

# Jiangxi-Taiwan forum cements economic, trade and cultural ties

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The convening of the 16th Jiangxi-Taiwan (Nanchang) Economic and Trade Cultural Cooperation and Exchange Conference in late August set the stage for Jiangxi province and Taiwan to forge closer economic, trade and cultural ties in the years ahead.

With the theme "Joining Hands to Foster New Integration and Plan New Development", the conference was attended by more than 800 delegates, including 500 from Taiwan.

A total of 77 investment deals were sealed during the event, valued at a historical high of \$4.12 billion.

The manufacturing sector, including new electronics, intelligent equipment, new material and environmental-friendly products and services, accounted for the bulk of the deals signed, at 70.13 percent, while the services sector, such as business and trade, education, healthcare and tourism, made up 19.48 percent.

The conference showcased 36 investment projects with a total investment value of 154.2 billion yuan.

"Jiangxi province will sincerely invite more students, travelers and businessmen from Taiwan to study, tour and invest in the province," said Yi Lianhong, deputy secretary of the Jiangxi Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Jiangxi introduced 60 facilitation measures recently to accord Taiwan residents the same national treatment that mainland residents enjoy in the province. The measures covered



Businessmen from Taiwan and local staff nurse 50 thousand strains of Phalaenopsis in Yiyang, Jiangxi province that will be exported to Europe. ASIANEWSPHOTO

areas like travel facilitation, social insurance protection and children's education.

"These measures provide comprehensive policy support for Taiwanese businessmen to operate their businesses in Jiangxi province," said Lai Cheng-I, chairman of the General Chamber of Commerce of Taiwan.

"Looking ahead, the General Chamber of Commerce of Taiwan will continue to build more cross-Strait civil cultural exchange platforms, and help more Taiwan compa-

nies establish a presence in Jiangxi province," Lai said.

"These measures will really help Taiwan residents and Taiwan enterprises to start their businesses on the Chinese mainland. Only with a friendlier cross-Strait relationship can both sides achieve a mutual win-win in bilateral economic and trade cooperation," said Li Yafei, vice-president of the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait.

Among various investment themes, new

energy and new materials, mixed-ownership reform of State-owned enterprises, modern agriculture and youth entrepreneurship were the main features of this year's conference.

For 2018, the forum offered 200 jobs and another 100 job internships, providing platforms for Taiwanese youths to start their businesses and seek jobs or internship placement opportunities in Jiangxi.

Some Taiwanese companies have been involved in project cooperation and corporate restructuring of State-owned enterprises in Jiangxi province recently through various channels.

United Integrated Services from Taiwan, for instance, helped in the corporate restructuring work of Jiangxi Construction Engineering (Group) Co in 2009. Following the restructuring, the latter has reversed 13 consecutive years of losses since 1996. Jiangxi Construction Engineering was also voted as one of the "Top 500 Enterprises of China" for the fourth year running, with the company posting an investment return of 157 percent for the past five years.

Zheng Decai, deputy director of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission in Jiangxi province, said: "SASAC in the province, by maintaining an all-round opening-up and cooperation policy proactively, strives for openness and sincerity to attract Taiwanese enterprises and strategic investors with comprehensive capabilities and strategic synergies to participate in State-owned enterprise reforms in the province to achieve mutual win-win scenarios."

## Jiangxi, Taiwan bank on long history of partnership

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Since 2002, the Jiangxi-Taiwan (Nanchang) Economic and Trade Cultural Cooperation and Exchange Conference has been a major platform for Jiangxi province in luring Taiwan investments, as well as boosting cross-Strait economic, trade and cultural exchanges.

Jiangxi is the Chinese mainland's inland province that's nearest to Taiwan. As trade and cultural links deepened in recent years, the flow of people between the two regions has also intensified.

By the end of August this year, the Jiangxi-Taiwan (Nanchang) Economic and Trade Cultural Cooperation and Exchange Conference had been involved in promoting bilateral ties for 16 consecutive years.

Last year, the 15th Jiangxi-Taiwan (Nanchang) Economic and Trade Cultural Cooperation and Exchange Conference sealed 79 investment deals worth \$4.06 billion an annual increase of 10.93 percent and the highest growth rate recorded in the history of the investment forum.

"As of December last year, the

province had elicited 3,431 investment projects involving Taiwanese capital on a cumulative basis, with realized capital investment of \$13.11 billion, achieving the highest ranking among other inland provinces," said Zheng Baosheng, director of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the Jiangxi provincial government.

"Jiangxi province and Taiwan will forge deeper cooperation in economic integration this year, bolstering bilateral cooperation in sectors like information technology, new energy, new material, environmental-friendly products, intelligent manufacturing and organic farming, as well as creative industries and tourism," said Zheng.

Jiangxi is also stepping up economic upgrading and transformation. As the mainland's inland province that's nearest to Taiwan, Jiangxi expects the dividends to be reaped from economic development, favorable policies, ecology, opening-up and reforms can be shared with Taiwan. The province also expects continued, broader bilateral interaction at a higher level.

The Third Wednesday Club is a think-tank organization striving to

promote long-term strategic development in Taiwan. Chairman Chiang Pin-kung said cross-Strait economic, trade and cultural exchanges have never ceased in the past few decades.

He hoped Taiwanese companies will cooperate with the Chinese mainland to grasp the vast business opportunities offered by the mainland market.

As the mainland pushes ahead with ambitious economic blueprints, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, the "Coordinated Development for the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Region", "Strategic Construction of the Yangtze River Economic Belt" and "Made in China 2025", Taiwanese enterprises will have more room to expand their operations on the mainland.

According to Jiangxi's Department of Commerce, the southeastern province boasts six key industries with huge potential medicine, electronic information, automobile, aviation, photovoltaic power and food processing.

Jiangxi has constantly been deepening reform by easing controls, strengthening management



Students from Taiwan are learning online banking system in the mainland.

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and services, relaxing market access for foreign capital, establishing a complaint mechanism and developing new service modes to create a conducive environment for foreign investors in the province.

The province aims to attract mega foreign-funded enterprises that offer products with high technology content and high-added values that can play a leading role in

stimulating the province's economic development. Some development parks and zones should continue to extend and improve their industrial chains to make the dominant industries bigger and stronger.

As the next step, Jiangxi will boost its supporting capabilities in infrastructure, and build major infrastructure facilities and industrial projects throughout the province.