



Consulates generals, officials in Chengdu, Chongqing and Kunming as well as some foreign business chambers leaders pay a visit to Chengdu and examine the construction progress of the Chengdu Science City, incubators and other international innovations projects. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

## Pioneers laud startup, biz climate

By LI YANG AND LI YU  
in Chengdu

Forbes recently published a list of 300 Asian pioneers under 30 years old in innovation and emerging businesses, two of whom work in the Chengdu High-Tech Development Zone in Southwest China's Sichuan province: Li Longfei and Wang Shirui.

Li is the founder of an internet gaming company and Wang began an online medical care company. Li said he believes the zone has a complete industrial chain for internet games, with research and development, distribution, operations and partnerships, which is important for the growth of his business.

By the end of 2015, the zone has more than 400 internet gaming enterprises, which employed about 15,000 people.

In a recent report in Fortune magazine, new business starters in Chengdu referred to as *rongpiao*, or "foreign talents from outside Chengdu", enjoy a leisurely lifestyle as well as benefit from policies in the city.

Yang Xiao, a co-founder of an internet medical care company in Chengdu, said he was amazed at the fast growth of his enterprise and was confident in its future development.

Yang and two friends raised 1 million yuan (\$154,445) in 2008 to found the company.

The venture's current value is about 3 billion yuan and it has become a major player in its market niche.

Shanghai MJ Intelligent System Co cooperated with a Chengdu-based company to set up its R&D center in Chengdu Science City, a research and development industrial park near the high-tech zone.

Chen Jun, president of Shanghai MJ, said: "Chengdu has some famous universities, institutes and vocational schools. The government attaches great importance to promoting innovation. That's why I set up the center in this city."

Chen expects the production value of the Chengdu center will hit 2 billion yuan within three years.

### High-tech industries

By the end of last year, Chengdu had nearly 80 new-business incubators, the largest of which is in Tianfu New District.

More than 13,000 people are employed in over 700 new enterprises in the 400,000-square-meter business incubator zone. Deng Kunshan, general manager of the zone, said: "The place has become a new-business ecosystem where people can work, live and make innovations."

According to Deng, the key industries the zone strongly supports include electronic information, biological medicine, railway transportation, high-end equipment manufacturing, energy saving and environmental protection, modern agriculture, cultural creativity and modern service sectors.

Fu Yi, vice-president of UFIDA Software's branch in Chengdu Science City, said: "The city has a strong atmosphere of starting new businesses. Chengdu has very large input in the information industry."

As a company serving other enterprises, we have obtained a lot of opportunities in Chengdu."

In addition to nurturing businesses, Chengdu also pays special attention to attracting institutes and R&D centers.

On March 11, the Chengdu government signed a strategic cooperation framework agreement with the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Chengdu branch.

The branch will build a 78-hectare campus, which is planned to cater to more than 4,000 people, in Chengdu Science City.

The construction of the new campus is scheduled to be completed in three to five years.

The science city is also cooperating with Peking University, Tsinghua University, Sichuan University, the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Tongji University and Stanford University to build research branches in Chengdu.

# Chengdu Science City, Tianfu New District key parts in nurturing further innovation

Premier's visit reinforces local government's confidence, Li Yu and Li Yang report.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said he hopes Chengdu Science City will become a core zone of the new economy, a cradle of a new driving force and a new engine of Sichuan's development, during his visit to the research and development industry park in Tianfu New District in late April.

The Chengdu government unveiled its plan to make Chengdu into a city of innovation by 2025 on March 15. The premier's recent visit reinforces the city government's confidence in transforming its blueprint into reality.

According to the plan, Chengdu should become an ideal place to pursue innovation and start new businesses by 2017, have modern industries and become a national center concentrating on pro-innovation factors by 2020, and have international influence in the field of innovation.

The construction of Chengdu Science City is an important part of the plan.

The Chengdu government regards the science city as a platform to pursue innovation and foster new enterprises not only for Sichuan province, but also the whole of Southwest China. It plans to attract more national key research and development projects, researchers and competitive innovative enterprises to the park, which also has a platform for intellectual property rights transactions.

The government provides all necessary services and help, including financing, business examination and approval to put the results of R&D projects into industrial application and production in the park.

Construction on Chengdu Science City began in July 2013. It has a planned area of 73 square kilometers, and comprises eight zones: innovation incubators, information security, big data, industrial R&D, design, emerging finance, science and technology R&D, and education.

The zones are scattered around Xinglong Lake and have convenient lifestyle facilities of medical care, education, sports and culture within less than 15 minutes travel by car. The science city is accessible by expressway, subway and trams.

The park already houses China Railway Engineering Corp's railway R&D center, the Sichuan-France ecology technology center, Germany's Nordrhein-Westfalen center, Nokia's global R&D center, the Chinese Academy of Sciences' West China innovation center, and the



Artistic rendering of the Xinglong Lake area in Tianfu New District.



Artistic rendering of the central park in Tianfu New District.

Tsinghua-Sichuan energy internet institute.

### High accolades

"Chengdu Science City is similar to Tsukuba Science City in Japan, which is located about 50 kilometers to the north of Tokyo and concentrates a large number of State-owned institutes, projects and researchers, including four Japanese Nobel prize winners," said Zhao Hong, director of the Zhonggancun Innovation Development Institute in Beijing. "Chengdu is an important hub city in the west of China. That Chengdu has such an innovation role model is of strategic importance to the whole country."

Lei Jun, president of Xiaomi Tech, one of China's largest technology companies in telecommunications, said: "We have hundreds of engineers working in Chengdu. The city has a favorable environment and atmosphere for

new business starters, which is comparable to that of large cities such as Beijing and Shanghai."

Not far from Chengdu Science City is the Chengdu High-Tech Development Zone, which was the first such in West China to be approved by the central government as a national-level innovation model zone.

The zone has cooperation relationships with Harvard University, Humboldt University from Germany, and Tsinghua University, the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Sichuan University and Southwest Jiaotong University.

The zone is expected to be home to more than 100 R&D centers of enterprises and institutes from home and abroad by 2020.

Ding Xiaobin, vice-director of the Chengdu science and technology bureau, said: "In light of the 10 main indicators set by the Chinese Academy

of Social Sciences in its evaluation of an innovation city, Chengdu has reached innovation city standards in per capita GDP, technology's contribution rate to economic growth and the number of patents owned by businesses, and already has the foundation and conditions to become an innovation city."

### Policy support

The Chengdu government has recently issued a series of measures to attract innovation talent and investment.

The highest subsidy to Nobel Prize winners in the fields of Chengdu has identified is 50 million yuan (\$7.72 million).

The city attracted more than 200 industrial and business innovators from around the world last year, and over 100 researchers from universities started businesses in Chengdu.

The government set up a 230 million yuan guidance

**50**  
million yuan  
fund to support Nobel Prize winners in initiating their innovation projects in Chengdu

**3.18**  
billion yuan  
debt financing capital pool for innovators



month to foster Chengdu's innovation atmosphere in six aspects: reform, talent, enterprise, finance, production and branding.

The Chengdu government earmarked six industries that need stronger cooperation with college researchers: biological medicine, new materials, medical care, electronic information, big data and railway transportation.

The Chengdu-based Sichuan University plans to encourage its teachers to participate in R&D projects outside of the industrial park.

The city is also looking to the outside world to publicize its image as an innovation center in Southwest China.

The city government organized a promotion in Seoul on April 26 called Jingronghui, or "talents gather in Chengdu", which focused on Chengdu's innovation and investment environment.

More than 200 people from venture investment agencies, industry incubators, universities, businesses and relevant industry associations attended.

Fu Yonglin, vice-mayor of Chengdu, invited professional talent and entrepreneurs from around the world to visit Chengdu and start businesses, engage in R&D and realize their dreams.

The Jingronghui promotion began last year in Chengdu.

In 2015, more than 300,000 people from 300 venture investment agencies and more than 6,000 enterprises took part in its nearly 100 activities, which yielded over 10 billion yuan in planned investment on new R&D projects and businesses.

With the help of the Ministry of Commerce, Chengdu is also cooperating with neighboring Deyang and Mianyang to attract investment, enterprises and technologies from Germany.

Currently, the three cities are negotiating with their German partners on more than 40 projects in medicine, fine chemicals engineering, environmental protection and energy saving, and conventions and exhibitions.

The growth speed of the number of new businesses in Chengdu was 19.29 percentage points higher than the national average last year. That momentum has continued into this year.

In the first quarter of 2016, the number of newly founded businesses increased 25.4 percent year-on-year.

The city government released a new plan late last

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