

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 themes³, the Public Utilities Operations and Maintenance Centre⁴, residential developments, and social amenities such as three Community Centres⁵, 21 Residents' Centres, 10 schools and 13 kindergartens with over 10,000 students,

³ The 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

public parks and a 350-bed Tianjin Medical University Sino-Singapore Eco-city Hospital.

5 The start-up area has been completed and development has progressed to the central district with the focus on creating a vibrant city centre to serve residents and visitors in the Eco-city and its surrounding regions. The city centre, which will be about 1 km², 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.

6 The number of people living or working in the Eco-city has more than tripled from 20,000 in 2014 to over 100,000. There are some 7,000 registered companies in the Eco-city with a total registered capital of RMB 247 billion. These companies are in businesses in areas such as culture and creativity, information technology, energy conservation and environmental protection, research and development, modern services, etc.

7 Tourism and MICE⁶ 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 4.3 million visitors in 2017.

8 On 20 September 2018, Singapore and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on promoting the replication of the Eco-city's development experience at the 10th Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city Joint Steering Council Meeting, bringing the Eco-city a step closer to realising its vision to be a practical, replicable and scalable model for sustainable development. A joint work group comprising senior government officials from the two countries will be formed to oversee the implementation of the MOU in the following areas:

- i. Joint establishment of a China-Singapore institutional mechanism for research in urban sustainable development in the Eco-city to build the Eco-city as a leading global hub on urban solutions, theoretical research and practical innovations;
- ii. Establishment of a global replication platform to promote and replicate the Eco-city's development experience; and

⁶ Meetings, incentives, conferencing, exhibitions.

iii. Joint promotion and support of collaboration and knowledge exchanges in sustainable urbanisation to raise the Eco-city's profile and expand its influence.

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