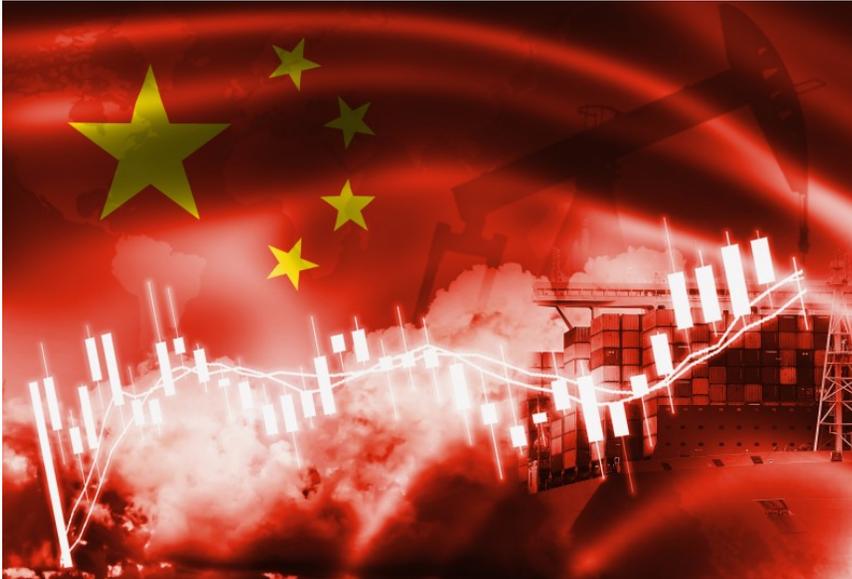


News Analysis

U.S. and China Construction Connection



While the governments of China and the US go back and forth on tariffs and travel, rights and restrictions, direct engagement at a local level are proceeding. Construction is one of the areas where US experience and ability are welcomed in China as the recent dealings of San Diego-based construction and project management firm [Gafcon](#) show.

After successfully planning and designing the first two phases of [China's Zizhu Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone](#), Gafcon, winner of Gold and Silver Constructech Vision Awards, is now leading the planning and designing of the third phase of the 3,200-acre, mixed-use waterfront project. The firm will oversee the next phase centered on Orchid Lake Hotel, a 5-star business-class resort and conference center along the Huangpu River about 18 miles south of Shanghai.

Zizhu is an important technology, science, research, and business hub in the Shanghai area and the Orchid Lake Hotel will feature conference, reception, and workspace along with an executive lounge, 360 guest rooms, a spa, and gymnasium. The hotel will incorporate the surrounding natural landscape of both the river and the newly built Orchid Lake, as well as botanical and sculpture gardens. It will be China's first ever "sail up" hotel with a yacht club providing access from the river.

Gafcon previously led the planning and development for Zizhu's Purple Bay and InnoTown. These two phases have a combined value of \$12 billion. Purple Bay supports the growing urban center with schools, homes, an aquarium, an

art academy, a botanic garden, retail space, a medical clinic and outdoor and recreational space. InnoTown will serve as the home to an R&D center, which is already drawing Global 500 companies, including General Electric and Coca-Cola, as well as two universities and additional housing, retail, entertainment, and hospitality space.

Transportation plays a central role in Zizhu, with three planned underground light-rail transit stops connecting Zizhu with the greater region. Zizhu will also include a marina to accommodate personal watercraft and an overhead tram. The project promotes urban renewal, reshapes public space, improves the region's economic vitality, enhances culture, and maintains the ecological environment. In addition, Gafcon is working closely with world-premiere resort design firm **WATG**, which is designing the Orchid Lake Hotel.

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By Constructech Staff | 3/25/2021
