

## 8 文明回眸 | Civilization Glimpse

### Green Mountains Testifying to the Progress in Green Growth: Natural Forest Resource Conservation Project in Longjiang Forest Industry District

When we reflect on the history of Longjiang Forest Industry District, the year of 1998 was a turning point. It was during this year that the Natural Forest Resource Conservation Project kicked off, marking a pivotal shift in the development of state-owned forest areas from a focus on timber production to an eco-conservation-centered approach. When China was in dire need of timber to fuel its budding national economy, the workers of the district, braved biting coldness and scorching heat and endured all hardships of working in the wildness as they harvested logs from the forests deep in the mountains. However, when the country woke up to the necessity of safeguarding ecological security, the workers of the district, who had been loggers, put aside their chainsaws and assumed their new roles of forest guardians and nurturers. When the single-product economy became unsustainable, the workers of the district took multi-pronged measures to embark on a new path of economic transformation and development. Specifically, they have implemented the Natural Forest Resource Conservation Project to protect the environment and restore the forest resources. As a result, the enterprises and state-owned forest areas of Longjiang Forest Industry District turned a new leaf.

#### What Did the Natural Forest Conservation Project Bring to the Daxing'anling Region?

In 1964, the State Council and the CPC Central Committee jointly launched the campaign to develop the Daxing'anling Region, sending a 100,000-strong task force comprised of railway troops, "educated youth", CPC officials, and intellectuals to the region for the arduous mission to develop forestry enterprises in the state-owned forest areas. After more than 30 years' uninterrupted development, the regional forest resources faced depletion and the regional economy encountered a crisis. In response, in 1998, the State Council and the CPC Central Committee started the Natural Forest Conservation Project. Since then, over the past 26 years, Daxing'anling Forestry Group Corporation has been promoting ecological restoration, wetland protection, technological innovation, resource supervision, upgrades of forest fire prevention, transformation of industrial structure, reforms of business models, emerging industries, and the optimization of employment structure. The forestry SOE has fundamentally curbed the decline of forest resources, mitigated environmental degradation, and protected biodiversity. These endeavors have brought about tremendous transformations in the production, livelihoods, and socio-economic development of the region.

## 32 特别策划 | Special Focus

### The Beautiful Chengdu-Chongqing Dual-City Economic Circle: A New Model of Shared Protection and Governance for Green Development

The Chengdu-Chongqing Dual-City Economic Circle, located in the Sichuan Basin, serves as a strategic hub that connects South China, Central China, Southwest China and Northwest China, as well as Central Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia. The circle, blessed with abundant resources and remarkable ecological advantages, has broad prospects for green development. It has committed to protective and restorative efforts in the reaches of the major local rivers, and a green development model featuring shared governance, high-quality urban life, great synergy between different areas, and many drivers of green development. A beautiful Chengdu-Chongqing Dual-City Economic Circle will serve as a solid pillar supporting the building of a "Beautiful China".

### The Forest City Cluster in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area: A Shared Community of Ecological Harmony and Mutual Construction

The planning and construction of forest cities and the forest city cluster in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area have laid a solid foundation for its ecological base, contributed to pursuing a better spatial layout of forest ecosystems in the area and provided valuable experience for the construction of forest cities across China. When China is pressing ahead with the "Beautiful China" campaign, the development of new quality productivity and a harmonious coexistence between nature and humanity, it is necessary for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area—an area that sets to serve as an exemplar and fulfil its own ambition to become an internationally renowned beautiful bay area—to further explore the significance of building a forest city cluster and clearly outline the path and focuses, in pursuit of the high-quality development of its forest city cluster.

#### The Yangtze River Delta Solution: Zhejiang Model for Building a "Beautiful China"

Building a "Beautiful China" is a grand undertaking. Its key word is "shared protection and governance", its focus "governance", and its nature "holistic ecological governance and development". As a pioneer in shared protection and governance in the Yangtze River Delta Region, Zhejiang views the entire province as a whole. The provincial government has worked on developing green industries, boosting industrial platforms, promoting poverty alleviation initiatives, and strengthening digital reforms to empower the institutional mechanisms for green development. It has ensured sound governance that could deliver tangible high-quality development and shaped a "Zhejiang Model" within the context of shared protection and governance in the Yangtze River Delta region.

#### A New Human-nature Relationship: Best Practices in Developing Forestry in the Three Major Plains

Forestry in the three major plains, namely, the Northeast Plain, the North China Plain, and the Middle-lower Yangtze Plain, holds significant importance for China's food security, green development, and the success of the "Three-North" project. To address the existing issues of insufficient forest resources, low quality and poor performances, and inadequate understanding of forest value, the three plains have laid out scientific planning for agricultural and forestry land, created forest patches and strips, and strengthened the construction and management of agroforestry systems. Furthermore, they have developed new forms of ecological agriculture, of combined farming and forestry operations, of integrated urban-rural ecological tourism, and of forest-based health industry. Thanks to such efforts, a harmonious new human-nature relationship has been established.

## 66 美丽乡村 | Beautiful Countryside

### A "Village of the Future": A New Path for Revitalizing Green Economy

Qingshan Village boasts a forest coverage rate of 79.9% and a time-honored historical and cultural heritage. In 2015, the village implemented the first-ever rural water source protection project in China. In the following three years, thanks to the project, all the indicators of Longwu Reservoir proved that its water quality was clean enough to meet the National Class I Standard. Clean water source was just the starting point, and soon the village took a path of rural revitalization path empowered by environment conservation, ecological tourism, and the production of traditional handicrafts and cultural creative products.

#### Wanyao Village: A Xanadu Where Traditional Ceramics and Architecture Meet Modern Tourism

Wanyao Village with a history of over 600 years preserves the most distinctive wooden village architecture of mountainous areas in southern Zhejiang. In the village, the ancestral residences of the Chen Clan and the ancient Longyao Kiln, both built in the Qing Dynasty, are iconic buildings. Historical and cultural sites, such as the Sanzhe (three-cascade) Waterfall, the Ancient Traditional Opera Stage, and Three Palace Building, have organically integrated with natural landscapes. In this new era, the village continues to inherit and innovate the porcelain culture and promote the integration between ceramics techniques and other items of intangible cultural heritage. It has succeeded in achieving common prosperity through cultural and tourism innovations.

#### Songshi Village: A Picturesque Waterfront Village

Songshi Village has tapped its excellent ecological environment and rich historical and cultural heritage, bearing in mind President Xi Jinping's words "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets". With strong confidence in rural culture, it has pushed forward rural revitalization by combining local historical and cultural strength with the natural environment. The village has become a byword of historical and cultural waterfront towns in Jiangnan (regions south of the Yangtze River), as it has promoted traditional arts and crafts, husbandry and aquaculture and boosted the well-being of its residents.

## 86 理论观点 | Theoretical Views

### The Past, the Present, and Recommendations of China's Policies for Low-carbon Pilot Projects

To encourage local exploration of green and low-carbon development models and gain practical and distinct experiences, since 2010, China has conducted three batches of low-carbon pilot projects. Those projects covering 81 cities have made progress. The policy recommendations are as follows: pilot cities should accelerate their green and low-carbon transformations in their social and economic endeavors, materialize the concept of low-carbon development into their urban development, and establish a low-carbon development system centered around the reduction in both carbon intensity and emissions.

#### The Green and Low-carbon Transformation of Beijing: Becoming a Harmonious and Livable World-class Capital

In recent years, striving to become a harmonious and livable world-class capital, Beijing has adopted a strategy for green and low-carbon transformation. As a result, the city has seen steadily declined carbon emissions and notably improved ecological environment, as well as enhanced capacity for sustainable development. This article elaborates on Beijing's actions and achievements in its green and low-carbon transformation campaign, its regulatory systems, and its pilot and demonstration initiatives. The author aims to provide experience and reference for other cities in pursuit of green and low-carbon transformation and sustainable development.