

INDUSTRIAL PARK GROWING AS HUB FOR GLOBAL BUSINESS

By ZHANG LINWAN

Leading German auto parts manufacturer Webasto according to local officials. announced in July that it will build a global research Wuhan has worked to expand its trade and economic center at the Sino-German International Industrial Park cooperation with foreign partners in recent years. in Wuhan, Hubei province.

the governments of both countries, the industry giant percent year-on-year. A total of 306 Global Fortune 500 founded its largest plant in the world three years ago. enterprises had invested in the city as of 2020, including The factory is capable of producing 2,000 sunroofs 18 from Germany.

(\$146.9 million) last year. Zhang Lihua, chairman of Webasto China, said the City, initiated in 2014, is progressing smoothly.

industrial zone offers enterprises a favorable business The eco-city that covers 39 square kilometers in climate, thanks to its large talent pool and quality Caidian district aims to facilitate bilateral exchanges services.

signing to the factory opening thanks to the services," local officials said. Zhang said.

have been launched in the park, forming four major tries, transportation, environmental protection and industries of electronic information, auto parts, smart public services, according to the eco-city's administrative equipment and smart home. committee.

"We set up a special window in our service hall to All initial construction projects will be completed help enterprises with their problems," said Yang Yuan, by 2025 and the city will have a residential capacity of deputy director of Zhashan subdistrict in Caidian dis-housing 120,000 people, the committee said. trict, where the industrial park is located. Wuhan has also participated in the Belt and Road

"In addition, we have a colleague working as an Initiative by operating China-Europe freight trains. 'enterprise assistant'. He maintains close contact with China-Europe freight trains (Wuhan) has launched 30 enterprises and offers on-site services if necessary." routes since its opening in 2012, linking the city with 76

based company Topre's Wuhan branch, said the assis-The freight train services not only offer local entertant efficiently responds to enterprises' requests, includ- prises an international trading channel but promote the ing those involving registration procedures and labor foreign trade of neighboring cities such as Yichang and employment.

focus on research and production," he said. train trips in the first half of 2022, a year-on-year

The industrial park plans to bring in 20 new German-increase of 62 percent.

funded companies by 2025 and achieve an industrial output value of 100 billion yuan in the next five years,

Official data showed that the number of foreign-fund-Also at the industrial park, which was launched by ed companies in Wuhan reached 6,555 in 2021, up 4.58

per day and achieved an output value of 1 billion yuan As one of the key projects for China-France cooperation, the Sino-French Wuhan Ecological Demonstration

of experience and technologies in green urbanization "It only took us about 100 days from the contract while promoting cooperation in culture and tourism,

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25), the More than 100 companies, including 58 from abroad, city plans to implement 118 projects involving indus-

Katsuzawa Takayuki, general manager of the Japan- cities in 34 nations in Eurasia.

Xiangyang, local officials said.

"This efficiency has reassured us and allowed us to Wuhan welcomed a total of 240 China-Europe freight





Legion of high-tech companies and research platforms expected to promote innovation

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pushing forward the construction of the East innovation centers, according to the plan. Qin, head of the computing center. Development Zone, also known as China's Optics Valley, China, local officials said.

the science city began construction in February 2021 and Among facilities in the science city, the Wuhan Super-economy, local officials said. covers 100 square kilometers.

of high-tech companies and build numerous research plat- aflops in the early stage, which is equivalent to 100,000 the initial phase of construction by 2025 and aims to more than tenfold during the past decade, and the added industries as it established a group of industrial parks prises, 13 auto plants and about 500 auto parts produc- the commercialization of autonomous driving, and will forms, according to its development plan. This includes high-performance computers operating simultaneously. become an internationally influential scientific hub by value of high-tech industries more than doubled, contribhe capital city of Wuhan in Hubei province is seven provincial labs, nine scientific facilities and nine It will eventually provide 200 petaflops in total, said Luo 2050.

Lake Science City as part of its efforts to build The city is expected to serve as a key driver for Wuhan The computing center as well as the Wuhan Artificial **'Two Valleys'**

Focusing on two industries of optoelectronic informa- ing facility, was put into operation at the end of September. as optoelectronics, aerospace, agriculture and biosecurity. percent 10 years ago.

tion as well as life and health, the city will bring in a legion The gigantic project offers computing power of 50 pet- According to the city's development plan, it will finish The number of high-tech companies in the city surged Meanwhile, the zone continued to boost emerging Founded in 1991, WEDZ is home to nine vehicle enter- The testing operation is a key step in the exploration of

itself into a national sci-tech powerhouse. to develop into a national sci-tech center while promoting Intelligence Computing Center, another project in the Wuhan has achieved remarkable progress in sci-tech optical transmission system. Located in Wuhan's East Lake High-Tech the innovation-driven development of cities in Central science city, will build a strong computing foundation for innovation during the past decade and created an extenlocal high-tech industries and boost the province's digital sive system of modern industries. largest R&D and production base for optical devices in of 240 billion yuan, up 16.8 percent year-on-year. granted 117 road test licenses to 17 enterprises. The zone's administration council plans to open 115.5

computing Center, China's largest container-like comput- Seven provincial labs have opened in industries such ment accounted for 3.51 percent of its GDP, up from 2.66 predicted to produce an output of 500 billion yuan (\$73.1 Wuhan Economic and Technological Development Zone its unmanned shuttle buses handle 30,000 passengers, port-centered highways, to offer enterprises more options





uting 27 percent to GDP.

As its name suggests, the Optics Valley, established in Official data showed that about 4,300 high-tech enter- support. 1988, is the birthplace of China's first optical fiber and first prises are operational in the zone including the leading In 2019, Wuhan received approval to build a national scenarios for intelligent networked vehicles including

billion) by 2025.

biomedicine.

laser equipment manufacturer HGTECH and the tech intelligent networked vehicle testing zone. Since then, road cleaning, product delivery and shared transporta-

billed as China's Auto Valley.

new materials, and autonomous driving thanks to policy chief operating officer of the company.

Last year, the city's investment in research and develop- the country. Its optoelectronic information industry is Wuhan is also known for its auto industry, with the Among them, Dongfeng Usharing Technology has seen km of new roads this year, covering some sections of airwith an operating mileage of 200,000 km. for transportation.

WEDZ has the capacity to provide 15 major application

FORTUNE GLOBAL 500 COMPANIES



EFFORTS FUEL STRONG GROWTH OF TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

By YIN RUOWEI yinruowei@chinadaily.com.cn

As a major transportation hub in China, Wuhan The first quarter of this year has seen a surge

tional destinations, but the city refuses to rest on the route and added more connectivity. its laurels as it further refines its transportation As of April, Wuhan is home to 295 A-level logisinfrastructure.

In recent years, Wuhan has achieved impressive "Wuhan has particularly convenient transportaresults in its transportation network expansion tion, which provides fertile ground for logistics and improvement.

of Transport, Wuhan has five sea-rail intermodal logistics giants, such as JD Logistics, SF Express transportation demonstration projects, ranking and Ane Logistics, have set up outlets in Wuhan. first in the country.

reach four continents.

and Mexico City was launched. It is regarded official. as the first regular airfreight route to be oper- For automobile traffic, Wuhan Yangtze Rivand Latin America.

Regarding freight train services, Wuhan Over the years, its builder, Wuhan-based China launched a freight train loaded with tons Railway Construction Bridge Engineering Bureau of bicycles, household appliances and fabrics Group, has designed and built more than 2,000 from Wujiashan Station in May 2021, to Almaty, bridges at home and abroad, with a total mileage Kazakhstan.

which was the first outbound train linking Wuhan by 2025, Wuhan's sea-rail intermodal transportaand the Central Asian country. tion capacity will reach 2.1 million twenty-foot

In terms of sea-river container shipment, a equivalent units, the number of international and direct container shipping route that connects regional passenger and freight routes from Wuhan Wuhan with cities in Japan officially opened in is expected to reach 80, and the railway operation 2019.

In December 2020, the route linked up with the China-Europe freight train routes, establishing a journey time of 22 days from Japan to Europe.

has a robust network composed of railways, ferries in throughput using the route, as Busan Port in and flights stretching to domestic and interna- South Korea was set as an intermediate port on

tics enterprises, topping the country.

enterprises to grow," said Shi Jun, secretary-gener-According to the Hubei Provincial Department al of the Wuhan Logistics Association, adding that By 2025, Wuhan aims to integrate into the

Wuhan Tianhe International Airport has 15 "Global 1-2-3 Logistics Circle" plan, in which regular international airfreight routes, which can express package delivery will only take one day within China, two days to neighboring countries, In May 2021, a new route between Wuhan and three days to major global cities, said a local

ated between China and Mexico, which helps to er Bridge is one of the city's arteries. It is a improve the efficiency of logistics between China 1,670-meter bridge that opened to traffic in 1957 and is a witness to the city's rapid growth.

of over 2,000 kilometers.

The train arrived in Kazakhstan within 12 days, According to a government plan issued in March, mileage will reach 1,000 km.

Yellow Crane Towe enormous fame has attracted numerous litera Just in the old gazetteers, there are nearly 400 pieces of poetry and prose.

The new tower, built during 1981-85, generally replicates its Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) appearance but is constructed from modern materials.

3,219

The Yellow Crane Tower has a floor space of 3,219



The obverse of the gold and silver commemorative coins issued by the People's Bank of China in 1987 feature the Yellow Crane Tower.

51.4

Designed during the Qing Dynasty, it stands 51.4 meters high and has five floors.

The Return of the Yellow Cranes, a bronze consisting of cranes as well as a turtle and snake — all of them auspicious animals in Chinese culture — stands 50 meters west of the Yellow Crane Tower.



An inscription carved in marble on the second floor. It records a piece of prose by a Tang Dynasty writer, which is about the tower's origin and evolvement, as well as related historic figures and anecdotes.



Fifth floor: One of a series of murals created by contemporar Chinese painter Lou Jiaben on the fifth floor of the Yellow Crane Tower Hunian, or In Times Gone By, depicts the myths and legends of the tower.





This photo shows the rebuilt Yellow Crane Tower during the Qing Dynasty, which was destroyed in a fire in 1884. It is the only photographic image of the ancient tower preserved in modern times, based on which the tower was rebuilt in 1985.

LEGEND OF THE YELLOW **CRANE TOWER**

In the legend, the tower was built by a tavern boss surnamed Xin. One day, a poor Taoist monk came to ask for a cup of wine. Xin had sympathy for him and agreed to give him the wine at no cost. The Taoist monk came to tavern regularly in the following years and Xin remained generous to him, continuing to offer him free drinks. In return for Xin's kindness and generosity, the monk painted a crane on the tavern's wall before he left the city. The picture of the bird would come to life and dance when people requested, which attracted a growing number of people to the tavern. As a result, Xin became rich and had the Yellow Crane Tower built in gratitude for









porcelain mural centerpiece on the ground floor of the tower



First floor: The hall is embellished by a large mural made out of porcelain. This is based on the ancient myth of an immortal riding a crane, and a line from a Tang Dynasty (618-907) poem "The people of the past have taken the yellow crane to go". It shows an immortal riding the yellow crane into the air, blowing a jade flute and looking down on the world with a look of love and reluctance on his face.

tower.

iameter: 1



Ceiling patterns in the Yellow Crane Towe

A 7-meter-tall couplet stands in front of the



Wuhan.

Graduates choosing Wuhan for PROMISING CAREERS

By ZHANG LINWAN

Technology at the city's East Lake High- Wuhan, making the city a good alternative, Tech Development Zone, also known as the Jing said.

Optics Valley of China.

for my studies and career," Liu said. 2021 at the second headquarters of leading

became motivated in such an open and expenses," she said.

Liu's company was recognized as a a package of 20 measures to help college national high-tech enterprise in 2021. Its students overcome pandemic-induced difmajor products, including unmanned aerial ficulties and get jobs. vehicles and UAV intelligent stations, have These included rental subsidies, tax

fire safety and environmental monitoring. loans for small businesses that offer jobs to Liu is among millions of university grad- new graduates. uates who chose Wuhan to launch their Before that, the city's bureau of human

Official data showed that the city received universities. Officials from the bureau said a total of 1.73 million fresh graduates the program was aimed at providing stubetween 2017-21. In 2021 alone, the number dents with efficient employment services of university graduates gaining employ- and attracting more talent.

that can provide ample job opportunities, said Jing Pengfei, director of the career In 2016 when Liu Qi, aged 29, was a guidance and service center at Huazhong PhD candidate at Huazhong University of University of Science and Technology. Science and Technology in Wuhan, Hubei But now, many industry giants have built province, he founded Feiliu Intelligent their regional headquarters or branches in

According to official statistics, Wuhan Liu said he had investigated Beijing is now home to 9,151 national high-tech and Shenzhen before deciding to stay in enterprises, ranking eighth in the country. Additionally, more than 300 Fortune Glob-"The first reason behind my decision is al 500 companies have invested in the city. that I have close connections with the city. Zhang Mimi, a graduate of Wuhan Uni-I've been in Wuhan for more than 10 years versity of Technology, began her first job in

Besides, the city has created a favor- phone maker Xiaomi in Wuhan. able environment for entrepreneurship, he "I also received job offers from entersaid. "There are a lot of universities, high-prises based in Beijing and Shenzhen. By tech industrial parks and startups like us." comparison, it's more cost-effective to stay "We were given supportive policies and in Wuhan considering the salary and living

friendly atmosphere," he added. In June, the city government released

been used in such industries as wind power, relief, financial aid to startups and special

career and achieve success. resources built 15 service stations in local

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in modern China.

brought about the establishment of Asia's city. first republic.

By ZHANG LINWAN

 a district of Central China's
 tral China's Hubei province, has always been
 and established banks and factories.

 Wuhan, sounded the start of
 honored as a heroic city, stunning the world
 honored as a heroic city, stunning the world
 While leading the country in foreign trade,

 with its brave people and indomitable spirit.
 with its brave people and indomitable spirit.
 Wuhan still lacked modern industries at that
 The people of Wuhan were united during

 Billed as the Optics Valley of China, the

resented by Sun Yat-sen launched the Wuch- ies, the Hanjiang River. The two rivers divide Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), was appointed as commercial hubs. long absolute monarchy in the country and and Hanyang – and bring prosperity to the 1889. Zhang governed the provinces until 1907. Iron Plant Museum, situated near the old motherland and promote patriotism.

Contemporary academics believe that port city of commerce and trading due to its Plant, Hubei Arsenal, and Hubei Weaving Mill tions to the city.

Restored wetlands attract rare birds

The Chenhu wetland in Wuhan, capital bureau of the reserve. of Hubei province, has become a paradise Feng Jiang, a forestry engineer who has 2019. for waterfowls thanks to sustained efforts worked in the reserve since 2007, recalled Feng said the project involved demolishing sive data. Based on this, the smart system can "Those ducks are picky about water qual- of small and micro wetlands and six national event. The meeting will discuss the future in wetland conservation and green develop- that the Chenhu wetland had been plagued illegal buildings, moving aquaculture activi- identify species, monitor the environment ity, food and the environment. Its appearance wetland parks.

and 64 bird species under national special ing lotuses, reeds and a variety of birds. The improve the wetland's management and "A bird-watcher told us he saw a Chinese Wetlands across Wuhan now occupy tion on Wetlands will be held on Nov 5-13. protection, according to the administrative change is a result of a restoration project protection. merganser in November last year," said Tan 162,000 hectares, accounting for 18.9 perlaunched by the district government in "We have installed 59 internet of things Wenzhuo, an inspector of the Chenhu wet- cent of the city's total area. Included in the allel session in Geneva, Switzerland. It will be

devices around the wetland to capture exten- land reserve.



Hi, I'm Wuhan

Powerhouse of high-tech industry and trade has dynamic roots going back to 1911 Revolution

as China's second-largest city at that time, superb location and transport network. as well as building railway lines. Wuhan also left its mark on the history brought the war into a strategic stalemate. policy of 1978. Hanzheng Street in Hankou Wuhan had strengths in finance, industry and In the late 19th century, Hankou regularly Meanwhile, Zhang introduced educational of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Early after the founding of the People's gained nationwide fame at the time as it was

gunfire in Wuchang, now Throughout history, Wuhan, capital of Cen- pean powers flocked to the area for trading Hubei) Academy and Self-Strengthening to October 1938, was the longest and largest owned enterprises such as Wuhan Iron and In 1988, the Wuhan East Lake High-Tech a district of Central China's tral China's Hubei province, has always been and established banks and factories. Academy in Wuhan, and selected many stu-

Wuhan is located at the confluence of the time. Major change happened when Zhang ernization during Zhang's tenure and became the war, showing their unbending will and opened in 1957, was one of the key projects Billed as the Optics Valley of China, the On Oct 10, 1911, Chinese revolutionaries rep- Yangtze River and one of its major tributar- Zhidong, a famous political figure in the late one of China's industrial powerhouses and great determination. Residents from all walks during China's first Five-Year Plan (1953-57). zone is now a sci-tech powerhouse with 42 of life participated in fund-raising events and The double-deck road and rail bridge con-institutions of higher education, 56 research ang Uprising, which ended the millennia- Wuhan into three towns — Hankou, Wuchang the governor of Hubei and Hunan provinces in Today, the Zhang Zhidong and Hanyang held parades to support the defense of the nected the three towns while promoting institutes at provincial and national levels,

During this time, he carried out the Western plant, demonstrates the area's industrial Although the battle ended with the even- China. Wuhan has historically served as a busy Affairs Movement by setting up Hanyang Steel achievements and honors Zhang's contribu- tual capture of Wuhan by the Japanese, it Wuhan also played a pioneering role in GDP of 240 billion yuan (\$34.39 billion), a

education, which nurtured democratic ideals appeared in the international press with the reform, founded several modern educational Aggression (1931-45). Republic of China in 1949, Wuhan was a the first place in China to approve private and an environment for revolution. moniker "the Chicago of China". Many Euro- organizations such as Lianghu (Hunan and The Battle of Wuhan, lasting from June national pacesetter in heavy industries. State- businesses.

resulted in heavy losses on both sides and implementing the reform and opening-up year-on-year increase of 16.8 percent.

Last year, the zone reported an annual

city's wetland network are 63,500 hectares the first time China hosts the international development of the convention, announce



SMILE OF THE YANGTZE

FINLESS PORPOISE

The Yangtze finless porpoise is found in the main channel of the Yangtze River and connecting lakes. They are found solely in fresh water, making them different from other finless porpoises.

Last year, the government revised the List of Wild Animals under State Priority Conservation, upgrading the protection of Yangtze finless porpoises to the highest level.



The Yangtze finless porpoises generally eat



The bridge is supported by 8 pillars with a gap of **128** meters between each, and connected at both ends by approach bridges totaling **514** meters.



Each porpoise weighs nproximatel



This is when they extend their heads out of the water in a vertical direction as if they are standing in the water.



1,670 m Total length including the main deck

Behavior and Habit Yangtze finless porpoises live in small groups of two to six individuals. They have been observed darting about just below the surface of the water, changing direction quickly and often.

WUHAN YANGTZE It is the first double-deck road and lower layer, allowing two trains to run Sheshan Mountain on the southern transportation of the capital city of rail bridge over the Yangtze River. in opposite directions at the same bank, the bridge has served as a Hubei province and facilitated the **RIVER BRIDGE** Standing at 80 meters tall, it is time. Under the truss bridge, large main artery in Wuhan since it was connections between northern and comprised of a two-way, four-lane vessels can pass through all highway on its upper layer – with a year-round. pavement on both sides for pedestri- Lying between Guishan Mountain on September 1955.

Four-lane highway

Double railway lines ——

ans – and double railway lines on its the northern bank of the river and The bridge has greatly improved the a landmark attraction in the city.

Construction on the bridge started in the country's seventh batch of key

The bridge towers, built in the style of

provide visitors with panoramic views

of Wuhan, thus becoming an ideal

traditional Chinese architecture.

observation deck for the

city's landscape.

put into service in October 1957. southern China. It was included among heritage sites in 2013 and has become

At each end of the bridge sit a pair of

7-story towers facing each other on

opposite sides, each of them is 35

meters high and installed with a lift.

GRAPHICS BY MUKESH MOHANAN / CHINA DAILY