

the key projects of the local government programme, "One City, Nine Towns". The town is supposed to be a modern, ecological, new town, with typical northern European features. It may have been a Swedish project from the start, but it is marketed today more as a Nordic town. The Icelandic parliament was the inspiration for one building and you will also find a copy of the Danish author Hans Christian Andersen's sculpture, the Little Mermaid.

The town is not yet finished, but the planned population is around 30,000. Baoshan is one of 16 districts in Shanghai and home to one million of Shanghai's approximately 17 million inhabitants. The district is dominated by Baosteel, the world's sixth-largest steelmaker.

BACK IN THE HEART OF China's commercial capital, you might take a walk in the city centre.

In the Duxiana store in Nanjing Road's Plaza 66, an upscale shopping mall in Shanghai's second-tallest building, you can sign up for a luxurious bed from Dux. This company is one of leading distributors of spring mattresses and other bedding products that, for over 80 years, have been synonymous with exclusivity, beauty of design, comfort and high quality.

But you may need to go to the bank first. If you do, you should know that the Swedish company Q-Matic has provided many of the digital queuing solutions for financial institutions, authorities and the retail sector in China, as well as in 85 other countries around the world.

In Zhongshan Park, you can stop for a drink at the ice bar called Taste of Scandinavia, a recently opened restaurant featuring bars and a lounge area. Here, everything is built entirely of ice - from the wall to the bar, the stools to the glasses, which are actually giant ice cubes.

In the ice bar, you will, of course, find bottles of Absolut Vodka, which is the

world's third-largest spirit brand and a success story among Swedish exports.

Back on the streets of Shanghai, you will see a large number of Volvo buses. Volvo delivers buses to the two largest operators in Shanghai through its joint venture company, Shanghai Sunwin Bus Corporation.

Volvo and Scania, both Swedish, are two of the world's leading manufacturers of heavy trucks and buses.

While Scania imports its vehicles based on its famous modular system

to China, Volvo manufactures trucks in a joint venture with the China National Heavy Truck Corporation in Jinan in Shandong Province, and makes buses in both Shanghai and Shaanxi Province in a joint venture with the Xi'an Silver Bus Corporation.

You may think trucks are too slow and want to speed things up a bit by taking a look at the Formula 1 race track in Jiading, north of Shanghai. Swedish Dynapac, which manufactures soil, asphalt and concrete equipment, played an important role in finishing the F1 circuit before the premier of the first Chinese Grand Prix in 2004. Dynapac

machines handled some 75,000 tonnes of material to get the circuit's paving and compaction job done.

If you are an F1 enthusiast, you will probably know that Sweden designed and manufactured the world's fastest car. In 2005, the Swedish-made Koenigsegg CCR broke the world land speed record for a production car when it recorded a top speed of 388 kilometres an hour!

WE CONTINUE OUR Swedish tour of China with an excursion along the Yangtze River. Swedish multinational company, Alfa Laval, has a strong position in the global marine industry (along with several other industries). The majority of all the ships in the world have Alfa Laval equipment on board, including separators, heat exchangers and fresh water generators. (By the way, the maritime propeller was invented by a Swede.)

The trip on the Yangtze River takes us to the Chongqing area and the gigantic Three Gorges Dam, where the world leading Swiss-Swedish power and automa-

tion technology group, ABB, is one of the long-term partners and a key supplier for the hydroelectric power plant project.

ABB is present in many large infrastructural projects in China, as are other Swedish multinational giants, such as Atlas Copco and Sandvik.

Atlas Copco is a global industrial group that handles the sales, service and marketing of compressors, generators, construction and mining equipment, and electric power tools and assembly systems.

Sandvik is a high-tech, engineering group with advanced products and a world-leading position in selected areas. Its business concept is based on a unique competence in materials technology.

AFTER THE THREE GORGES, we head south to Kunming in Yunnan Province to take a look at the Scandinavian-Chinese Cultural Centre, which opened in 2000 and was named after the famous Swedish poet Tomas Tranströmer. In 2001, Tranströmer visited the centre for a week and inspired both Swedish and Chinese people to organise China's first international poetry festival in 2004. The Tranströmer Café has now broadened its operations to



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become an artistic centre called TC/G Nordica.

Few poets have been more widely translated than Tranströmer, whose work has appeared in around 50 languages, including Chinese. Many of his poems are inspired by China, a country he has visited several times, and he has also learnt to master the haiku, the ancient Japanese style of poetry.

Tranströmer's poetry has been translated to Chinese by Li Li, a Chinese poet and filmmaker who has lived in Sweden since 1988.

A few of Tranströmer's poems have also been translated by Göran Malmqvist, a linguist, sinologist, Emeritus Professor and, since 1985, a member of the Swedish Academy - the institution that decides ▶



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