



10th Global Entrepreneurs Forum in Hangzhou

Event Details

Date: October 24-25-26, 2025 (2–3 days)

Location: Hangzhou, China

Organizer: Zhejiang Small and Medium Enterprises Association in close collaboration with the Foundation for International Studies and Geopolitics, chaired by [Giancarlo Elia Valori](#), with the participation of the Royal Families of Qatar, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, and Israel

Fact Sheet Zhejiang

1. Zhejiang (area of 105,500 square kilometers, population of 58.5 million, provincial GDP of approximately €802.60 billion in 2019, up 6.8% on the previous year, GDP per capita of €13,854) is a coastal province in eastern China with Hangzhou as its capital.

It borders Jiangsu Province and Shanghai Municipality to the north, Anhui Province to the northwest, Jiangxi Province to the west, and Fujian Province to the south. Zhejiang has modern infrastructure, with 2,600 km of railways, nearly 120,000 km of highways, and one of the five busiest ports in the world.

These factors, together with a rapidly developing economic and entrepreneurial system, make Zhejiang one of China's most developed and diversified provincial economies.

Zhejiang is known for its primary industry, particularly fishing and the production of rice, tea, silk, citrus fruits, and bamboo.

The main pillars of the provincial economy are Hangzhou (2019 GDP - €197 billion, home to major Chinese e-commerce companies such as Alibaba and Net Ease), Ningbo (2019 GDP - €154 billion, one of the most active cities in the provincial economy, with one of the world's busiest seaports), Wenzhou (2019 GDP - €85 billion, the third highest GDP in the province) and Shaoxing (2019 GDP - €74 billion, the fourth highest GDP in the province). The city of Jiaxing is also important (2019 GDP – €69 billion, a city that serves as a transport hub between Shanghai, Suzhou, and Hangzhou, which is why it attracts the interest of many foreign companies, including LEGO).

2. In 2017, a free trade zone was inaugurated in the province. The Zhejiang Free Trade Zone (FTZ) is part of a national and regional strategy aimed at supporting the development of the New Silk Road and the Yangtze River Delta economic zone. The free trade zone aims to become an important hub for international trade and logistics. The existence of numerous economic development zones in the

province offers great opportunities for Chinese and foreign companies looking to invest in China. These zones enjoy, for example, preferential trade policies or financing programs in the scientific and technological fields.

3. Foreign Investment Zhejiang is an important destination for foreign investment. At the end of 2018, 182 of the world's 500 largest companies had invested in the province. 6 The Italian economic presence in the province is mainly concentrated in Hangzhou and Ningbo. Most of the Italian companies present specialise in the food sector (e.g. Ferrero, which has opened a production plant in Hangzhou). The advanced engineering and automotive sectors are also important, represented by companies such as Haveco, Comer, SEI Laser and Sipa. Other areas in which Italian companies operate include textiles, leather goods and fashion (with the presence of Brachi and Carpisa, among others).

4. Forum Theme (provisional)

New Manufacturing, New Business Models, New Future

5. Key Advantages of the Forum

a. Strategic Location.

As the venue for the G20 Summit and the Global Digital Trade Expo, Zhejiang is at the forefront of promoting globalization, digital transformation, and shared prosperity. The province is a gateway for international investment, innovation, and integration into global markets.

b. Established Brand

With nine successful editions, the Hangzhou Forum has become an influential and trusted brand. Based on the “3111 Project,” it is now a leading platform for high-quality capital and projects to meet, with cumulative agreements exceeding RMB 220 billion.

c. Significant Scale

Zhejiang is known for its openness and global entrepreneurial spirit. The Forum has welcomed over 100,000 participants from China and abroad, making it one of the largest business events in the region.

d. High-Level Collaborations

The Forum brings together Fortune Global 500 companies, leading Chinese enterprises, government representatives, and international associations — promoting cross-border partnerships, project matchmaking, and business transformation.

e. Strong Government Support

The sixth edition of the Forum was an official event of the Zhejiang World Entrepreneurs Convention, hosted by the Provincial Government. The “online + offline” model

— which includes livestreaming e-commerce and curated B2B matchmaking — has greatly expanded visibility and impact.

6. IDEAS FOR COOPERATION:

1. Jointly create a cooperation platform that promotes exchange and communication.

- Expand areas of cooperation: Strengthen technology exchanges and joint projects in advanced manufacturing, green energy, design, and fashion, exploring opportunities in emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence and biotechnology.

- Share innovative resources: encourage the creation of shared R&D centers and laboratories, facilitate interaction between talent and technology transfer and promote complementarity between “Italian design” and “Zhejiang smart manufacturing.”

- Promote sustainability: collaborate on circular economy and renewable energy projects, establishing a demonstration zone for Sino-European carbon neutrality.
- Facilitate investment: Offer policy and legal advisory services to facilitate cross-border operations/investments.

2. Support participation in the “10th Hangzhou Global Entrepreneurs Forum.”

As part of the 10th edition of the forum, it is proposed to establish a - “Sino-European Joint Laboratory for Digital Innovation”; the incubation of cultural IP related to the Silk Road; the exploration of new models of cross-border e-commerce.

Leadership of the Zhejiang Small and Medium Enterprise Association

Wang Weihua - President of the Zhejiang SME Association;

Zhang Xiaoke - Secretary General of the Zhejiang SME Association;

Hong Mei - Secretary General of the Zhejiang SME Association and of the Professional Committee of the Import and Export Association.

Prof. [Giancarlo Elia Valori](#), President of the Foundation for International Studies and Geopolitics.