



## Discover Jilin — Home to the Changbai Mountains and Songhua River



SONG CHEN / FOR CHINA DAILY

## New governor plans to revive former industrial base

By ZHANG ZHAO  
zhangzhao@chinadaily.com.cn



**Jilin is now rising again with vigor, marching toward the target of building a well-off society."**

BAYIN CHAOLU  
JILIN GOVERNOR

Appointed at the end of January, new Jilin Governor Bayin Chaolu has an ambitious vision to recapture the lost glory of the province, which was one of the earliest industrial bases of New China.

The Northeast Chinese province is now "rising again with vigor, marching toward the target of building a well-off society," he said.

Over the past five years, the province's GDP has been growing at a pace of more than 100 billion yuan (\$16 billion) annually. In 2011, the figure for the first time surpassed 1 trillion yuan. And last year, the number reached 1.2 trillion yuan.

The same year, total tax and fee revenue and industrial profit both exceeded 100 billion yuan. The total retail sales of consumer goods increased 19 percent, and the import and export volume reached \$24.6 billion, an increase of nearly 140 percent.

At the same time, the energy consumption per unit of GDP dropped 24 percent.

Infrastructure was upgraded over the past five years, with 1,710 kilometers of new highway completed, bringing the total length to 2,252 km. Also, more than 900 km of railway was added to the transportation system over that period, including 381 km of high-speed railway lines.

Other major projects include airports in Changchun and the Changbai Mountains as well as hydraulic facilities.

The launch of a trade zone in Raseon, North Korea and new transportation routes among China, Japan, South Korea and Russia has promoted international business and trade between Jilin and neighboring countries.

Thanks to a number of livelihood improvement programs carried out last year, the annual average disposable income of urban residents reached more than 20,000 yuan, and net income of people in the countryside reached nearly 8,600 yuan. Both saw double-digit growth.

More than 11 million people benefited from affordable housing projects. The coverage of pension, healthcare and compulsory education systems has also been expanded.

But the governor noted that there are still obstacles that must be overcome on the province's road to development, such as challenges from the conventional economic structure and pressure of resources and environment.

"We also have a long way to go to narrow the gap of income in different regions,"

he added. "The next five years will be a crucial period."

With the goal of achieving an average annual GDP growth rate of 12 percent over the period, the government has planned around 5,000 large-scale construction projects, each of which are worth more than 100 million yuan. Around 1,800 of them will start this year.

More than 4 million jobs in urban areas will be provided to people from the countryside. All cities and key counties and economic development zones in the province will be connected in the highway system. There will also be an intercity high-speed railway network centered on the provincial capital Changchun.

As a regional hub of culture in Northeast Asia, the government has planned 100 projects in the cultural sector, each worth more than 100 million yuan. There will be new libraries, theaters, museums and art galleries along with up to 50 cultural industry bases.

At the same time, the government will also keep an eye on environmental protection. Its focuses will include wetlands and forests in the Changbai Mountains.

This year, the provincial government aims to increase tax and fee income by 15 percent while reducing energy consumption per unit of GDP by 3 percent. It seeks to keep unemployment rate at under 4.6 percent.

According to the government's economic reform strategy, private sectors will contribute 60 percent of GDP in the coming five years. So this year, it plans to improve the service system for small companies and startups.

Two industrial clusters — one that focuses on photo-electronics and another on new materials — will start this year. These clusters will feature 100 research centers and labs as well as R&D institutions of some 20 leading companies.

The provincial government will grant innovative policies to 10 pilot townships to help attract investment and find new possible resources to boost its economy.

"We will pay equal attention to quality and efficiency," the governor said.

## In Jilin, quality of life is priority No 1

By LI FUSHENG  
lifusheng@chinadaily.com.cn

In 2013, residents of Jilin can expect their quality of life to improve, according to a recent government work report.

Leaders of the province, located in Northeast China, promised noticeable improvements in almost all sectors of daily life, ranging from retirement and medical care to employment and social security.

This year, pensions for retired corporate employees are to increase by no less than 10 percent. This comes on the heels of a 15.6 percent rise in 2012 that brought their average monthly pension to 1,370 yuan (\$220), said an official from the provincial human resources and social security department.

In addition, the provincial government expects to finish construction of day care centers for senior citizens in 30 percent of urban communities and 20 percent of rural ones, said Zhang Jing, head of the provincial civil affairs department.

Composed of zones for entertainment, reading, rehabilita-

tion, rest and meals, those care centers in urban areas will each cover no less than 150 square meters, while their rural counterparts no less than 200 square meters.

Zhang said such centers will be available in all urban communities and 50 percent of rural ones by the end of 2017.

Besides, the government will build or renovate 12 municipal nursing homes, 29 county ones and more in rural areas.

It will also finance 100 private nursing homes and offer subsidies to senior citizens with low incomes so that they afford it.

### Medical care

As part of its campaign to improve medical care, the provincial government plans to establish one provincial first-aid instruction center as well as 10 emergency centers at the municipal or prefecture level, 42 at the county level and 790 in towns over the course of the year, according to a provincial health official.

The government has also earmarked 16 million yuan to build community-based



LIU XIAO / CHINA DAILY

**Over the past five years, more than 900 km of railway was added to the province's transportation system, including 381 km of high-speed railway lines. A more complicated, multi-layer traffic system makes it more convenient to get around Changchun, the capital of Jilin.**

check-up centers that provide local residents with basic physical examinations and medical advice at lower costs, the official added. Having set up 110 by the end of 2012, it plans to build more in 2013.

The government is also working to make it easier to pay medical fees, said an official at

the human resources and social security department.

By the end of the year, local patients will be able to pay with their medical insurance card at whichever hospital they choose within the province, he said.

### Employment

The Jilin government plans to create 550,000 job opportunities in 2013 and help 10,000 people start their own businesses, said an official at the provincial department of human resources and social security.

It also plans to offer employment to some 3.8 million surplus rural workers in the province and strives to increase their average annual wage income to 2,700 yuan per capita, the official added.

The government is paying special attention to one group of job seekers — recent graduates. "It has been difficult for college graduates to get jobs nowadays, especially those who are from underprivileged families and studied in obscure universities," said Lu Lianda, head of the provincial educational department.

Training will be offered to them in the year before they graduate so that they can get better prepared for the job market, Lu said.

"We used to help 5,000 such graduates get employed each year," Lu said.

### 12 REFORMS FOR PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS IN 2013

**Employment:** Arrange skill training; create 550,000 new urban jobs; develop 10,000 public service jobs.

**Social security:** Improve the pension standard; increase the minimum guaranteed income standard to 267 yuan in rural areas and 1,385 yuan in urban areas; establish a medical system covering serious illnesses for urban and rural residents.

**Affordable housing:** Start construction of 338,700 affordable apartments; renovate dilapidated rural houses and issue certificates to rural property owners; offer rental subsidies to 250,000 households.

**Heating system:** Enlarge the heating capacity for another 60 million square meters; complete heating

reform for at least 20 million square meters; renew 1,000 kilometers of heating supply pipelines.

**Education and medical care:** Build, renovate or expand 300 state-run kindergartens; expand the coverage of policies that offer free vocational education; launch and complete construction of standardized clinics in one-third of administrative villages.

**Cultural facilities:** Establish 400 centers for cultural activities in rural areas; set up 400 reading rooms in underdeveloped villages and for border garrison troops; make TV and radio programs available to 40,000 households.

**Food security:** Establish 10 model counties and three model parks; put in place a food traceability system; install 20,000

waste oil and water separators.

**Poverty alleviation:** Improve the overall living standards of 200 underdeveloped villages and lift 300,000 rural people out of poverty.

**Drinking water:** Provide safe drinking water to 1.2 million rural people.

**Public transport:** purchase or update 1,500 buses and build 170,000 square meters of parking space.

**Public security:** Install 50,000 video cameras along main streets, in schools and at other public venues; provide more efficient legal aid.

**Public service:** Offer rehabilitation programs for 250,000 people with disabilities; train 50,000 people with disabilities to improve their work skills; stabilize food prices.



DING LUYANG / CHINA DAILY

**The local government vows to increase agricultural capacity, develop technologies, enhance infrastructure and public services in rural areas, as well as modernize agricultural production.**