



## Seattle firm plans new Chinese city

The Seattle firm of Robert Edson Swain recently won a master plan competition for a new coastal city in China.

The city, Lang Ya City Group in Shandong Province, will be the site of aquatic events for the 2008 Olympics.

The planning area spans 100 square kilometers, about the size of Vancouver, B.C. Construction will occur over 16 years, and the city will one day have 250,000 residents and host millions of tourists.

"The form and style of green and sustainable planning is unprecedented in China, and we are proud to have made such an impact," said Swain. "Our Lang Ya city plan offers the whole region a profound opportunity to envision the future and help guide the right form of coastal and urban development."

The plan has been completed and is currently awaiting

approval from the Qingdao People's Congress.

In addition to images and computer graphics, the plan includes 16,000 words that were translated and edited by experts in the U.S. and China. The team established an intricate system to control editing versions, and to synchronize Chinese paragraphs with corresponding English versions.

"This master plan sets the stage for the transformation of Lang Ya City Group from a rural area into a vital urban economic zone," Swain said. "We believe the region can maintain its scenic and environmental character in harmony with development."

Swain said his firm was selected from 487 worldwide, then short-listed to three finalists.

"This is a momentous achievement for such a small and independent group of designers," he said.