

Overseas Chinese focus on international cooperation

By Song Lei & Wang Su

The Conference on Overseas Chinese Pioneering and Development in China was held at the Wuhan East Lake International Conference Center from Nov. 21 to 23. More than 3,000 guests from home and abroad discussed innovation and entrepreneurship with the theme of "Overseas Chinese, Innovation, Development and Sharing."

During the conference, 24 events were held, including Wuhan Forum, the signing ceremony for key projects, discussions on the protection and utilization of water resources in the Yangtze River Economic Belt, the introduction of Hubei science and technology into Africa, the financing of regional capital markets, and the Healthy Village campaign.



Participants continue discussion and create connections with each other. Photo by Guo Liangshuo

RMB 300 million to build China – Africa Industrial Park

At its 5th conference in 2005, Yin Yiqiao, chairman of Future Group Stock Corporation Limited (FGC), signed a contract with Huangjinkou Urban Industrial Park in Wuhan to invest in building an export base for the African market. In the past 13 years, FGC has set up branches in seven countries, including China, Kenya, Mozambique and Madagascar, thus becoming a model for implementing the "going out strategy" (promoting Chinese investment abroad) of Hubei Province.

At the signing ceremony this year, FGC announced plans to invest RMB 300 million to build a China–Africa Industrial Park with Madagascar's Today Company. They also intend to build a future venture business technology incubator to promote the upgrading of industrial parks utilizing smart manufacturing as the main body and to build the largest African economic and cultural exchange platform and headquarters for African enterprises in Central China. FGC is one of the enterprises in Hubei that has taken the lead in going abroad, and they hope to attract more Chinese entrepreneurs in Africa to return to Wuhan to start their own businesses.

Wuhan enterprise to develop hot springs in Hungary

Lv Shuiping is the head of the Hubei International Cooperation Central and Eastern Europe Workstation as well as the chair of the Hungarian YT International Trading Company

which is a main textile and garment manufacturer. The garments produced by his companies have a stable market share in Hungary, Romania, Poland and other Central and Eastern European countries.

Lv said that they are preparing to build the headquarters of overseas Chinese enterprises in Europe, which will be settled in Wuhan's Sino–French Eco–city, and that nearly 30 European enterprises have expressed their desire to settle there. What's more, the workstation, relying on Hungary's abundant hot spring resources to develop tourism, has also recently contributed to the success of a Wuhan enterprise working hand in hand with relevant parties in Hungary.

Optics Valley opens overseas Chinese innovation and entrepreneurship service center

On the afternoon of Nov. 22, the Overseas Chinese Pioneering Center announced the construction of its key project in Optics Valley Chinese Sci–tech City.

The Overseas Chinese Pioneering Center will invest RMB 1.6 billion and cover an area of 260,000 square meters. It will build an overseas Chinese innovation and entrepreneurship service center, a training center that deals with emerging industries such as artificial intelligence; semiconductor chips; new service industries; and an overseas Chinese innovation museum. All these are intended to provide returning overseas Chinese citizens a "warm home" and help them start new businesses. The Overseas Chinese Pioneering Center was designed by the world–

renowned I. M. Pei Architecture Firm and is expected to be completed in two years. At present, the park has more than 200 overseas Chinese projects. The center is dedicated to industrial incubation, while Chang–Lin Tien Science Park focuses on technology incubation to help Optics Valley attract the world's top talents. Chang–Lin Tien was a Chinese scientist with great international influence and the seventh chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley. He became the first Asian to head a major university in the United States.

Sino–Canadian Green Development International Cooperation Zone to settle in Yangtze River New Town

On Nov. 22, the Wuhan Yangtze River New Town Management Committee signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Hubei Chamber of Commerce in Canada with a total investment of RMB 10 billion. The latter will construct a Sino–Canadian Green Development International Cooperation Zone in the Yangtze River New Town and form a "one garden, one port and three towns" landscape which includes: Sino–Canada International Education Park, Sino–Canada International Food Cold Chain Port, Sino–Canada International Technology & Innovation Town, Sino–Canada International Finance Town and Canadian Style and Culture Tourism Town. The Excellence Education Group from Ontario, Canada, will build the International Education Park, and in addition, the Bethune Sino–Canadian Friendship Hospital will be located there too.