

Glimpses of Nature

An airport for feathery flyers –

We heard about birds hitting the aircraft, occupy the runway even there are drones to divert them but having an airport for them is beyond our imagination. However, it seems to be true in other sense in China. Tianjin city council along with Asian Development Bank (ADB) and McGregor Coxall (Designer and Landscape Architects) is planning to develop a giant natural reserve (Lingang Bird Airport) near the port city Tianjin. The reserve is planned on an internationally acclaimed bird migration route, East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF). This route expands through 22 countries and nearly ~ 50 million migratory birds use this pathway for their annual journey. The EAAF is also one of the threatened routes due to increasing urbanisation in coastal areas, thus rapidly destroying critical bird habitats/shelters. For some birds, the journey sometimes extends upto 11,000 km. and a maximum of 10 days, therefore, resource gets exhausted. The proposed reserve is for rejuvenating those exhausted birds, and a temporary shelter/resting place on their way to different directions. Spanning across 61 hectares the landscape will have three different habitats, bird hides, and forest catering the need for more than 50 different species of birds. There will be a visitor and research centre for human guests too. So, please, ready for bird take off, and transit passage without passport-visa related complexity.



Source: McGregor Coxall (2017) Bird airport – Tianjin Lingang bird sanctuary wetland park design. Landscape architecture frontiers/thematic practices. 5(4): 80-95. DOI: 10.15302/J-LAF-20170409

Image: McGregor Coxall

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