



TWO SESSIONS

National Vision, Local Action

Dalian pitched as a regional growth engine

Sharing port resources, jointly building northeast corridor seen as key priorities

By ZHANG XIAOMIN
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The overall layout of Northeast China's opening-up should be coordinated, and Dalian, Liaoning province, should be supported to play a leading role, injecting fresh impetus into the region's comprehensive revitalization, a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress suggested.

"We need to create a cohesive and integrated approach, truly positioning the region as a pivotal hub for the nation's opening-up and cooperation with Northeast Asia," said Wang Qiyaoyao, head of the Standing Committee of the Dalian People's Congress.

Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces and the eastern part of the Inner Mongolia autonomous region should further share port resources, and deepen cooperation with the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and the Yangtze River Delta region, he suggested.

During the ongoing fourth session of the 14th NPC, when the Liaoning delegation held interviews with reporters, Wang introduced the unique advantages of Dalian.

He highlighted how Dalian benefits from a confluence of national strategies, enjoys a unique geographical location as a transport hub and has fostered a sound business environment and open ecosystem.

Situated at the southern tip of the Liaodong Peninsula with a coastline stretching 2,211 kilometers, Dalian is a frontier of Northeast China's maritime expansion, with opening-up being a defining characteristic.

The city has high-level open plat-

forms such as the pilot free trade zone and the comprehensive bonded zone, making it one of the sub-provincial cities in China with the most comprehensive mix of open functions.

"Dalian's leading role will be further strengthened," Wang said. "We will work collaboratively with relevant cities and provinces to transform the Liaoning coastal economic belt into a new high ground for Northeast China's opening-up and jointly build the northeast land-sea corridor, converting our geographical strengths into a winning edge for development."

Noting that Dalian will host the Summer Davos Forum and an APEC Senior Officials' Meeting this year, Wang extended a warm invitation to friends from around the world to visit, exchange ideas and seek cooperation, becoming partners in the comprehensive revitalization of Liaoning and the wider Northeast China.

The northeastern port city is mapping out its development path for the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30). A guideline adopted at a plenary session of the Dalian municipal committee of the Communist Party of China in November outlined the city's major goals, including a significant enhancement of its opening-up capabilities.

"The city will leverage its core geographical strengths, explore new dimensions for cooperation and lead high-standard opening-up with institutional innovation, striving to be a pacesetter in the comprehensive revitalization of Northeast China," said Wang.



Wang Qiyaoyao



Delegates in dialogue

NPC deputies Nyidron (left) and Tsering Tsomo exchange views before the opening of the Xizang delegation's plenary meeting during the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing on Wednesday.

LI ZHOU / XIZANG DAILY

Guangxi city positions itself as global medical hub

By ZHANG LI
and SHI RUIPENG in Nanning

Fangchenggang in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region is stepping up efforts to build an international hub for medical innovation and cooperation, leveraging its role as a national pilot zone for medical opening-up to drive industrial growth and deepen collaboration with partners across Asia and beyond.

Huang Jiang, Party secretary of Fangchenggang and a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress, said the city is seizing the opportunity presented by the international medical opening-up pilot zone to expand cooperation in pharmaceuticals, healthcare services and medical technology.

Strategically situated at the southwestern tip of China's coastline, Fangchenggang borders Vietnam and is home to Dongxing Port, a first-class national port and a vital channel for personnel as well as goods between China and Vietnam.

It is also a key node in the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor and serves as a bridge connecting the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"As a national-level opening-up



Huang Jiang

platform, our pilot zone has been granted a series of supportive policies that allow us to explore innovative approaches in areas such as drug and medical device approval, cross-border medical care, and industrial development," Huang said.

Over the past seven years, leveraging the pilot zone, Fangchenggang has established a major platform for medical exchanges involving SCO, ASEAN, and Belt and Road countries.

It has hosted 14 significant events, including the 2025 International Medical Innovation and Cooperation Forum.

The forum attracted leaders, experts and business representatives from 20 countries and international organizations, showcasing 45 top-tier domestic pharmaceutical and medical device companies.

Cutting-edge medical scenarios presented, such as minimally invasive robotic surgeries and rehabilitation robots, drew significant interest from international participants.

To date, over 700 guests from 39 SCO and ASEAN countries have visited the pilot zone. Fangcheng-

gang has also conducted exchanges in 15 countries, signed cooperation agreements with four overseas industrial parks and trained nearly 1,000 foreign medical professionals, helping promote Chinese medical expertise and technology overseas.

In addition, industrial cooperation has seen a growing trend.

It has established a cross-border pharmaceutical centralized procurement platform, attracting over 330 domestic pharmaceutical companies and more than 20 foreign buyers, becoming a key bridge for China-ASEAN medical industry cooperation.

The city has also worked to ensure that the benefits of the pilot zone extend to residents in border areas. It invested nearly 8.4 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion) in improving medical resources during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25), with the number of hospital beds and healthcare professionals increasing by 75.95 percent and 60.33 percent, respectively.

Border residents can now access high-quality medical services at national standards right in their own communities, she said.

The pilot zone has also facilitated healthcare cooperation between China and Vietnam.

The city pioneered the China-Vietnam emergency treatment

mechanism, which has treated over 700 critically ill patients from across the border. This mechanism has been extended to three cities and eight counties along the Guangxi border.

"We are committed to making AI a key breakthrough in the development of the medical pilot zone," said Huang, adding that it will fast-track projects like the digital and intelligent operations center and the medical imaging data sharing service center, exploring remote surgeries and telemedicine in its regional medical center.

More than 200 key enterprises have gathered in the pilot zone. These include 25 high-tech enterprises and 50 small and medium-sized sci-tech enterprises.

Efforts will be made to build a talent hub for the medical, pharmaceutical, and health food industries, deepen industry-education integration, and continue international talent training programs.

"We will continue to promote international cooperation in medical innovation, and contribute to building an even closer SCO community as well as a China-ASEAN community with a shared future," she said.

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Hunan's intl land port to drive inland opening-up

By HE CHUN in Changsha and ZHANG LI

A senior official in Huaihua, Hunan province, said the city will leverage the development of its international land port to drive progress and establish itself as a beacon of reform and opening-up in China's inland regions.

Wei Zhaohui, the mayor of Huaihua and a member of the Standing Committee of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said the city — the sole Association of Southeast Asian Nations freight consolidation center in the province — has evolved from a peripheral area to occupying the forefront of China's opening-up efforts and positioning itself in the vanguard of national development.

Huaihua is a crucial transportation hub connecting Hunan, Hubei and Guizhou provinces, Chongqing and the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. It serves as a vital link between central and western China and members of ASEAN. It is also a key intersection within the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor and the Shanghai-Kunming international trade corridor.

The city's transportation network has undergone a remarkable transformation. "Previously, it took nearly half a day for goods to travel to Changsha. Nowadays, Huaihua operates 200 international and domestic logistics routes, reaching 69 countries and 216 ports," Wei said.

At the heart of this transformation is the Huaihua International Land Port, a national-level logistics hub. Launched in 2021, the port connects to global supply chains via rail-sea intermodal services linking Beibu Gulf Port, Guangzhou Port



Wei Zhaohui

and the China-Laos Railway, emerging as an ASEAN freight hub serving China's central and western regions.

Wei noted that the city handles 70 percent of the corridor's ASEAN-bound cargo. Freight train services surged from just 17 in 2021 to 1,220 last year. Huaihua now leads central China in China-Laos Railway freight services, and its railway cold chain transport systems rank first in scale among inland ports. The city's cross-border e-commerce import and export volume has also skyrocketed. Its foreign trade network has expanded to 169 countries and regions.

"This year marks the first year of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) period," Wei said. "Huaihua will adopt a higher vision and more concrete actions, taking the international land port as a breakthrough to strengthen its role as a hub."

According to Wei, the city will accelerate the development of a comprehensive multimodal transport system, advance the Huaihua-Guilin high-speed railway, and improve inter-provincial expressways. It will also streamline customs clearances with Guangxi ports and promote favorable freight policies.

"We will expedite the development of a world-class international land port and develop new business forms such as cross-border e-commerce and overseas warehouses," Wei said.

Zhu Youfang contributed to this story.

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By HU DONGMEI in Yinchuan and ZHENG JINRAN

Wuzhong in the Ningxia Hui autonomous region is upgrading its industrial structure and cultivating new growth drivers, striking a balance with ecological protection in the Yellow River Basin.

"We will leverage our comparative advantages and maintain a long-term commitment to development," said Wang Xuejun, secretary of the Communist Party of China Wuzhong Municipal Committee and a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress.

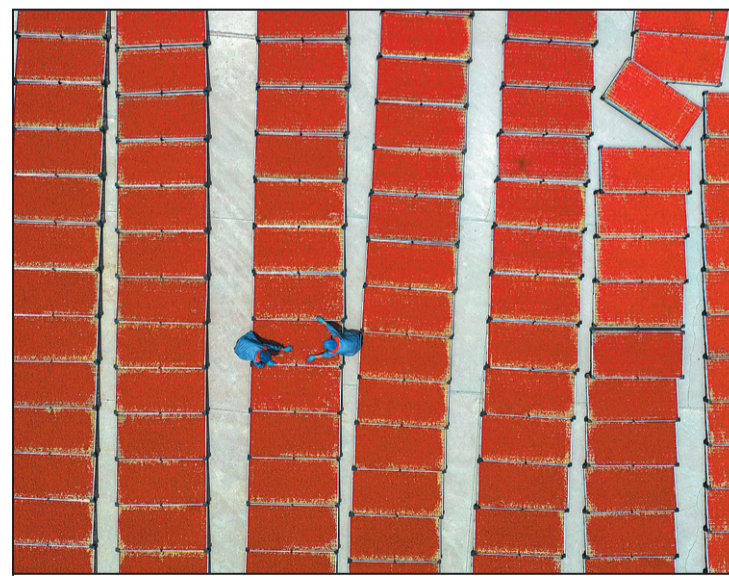
"Our goal is to keep the city's GDP growing at an average annual rate of more than 5 percent and to build a pilot zone for ecological protection and high-quality development in the Yellow River Basin."

In 2025, Wuzhong's GDP reached 96.17 billion yuan (\$14 billion), and the year-on-year growth rate was an average of 6.2 percent during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25).

To sustain the momentum, Wuzhong is focusing on industrial upgrading and the development of competitive industries.

The city is promoting the transformation of its industrial base by advancing modern chemical engineering, new materials, clean energy, equipment manufacturing and green food processing, while continuing to develop distinctive sectors such as specialty agriculture and cultural tourism, Wang said.

Traditional industries, including metallurgy and building materials, are also undergoing technological upgrades to improve efficiency and environmental performance.



Workers dry goji berries at a processing company in Tongxin county, Wuzhong, Ningxia Hui autonomous region, on June 20. The county has about 733 hectares of goji berry plantations, with the industry generating an annual output value of over 270 million yuan (\$39.2 million). YANG ZHISEN / XINHUA



Wang Xuejun

Emerging industries like green hydrogen production, storage, transportation and applications are fostered as well.

Industrial parks play a central role in local industrial transformation. Wuzhong is further optimizing the spatial layout, development focus and industrial structure of its parks, with the combined industrial output of five key parks expected to surpass 130 billion yuan in 2026.

New energy has emerged as a central pillar of Wuzhong, supported by the region's abundant wind and solar resources. Ningxia State-

owned Capital Operation Group is among the companies investing in the sector in the city.

According to project manager Zhang Qizhong, the city has established a "green channel" for project approvals, streamlining procedures and shortening review times. "In three years, we will focus on large-scale development, extending the industrial chain, smart upgrades and ecological integration, becoming a core support for the city's green and low-carbon transformation," Zhang said.

Through initiatives such as green electricity industrial parks, renewable energy generation is increasingly linked with manufacturing, helping raise the share of clean energy consumption and support-

ing the development of a modern energy system, said Wang.

While advancing industrial transformation, Wuzhong is also strengthening regional cooperation and promoting an open economy, working with major economic hubs such as the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze River Delta and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

"We will continue to balance domestic and external development, actively foster an export-oriented economy, and strive to increase total import and export volume by more than 10 percent," Wang said.

Meanwhile, Wuzhong is also seeking to stimulate domestic consumption by developing new consumption scenarios that combine agriculture, culture, tourism, sports and commerce. Events such as the morning tea and food culture festival and the Yellow River-themed marathon have helped raise the city's profile as a tourist destination.

"We expect both tourist arrivals and tourism spending to increase by more than 10 percent," Wang said.

Looking ahead, Wang emphasized that the city will continue to pursue green and innovation-driven development.

"By building stronger industries, improving the business environment and expanding regional cooperation, we will create new momentum for high-quality development and contribute further to the modernization of Ningxia and the country," he said.

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