

Chinese Dream, Fervent Attachment to West China

Compiled by Editorial Committee of This Book

Translated by Zhang Qiang and Jiang Cheng



Time Publishing & Media Co., Ltd.
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Foreword

West China, a miraculous land, has once played a significant role in promoting the communication between the eastern and western civilizations, where you may enjoy the wonderful landscapes, such as the lofty plateau, the fair snow-covered mountains, the vast prairie and the boundless Gobi desert...

As an important junction for foreign communication since the time immemorial, West China abounds in natural resources and preserves great market potential. Moreover, it lies in a critical strategic location. However, as this area is still rather backward in economic development due to certain natural, historical and social factors, it is imperative to accelerate its pace in reform and open-up as well as its modernization drive.

Since 2000, Chinese Central Government has implemented the strategies for the development of its western regions, endeavoring to improve economic and social development in that

area. Now as West Development has entered an accelerating stage, we bring forth this book—*Chinese Dream, Fervent Attachment to West China*. With 15 pieces of reportage arranged in time sequence, we try to retrace the arduous course and demonstrate the brilliant achievements in the construction of West China in the past decade. This book gives an account of the tribulations and efforts of the constructors and volunteers who have committed themselves to the West Development ranging from infrastructure building, ecological reservation, people's livelihood, science development and medical service to folk art, and cordially eulogizes the heroic deeds and the touching stories of those constructors and volunteers in their efforts to speed up the economic development, ameliorate ecological environment and improve people's life in West China.

Coming from different parts of China, those constructors and volunteers have endured great hardships and tribulations in their pioneering work in the western area and brought Chinese Dream into reality with their efforts, perspiration and wisdom. In this book, we may read the story of courageous feats of developers of Sebei Oilfield, builders of Tian-shan Mountain Highway and constructors of Qinghai-Tibet Railway who have challenged the physiological limit and made many breakthroughs in technology; the benevolent deeds done for the people in western regions by the members of Xihaigu education support team and "Green Rivers and Lakes", the non-governmental organization for environmental protection, who have surmounted the untold severe survival conditions; the unremitting efforts made to ensure the ecological security and sustainable development by Zhong Ping, an eco-writer, Zhang Yu, a preservationist and Gong Yu, an emergency worker of environmental protection; and the impressive merits of the volunteers who have consecrated their blossoming youth and years to the grass-roots, doing their bits to

improve the medical care, science and technology, culture and public service in western regions, the names of whom cover Wang Yishuo, a medical volunteer, Zhou Yi, a college graduate village officer, Yerbaole Tuoliugen, a college graduate flinging himself into Hometown construction, Chen Yanjie, a science worker, Li Yuan, a culture worker, Xu Xiaoyan, a volunteer attached to Mulei in Xinjiang, and Jing Gang, an artist of folk paper-cut.

As the development and construction of West China is an epic-like project, words will fail to describe the ardent benevolence, the recalcitrant will, the determined spirit and the indomitable devotion of the constructors and volunteers. But we still try our utmost to inform the world of their stories in the course of West Development and eulogize their merits in turning Chinese Dream into reality, with these 15 reportages.

Editorial Committee of This Book

December 2014

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The Pearls on Qaidam Basin

—Developers of Sebei Oil and Gas Field

Sebei, a place you could hardly find on the map of China 50 years ago, is located in the interior Qaidam Basin. Now No. 1, No. 2 and Tainan Oil and Gas Field are clustered around the three lakes in Sebei, which are just like three sparkling diamonds, attracting the attention from the world. After continuous efforts of five decades, the oil workers have transformed this barren land into the fourth largest oil and gas field in China. Let me tell you the hardships and tribulations our oil workers have gone through in constructing this plateau oilfield.

Oil Men in Qinghai Province

When people are mentioning Qaidam Basin, an impression immediately comes to their minds that the Gobi is a layer of chuo on the boundless desert, yet they are ignorant of the fact that the crustal movements on Tibet Plateau turns Qaidam Basin into a "comucopia". To the oil workers, Qaidam Basin abounds in valuable resources—petroleum and natural gas.

In the past 50 years, there prevails a cross-talk in Qaidam Basin— "No birds fly ahead and no grass grows on land. The strong wind blows off, even stones and people feel suffocative for lack of oxygen." However, it is on this barren land that the oil men in Qaidam Basin have never ceased their work in exploring, developing and constructing this oilfield for a moment.

The exploration proves that an equivalent of 4.65 billion tons of oil and gas will be available. As early as 1955, to make certain whether China reserves petroleum, a group of young geologists, headed by the senior experts of Geology Ministry, went deep into Qaidam Basin to conduct oil finding, a far-away area in the Great Northwest of China. The Basin then was marked by backward economy, little animal husbandry, without any support from industrial and agricultural sectors. What was worse, the foundation for geological research was rather weak, with many disciplinary gaps to be made up for.

It was in such harsh conditions that the oil men marched into this "comucopia" without any hesitation in 1955. Braving the sandstorms and the severe weather, the oil men put up the extracting machines, laid down oil pipelines and accomplished the major projects one after another. With their unremitting efforts for several

Qaidam Basin



decades, they opened up an oilfield of the highest altitude, a critical resource base in China's western region.

In the history of Qinghai oilfield, February 20th, 1959 marked an unusual day, on which the crude oil from Qaidam Basin was



Oil tank trucks running on Qaidam Basin

transported to other areas for the first time, with a chain of oil tank trucks bound for Yumen city.

Ever since then, long queues of oil tank trucks shuttled along the road between Qaidam Basin and their destinations. Before long-distance oil pipelines were laid, oil extracted on this Basin was shipped to different corners of China by such oil tank trucks.

Stepping into Sebei for the First Time

When we are talking about petroleum, the oilfields in Northeast China such as Daqing Oilfield and Bohai Oilfield will immediately come to our minds. In fact, oil exploration and extraction began in West China. Apart from its rich petroleum, Qaidam Basin also abounds in natural gas, with the major reserved areas in the east of the Basin, and gas strata in Sebei, the Salt Lake and Tainan. Sebei is a salt moorland in Qaidam Basin, where the salt and alkali Gobi greet you on every side when you set foot on this land, whose roads are paved with saline-alkali soil, seeming quite soft, but hard as rocks.

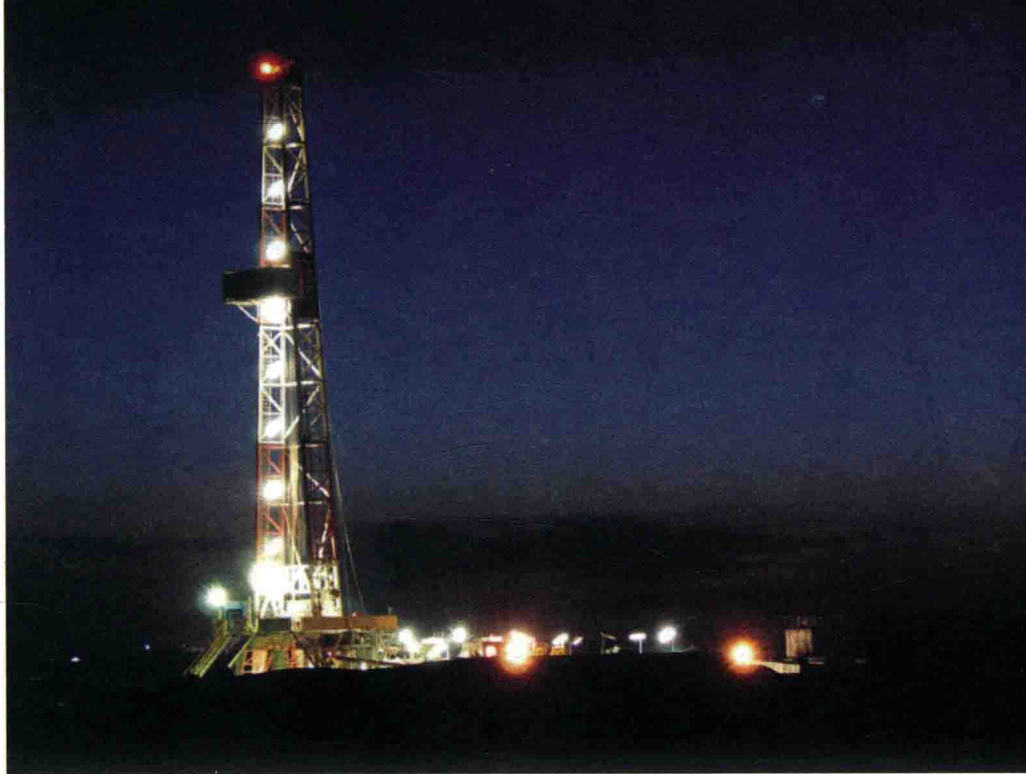
As the major gas field in Qinghai Oilfield, Sebei Gas Field is located around the Taiji Nai'er Lake, the Senie Lake and the Dabusun Lake, called the Three-Lake Area by people, beneath which reserved natural gas amounting to 1 trillion m^3 in the gas-bearing area of 122 km^2 , and the proven geological reserves come up to 200 billion m^3 . Now in front of you is the distribution graph of oil and gas resources in Qaidam Basin, a detailed profile that collects the culmination of oil men's strenuous efforts and dedication.

In October, 1957, while No. 3278 drilling crew was in operation, a fire burst out from the well. It turned out that the gas in the crevice of the stratum was ignited by the operating drilling machine, a flame of hope on the vast desert that indicated the discovery of No. 1 Oilfield in Sebei, which would, in turn, prove Qaidam Basin to be the fourth largest oilfield in China.

As the Central Government was more eager for petroleum, this gas field remained to be tapped.



The first gas well in Sebei



No. 2 Gas Field in Sebei

In the mid of 1970s, as crude oil decreased progressively in the oilfield of the cold lakes in Qinghai Province, together with greater difficulties in exploration and extraction, the focus of oil discovery was shifted from West to East China.

In accordance with the instructions "to further identify the reserves of natural gas in Qaidam Basin" by Ministry of Petrochemistry and the provincial government of Qinghai, Qinghai Petroleum Administration decided to launch a new round of large-scale gas exploration in Sebei by amassing drilling crews from various directions.

In 1975, No. 1270 drilling crew found industrial gas flowed in No. 1 and No. 2 Well in its structural boring of Sebei No. 2 Exploration, and thus No. 2 Gas Field was discovered in Sebei.

Thenceforward, the crew drilled No. 4 Well in the structural boring of Sebei No.1 Exploration. But by 1977, with a large oilfield was discovered in Qaidam Basin, the



Exploitation of natural gas has improved the economic conditions in Qaidam Basin

exploration of gas field was temporarily suspended.

When petroleum development reached its climax, people again began to turn their eyes to the vast open wilderness in West China.

Re-Exploration of Gas Field in Sebei

During the national "Seventh Five-Year Plan" period, with the inception and operation of Golmud Refinery, the second round of oil exploration campaign aiming at "Three Doublings" as phased achievement was initiated in Qinghai Province. To seize this opportunity, State Petroleum Administration decided to prompt a strategic shift in oil and gas acquisition by turning oil extraction into oil-gas development. The new pattern for integrated development of petrochemical engineering brought Sebei Gas Field into a stage of pilot production and evaluation.

In 1995, with the inception of Gas Exploration and Development Co., the Central Government brought for the first time the exploration of natural gas to the important agenda in oilfield development. Ever since then, the company has been responsible for exploring and constructing large gas fields. In only a decade, the oil men have turned the resource advantage of natural gas into economic benefits. With the hard struggle and dedication of oil men from one generation to another, a modern and top-notch gas field—Sebei Gas Field was constructed finally.

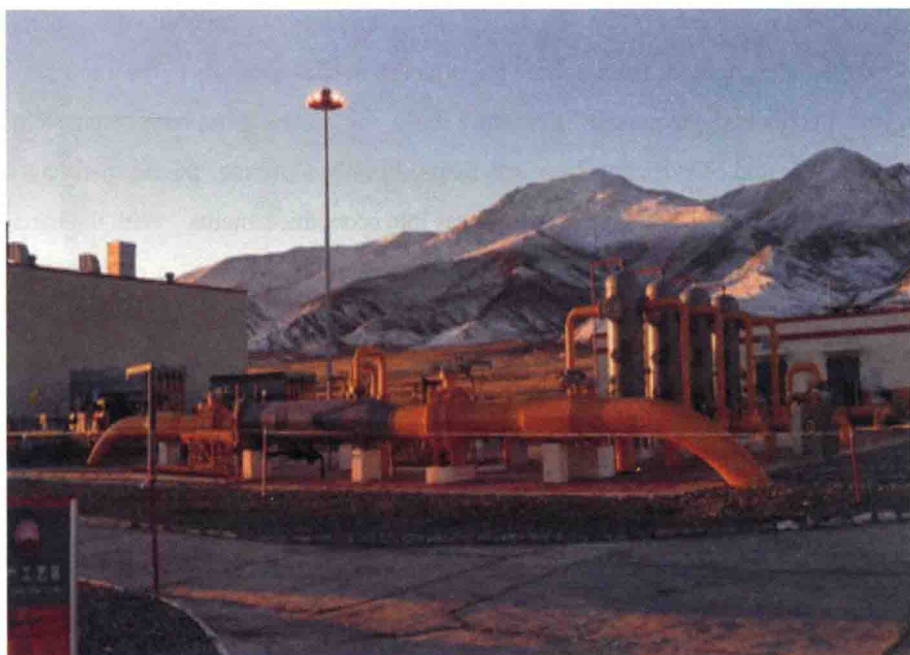
In the summer of 1996, a gas pipeline in Sebei Gas Field was laid and put into operation, the first pipeline transmitting natural gas that signified the beginning of large scale gas development in Sebei.

Two years later, the company established close partnership with such organizations as oilfield exploration, drilling engineering and ground construction. Apart from outbound transmission through a pipeline, the company also built another pipeline named "Xiandun Pipeline" over Mt. Dangjin, conveying the clean and efficient natural gas to 10 thousand workers in Dunhuang Petroleum Production Base. It took the construction workers 159 days to build this pipeline, with the speed of 3 km per day, not exceeding the schedule. The completion of this pipeline is marked by "project approval, design, construction and operation being all done in the same year".

Amid the jubilant atmosphere of celebrating the realization of "Three Doublings", the authorities of Qinghai Oilfield declared its strategic goal "5355 Project", among which the first "5" denoted the production of 5 billion m³ of natural gas per year, while "3" signified the proven reserved gas of 300 billion m³. These figures show a great proportion of economic benefits in Qinghai Oilfield.

West-East Transmission of Natural Gas

In the new millennium when the Central Government carried out the strategic



Gas supply from Sebei-Xining-Lanzhou pipeline

program of developing China's western area, the incessant growth of gas reserves aroused the attention from the state leaders, under the circumstances of which the project of west-east transmission pipeline for natural gas was initiated.

In 2000, Sebei-Xining-Lanzhou pipeline was under construction, and it was put into operation one year later. The completion of the pipeline, reported by a number of news media, has laid a milestone in the project of west-east transmission of natural gas, a pipeline that is beneficial to over 1 million people along 15 counties and cities, including Xining and Lanzhou, the two provincial capitals.

Sebei Oilfield marks the fourth largest biological gas pool of the quaternary system in the world discovered so far. Now Qinghai Oilfield makes greater efforts to explore Sebei Gas Field and the development pattern with its unique features will gradually evolve in the course of overcoming difficulties.