

## **Xinqiao town, P.R China (Population: 15,000, Category A)**

Being considered as an “Oriental European Town” and the world’s biggest woolen industrial base, Xinqiao Town in Jiangyin City of China is a China Watertown in the south of the Yangtze River with a nickname of “Bridge Town”, and has co-prosperity both in economy and environment.

### **Enhancement of the Natural and Built Landscapes**

1. In 2005, a new overall urban planning of Xinqiao was introduced and the town was repositioned as an “Oriental European Town”. The new planning included the renewal of 80% old buildings and the construction of new buildings.
2. An “Ecological Forest Program” has made the newly added green area reach more than 2.3 million square meters with the afforestation rate growing from 35% to 42.5%.
3. Xinqiao has conducted researches in each crowded area, and then has set up corresponding facilities satisfying different recreation need for citizens in different regions.
4. 12 cross-town main roads were completed throughout the years from 2005 to 2010, a variety of garden styles were embodied in different landscapes of each main road.

### **Arts, Culture and Heritage**

1. Each element reflecting the history of Xinqiao has been given an important position in the new urban planning starting in 2005.
2. The government has special funds to protect the ancient bridges with a hundred-year history, providing a regularly repairment and reinforcement for the bridges.
3. Xinqiao is one of the world’s most important woolen industrial bases, and five plants and workshops are well preserved.
4. In 2003, “The Old Tree Park” has been built in Xinqiao, which not only protected the trees in the park, but also transplanted 282 ancient trees of over 100 years old, with the post-transplant survival rate of 100%.
5. In the past six years, Xinqiao government has already invested more than \$5,000,000 in providing enough freedom of marketization for Xi Opera.

### **Environmental best practices**

1. Establish 3 "non development zone" accounted for 53% of the total area of Xinqiao; a large number of trees were planted within the zone and development of ecological agriculture is also in place to limit the city's expansion into these areas.
2. Every year, Xinqiao has been testing air quality in different seasons, the detecting range including highway, business district, industrial areas, parks and residential areas.
3. The application of energy-saving building materials has been encouraged in Xinqiao.
4. 12 new main highways have made a full installation of LED lamps, which reduces

energy consumption by up to 46.5% and saves electricity power 1.3 million kw/hour every year.

5. In 2005, build 51.5 kilometers length of sewage pipe network connecting all communities, build a new sewage treatment plants with processing capacity of 20,000 tons / day, and raise the sewage treatment rate from 78% in 2005 to 97% in 2010.

### **Community Participation and Empowerment**

1. In 2005, Xinqiao formulated a rule on urban construction that urban planning must be approved by various parties before finally being passed.

2. Xinqiao's 14 communities built their own community websites, each website became the best way for its residents within the community to understand and participate in community affairs.

3. Xinqiao has initiated the "public observer" system. Residents elect their own observers to communicate on behalf of the communities with the government.

4. City celebrations, festivals and participation in national, provincial and municipal competition are all done by the public, business and government together.

### **Healthy Lifestyle**

1. 16 Community Squares and 3 municipal squares can stimulate the public's enthusiasm on cultural activities; many spontaneous activities are held every day.

2. Each community has free fitness facilities, these facilities were funded by the government.

3. Xinqiao has set up a comprehensive public health insurance system before the national health insurance policy was announced.

4. Form a complete education system of vocational education, primary school and secondary school and elderly university. "Learning family" competition activities are also organized in communities.

### **Strategic Planning**

1. The "*Xinqiao Environmental Protection Regulations*" is under preparation, which will guide the construction of more low-energy housing, support and provide interest-free loans to the enterprises who use clean energy while operation, with a view to reduce the overall energy consumption of Xinqiao by 30% in 2015 compare to that of 2010.

2. Units that had been assessed as grade I protection unit will be protected along with their surrounding areas closed and restricted to visitors.

3. By 2015, Xinqiao will build more than 6,000 new apartments, a new sports center and a youth activity center.

4. In the next two years, the government will build a large administrative service center to let the citizens solve their problems in the shortest possible time.