

Border villages in Jiading and Jiangsu forge closer ties

Staff Reporters

JIADING has been exploring new approaches in recent years to forge closer ties with neighboring communities in Jiangsu Province, as the suburban district focuses on increasing rural revitalization in the Yangtze River Delta region through integrated development.

A senior-citizen activity center in Xinnong Village of Taicang, Jiangsu Province, has been recently remodelled into a mini-Party construction service center, providing a space for learning, rest and communication for Party members, residents and tourists from Xinnong, as well as Gelong Village in Jiading.

"By building the service center on the border, we have combined forces of both villages and further paved the way for deeper cooperation between the two areas for rural revitalization," said Gao Zhigang, deputy Party secretary of Gelong Village.

Elsewhere in March, a similar Party construction service center was put into use in Liunan Village of Taicang, which neighbors Maoqiao Village in Jiading. The center also serves as a joint Party-building practice base, and an exhibition hall where the development of the two neighboring villages is showcased.

According to the government initiative, service centers on provincial borders are built with the aim of enhancing the rural environment, stimulating rural industries, cultivating rural cultures, ensuring happy lives for rural people, and promoting synchronized development in rural areas.

In rice paddies sitting along the border of Gelong and Xinnong villages, farmer Zhang Guoqing from Gelong Village has recently planted rice seedlings using mechanical equipment, which was impossible before mainly due to the fragmented plots of land in the area.

"Large-sized fields are much easier to plough and sow as machines can



Above: Villagers from neighboring towns exchange ideas at a service center.



Left: The fragmented plots of land on provincial borders can be joined for large-scale farming.
— Photos by Li Pin

be deployed to help," Zhang said.

Prior to the introduction of a land exchange program initiated by the two villages, farming plots along the border were divided into many small pieces, mainly because of the provincial borders as well as the construction of the Shanghai-Suzhou-Nantong high-speed railway, which cuts through the area. As the two villages increased their cooperation, they worked out a scheme to exchange small land plots to make larger fields so that work efficiency and the agricultural output has been raised for farmers on both sides.

A 1,200-*mu* (80-hectare) integrated development zone on provincial borders combining agricultural, cultural and tourism resources is to be built,

with Yunong Manor, a planting base spanning Maoqiao Village in Jiading and Liunan Village in Taicang, being the core of the project.

Under the plan, the project will comprise large-scale farming, sight-seeing, science popularization and education, and offer leisure and experiential activities.

The development of *minsu* (the Chinese version of Bed & Breakfasts) and new emerging businesses in the agricultural, cultural and tourism industries, such as livestreaming, will be promoted in bordering areas to make the zone a demonstration project for rural revitalization in the Yangtze River Delta region, according to Hu Bihui, Party secretary of Maoqiao Village.

Old phone booths getting a new look

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OLD telephone booths in Jiading District has been renovated into trendy public phone kiosks as part of a smart city project that is expected to benefit seniors who don't own mobile phones.

The new digital telephone booths at 604 Dazhi Road in Malu Town, 733 Xinhou Road in Zhenxin Subdistrict and 888 Baoxiang Road in Nanxiang Town have high-definition screens and smart cameras. It provides three-minute free domestic calls, free mobile phone charging, and community canteen and bus stop information.

After scanning their faces or entering their phone numbers, users can also use it for one-click taxi-hailing services.

Elders can call 114 for guidance on the latest elderly medical care and other policies. By calling 12345, the deaf and mute can request sign language service through the screen.

According to a government plan, Shanghai Telecom will remodel 1,000 outdated telephone booths in the city into senior-friendly digital phone kiosks by 2025, with 500 expected to be ready by the end of this year.



A newly-remodeled phone booth in Jiading District — Yang Yujie

Jiading tops medal tally in vocational skills contest

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JIADING District topped the medal tally with 19 gold, 17 silver and 10 bronze medals in Shanghai's first comprehensive vocational skills competition, ranking first among its counterparts around the city.

The Shanghai Skills 2023, a two-month competition which concluded

on June 21 at the Shanghai Automobile Exhibition Center in Jiading, attracted 1,122 contestants — skilled workers, staffers and students aged 16 to 60 — to compete in 109 skill categories, ranging from traditional skills such as carpentry and floristry to new technical skills.

It also included all 63 skills which

will feature at the 47th WorldSkills Competition taking place next year in Lyon, France.

In total, 131 competitors took gold medals, 129 won silver and 96 bronze, with another 166 being awarded medallions of excellence.

Jiading, as the main venue of this year's competition, hosted the

competition for 37 skill categories.

Ninety-nine contestants representing the suburban district showed off their talents in 67 skills.

The biennial competition, launched by the Shanghai government to foster skills development and promote public respect for craftsmanship, will be hosted in Qingpu District in 2025.