

The Biggest Wooden Fu Chuan Junk Replica in China Damaged by Fire



The blaze destroyed the biggest Fu Chuan junk which is built in the original style, the cause of the fire is not yet known. Image from chinanews.com

4th of February, a wooden Fu Chuan Junk replica was on fire at Hengyu Quay in Ningde City, Fujian Province.

The destroyed Junk is 45 meters in length 12 meters in width, it is the biggest wooden sailing ship in China,

The erection of the *Fu Chuan* Junk replica started early in 2016, the boat construction is based on the traditional *Fu Chuan* junk of Ningde area, associated with the reference of historical documents of Cefeng(literal: conferring) boat. Importantly, it has the essential charter of the Junk from Fujian Area: the watertight bulkhead technology. The principle of this technology is separating the ship's cabin into several parts, due to the independence of every compartment, during the voyage, if the water floods into one or two damaged compartments, it would not flow into others, the buoyancy of the whole vessel would not be affected.

This technology was listed in the Second Batch of National Intangible Cultural Heritage list in June 2008, afterwards it was listed in the UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in November of 2010.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

