

# Suzhou special

中国日报 CHINA DAILY

## 2015 Suzhou World Table Tennis Championships



## City races into sports events



An international half marathon event was held in Suzhou last month, attracting about 30,000 participants from home and abroad.

By FU CHAO  
fuchao@chinadaily.com.cn

\$9.7 million

invested by the city in the public sports sector in 2014

69

sports competitions

at provincial level sports were held in Suzhou last year, ranking it first in Jiangsu

Suzhou has stepped up its efforts to improve lives through sports by developing a strong infrastructure and producing more sports events, according to the city's sports bureau.

In 2014, the Jiangsu province city invested about 60 million yuan (\$9.7 million) in the public sports sector. Also, investment in sports from the private sector reached about 20 million yuan, according to the bureau.

The bureau also works with the University of Science and Technology of China to carry out research and devise proposals, which are then sent to the city's government to be approved and then used as guidelines for future developments.

Public sporting facilities in the city have also been improved. The construction of a fitness center in downtown Suzhou has just been completed and the building of sports and culture centers in the city's industrial parks and high-tech zone are underway.

About 80 percent of the community culture and sports centers have been renovated.

The county-level cities in Suzhou, including Kunshan, Taicang and Changshu, boast public stadiums.

Kunshan invested 45 million yuan over three years to develop public fitness facilities.

Suzhou has also held sports events and competitions during festivals and holidays for six years now.

The city organized 69 provincial-level sports competitions last year, ranking it first in Jiangsu. There were some free tickets allocated for local residents and some competitions were also open to the public.

During the past six years, there have also been free lectures on fitness and healthcare in parks and squares across the city. Volunteers also offer lectures and training in the communities.

The city's sports bureau has an official account on WeChat, providing tips and information on fitness as well as updates on the city's sporting events.



Residents practice tai chi in a public square. Suzhou plans to develop about 40 small squares for sports and exercise in the next few years, to encourage greater participation in sporting activities by locals.



The eastern city of Suzhou has developed into an economic boomtown in China, with its exports, imports and inbound foreign investment accounting for 7.23 percent, 7.73 and 6.8 percent of the nation's total last year. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

## Suzhou leads Jiangsu province

### City ranks in top five among Chinese cities for foreign trade, Xu Xiao reports.

Suzhou in East China's Jiangsu province has developed into one of the economic powerhouses of the nation in recent decades.

The prosperous Yangtze River Delta city is now at the forefront of China's economic opening-up.

Accounting for less than 0.1 percent of the country's land area, it ranked fourth, third and sixth among China's large and medium-sized cities in terms of import volume, export volume and actual utilized foreign capital, accounting for 7.23 percent, 7.73 percent and 6.8 percent of the national totals in 2014.

Suzhou's foreign trade has led the province for a number of consecutive years. It now boasts five State-level export bases, 16 provincial-level export bases and four provincial-level import trade centers.

In 2014, the city's imports and exports amounted to \$311.31 billion. The value of its offshore service outsourcing broke through the \$5 billion benchmark last year.

The city is also one of the top foreign investment destinations in Jiangsu, with its utilized foreign capital totaling \$8.12 billion yuan in 2014.

By the end of 2014, 147 Fortune 500 companies from 18 countries and regions had invested in more than 400 projects in Suzhou, including regional headquarters.

The service industry received 37.61 percent of the total actually utilized foreign investment in 2014, 10.3 percentage points higher than in 2010. About 47 percent of the utilized investment went to strategic emerging industries and high-tech sectors.

To attract better business investment to foreign investors, the city had built 13 State-level development zones, seven comprehensive bonded areas and one free trade zone by the end of 2014.

Suzhou's history of developing industrial zones and parks dates back to the early 1990s. Led and planned by local governments and featuring constant innovation, the zones developed rapidly.

Suzhou's 13 State-level development zones now account for more than one-third of the province's total, making it the first ranked among all Chinese cities.

The Suzhou Industrial Park and the Kunshan Economic Technological Development Zone are among the best in the country, according to local government officials.

Suzhou's outbound investment has led the province for 11 consecutive years to reach more than 90 countries and regions. Private enterprises account for 70 percent of total outbound investment.

Local company investments are mainly in resource development,



The Suzhou Comprehensive Bonded Area is a favored investment destination, with a range of incentives to facilitate trade and logistics.

high-tech, manufacturing and service industries. The Ethiopia Oriental Industrial Park, one of the national overseas economic and trade cooperation zones developed by a Suzhou

company, has attracted more than 20 Chinese enterprises.

Suzhou has also cooperated with other cities in China to develop industrial zones and parks.

For instance, Suzhou has built 15 development areas in northern Jiangsu province, Shanxi province and the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, as destinations to relocate its

manufacturing industries and emerging industries.

Contact the writer at [xuxiao@chinadaily.com](mailto:xuxiao@chinadaily.com)

## Taking unique culture to the world



Suzhou's woodcarving artists display their skills at an exhibition in France. Woodcarvings from the city's Taohuawu area are renowned throughout the country for their unique style and long history.

By ZHANG ZHAO  
zhangzha@chinadaily.com.cn

Inspired by Suzhou's famous gardens, global fashion powerhouse Giorgio Armani Prive debuted a new perfume called "Pivoine Suzhou" last month, the first of its products to be inspired by China's peony.

The unveiling ceremony in the Humble Administrator's Garden in Suzhou attracted worldwide attention.

The combination of Suzhou and the world luxury brand has shown the unique charm and profound culture of the ancient oriental city and has been well received abroad, local officials said.

The city government of Suzhou established a fund at the beginning of last year to support cultural exchanges and promote local cul-

tural brands overseas. Among the almost 30 cultural activities abroad, 12 won the support of the fund totaling about 700,000 yuan (\$112,910).

Thanks to the projects, local art performances and other cultural events will be on display in many countries and regions including the United States, France, Germany, Australia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong.

The local Kunqu Opera and handicrafts are some of the highlights of the promotional events.

At the same time, 26 international cultural events were held in Suzhou last year, including the "Made in England" design exhibition by British designer John Atkins, the Swedish crystal and glass show and concerts by Singaporean violinist Siow Lee Chin.



Kunqu Opera *Peony Pavilion* is one of the masterpieces of Chinese opera art. Suzhou is the birthplace of Kunqu, which is one of the oldest extant forms of Chinese opera.

## International talent promotes local standing

By XU XIAO  
xuxiao@chinadaily.com.cn

Local government efforts to build an internationalized pool of professionals have played an important role in helping Suzhou become an international metropolis, according to local officials.

Currently Suzhou has more than 1.78 million residents, both from China and abroad, with college degrees or higher. Of those, 125 are part of the State-level talent cultivation strategy, the most of all Chinese cities. Eighty of the 125 are entrepreneurs who have successfully started their own businesses, paralleling Beijing as first-equal in the country.

Statistics show that more than 40,000 technical or management professionals from other countries as well as from China's Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions are living in Suzhou. More than 13,800 Chinese citizens who studied abroad have returned to work in the city.

The contribution from talent to Suzhou's economy accounts for 43.4 percent of GDP, already reaching the level of a moderately developed country, according to the Suzhou government.

Every July since 2009, Suzhou has held a high-profile talent fair - International Entrepreneurship Week - to attract innovative entrepreneurs from both home and



A foreign professional talks with potential cooperation partners at the Suzhou International Entrepreneurship Week. Suzhou has held the annual event every July since 2009 to attract entrepreneurs from both home and abroad.

abroad to start businesses in the city.

"To bring in high-level entrepreneurs good at building new businesses and make Suzhou the foremost choice for international professionals is the focus of Suzhou's talent strategy," said Guo Lajun, the city government's senior official for talent recruitment.

"Unlike before when we had to go

overseas looking for talent, now we

have a talent fair to invite them in. Meanwhile, local private enterprises, technology organizations, research and development institutes and venture capital agencies have all participated. It proves that this way is more attractive to all participants," Guo said.

Six such talent fairs have been

held, attracting some 12,200 high-level professionals from more than 20 countries and regions. Among them, more than 70 percent held doctorate degrees. These professionals proposed 10,483 projects at the events.

To further attract talented people from both home and overseas, the local government has successfully held seven sessions of the "Win in Suzhou" entrepreneurship competition in North America, Australia and Europe. More than 7,000 high-level overseas professionals have taken part. After the events, many came to work and live in Suzhou.

The 2011 "Win in Suzhou" event was held in Silicon Valley in the United States. Former US president Bill Clinton and noted economists attended the opening day.

The 2015 "Win in Suzhou" in Melbourne, Australia, was jointly hosted by Sydney-based Winglong Pty Ltd and CAPS Australia in March.

Hong Chunfen, general manager of Winglong, which hosted the previous two competitions, said the company would continue to attract more high-tech professionals to the events to identify possible development opportunities in Suzhou.

In 2009, Suzhou collaborated with 15 overseas agencies to establish an overseas organization for recruiting talent. It now has 29 branches, covering the world's major developed countries and regions.

## Academics welcomed from abroad

By XU XIAO  
xuxiao@chinadaily.com.cn

The internationalization of education is an important part of Suzhou's opening-up policy, which has greatly contributed to upgrading the city's educational sector, both at elementary and higher learning levels.

During the past decades, international exchanges and cooperation have become routine for the city's elementary schools.

In 2014, half of the city's elementary schools accepted students from places other than the Chinese mainland. Eight thousand students were welcomed, of which 3,000 were from other countries and 5,000 were from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, or children of overseas Chinese.

Suzhou has six schools specifically for foreign students, and one school for Taiwan students accompanying their parents who work in Suzhou. In addition, there are four local schools with international units for foreign students.

A total of 237 schools in Suzhou have become partners with 463 foreign schools in the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Germany, Singapore and Japan.

In 2014, the city had more than 900 international exchange activities and held 32 bilateral and multilateral forums and conferences for the educational sector.

In that year, 500 local teachers traveled to Britain, the US, New Zealand and Germany for research. Twenty-two teachers taught overseas and 119 others were sent by the government to study abroad.

More than 300 schools in the city employ more than 900 foreign teachers, and more than 120,000 students are studying courses taught by foreign teachers.

The Suzhou educational authority also promotes the Chinese language and Suzhou's traditional culture to foreign students at the city's elementary schools. A total of 528 foreign students at Suzhou's international schools are taking Chinese-language courses.

Higher education

Using international resources to train professionals needed in Suzhou's development is an important part of the city's higher education.

Suzhou Dushu Lake Science and Education Innovation District, which was established in 2002, is a successful example for the internationalization of higher education.

The district is home to 26 branches of universities from both home and overseas and two State-level research institutes. There are 77,300 students



The Dushu Lake Science and Education Innovation District in Suzhou is now home to 25 branches of universities from both China and overseas and two State-level research institutes.



The Dushu Lake Science and Education Innovation District launched its Study in Suzhou program in October to attract foreign students.

in 360 majors, including 18,000 post-graduate students.

There are four joint-funded international schools including the Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, the France-China Institution of Remin University, Southeast University-Monash University Joint Graduate School (Suzhou) and Hong Kong University Space Global College (Suzhou).

Six universities and colleges from Singapore, the US, Germany and France have established branch schools in the district. Among them,

three were operational in 2014. The SKEMA - a French economic and management school - opened its Suzhou branch in the district in April.

In May, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology from Germany and University of California, Los Angeles both launched their Suzhou branches there.

There are other 65 international cooperation programs. All these schools and programs have a total of 12,500 students. There are also more than 600 high-

level foreign professionals and 1,600 Chinese scholars returning from overseas working for the schools.

The district's administrative committee also frequently invited foreign universities and colleges for exchange and cooperation.

The Oxford University delegation visited the district several times, for developing the Suzhou-Oxford University Research Center.

Oxford University's Isis Technology Innovation Co signed agreements with the district to help technology transfer in China.