

# Nantong report

## Nantong Airport’s inbound and outbound traffic increased in the first quarter

By Peng Junjun

Around 21:00 on 7th April, flight ZH692 from Osaka, Japan to Nantong smoothly landed at Nantong Xingdong International Airport. In the first quarter of the year, Nantong Entry- Exit Border Inspection Station checked more than 480 inbound and outbound flights and more than 39,000 passengers, and the year- on- year growth rates are 78.3% and 54.5% respectively. All entry and exit data in the first quarter showed a growth trend compared with the same period last year.

‘I came to Nantong for business. It is very convenient, be-

cause I don’t need a visa.’ Chen Koshi, a Japanese traveller said. In the first quarter, nearly 2,000 foreigners entered or exited from Nantong Airport, and the number has increased fourfold. ‘Today there were many travellers on the plane, but the Customs clearance was very fast and comfortable.’ Ms. Gu, a traveller who returned from Osaka, Japan, said. In the first quarter, nearly 36, 000 domestic residents entered and exited, and there is an increase of 58.7%.

Up to now, Nantong Airport has launched inbound and outbound passenger flights to Hong Kong, China, Macau, China, Osaka, Japan, etc. There are nearly 30 flights per week.

## Focusing on cost-effectiveness and targeting the local community Freshippo NB will open at the end of May

By Si Zhanwei

Every day, there are products with low prices and each one is a hot seller. ‘Freshippo NB’ Nantong flagship stores will open in Nantong Harmony City and CBD Dayoujing shopping mall in Chongchuan District. The CBD Dayoujing store is expected to open at the end of May.

Freshippo NB is a hard discount store brand under Freshipo. ‘NB’ stands for ‘Neighbour Business’, which means ‘neighbourhood business’. Compared with ‘Freshippo’, ‘Freshippo NB’ pays more attention to the cost performance of products. It mainly targets community customers, focusing on the daily three meals of

customers, and featuring ‘low prices every day, and each item is a hot seller’. The supply includes Freshippo’s own brands and popular and more cost-effective products on the market. After the stores open, online delivery + offline stores will be adopted, to let residents enjoy the benefits at any time.

In March, ‘Dan Que Xiao Man’ fresh food value warehouse Xue-shifu store opened. It is the third fresh food value warehouse opened since ‘Dan Que Xiao Man’ settled in Chongchuan District. The products cover many categories including vegetables and fruits, meat, poultry, seafood, baked goods, cooked food, rice, flour, grains, oils, snacks, alcoholic beverages and drinks, and household items.

## Railway department pilots a pet transport service on high-speed trains

From Xinhua News Agency

Since 8th April, the railway department has started to try ‘isolation transportation, separation of people and pets, and dedicated care’ high-speed rail pet transport services on some high-speed trains between Beijing and Shanghai. 12306 China Railway simulta-

neously launched the ‘pet transport’ function.

Passengers can make a reservation online at least two days in advance. After the reservation is successfully made, they can check in 1 cat or dog pet which is domesticated and healthy, whose weight is no more than 15 kg and the shoulder height is no more than 40 cm.

## Wisteria blooming



On 9th April, two wisterias of more than 100 years in Nantong Museum bloomed, attracting citizens to take photos and watch.Photo by You Lian

## The world’s longest underwater TBM highway tunnel Haitai Yangtze River Tunnel started boring

“ Haitai Yangtze River Tunnel construction is expected to be completed by 2028

By Zhu Beining and Peng Junjun

On the morning of 9th April, in Haimen at the estuary of the Yangtze River, as the giant cutterhead started to roar and rotate, ‘Jianghai’ Tunnel Boring Machine, independently researched and manufactured by China, whose excavation diameter can reach 16.64 meters, successfully started its ‘trip across the Yangtze River’, which marked the official start of boring of the longest underwater TBM highway tunnel in the world — Haitai Yangtze River Tunnel.

Haitai Yangtze River Tunnel is the fifth tunnel crossing the Yangtze River in the ‘eight dragons crossing the Yangtze River’ transport plan of Nantong. The project starts from Haimen District, Nantong in the north, and ends at Taicang, Suzhou. The overall length of the route is 39.07km. Among them, the length of the tunnel crossing the Yangtze River is 11.185km. It was designed based on the design standard of two-way six-lane expressway. The design speed is 100km per hour.

Haitai Yangtze River Tunnel construction was started in September 2022. It is expected to be completed by 2028.



Ming Lang, a retired associate research librarian of Nantong Library Used AI to generate videos from old photos of Nantong

By You Lian

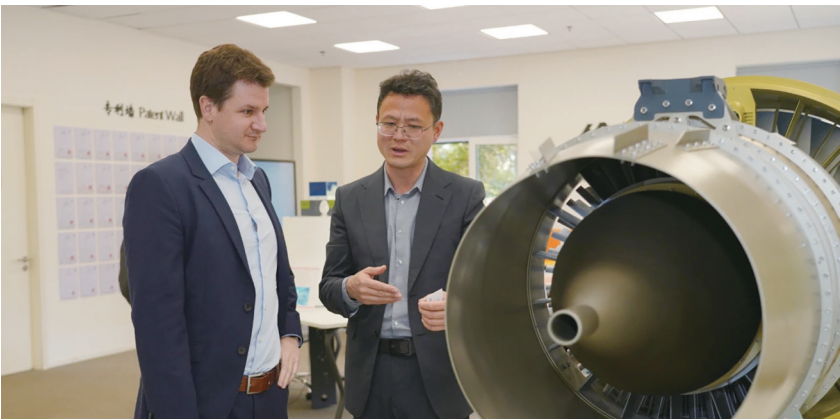
Recently, Ming Lang, a retired associate research librarian of Nantong Library, used AI technology to restore colours and process dynamic treatment on 8 old photos of Nantong, and made the second episode of *Travelling through time-AI recreates old Nantong* video series, which recreated the old appearance of Nantong City 80 years ago, including the Bell Tower, the East Street, the East Gate and the Wangjiang Tower.

The video recreated the daily life of ordinary people in Nantong 80 years ago. When readers and netizens watch the video, it’s like travelling through the time tunnel. Landmark buildings and shops such as the Stone Arch, the Temple of Confucius, the Kuixing Pavilion, and the Huaxin Barber Shop also appeared in the video.

‘To recreate the old appearance of Nantong, using AI to generate videos from old photos is the best way.’ Ming Lang told the reporter that he used software including Midjourney, Kling AI, and Dreamina, to restore colors of the 8 old photos and do dynamic processing.

‘The presentation effect of the second episode of *Travelling through time-AI recreates old Nantong* has improved a lot compared with the first episode. The characters’ dynamic processing is more natural and vivid.’ Zhu Jiang, a research librarian of Nantong Archives, said.

## Delegation of Austrian Business Agency visited Suxitong Industrial Park



By Wu Xiaoyun

On 8th April, Matthias Adelwöhrer, Director Asia of Austrian Business Agency, led a delegation to visit Suxitong Industrial Park, to carry out investment inspection and business matchmaking activities.

During the visit, the delegation and JP Tech, a key enterprise in Suxitong Industrial Park, carried out special communication, and provided ‘one to one’ detailed tutor-

ing on the specific matters regarding the company’s investment and settlement in Austria. Suxitong Industrial Park invited representatives of multiple enterprises which have the intention to invest in the European market to have in-depth discussions with the Austrian delegation on specific issues including tax policies and industrial chain support. The Austrian representative said that they would establish a regular communication mechanism, and provide customized services for enterprises in the industrial park.

As a model of economic and trade cooperation between China and Austria, China-Austria Su Tong Eco-Park has settled in Suxitong Industrial Park for 10 years. In the past ten years, the park has carried out targeted investment promotion focusing on frontier industries such as machinery and equipment manufacturing, energy and environmental technology, automobile and biomanufacturing. More than 10 ‘hidden champion’ enterprises in German-speaking areas have successively settled and developed.



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