

SUZHOU

Jinji Lake Central Business District, Suzhou.





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Mayor **Zhou Naixiang** explains the innovation and transformation of Suzhou over the years. Suzhou, located right at the centre of the Yangtze Delta and south of Jiangsu province, is known for its many scenic water bodies. The city of more than 10 million citizens is also praised for its beautiful gardens and efforts in preserving its ancient cultural heritage. Meanwhile, Suzhou continues to advance with innovative technologies and strategies that promote rural and urban integration, talent cultivation and sustainable development. Suzhou was conferred the LEE KUAN YEW WORLD CITY PRIZE in 2014.



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Suzhou, a renowned cultural city in China with a history of over 2,500 years, has witnessed sustained development throughout the ages. The city has long been reputed in China as “paradise on earth”, with its well-developed agriculture, prosperous economy, regional culture and scenic beauty. In the past three decades, Suzhou has enjoyed rapid socio-economic developments and evolved to be one of the most innovative cities in China with strong economic

vitality, thanks to its development principles of innovation and transformation. Besides taking advantage of the various opportunities history has presented it, Suzhou has been closely following a people-oriented approach and the guidance of urban planning. The city is dedicated to sustainable development so as to strike a balance among the people, between man and nature, as well as between residents and the city.

01 Pingjiang Historic District preserves Suzhou’s ancient cityscape.

02 Residents enjoying the promenade along the city’s restored Stone Lake.





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Strenuous efforts have been made in the industrial optimisation and upgrading of Suzhou. The city boasts 12 national economic development zones; by facilitating the establishment of featured industrial parks, innovation parks and demonstration zones for intellectual property rights protection, Suzhou has tremendously enhanced the added value and level of technology in its economy. And such industrial parks and demonstration zones are actually transformed into multi-functional new urban districts. Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP) is one of the best examples. High-tech industries and modern service industries now play dominant roles in the Park and the Jinji Lake Central Business District construction makes SIP the undisputed, revitalised “paradise on earth” for both living and working.

Suzhou has also been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development as the exclusive demonstration area for the protection of a historical and cultural city in China. For a long time, by observing the principles

of “repair the old, retain the old, in workable steps”, Suzhou has well preserved the original layout of the ancient city, bearing in mind its historical and cultural value, and promoted its protection and restoration in an orderly manner. The renewed Pingjiang Historic District still maintains the traditional urban layout of “water and land in parallel, river and street in neighbour” and the local architectural style of “small bridge, flowing water, whitewashed walls and black tiles”. Being a miniature of “life in Suzhou style”, the district received the Honourable Mention Prize of the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation in 2005.

Amidst its rapid urban development, Suzhou has always attached great significance to the protection and optimisation of landscape, ambient air and the ecological environment in order to create a high-quality living environment. In Suzhou, there are green “wedges” on four corners, namely the Sanjiaozui area in the northwest, the Stone Lake and Shangfang Mountain in the southwest, Dushu Lake in the

01 Recreational fishing at Dushu Lake.

02 Amenities are conveniently clustered at the well-planned Suzhou Industrial Park.



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01 The city's new metro system, Suzhou Rail Transit.

southeast and Yangcheng Lake in the northeast of the city. The Stone Lake Scenic Project is now a citizens' favourite, after a series of lakeside landscape construction that restored the lake and green land from farmlands and construction, and improved water quality.

It is through innovation and transformation that Suzhou has managed to achieve great progress in economic development, cultural prosperity, environmental protection and social well-being. Hopefully these could provide some inspiration for other cities in the world seeking further urban development.



Mr **Zhou Naixiang**, 53, graduated from the Nanjing Institute of Construction Engineering and the Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania. Previously, he was the Director-General of Jiangsu Provincial Tourism Bureau in March 2008 and Party-Secretary of Jiangsu Provincial Housing and Construction Department in July 2010. Since he became mayor in March 2012, Suzhou has accomplished remarkable achievements.