

Background 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 after the Suzhou Industrial Park, the Eco-city helps to further broaden and deepen the bilateral partnership, and provides a new platform for engagement between the leaders, officials and businessmen of both countries.

3 The Eco-city spans 30 km². Its 8 km² 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 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 themes, the Public Utilities Operations and Maintenance Centre¹, residential developments, and social amenities such as a Neighbourhood Centre², a Commercial Street, reputable schools and kindergartens, community health centres, 10 public parks and the Huaqiang Fantawild Adventure Theme Park. A 350-bed general hospital and two new Neighbourhood Centres are nearing completion and are scheduled to begin operations in 2016.

5 The number of people living or working in the Eco-city has more than doubled from 20,000 in 2014 to over 50,000 in 2016. There are about 3,500 registered companies in the Eco-city with a total registered capital of RMB 140 billion. These companies are involved in culture and creativity, information technology, energy

¹ 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.

² The Neighbourhood Centre is a commercial-cum-community centre that provides a comprehensive range of social services and amenities, including a polyclinic, a wet market and community activities. It has adapted elements of Singapore's community clubs. There are plans to construct 10 such centres in the Eco-city.

conservation and environmental protection, research and development, modern services, etc.

6 A Three-Year Work Plan for the Eco-city was announced during the 8th Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city Joint Steering Council Meeting in October 2015. The Plan covers new areas of collaboration that go beyond hardware development into software and heart-ware developments. One of the projects is the Smart City development and the Eco-city has announced the launch of its Smart City Masterplan in January 2016. Other new collaboration projects include the Sino-Singapore Friendship Garden, Sino-Singapore Friendship Library, hospital management and green building standards. Tianjin Eco-city officials have also visited Singapore's developments such as the waterfront development at Clark Quay and the integrated business park development at one-north, to see how some of Singapore's planning concepts could be applied to the Eco-city's development. Most of these projects are expected to be completed by 2018, i.e. the 10th anniversary of the Eco-city.

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MOU on Sino-Singapore Friendship Garden

The National Parks Board (NParks) and the Eco-city Administrative Committee (ECAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) today to jointly develop the Sino-Singapore Friendship Garden. The project will embody the close bilateral cooperation between the Republic of Singapore and People's Republic of China, and showcases Singapore's "City in a Garden" concept.

2 The terms of the MOU will see NParks and ECAC share technical expertise and advice on the design and development of the Sino-Singapore Friendship Garden, and cooperate on the planning, promotion and management of the project. The Garden will be developed on the principles of sustainable development, ecological rehabilitation, wetland conservation and environmental protection.

3 This collaborative project is part of the Three-Year Work Plan for the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city announced at the 8th Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city Joint Steering Council Meeting in October 2015. Works for the approximately 40-hectare Garden is projected to start in 2016 and be completed in 2018.

4 The Sino-Singapore Friendship Garden project consists of two main components:-

i. Green House

The Green House will showcase Singapore's "City in a Garden" concept and will display a collection of tropical orchids and plants;

ii. Wetland and landscape treatment for waterbodies

The wetland and landscape treatment for waterbodies and land areas will showcase ecological features that focus on energy and water sustainability, and habitats for biodiversity. It embodies the concept of a Sponge City (rain water harvesting) and highlights the characteristics of a waterfront city.

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MOU on Green Building Demonstration Base

The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and the Eco-city Administrative Committee (ECAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) today to execute the plans for Green Building Demonstration Base. The agreement will spur greater collaboration and momentum for the development of green buildings in the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city that will enhance its reputation as the model city for green building development in China.

- 2 The MOU covers the following areas:-
- i. Certification of green buildings and green building products/services;
 - ii. Display of green building products and technologies;
 - iii. Training programme in green buildings;
 - iv. Deployment of green building R&D results; and
 - v. Exchange and sharing of green building knowledge and technologies.

3 The MOU will set the framework for BCA to work with ECAC to assist the Eco-city realise its goal to be the Green Building Demonstration Base for North China. BCA is the key agency driving the development of green buildings in Singapore, and has built up a repertoire of policies, schemes and experiences to make Singapore the regional hub for green building technologies for the tropics and sub-tropics. The MOU enables the Eco-city to shorten its learning curve to become a green building hub for North China and a model for sustainable, liveable urban development.

4 In 2014, it was announced that the Eco-city had been selected as a “Northern China Green Building Demonstration Base” by the China Green Building Council. This is in recognition of the Eco-city’s outstanding achievement in the area of green building development. All the buildings in the Eco-city are designed and built as green buildings, complying with the Key Performance Indicator of having 100% green building in the Eco-city.

5 Under the MOU, the Eco-city aims to be a one-stop solution centre for test-bedding green products, and innovative green technologies developed in Singapore for use in the temperate climate. In the process, BCA will help more Singapore green companies to open up more overseas markets, especially in North China and countries in similar climatic conditions.

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Z4 Semi Express Rail Line

The Z4 Semi Express Rail Line is one of the three key rail lines that the Tianjin Binhai New Area (TBNA) Government plans to build from 2015 to 2020. Three of the Z4 Line stations will be located in the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city, namely:-

- i. Eco-city Station (生态城站);
- ii. Huifeng Creek Station (惠风溪站); and
- iii. Nankai High School Station (南开中学站).

2 The Z4 Line will greatly improve Eco-city's transport connectivity and forge closer economic integration with the TBNA and surrounding Jing-Jin-Ji (Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei) region. The Z4 Line will connect the Eco-city to Beijing and Tianjin City through the high speed Beijing-Tianjin Intercity Railway Extension Station at Yujiapu (于家堡). It will also allow easy commuting from the Eco-city to other regions of the TBNA. For example, one can travel from the Eco-city to Yujiapu, which is the central business district in the TBNA, in 30 minutes.

3 The north-south bound Z4 Line begins in Hangu New Town (汉沽新城), passes through Binhai Tourism District (滨海旅游区), Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city, Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area (天津经济技术开发区), Yujiapu Commercial District (于家堡商务区), and terminates at Central New Town (中部新城). Construction of the Z4 Line is expected to start in April 2016 and be completed in 2020.

Tasty Singapore Food Product Centre in the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city

Noting the growth potential in North China with the Jing-Jin-Ji Integrated Development, the International Enterprise (IE) Singapore and the Singapore Food Manufacturers' Association (SFMA) jointly establish a Tasty Singapore Food Product Centre in the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city.

2 IE Singapore has partnered SFMA to help more Singapore food companies gain entry into China through e-commerce as well as offline product centres. To complement the e-commerce project and build up more offline support to support the food companies' distribution channels, the Tasty Singapore Food Product Centre was first launched in Yiwu, Zhejiang province, as a one-stop centre for business leads sourcing, product import facilitation and marketing activities.

3 The new food product centre in the Eco-city will help Singapore food companies make inroads into North China. "In North China, Singapore food manufacturers can capitalise on the heightened consumption power brought about by the Jing-Jin-Ji urban integration. The Tasty Singapore Food Product Centre situated in the Sino-Singapore Eco-city helps Singapore food manufacturers scale the distribution of their products in the North China market rapidly. The one-stop centre eases their business development work as it sources for business leads, facilitates product imports and markets the Singapore products in the northern region," said Mr Yew Sung Pei, Assistant Chief Executive Officer of IE Singapore.

4 In addition, the Tianjin Port is one of the main seaports in China that conducts food import activities. Presence in Tianjin will help Singapore food manufacturers better understand how Tianjin Port functions and be familiarised with China's import procedures.

5 The food product centre spans 500 square metres, out of which 400 square metres are occupied by the product showroom cum Experience Centre. Consumers and purchasers can look, feel and taste the products in the Experience Centre, and thereafter proceed to make purchase online. The trade manager and shop executives will attend to consumers and purchasers' enquiries, disseminate trade information, and recommend and connect local distributors with importers.

6 Currently, a total of 30 food companies are participating in the online/offline display, including Prima Food Pte Ltd, Tai Hua Food Industries Pte Ltd, Kim Hing Food Industries Pte Ltd (Dragon Brand Bird Nest), Goldkili Trading Enterprise (S) Pte Ltd, Chop Hup Chong Food Industries Pte Ltd (Bee Cheng Hiang), Super Group, Chuen Cheong Food Industries (Pte) Ltd, Tat Hui Foods Pte Ltd (Koka Noodle), Chye Choon Foods Pte Ltd.

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