

Tianjin's Development and Current Situation

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Good Morning YLP fellows, I am the general secretary of Tianjin Government Zongsheng Chen, I am now taking charge of financial employment , reform and enterprise register . My topic today is Tianjin' s development and current situation . The whole speech consists of six parts as follows .

一. Tianjin is the third Largest City (basic conditions)

With a population of 11 million ,Tianjin is the third largest city in China , which situated in the eastern part of the North China Plain, geographically covering an area of 11,600 square km. Tianjin is located so closely to Beijing that you can make a trip between the two cities just by one-day car drive or by 29-minute express-train . With upgoing income level ,its per captia GDP reaches up to 6000 RMB.

二. A window of modern China (history)

A 600-year-old city doesn't qualify as ancient in China. But for TianJin, its six centuries of history have marked it as the gateway through which the modern Western world first entered the country.

Traveling through its bus street , back alley or downtown plazas helps and Western cultures and the way it has blended them both with the ancient and modern.

Trains were first introduced into China half a century later than the rest of the world –after Tianjin opened its port to the outside. Through the city also came telegrams 30 years later than modern post services , which arrived 20 years after they did elsewhere.

But Tianjin started using telephone only three years later than the rest of the world ,and soon after Maroon powder was invented Tianjin opened the world's largest powder factory . Tianjin also began using trolleys soon after they were put into use in other big cities in the world in the early 20th century . Many late-arriving technologies to China were first introduced to the country through Tianjin as well.

The same holds true for spiritual elements. The earliest university of China “Peiyang University of Western Studies” opened in Tianin in 1895.

Guowen Daily started publishing in Tianjin in 1997 with Yan Fu as its editor-in-chief.

The earliest policing system was set up in Tianjin in 1902. The ‘window effect’ that came with the opening of Tianjin’s port greatly influenced various dimensions of traditional society in China.

Tianjin also remained a leader in the political sphere. It was both near the capital city and was a port to the outside world.

After two Opium Wars, Tianjin became a station for the Chihli Viceroy and Peiyang ministers . Consequently, the city’s diplomatic and political standing zoomed. In foreigners’ eyes, the Chihli Viceroy Yamun of Tianjin was almost the ‘Second Government’ of China.

Tianjin has evolved rapidly from a government office and then county city to become a famous northern city that drives China’s modernization.

Today, the harmonious coexistence of both traditional and modern elements embodies Tianjin’s profound meaning and unique style.

Today, this modern economic center of North China is rising with accelerating speed so as to redisplay the mien of a true economic powerhouse in the region.

三. Economic Center of North China

When the People’s Republic of China was founded, Tianjin ranked fifth in the overall economic scale nationwide.

The central government decided to build Tianjin into China's "key economic center of north China" in 1999. Now Tianjin has been fully prepared to play such a role, equipped with sound economic and social fundamentals and conditions, attracting investment from both home and abroad.

四. Binhai new area is a Shinning Star

Thanks to the new area, Tianjin is gradually establishing itself and its development orientation has become clearer. Being a part of the national development strategy, the area is making substantial progress in cooperation with adjacent provinces and cities.

Attaching great importance to independent innovation, using talented people with an innovative spirit and carrying out system reform in science and technology, the area is determined to gradually establishing a well-developed innovation system regarding science and technology and pursue a path of independent innovation.

The Binhai New Area has enlarged investment in science and technology and created a better environment for innovation.

The local authorities have formulated and perfected policies and regulations encouraging companies to invest in science and technology innovation and to share science and technology resources.

五. Tianjin Harbor ranks sixth in the world

According statistics, Tianjin Port's current water and land area is approximately 200 sq km. The current land area is 60 sq km, which is set to increase to 100 sq km by 2010.

Tianjin Port also has a strong connection with inland areas, directly reaching 14 inland provinces ,cities and autonomous regions, covering 5 million sq km ,which accounts for about 52 percent of the total area of the country.

According to source s ,by 2010,Tianjin Port's cargo throughput will have surpassed 400 million tons,with a container throughput of 12 TEUs,more than 700 container shipments monthly and a 300,000 tonnage dock.

During the 11th Five-Year Plan(2006-10), 45 billion yuan will be interested to further upgrade the scale level and function of the port and to improve its core competitiveness.In January 1981, China's first specialized container terminal was put into operation at Tianjin Port.

In December 1997, the passenger and cargo service quality system of the Tianjin Port Bureau was granted the British UKAS accreditation certificate .Tianjin Port Bureau therefore became the first port enterprise granted ISO9000 accreditation both internationally and domestically .A great umber of industrial or national records have been created at Tianjin

Port.

In 1984 ,Tianjin Port was the first coastal port to launch management system reforms ;In 1989,the first Commercial Bonded Ware Co, Ltd (CWB) in China was brought into operation, co-established by Tianjin Port and Royal Nedlloyd Group of Holland; in 1997, Tianjin Port witnessed the opening of the Electronic Data Interchange Center, hence becoming the first port in China which is in line with international standards in its information exchange methods for international container transportation.

六. Tianjin is creating modern financial service base

In March 2008, Tianjin was authorized to establish the Over-the-Counter (OTC) market .In July, the First Futures Broker-age headquarters was moved to Tianjin. TianJin regards the development of futures as an important aspect of financial agglomeration effect in Tianjin appears and a series of innovative reforms have been implemented in the Binhai New Area, a modern financial service system is rapidly being established in Tianjin.

As early as December 2005, when China had no clear laws about industrial funds, the State Council approved the Binhai New Area to run pilot industrial investment fund projects . In December 2006, the first

Chinese-funded private equity fund-Bohai Industrial Investment Fund
–was founded in Tianjin.

In June 2006, the State Council's Opinions on Questions Concerning the Promotion of Development and Opening of Tianjin Binhai New Area clearly points out that financial reform and reform and innovation in Tianjin Binhai New area is encouraged.

Tianjin is the China's economic fund center. The fund will fuel the financing system for China's shipbuilding industry, and facilitate the formation of international shipping and logistic centers.

Thanks for your attention !