

# Town Planning Board visits Hangzhou and Shanghai (with photos)

â€‹The Town Planning Board (TPB) delegation visited Hangzhou and Shanghai from June 1 to 4 to better understand the prevailing urban planning and development of these cities. The delegation was led by the Chairperson of the TPB, i.e. the Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands), with representatives from the Planning Department and 19 members of the TPB.

During the first stop in Hangzhou, the delegation visited the Hangzhou City Planning Exhibition Hall and was briefed by representatives of the Hangzhou Bureau of Planning and Natural Resources on Hangzhou's history, overall planning and future development direction, particularly Hangzhou's emphasis on the digital economy, private enterprises and the talent attraction approach of its development strategy.

To gain insights into successful experiences in urban-rural integration, the delegation visited Xiaogucheng Village in Jingshan Town, where the delegation learned the pivotal role of enterprises in rural revitalisation. By creating distinctive village houses and streetscapes, promoting an agricultural and tea culture, and converting some village homes into home-stay lodgings linked with surrounding attractions, the Village has been transformed into a new agri-cultural tourism destination. The delegation also visited the Xixi National Wetland Park, the first national wetland park in China, where the members observed its ecological protection projects, which presented a sustainable development model worthy of reference for Hong Kong.

The delegation then visited the Hangzhou Future Sci-Tech City Urban Exhibition Center to learn about Hangzhou's advancements in areas of smart city technologies; AI, including developments and achievements; and applications of innovation and technology (I&T) enterprises such as Hangzhou's "Six Little Dragons". The delegation then visited the headquarters of Alibaba Group, where representatives of Alibaba introduced developments in fintech, cloud computing and smart logistics, as well as their synergies and global impacts on the digital economy and technology.

The delegation then proceeded to visit Shanghai. Representatives of the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Planning and Natural Resources introduced to the delegation the history, current status and future prospects of Shanghai's urban planning, particularly Shanghai's development strategy to solidify its status as a leading financial and commercial hub, while also shifting focus to develop its I&T and manufacturing/industrial sector in recent years. The delegation visited the century-old Zhang Yuan to learn more about its revitalisation through acquisition and preservation of structures without demolition, and relocation of occupants by the local government, with a view to effectively preserve the traditional cultural landscape of Shanghai.

The delegation also visited the GrandneoBay Sci-tech Innovation Park of

Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) where members learned how the research and development (R&D) platform facilitating the integration of industry, academia and research, as well as the local Government's leading role in initiating innovation from 0 to 1, passing on to enterprises to drive scalability from 1 to 100. The key focus is to leverage the SJTU's applied R&D achievements and combine the effort of the Government and the support of enterprises to provide capital assistance for the SJTU's research talent to launch start-ups, transforming scientific achievements into marketable products and driving industrialisation. Finally, the delegation visited the assembly manufacturing centre of the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC) to learn about COMAC's outstanding achievements and contributions in the manufacturing of large civil aircraft and the advancement of the aviation industry, particularly the advanced automated manufacturing processes and comprehensive monitoring systems, which impressed the delegation.

This visit provided the delegation with an in-depth understanding of the latest urban planning and developments in Hangzhou and Shanghai, and facilitated valuable exchanges of experiences and views with relevant planning units and group organisations. The insights gained will serve as a valuable reference for future considerations on the development of the Northern Metropolis, innovative industries, wetland conservation, and urban-rural integration, etc.



