

## 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 Eco-city spans 30 km<sup>2</sup>. Its 8 km<sup>2</sup> start-up area is largely completed. 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 themes<sup>1</sup>, the Public Utilities Operations and Maintenance Centre<sup>2</sup>, residential developments, and social amenities such as three Community Centres<sup>3</sup>, 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 70,000. There are about 4,500 registered companies in the Eco-city with a total registered capital of RMB 200 billion. These companies are in businesses in areas such as culture and creativity, information technology, energy

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

conservation and environmental protection, research and development, modern services, etc. A Tasty Singapore Food Product Centre, jointly established by the International Enterprise (IE) Singapore and the Singapore Food Manufacturers' Association (SFMA), opened in the Eco-city in April 2016. The product centre aims to help Singapore food companies make inroads into North China, and capitalise on the heightened consumption power brought about by the Jing-Jin-Ji Integrated Development.

6 Tourism and MICE<sup>4</sup> 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 3.5 million visitors from January to November 2016.

7 In April 2016, Minister Lawrence Wong and Minister Chen Zhenggao<sup>5</sup> 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.

8 The Eco-city will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018. In preparation, a Three-Year Work Plan for the Eco-city was announced during the 8<sup>th</sup> Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city Joint Steering Council Meeting in October 2015. The Plan covers new areas of collaboration that go beyond hardware development to software and "heart-ware" developments, such as Sino-Singapore Friendship Garden, Sino-Singapore Friendship Library, healthcare training, Smart City development and the establishment of the Eco-city as a Green Building Demonstration Base.

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<sup>4</sup> Meetings, incentives, conferencing, exhibitions

<sup>5</sup> PRC Minister for Housing and Urban-Rural Development