

From a high-tech park and an eco-city to a connectivity model

A look at the three China-Singapore government-led projects



1 Suzhou Industrial Park

The SIP began in 1994 as a bilateral project for Singapore to share its industrialisation experience with China. It aims to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, and to attract high-tech industries, especially software-focused IT and biotechnology industries.

The SIP last year recorded a gross domestic product of 200 billion yuan (\$45 billion) – 15 per cent of the city's economy despite occupying only 3.4 per cent of its land area. Singapore's stake in the project has been pared down from the initial 65 per cent to 28 per cent now.

2 Tianjin Eco-City (TEC)

The TEC, which began in 2008, is meant to be a model of sustainable development for an urbanising China. It seeks to attract manufacturing firms from green clusters, such as clean waste management, to its industrial parks.

The TEC has a planned area of 30 sq km with a population guideline of 350,000. It is a 50-50 joint venture between a Chinese consortium and a Singapore consortium led by Keppel Group.

As of August, the TEC has 30,000 residents and 2,300 registered firms. After development of the 8 sq km start-up area, the next phase involves transforming a 4.5 sq km plot of riverfront land into a Marina Bay-inspired district.

3 China-Singapore (Chongqing) Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity

While the possibility of a third project was first announced in July last year, the location was only unveiled during Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Singapore last week. The project aims to become a demonstration of modern connectivity and services in China's vast western region.

The four priority areas of collaboration are financial services, aviation, transport and logistics, and information and communication technology. The project will also serve as a linchpin of China's regional strategies such as the "One Belt, One Road" initiative.