

Hangzhou

Hangzhou has enjoyed a history of over 2,200 years since the county administration was established in Qin Dynasty. It is one of the cradles of Huaxia (China) civilization. Hangzhou is one of the seven ancient capitals of China and it was the capital in Wuyue State of the Five Dynasties and the Southern Song Dynasty. In the ninth year of Kai Emperor of Sui Dynasty (589 AD), Hangzhou was founded a county instead of Qiantang, which was the first time that the name of "Hangzhou" recorded in the history. In the third year of Jianyan (1129 AD) of Southern Song Dynasty, Gaozong Emperor made a journey to Hangzhou and the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, Hangzhou was upgraded the site of prefectural city of Lin'an. In the eighth year of Shaoxing (1138 AD), Lin'an was officially chosen for the capital, which lasted more than 140 years. In the first year of the Republic of China (1912), Renhe County and Qiantang County were merged into Hang County. In the 16th year of the Republic of China (1927), Hang County was dismantled, from then on Hangzhou was founded a city. It was on May 3, 1949 that Hangzhou was liberated, Hangzhou began to create her new historical chapter.

Under the sound leadership of the Central Government, Hangzhou has witnessed great development in economy and all social causes with the hardwork and devotion of its citizens since the drive of Reform and Opening-up. With the agricultural structure adjustment deepened and agricultural industrialization accelerated, the efficiency agriculture of Hangzhou is witnessing rapid development. Hangzhou attaches much importance to the construction of "Silicon Valley in Paradise" and the development of high and new technology industries, among which "the Information Port and New Pharmacy Port", Hangzhou Economic and Technological Development Zone, Hangzhou High-New Technological Industries Development Zone, and High Education Park are the backbones. The four major pillar industries of food processing, machinery, electronic communications, and textile with considerable scale and advantages have formed. In 2003, above-scale industrial enterprises in Hangzhou accomplished the total output value of RMB 319.851 billion and taxes RMB 34.776 billion. The export-oriented economy has been developing quickly with more opened areas and increased opening extent. By the end of 2003, Hangzhou had successively approved 6,120 foreign funded projects from 60 industries throughout the world. The investors were from 76 countries and regions all over the world. 42 out of the Top 500 world enterprises had settled down in Hangzhou. In 2003, the total foreign trade export value reached USD 10.95 billion (an increase of 29.2% over the previous year), USD 6.47 billion of which were from municipal-level foreign trade exports. Its products were exported to 180 countries and regions all over the globe. The total import value of Hangzhou was USD 7.28 billion, an increase of 57.5%. Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport has been developing new international lines, accelerating its contact with overseas airports, and promoting its reputation.

Sciences and educations in Hangzhou are advanced, and there are 35 colleges, numerous polytechnic schools, and more than 80 natural science research institutes here. The total number of college students is 269,800. In addition, Hangzhou also boasts its rapidly developing culture and sanitation causes, increasingly improved housing situation and community environment. It has altogether 12 national honors including National

Hygienic City and National Environment Protection Model City, etc. In October 2001, Hangzhou won UN Human Habitat Award in October 2002, and the honor of International Garden City. Since 2000, Hangzhou has successfully held the annual West Lake Expo four times, and made known its city brand name by launching four gold name cards (traveling, living, learning, and careering in Hangzhou), a channel for the world to know Hangzhou and for Hangzhou to head for the world.

<http://english.hangzhou.gov.cn/english>

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