

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SINO-SINGAPORE TIANJIN ECO-CITY MOVES TO THE CITY CENTRE

With the start-up area completed, the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city project will now focus on the development of the central district to create a vibrant city centre with amenities to serve residents and visitors in the Eco-city and its surrounding regions.

2 Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance, Lawrence Wong and Tianjin Binhai New Area Party Secretary, Zhang Yuzhuo today officiated the launch of the city centre for the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city to mark its next phase of development. Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, who is visiting the Eco-city, witnessed the launch ceremony.

3 The city centre, bounded by the Ji Canal and the Central Boulevard, is about 1 km², and will be the heart of commercial, leisure and recreational activities to enhance the Eco-city's attractiveness to businesses and talent to support the future growth of the Eco-city.

4 In line with its vision to be a "Green Smart Hub¹", the city centre would be a smart low carbon central business district with green and smart infrastructure. Open plazas will be embellished with greenery and water features, while sky gardens and terraces have been proposed for tall buildings. Smart bus stops and autonomous vehicles will be introduced to enhance commuting experiences.

5 A 1.2 km pedestrian street will bring residents and visitors from the gateway plaza through shopping streets, F&B outlets, lifestyle hub, and finally the Sino-Singapore Friendship Garden and Sino-Singapore Friendship Library. The Garden and Library will serve as major nodes of attraction in the Eco-city.

6 Another interesting feature is the iconic skyline for the city centre. The master planner, Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city Investment and Development Co., Ltd., has taken into consideration the terrain form and the design of the Friendship Garden in the creation of an interesting urban form and unblocked views towards the waterfront, as building heights gradually reduce from the two gateway towers towards the Friendship Garden. Mixed-use districts with live-in population will be developed to make the city centre lively and vibrant.

7 Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong said, "Our urban planners from the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) have contributed valuable ideas to the design team in the conceptualisation of the city centre, bringing to the table their rich experience in urban planning and place making. Close collaboration has always been key to the Eco-city project, and thus, the 'Singapore DNA' will also come through strongly in the city centre. I am confident that the new facilities and amenities in the city centre will improve the Eco-city's standing as an attractive business location and add weight to the Eco-city's appeal as an attractive place to work, live and play in."

¹ The "Green Smart Hub" will consist of a smart low carbon central business district, a green and accessible transit hub, a high-quality and people-centric open spaces and a compact, vibrant and diverse urban core.

More information on the city centre and the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city project are in Annex A and Annex B.

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New city centre for the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city

Transit hub

The gateway to the City Centre will be located next to the future Z4 Nankai Station, making it an ideal location for a transit hub which will include a bus interchange. Visitors arriving on the Z4 rail line at the Nankai Station will be able to switch to the Eco-city's bus services to get to their destinations within the Eco-city. There is also a plan to introduce driverless cars and bicycles for travel along the Central Spine to promote the use of green transport.

Gateway to the City Centre

The gateway plaza will be framed by two iconic office towers, business hotels and residential buildings. The convenience of convention and exhibition facilities near the hotels and offices will help boost the Eco-city's standing as an ideal location for businesses.

The two office towers, at more than 150m, will be the tallest buildings in the Eco-city, projecting a majestic yet welcoming atmosphere. They will sit on retail podiums which will have outdoor dining areas extended into the central green space.

Leisure and entertainment

Away from the gateway plaza, building heights begin to dip, setting the grounds for smaller building foot prints and more intimate open spaces. Residents and visitors will be presented with an enjoyable shopping experience. To give it a stronger Tianjin presence, the design of the shopping streets will be integrated with Tianjin cultural elements in terms of scale, roof and façade materials.

Moving closer to the Ji Canal, one will be welcomed by the two important landmarks in the Eco-city, namely the Sino-Singapore Friendship Garden and the Sino-Singapore Friendship Library.

The Friendship Garden is a collaboration between the Eco-city Administrative Committee and National Parks Board (NParks). It will have a tropical greenhouse which will showcase Singapore's "City in a Garden" concept and will display a collection of tropical orchids and plants.

The Friendship Library will be the largest library in the Eco-city. Developed in collaboration with Cybrarian Ventures Pte Ltd, a wholly owned company of the National Library Board (NLB), the library will feature a Singapore section and a Children's Eco-library.

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Background information on the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city

The Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city is a bilateral collaboration project between Singapore and China to develop an economically vibrant, socially harmonious, environmentally friendly and resource-efficient city in Tianjin. It provides a platform for both countries to explore new collaborations, pilot new ideas and share best practices in the area of urbanisation. The Eco-city aims to be a role model for sustainable development for other cities in China and the rest of the world.

2 As the second flagship collaborative project between Singapore and China, the Eco-city helps to further broaden and deepen the bilateral partnership, and provides a new platform for engagement between the leaders, officials and businesses of both countries.

3 The entire Eco-city project spans 30 km², including a start-up area of 8 km². When the project broke ground in 2008, it was a site comprising mainly saltpans, barren land and polluted water-bodies. Through the joint efforts of Singaporean and Chinese stakeholders, the Eco-city has made significant progress in the areas of environmental rehabilitation, green buildings, renewable energy, water management, and environmental protection. These include rehabilitating its 2.6 km² wastewater pond, conducting research in green development, developing green building standards and constructing green buildings, tapping renewable energy sources (wind, solar and geothermal energies), encouraging residents to lead environmentally-friendly lifestyles, and promoting green transport.

Development status of the Tianjin Eco-city

4 The Eco-city has made significant progress in its development. Projects that have been completed and are operational include industry parks with specific themes², the Public Utilities Operations and Maintenance Centre³, residential developments, and social amenities such as three Community Centres⁴, 15 Residents' Centres, six schools and nine kindergartens, public parks and a 350-bed Tianjin Medical University Sino-Singapore Eco-city Hospital.

5 The number of people living or working in the Eco-city has more than tripled from 20,000 in 2014 to over 80,000. There are some 6,500 registered companies in the Eco-city with a total registered capital of RMB 220 billion. These companies are in businesses in areas such as culture and creativity, information technology, energy conservation and environmental protection, research and development, modern

²The three industrial parks that have been launched are the National Animation Industry Park, Eco-Business Park, and Eco-Industrial Park. Two more industrial parks – Eco-Information Park and Huaqiang 3D Movie Industry Park – are currently being constructed.

³ The Public Utilities Operations and Maintenance Centre is an integrated operations and command centre that oversees different aspects of public utilities (renewable energy generation, telecommunications, gas, water and environmental cleanliness), transportation network, and safety and security in the Eco-city.

⁴ The Community Centre is a commercial-cum-community centre that provides a comprehensive range of social services and amenities. For example, the No. 3 Community Centre includes a polyclinic, a wet market and facilities for community activities. It has adapted elements of Singapore's Community Clubs.

services, etc.

6 Tourism and MICE⁵ activities in the Eco-city are also enjoying increasing vibrancy. Facilities such as the Hilton Hotel and the Huaqiang Fantawild Adventure Theme Park have helped to attract over 3.3 million visitors in 2017.

7 In April 2016, Minister Lawrence Wong and Minister Chen Zhenggao⁶ officiated at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Z4 rail line that will connect the Eco-city to Beijing, Tianjin City and the rest of the Tianjin Binhai New Area (TBNA). The Z4 rail line will greatly improve Eco-city's transport connectivity and forge closer economic integration with the TBNA and surrounding Jing-Jin-Ji region, providing a further boost to the Eco-city's growth.

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⁵ Meetings, incentives, conferencing, exhibitions

⁶ Then-PRC Minister for Housing and Urban-Rural Development