

Wuhan ranks 10th in urban competitiveness

By Zhang Junwei

On June 22, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and the *Economic Daily* jointly issued its fifteenth annual report on China's urban competitiveness.

The report has been published annually since 2003. Wuhan's overall economic competitiveness rose from No. 12 to No.10, hitting the top 10 for the first time.

The report listed

Shenzhen, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Taipei, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Beijing, Macau, Suzhou, and Wuhan as the ten most competitive cities in China in 2016. Most of the top ten cities are clustered in the Pearl River Delta, the Yangtze River Delta, and the Bohai Economic Rim. Shanghai is the No.1 city in the competitiveness index for increment synthesis, and Macau

is prominent in comprehensive efficiency.

The annual report presented research on the comprehensive economic competitiveness of 294 cities, and the competitiveness index of habitability and sustainability of 289 cities in China in 2016. The research used various econometric methods based on the principle of index minimization.

Hubei FTZ to carry out airplane rentals business

By Fu Yin

People in Wuhan will soon find it common to rent planes, cars, and ships. Before the end of October, two policies will be initiated to encourage financial leasing in the Hubei Free Trade Zone (FTZ).

The Department of Commerce of Hubei Province announced on June 16 that Hubei will innovate with financial leasing and encourage companies to set up their headquarters or subsidiaries in the FTZ. The province hopes to foster a group of competitive companies for airplanes, ships, and engineering machinery, and encourage them to purchase advanced assets from other countries by way of financial leasing.

Before the end of July, Hubei will issue a notice on the methods for companies to apply to become a pilot financial leasing company in the Hubei FTZ. Before the end of October, a notice on matters concerning auto financial leasing will be issued to regulate the industry.

International Bio-Expo to take place in Optics Valley

The 2nd Optics Valley of China International Bio-Expo will be held from June 30 to July 2 at the Wuhan Optics Valley Convention & Exhibition Center.

The expo includes a professional exhibition and a summit forum. The exhibition area, covering 18,200 square meters, is divided into seven sections comprising biological medicine, accurate diagnosis & treatment, medical equipment, biological agriculture, bio-technology, smart healthcare big data, and major disease prevention & control. About 250 companies will attend the exhibition, including many leading companies like China-Belgium Technology Center, Sanofi, MSD, Novo Nordisk, Fresenius Kabi, Sinopharm Group, China National Seed Group, Humanwell Healthcare Group, United Imaging, Mindray, WuXi AppTec, Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI), China Shijiazhuang Pharmaceutical Group, JHL Biotech, and Ankon Technologies.

During the expo, there will also be contract signing ceremonies, new product releasing and licensing, and project promotion.



Wuhan Optics Valley Convention & Exhibition Center

Photo by Ren Yong

High-end business center to be built in WEDZ

The unfinished building of the Xinneng Hotel in WEDZ was imploded and demolished at 12:30 A.M. on June 23. On its site a new business center called Chedu Building will be built.

The construction of the Xinneng Hotel began in 1993. By 2005, the main structure of a ten-floor building had been finished, as well as one underground floor, covering a floor area of over 20 thousand square meters. Further construction had been canceled for many years, and the building was left dilapidated. After expert evaluation, it was determined that the old building should be demolished and replaced by a new one.

The site of the old building is to the south of Dongfeng Avenue and east of Zhuanyang Avenue, near Zhuanyang Avenue Station of Metro Line 3. The newly planned Chedu Building on the site will include a 20,000-square-meter hotel as well as a 10,000-square-meter office tower and a podium building. WEDZ will gain another business center.