



The Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park displays its products at the Investment and Trade Forum for Cooperation between East and West China from April 5 to 8 in Xi'an.



Officially approved by the State Council in February last year, the Xi'an Comprehensive Free Trade Zone is the only free trade zone in the northwestern region of China.



The exhibition of the Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park at this year's Investment and Trade Forum for Cooperation between East and West China attracts investors from home and abroad.

Xi'an trade, logistics park draws investors

By LU HONGYAN
luhongyan@chinadaily.com.cn

On April 9, investors signed contracts to launch projects inside the Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park in the latest example of the growing popularity of Shaanxi's provincial capital as a destination for investment.

Projects that will be housed in the park include an industrial park for European companies, a photovoltaic cell factory, an optoelectronics plant, a cloud computing center for mobile applications, and a hospital.

According to the park's management, a total of 27 investment agreements involving a cumulative investment of 81.52 billion yuan (\$13 billion) were signed during this year's Investment and Trade Forum for Cooperation between East and West China.

Qiang Xiaohan, director of the park's administrative committee, said that in addition to the traditional trade and logistics projects, it was "really encouraging" that investors are bringing projects to the park in emerging industries, such as the cultural and creative industry, the Internet of Things and advanced manufacturing.

"These projects will help improve the modern service industry of the park and will help to enhance the park's sustainable development."

He added that the administrative committee of the park will do its best to ensure the smooth execution of these projects and will provide all services necessary to the investors.

Twelve of the 27 projects involved investments from overseas, and combined foreign investment in them totaled \$2.67 billion. Qiang

said investors are mainly from the United States, France, Japan and Indonesia, as well as the Hong Kong Administrative Region and Taiwan. Of the projects, 18 had total investments of more than 200 million yuan each, while eight projects had investments in excess of 1 billion yuan each.

At the ceremony, Han Song, deputy mayor of Xi'an and secretary of the park's Party committee, said that these projects will be of landmark significance to the development of this park and the Xi'an Free Trade Zone, which is part of the park.

Han said the area will host dedicated industrial parks for businesses from Japan, Taiwan and ASEAN member countries, which "will help Xi'an become integrated into the global economy, sharpen its competitiveness and attract more international industries to the city."

The deputy mayor said he also hopes that these projects will enable the Xi'an Free Trade Zone and the park to play a greater role in promoting the regional economic development of northwestern China.

New projects

Located in the Xi'an Free Trade Zone, which was officially approved by the State Council in February last year, the European industrial zone will be built with funding from French investment company J2C and cover an area of 20 hectares. It will include an exhibition center for imported French commodities as well as logistics facilities and plants for making and processing luxury French brand bags, garments and goods.

Over time, the park will gradually develop into a complete industrial system sup-



Sun Qingyun (second left), a member of the standing committee of Shaanxi Provincial Committee and secretary of Xi'an Party Committee, visits the exhibition area of the Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park at this year's Investment and Trade Forum for Cooperation between East and West China.

ported by bonded processing, after-sales services, design, research and development.

The ASEAN international industrial park in the free trade zone occupies an area of 200 hectares and will be constructed using investments from the Sandratex Group totaling 10 billion yuan. The park will be made up of the bonded processing bases of established international brands, deep processing facilities for rubber products, and an exhibition and trading center of imported and luxury goods from Southeast Asia and Africa.

Xi'an Huanghe Photovoltaic Technology Co Ltd is also planning to construct a production line in the zone for 300-megawatt photovoltaic cell panels, and its products

will be exported to European and US markets.

The Hong Kong (Dongguan) industrial park in the free trade zone will become an area where Hong Kong enterprises can cluster on the mainland. These enterprises are expected to focus on processing and international trade.

The Japanese industrial park, which has a total investment of about \$300 million, will be a key entry point for investment by Japanese enterprises into China's inland regions. This park is expected to attract enterprises engaged in equipment manufacturing, IT and electronics.

Driving engine

These new projects are set

to boost the development of the Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park, which is important as the region's only inland international port.

Han Song said the park stands ready to offer help and services for investors from all over the world and will work hard to take full advantage of the park's strengths.

He said he is confident that the park will serve as an engine to drive the economic development of Xi'an and the whole province. Its effect will even be felt throughout the northwestern region as a whole, he said.

To expand its capacity, the park has signed a cooperation agreement with the nearby Lintong industrial zone to

develop the zone into a production base for the park. The investment for the development of this 12-square-kilometer zone was 50 billion yuan.

The deputy mayor said the zone will offer sufficient space for the expansion of the trade and logistic park, and industrial projects could then be established in the zone to achieve a mutually beneficial cooperation between the park and the zone.

Han said Xi'an will serve as an example for innovation at a time when the country is developing the western regions. He said the park and its experiences may hold the key to the overall development of China's inland regions.

Hub rich in transport resources

By LU HONGYAN
luhongyan@chinadaily.com.cn

The Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park is located in northeastern section of the provincial capital city Xi'an in the delta area of the Bahe and Weihe rivers. The planned area for this park is 120 square kilometers.

The park was designed and established in an attempt to adjust the city's industrial structure, improve the modern service industry and support the opening and development of the inland province of Shaanxi and its capital city.

The ultimate goal is to make it "the largest inland international port, the largest trade and logistics center in the upper and middle reaches of the Yellow River and a new base for the modern services industry."

It comprises eight functional areas: the container operation area, the comprehensive free trade zone, the domestic trade area, the comprehensive services area, the residential area, the logistics area, the industrial area and the coordinated urban-rural construction area.

Its convenient railway, highway and air transportation allows the park to improve the efficiency of logistics and reduce costs. And the coordinated logistics service can help promote the clustering of industries and propel the development of a modern service industry.

The construction of this park has won support from the central government, the province and the capital city. In 2010, the State Council started to "vigorously promote the construction of the Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park", and in 2011, it approved the establishment of the Xi'an Comprehensive Free Trade Zone.

The zone, covering an area of 6.18 square kilometers, is the only free trade zone in the northwestern region of China. It is supported by the logistics and port functions of the trade and logistics park.

With the construction of infrastructure facilities and the clustering of various industrial projects, the park has become an international inland port in Shaanxi. It now serves as a platform for domestic and overseas investors and a base for the industries transferred from the eastern coastal regions.

The park is working to explore and pioneer new means of economic integration and coordinating urban-rural development. It is striving to build itself into a modern, ecological and internationalized new city suitable for businesses and residence.

Contact information
Administrative Committee of the Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park
Address: No 6 Gangwu Avenue, Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park, Xi'an, Shaanxi Province
Postal code: 710026
Website: www.itl.gov.cn
Telephone: 86-29-83591918 (daytime), 86-29-83332466 (nighttime)

Inland port helps link landlocked area to world

By LU HONGYAN
luhongyan@chinadaily.com.cn

When officials proposed in 2008 to turn Shaanxi's landlocked provincial capital into an international port, the idea met with opposition from the outset.

The argument against it seemed reasonable: Xi'an is not a coastal city, so how could it develop a port-driven economy?

But Han Song, deputy mayor of the city, was a firm supporter and strong advocate for this plan long before he was appointed to head two committees responsible for the Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park, Xi'an's inland port area.

Han's idea was that the functions of a normal port, such as customs clearance, could be performed just as well inland, where there is convenient access to railway infrastructure. So he worked to realize his vision of building an international inland port.

The plan for developing the port was guided by Han's experience working at the Ministry of Commerce, the General Office of the State Council and

the State Administration for Industry and Commerce.

"Thanks to the Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park, all export-oriented enterprises in the northwestern region will no longer have to go to coastal ports to complete customs procedures, and in Xi'an, they could also enjoy all policy benefits, such as tax rebates. Furthermore, processing enterprises could move their production to this inland region," Han said.

"The international inland port is the core functional area of the Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park. This will give Xi'an a strategic and competitive advantage over the course of its future development," the deputy mayor said.

But to become an inland port, easy and convenient transportation should be the first prerequisite, Han said.

To this end, the trade and logistics park has all the necessary qualifications since it enjoys the full support of the Xi'an railway container transport center, the Xi'an bonded logistics center and the Xi'an highway hub. And it has also established "strategic cooperative relations" with the major

coastal ports in Shanghai; Tianjin; Qingdao and Rizhao in Shandong province; Lianyungang in Jiangsu province; and the border ports of Horgos and Alataw Pass in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

Broader cooperation

In 2010, when Zhao Leji, secretary of the Shaanxi provincial Party committee, made an inspection visit to the park, he called for "the great rejuvenation of the ancient Silk Road."

Han echoed Zhao and said the first step was to give Xi'an greater access to the oceans. "This is a long-held dream of all people of Shaanxi province and Xi'an." He then started working hard to make this dream come true.

In 2011, the Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park, in cooperation with relevant departments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization nations, organized the New Euro-Asia Bridge to extend the reach of Xi'an to Europe.

During the event, a special container named the *Changan* departed for Amsterdam from Xi'an to gather information on rail transport through the new



Officials preside over the New Euro-Asia Bridge in September 2011. This event was an effort by the Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park to extend the reach of Xi'an to Europe.

Euro-Asia railway. Han Song led a convoy of vehicles to the same destination. During the 77-day journey of more than 16,000 kilometers, they visited 29 cities in eight countries, such as Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkey and the Netherlands.

The journey helped promote the trade and logistics park. It also tested the railway and highway transport systems, and helped push forward cooperation between China, Central Asia and Europe.

During the journey, the Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park signed strategic cooperation agreements with the border ports of Alataw Pass and Horgos, established offices in Istanbul and Rotterdam, and showcased the economic development as well as the history and culture of

Shaanxi and Xi'an to the world. Extensive cooperation with Chinese and foreign ports ushered in a new era for Xi'an. "As the largest hub city on the Chinese section of the Euro-Asia railway bridge, Xi'an has proven to have all functions of an inland port, including free trade," Han said after the event.

Han said the development of Xi'an and its trade and logistics park may hold the key to the overall growth and development of China's inland regions.

But Han has a big picture in mind. "Acting as an international inland port is just a core function of the Xi'an International Trade and Logistics Park, or just one highly efficient engine to drive growth."

With the park as the foundation, "we plan to construct

a new free trade zone oriented toward Central Asia, the Middle East and the European Union." When the goal is achieved, Xi'an will be a modern international city with a regional financial clearing center and an energy futures exchange.

Industrial development needs the support of integrated logistics services. The construction of an inland port will help optimize the city's industrial structure, aid its economic takeoff, attract more industries, and help improve the industrial competitiveness of the inland province and the northwest as whole.

"We are fully confident in the future of Xi'an, a prosperous, internationalized, modern and ecological city," Han said.