

City pushes urban regeneration as village renovations speed up

Wan Lixin

Shanghai Party Secretary Chen Jining says that urban regeneration is an important measure to carve out a new development mode for the city in line with the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

With still greater achievements expected in urban regeneration, a new chapter will be ushered in in terms of building a city for the people, he told a conference on promoting urban regeneration this week.

In fact, the achievements in this direction are eminently palpable.

For instance, the urban regeneration effort in the Pudong New Area got a shot in the arm as renovations of some villages in the district kicked off in the New Year.

On January 2, Zhu Zhisong, Pudong Party chief, inspected some urban villages slated for renovation in Heqing Town. He also visited a construction site, where residences are being built for affected villagers in

a community in Chuansha Town.

This village renovation project in Laoji Town and Nanshe Community involves a total area of 1,661 mu (111 hectares), more than half of which being collective construction land use, involving five villages: Qingfeng, Qingxing, Hongxing, Yaojin, and Qinyi.

They are typical *chengzhongcun*, or villages in the middle of the city, in that they are surrounded by established residential compounds and in close proximity to production facilities, commercial entities, park, and schools.

With these village houses located in the vicinity of factories and shops, and given the lack of public services and fire accident hazards, all villagers have shown a strong desire for renovation.

The current renovation blueprint, already approved by the Pudong government, would proceed in full view of the policy incentives accruing from Zhangjiang Science City, plus the geographic advantage of the forthcoming East Hub, so as to further catalyze the



An urban village in Shanghai's Pudong New Area slated for renovation. — Ti Gong

development of the high-end medical instruments industry, the modern high-tech industry, the headquarters economy, and the nurturing of startups, all in an effort to push for quality urban development.

Efforts will also be made to create a "15-minute community

life circle" with an improved comprehensive environment that is informed by mutually reinforced interplay between living quarters and manufacturing space.

Significantly, the urban village renovation project of Xiaowan Village in Tangzhen

took only 134 days, from obtaining municipal approval to securing the consent of the affected villagers.

By January 1, an astonishing 99.8 percent of the villagers had already signed the agreement, with full effort at securing 100 percent consent.

Shanghai sees 7.18 million visits during New Year holiday

Hu Min

SHANGHAI recorded 7.18 million visits from tourists during the three-day New Year holiday, up 16.27 percent from the same period a year earlier, the city's cultural and tourism authorities revealed on January 1.

The city reaped a tourism revenue of 11.8 billion yuan (US\$1.66 billion), growing 24 percent, and the average occupancy rate of local hotels hit 60 percent, up 24 percentage points, according to the Shanghai Administration of Culture and Tourism.

The city prepared an array of

activities, from a New Year run and sunrise appreciation to bell ringing and lantern fairs, during the holiday.

Longhua Temple in Xuhui District, where a bronze bell was rung at midnight on New Year's Eve, welcomed the first inbound tour group of the city in 2024, while an ascent and health run activity was held at the iconic Oriental Pearl TV Tower on January 1.

People waited for the first ray of sunshine at Jinshanzui Fishing Village in Jinshan District, and dragon-themed activities enriched the holiday at Yuyu-an Garden Malls.

Exhibitions such as the "Who is

Leonardo da Vinci?" at Shanghai Museum, and concerts, including the 2024 Shanghai New Year Concert by Shanghai Symphony, offered a feast.

According to online travel review website Mafengwo, Shanghai Disney Resort was the most popular domestic tourist attraction during the holiday, although the fireworks show was canceled on New Year's Eve due to air pollution, followed by Yonghe Palace in Beijing and Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong.

Watching a fireworks show or going to a concert were the most popular ways of celebration, and generation Z,

those born between 1995 and 2009, led holiday tourists, accounting for over 60 percent of the total, it said.

Online travel operator Trip.com said its holiday orders involving domestic destinations surged 168 percent from the same period last year, with growth was more significant for outbound destinations, hitting 388 percent.

Meanwhile, bookings for cruises during the holiday soared 231 percent from the same period last month and all tickets for the maiden commercial voyage of China's first domestically built large cruise ship, the Adora Magic City, were sold out on Trip.com, it said.