

Striving Towards a Modern Coastal Metropolis

Ningbo Strives to be a Global Marine Economy Capital

By Dong Na

Ningbo is currently making vigorous efforts to establish itself as a global ocean economy center city, delving into new possibilities for ocean-oriented development.

Recently, two forums and an exhibition with a marine economy theme were held simultaneously in Ningbo: the International Cooperation Forum for Maritime Silk Road Ports, the International Marine Economy and Maritime Services Forum, and the China Ningbo International Ocean Economy Expo.

Exploring New Opportunities

The two forums were dedicated to discussions on port cooperation, marine economy and maritime services, while the expo served as a platform to showcase cutting-edge marine industry and technological innovations.

This is Ningbo's seventh time hosting the International Cooperation Forum. This year's theme was "our time, our road, our port". The Forum consisted of a main forum, a high-level roundtable, four thematic forums, several seminars, and field tours.

The International Marine Economy and Maritime Services Forum aimed to build an international platform for marine cooperation and exchange, foster partnerships in the blue economy, and explore new opportunities for global marine economic development and cooperation.

The China Ningbo International Ocean Economy Expo attracted leading Chinese and international businesses who showcased their best products, leading technologies, solutions, and achievements.

The trio of events efficiently integrated resources, helping Ningbo explore its



Ningbo Zhoushan Port. [Photo by Tang Yan]

potential as a central maritime city, showcasing the latest marine industry products and tech advancements, and fostering broader cooperation opportunities.

Ningbo's Great Potential

In recent years, the global ocean economy landscape has become more complex and volatile. Nevertheless, ocean-driven growth remains a powerful force in addressing global challenges in the long run. Marine science and technology innovation and regional integration has the potential to become engines of the blue economy.

Many Chinese coastal provinces and cities are actively capitalizing on their strengths, promoting the growth of the marine economy and advancing the construction of a modern marine

industrial system. Notably, the marine economic circle in east China is showing great promise.

Ningbo, leveraging the cornerstone of the Ningbo Zhoushan Port, has been earnestly developing its marine economy and has achieved significant progress in recent years.

Statistics show that Ningbo's gross marine product climbed from 16 billion yuan in 2002 to 230.7 billion yuan in 2022, with an average annual growth of 14.4%, accounting for 14.7% of the city's gross regional product and 21% of Zhejiang province's marine economic added value.

The cargo throughput of Ningbo Zhoushan Port has ranked first in the world for 14 consecutive years, while its container throughput has consistently ranked third in the world. Ningbo's plan is to reach a gross marine product of 320 billion yuan

by 2025.

The Path to Becoming a Global Marine Economy Capital

According to experts from China's Ministry of Natural Resources, transforming a city into a global center for the ocean economy requires several core thresholds. These include having a reputable and sound institutional environment with a globally-oriented development model. It also entails having a well-developed marine value chain spanning diverse sectors, influential industrial clusters, particularly in the marine service sector, a robust marine tech scene, and the ability to attract global talent.

Experts suggest that Ningbo should lay out a concrete blueprint and set a timeline for this

goal. The city should focus on five aspects: becoming a global port and shipping hub with substantial influence, establishing a competitive international marine economic center, nurturing a distinctive international marine science and innovation hub, developing a comprehensive international marine financial center, and fostering an inclusive and collaborative marine cultural exchange hub.

Additionally, making the most of Zhejiang's highly-developed private sector and piloting new business environments and market systems that boost the dynamics of ocean-oriented development are vital.

Drawing inspiration from more mature models, such as those in London and Singapore, and learning from other Chinese cities such as Qingdao, Ningbo has the potential to become a maritime city with global influence.

SPOTLIGHT

Cold Drink Stalls Thrive in Summer Nights

By Gou Wen

As the summer heat intensifies, Fenghua's cold drink stalls have become the go-to destination for locals and tourists alike. Long queues form outside the stalls, where chefs working tirelessly into the early morning hours. These bustling night spots are the perfect retreat for cooling off during warm summer nights.

Located next to Jinzhong Square in Fenghua, Xiaoge Cold Drinks, an outdoor restaurant, has been attracting customers since five in the afternoon. Families and friends gather to enjoy icy beverages and delicious food, savoring the relaxing ambience of summer evenings.

Even on Mondays, the popularity of the restaurant remains undiminished. As night falls, the 2,000-m² outdoor area with over 60 tables quickly fills up with enthusiastic diners.

Among the unique offerings, Xiaoge's handmade peach gum drink stands out as the signature item, selling an impressive 700 to 1,000 cups during peak hours.

Fenghua's cold drinks have garnered recognition beyond its borders, drawing customers from neighboring regions.

"We came from Ninghai and brought friends over for dinner. The atmosphere here is wonderful. We've been here many times!" said a customer.

According to Ms. Ying, the restaurant owner, the popularity isn't limited to nearby cities. "We have customers coming from Shaoxing, Hangzhou, Zhoushan, Shanghai, and other places. Out-of-towners make up half our clientele," she remarked. Many customers from Shaoxing even make monthly reservations for their visits.

In Cixi, cold drinks are also witnessing a spike in popularity, with dozens of newly-opened nighttime stalls lining the Pujiang River in Shengshan Sizao, turning the waterfront into a summertime hotspot.

Huang Hongfei, a Cixi stall owner, said that on rainless nights, customers start arriving at 5 to 6 pm in the afternoon, keeping the stalls busy until early morning.

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双语汇 Different Tongues

象山黄避岙：打造斑斓海岸2.0版

By Jin Lu

Xiangshan County's Huangbi'ao Township covers a land area of 43.6 square kilometers and boasts a coastline of 28.6 kilometers. It is renowned in China as a capital of fisheries, with a special focus on perch and yellow croaker.

象山县黄避岙乡陆域面积43.6平方公里，海岸线长28.6公里，它是有名的鲈鱼之乡、黄鱼之乡。

A few years ago, with the launch and development of the "Colorful Coastline" Demonstration Project, the first of its kind in Ningbo, the township strategically harnessed the synergy between its mountain and maritime resources, driving cohesive growth. This led to an in-

crease in collective income and benefits for the villagers, making the Colorful Coastline synonymous with Huangbi'ao Township.

几年前，借助宁波市首条精神文明示范线——“斑斓海岸”文明示范线的启动建设，该乡将沿线村庄的山海资源串珠成链、组团发展，带动了村集体收入和村民收益的增长。

如今，斑斓海岸已成黄避岙乡的代表词。

In recent years, Huangbi'ao Township has made "Colorful Coastline 2.0" a top priority. With a focus on becoming a "provincial-level beautiful specialty agricultural township", Huangbi'ao aims to transform into a thriving rustic seaside haven, while promoting shared prosperity.

近年来，黄避岙乡将打造



Xiangshan County's Huangbi'ao Township. /象山县黄避岙乡。

[Photo by Xu Neng, Xu Jinyue] 徐能 徐金月 摄

斑斓海岸2.0版作为重点工作，结合农业特色型省级美丽城镇样板创建工作，聚力打造“渔牧风情”港湾门户之乡，奋力迈向共同富裕。

More than 50 million yuan has been invested in special funds, resulting in the completion of over 220 new rural projects, including landscape

upgrades, road improvements, and auditorium renovations.

目前，已投入专项资金超5000万元，完成景观提升、道路提升、礼堂改造等新农村项目220余个。

