong Na

For the past six months, Xiangshan bamboo root carving artist Xu Jie has been perfecting his latest work, *Sports Competition Along China's Most Beautiful Coastline*. This is a collection of human figures: athletes engaged in sailing, windsurfing, and beach volleyball, all of which are events of the Asian Games scheduled to take place in Xiangshan this year.

Xu Jie, 40, has been working as a bamboo root carving artist for more than 20 years. His works demonstrate a distinctive personality, elegance, and superb skill. The human figures he sculpts have received high praise from fellow artists and experts. A member of Chinese Arts and Crafts Institute, Xu has earned many accolades, including "Zhejiang's Top Young Artist" and "Ningbo's Rising Star Artist". His works have won many national and provincial gold and silver awards.

Xu Jie has loved arts and crafts ever since he was a child. After graduating from junior high school, his father arranged for him an education in the art of bamboo root carving. He spent his days working with bamboo roots, mastering the sculpting knife, and studying under acclaimed artists such as Zhang Dehe. Gradually, his works began to gain recognition.

In 2014, Xu Jie founded his own studio, where he integrates his exquisite skill with original ideas, forming a distinctive personal style. He also pioneered a number of unique bamboo carving techniques.

On November 1, 2019, Xu Jie's art received the gold medal in the Yiwu International Forest Products Fair. His work *Collecting Chrysanthemums under the Eastern Fence* won the Yingshanhong Award, Zhejiang Province's most prestigious art award.

When asked why he was inspired to create sculptures themed on the Asian Games, Xu Jie explained that he believed artisans and athletes to be connected. "Carving bamboo sculptures of the athletes allows me to tap into their competitive spirit, which is what modern artisans need. Artisans can also draw on top athletes' open-mindedness, dedication, insightfulness, and daring."

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双语汇 Different Tongues

棠溪村：繁花簇拥，古树守翠

By Xu Zhuowei

Tangxi Village is located at the west end of Simingshan Town, Yuyao. Its name comes from the Chinese word for begonia (*haitang*), because when seen from above, the shape of the village resembles the flower. Tangxi Village is surrounded by mountains. When spring comes, the mountains are full of flowers; the ancient trees become verdant once more with budding leaves.

棠溪村位于余姚市四明山镇西端，因村内形貌如“海棠一朵”而得名。棠溪村四面群山环抱，春天到来，漫山繁花盛开，上百棵古树又见新绿。

Villagers make a living from the mountains' natural resources. They have always relied on traditional mountain agricul-

ture and horticulture as their main sources of income. In recent years, Tangxi Village is accelerating the transformation from horticulture to tourism. Some villagers have opened fun farms and B&Bs.

靠山吃山，一直以来棠溪村民以传统高山农业、花木经济作为主要收入来源。近几年，棠溪村加快从“卖花木”到“卖风景”的转变，乡贤们带头发展特色农家乐，建起了民宿。

Tangxi Village is also actively developing the "under-forest economy", which involves reaping profits from forest by-products. The villagers are planting torrey nut trees, begonias, yew and other economic crops. There is a 3-km begonia landscape belt and a 0.16 acre begonia garden in the village,



The Tangxi Village./ 棠溪村。

[Photo by Tang Yan] 唐严摄

which attract many tourists to this thousand-year-old village and support its agriculture and

tourism industries.

棠溪村还积极发展林下经济，种植香榧、海棠、红豆杉等经济作物，打造了

一个3公里长的海棠景观带和1亩的海棠观赏园，吸引更多的游客走进这个千年古村，助力村庄农旅产业发展。

