

Blueprint for Ningbo in Next 5 Years

by Jin Yan

Ningbo municipal government published an outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) this month, drawing a blueprint for a modernized Ningbo.

According to the outline, new strides will be made in the growth of Ningbo's economy and development, with its GDP reaching 1.7 trillion RMB yuan and per capita GDP 170,000 RMB yuan by 2025. The percentage of permanent urban residents will be raised to 80%.

What do these figures mean for Ningbo's future?



1

"GDP tells how developed a city is, and Ningbo has always taken a leading role among other cities in China." He Zhuming, director of the Planning and Regional Development Department of Ningbo Development and Reform Commission, said.

Ningbo's GDP registered 1.24 trillion RMB yuan and its per capita GDP was 145,000 RMB yuan in 2020, ranking 12th and 9th respectively among major cities in China.

When it comes to 2025, per capita GDP of Ningbo will reach 170,000 RMB yuan (about \$25,000), surpassing some developed countries in Europe at present, and people's living standards will be greatly improved.

According to He Zhuming, future city clusters, especially metropolises, will play an increasingly important role in economic growth by representing the main repositories of

such resources as population, technology, capital and information. Only by restructuring urban development pattern, improving core functions and making development of the downtown area more efficient can Ningbo become more competitive in the future.

During the 14th Five-Year Plan, coordinated development of urban areas of Cixi and Yuyao and Qianwan New Area will be promoted and the integration of these three areas with the main urban area will be boosted, thus building a sub-city of Ningbo as a powerhouse for high-quality development. This is also the first time the word "sub-city" has been included in Ningbo's five-year plan.

Last year, the GDP of Cixi and Yuyao accounted for a quarter of Ningbo's GDP, with the Qianwan New Area playing a key role in boosting the integrated development of the

Yangtze River Delta and promoting advanced manufacturing. With the concept of "sub-city", the layout of urban areas in Ningbo will change.

2

There will be over 10 million permanent residents in Ningbo by 2025, according to the economic and social development goals.

By the end of 2019, there were 17 cities in China with a population of over 10 million, including major cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Wuhan, Zhengzhou, Chongqing and Chengdu.

Tong Mingrong, vice president and vice chairman of the Ningbo Academy of Social Sciences, believes that Ningbo will become a megacity with over 10 million permanent residents, indicating its appeal to both population and talent, which brings great space and potential for

Ningbo to integrate into the domestic circulation and achieve high-quality development.

In 2019, Ningbo witnessed an increase in permanent population of 340,000, with the highest net inflow rate of talent in manufacturing in China, and its talent ecosystem scored the 6th highest. In the future, in addition to taking advantage of the upgrading manufacturing, Ningbo will also advance modern service industries so as to enhance urban functions.

In this regard, Tong Mingrong said: "We should plan ahead under the guidance of scientific theories, improve the layout of various infrastructure and enhance the city's comprehensive carrying capacity for our population. Great effort also needs to be made in innovating investment and financing mechanisms, attracting more investment and improving public services and social security."

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