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CHINA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

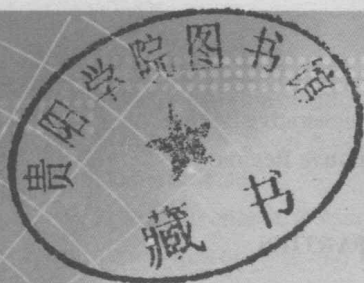


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1

NATURAL CONDITIONS



- Location and Territory
- Natural Resources
- Climate



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Location and Territory

The People's Republic of China is situated in the eastern part of the Asian Continent on the western coast of the Pacific. With a total land area of 9.6 million square km, China is the largest country in Asia and the third largest in the world, next to Russia and Canada.

The Chinese territory is around 5,500 km from the middle of the Heilongjiang River north of Mohe, Heilongjiang Province, in the north to Zengmu Ansha of the Nansha Islands in the south, and stretches for some 5,000 km from

the confluence of the Heilongjiang and Wusulijiang rivers in the east to the Pamirs Plateau in the west. The land boundary extends for 22,800 km. China boasts vast adjacent seas, with its mainland facing the Bohai Sea (nearly 80,000 square km), the Yellow Sea (380,000 square km), the East China Sea (770,000 square km) and the South China Sea (3.5 million square km) on the east and south. The area of China's territorial seas stands at 380,000 square km. According to the latest Comprehensive Survey of China's Isle Resources, China has under its jurisdiction 6,961 islands, each having an



◆ China is the third largest country in the world in terms of territory, next only to Russia and Canada. Pictured is a small village in northeast China

area of over 500 square meters, with 433 of them being inhabited and the rest remaining uninhabited. In line with the principle of "one country, two systems," another 411 islands are now under the jurisdiction of Taiwan and Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions. The mainland coastline is 18,000 km and that of the islands 14,000 km, giving China a total coastline distance of 32,000 km, the eighth longest in the world.

China is adjacent to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos and Viet Nam, sharing common land borders with them. It also has six neighbors across the sea—the Republic of Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Natural Resources

China has a vast territory, with abundant natural resources and diverse types of land resources. Its waterpower resources rank first worldwide. It is one of the countries in the world having the most species of wild animals, and has almost all kinds of vegetation found in the Northern Hemisphere. It has abundant mineral resources, with a great variety of minerals.

Land Resources

With a vast territory, China has diverse types of land resources. There are more mountains than plains, with cultivated land and forests constituting small proportions. Various types of land resources are unevenly distributed. The cultivated land is mainly in plains and basins in the monsoon regions of east China, while forests are mostly found in the remote mountainous areas in the northeast and the southwest. Grasslands are chiefly distributed on inland plateaus and in mountains.





◆ *Crisscross
rain-eroded
gullies feature
the Loess
Plateau in
northwest China*

Cultivated Land

According to the Statistical Communiqué on the 2004 National Economic and Social Development released by the National Bureau of Statistics in February 2005, the year 2004 saw 145,000 hectares of farmland actually used for construction, down 37 percent from the previous year. Some 63,000 hectares of cultivated land were destroyed by disasters. A total of 733,000 hectares of farmland were converted into land for ecological preservation. Structural adjustment in agricultural production led to a reduction of 205,000 hectares of cultivated land. Land reclamation and re-development projects added over 346,000 hectares of cultivated land. As a result, the year saw a net reduction of 800,000 hectares of cultivated land.

Forests

The sixth national enumeration of forest resources (1999-2003) demonstrated that the total forest area was 175 million hectares, and the forest coverage rate was 18.21 percent. The total standing stock volume was 13.62 billion cubic meters, and the stock volume of the forest was 12.46 billion cubic meters.

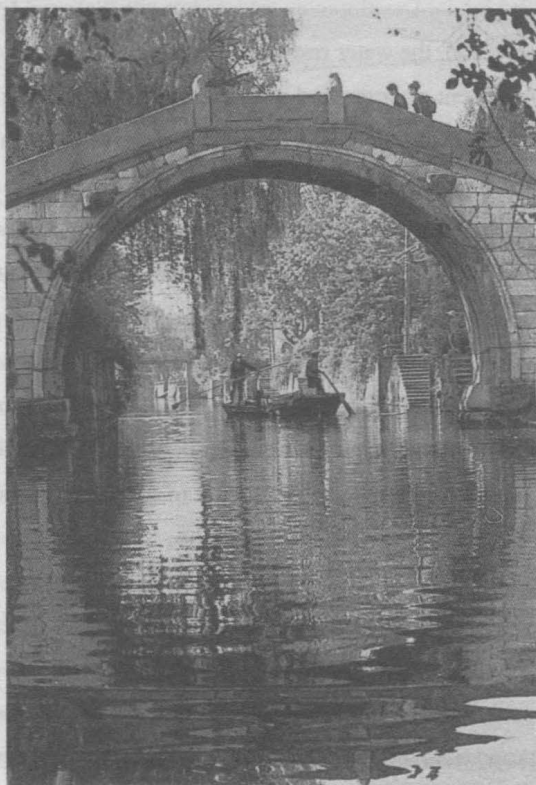
Grassland

China has 263.3118 million hectares of grassland. The diverse types of pasturelands feed many kinds of domestic animals in different seasons. Pasturelands constitute a quarter of the national total area, making China one of the countries with the largest area of pasturelands in the world.

Water Resources

China abounds in rivers, lakes and water resources.

Because most of the main rivers originate from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau with big falls, China has abundant waterpower resources, with total reserves of



◆ Nannun Town in Huzhou, Zhejiang, is typical of the regions of rivers and lakes in low-altitude southeast China





680 million kw, ranking first in the world. However, the waterpower resources are unevenly distributed, with 70 percent in southwest China. The Yangtze River system has the most waterpower resources, which account for nearly 40 percent of the national total, followed by the Yarlung Zangbo River system. The Yellow and Pearl river systems also abound in waterpower resources.

Forests The sixth national enumeration of forest resources (1999-2003) demonstrated that the total forest area was 175 million hectares, and the forest system has the most waterpower resources, which account for nearly 40 percent of the national total, followed by the Yarlung Zangbo River system. The Yellow and Pearl river systems also abound in waterpower resources.

According to the Statistical Communique on the 2004 National Economic and Social Development released by the National Bureau of Statistics in February 2005, the water resources per capita was 2,040 cubic meters in 2004, down 4 percent as compared with 2003. The annual average precipitation was 620 mm, down 2.8 percent. The 422 large reservoirs in China stored 175.8 billion cubic meters of water at the end of 2004, or 7 billion cubic meters more than that at the end of 2003. Total water consumption in 2004 was 550 billion cubic meters, up 3.4 percent over the previous year, of which, water consumption for domestic use rose by 2.2 percent; for industrial use, up 2.8 percent; and for agricultural use, up 3.8 percent. Per-capita water consumption was 423 cubic meters on average, up 3 percent. There were 79 cities throughout China facing the shortage of water. Some 23.4 million people and 13 million large domestic animals experienced temporary difficulty in access to drinking water.

Fauna and Flora Resources

China is one of the countries in the world having the most species of wild animals, with the number of terrestrial vertebrates alone exceeding 2,000, accounting for 9.8 percent of the world's total. Of this, birds make up the largest proportion, followed by beasts. Bird species so far discovered total 1,189; beasts,



◆ *Siberian tiger is currently under intensified protection in China, amid rising public awareness of wildlife preservation*

500; amphibians, 210; and reptiles, 320.

Plant species are abundant. There are more than 30,000 kinds of woody plants, of which the number of arbor species exceeds 2,800. China has almost all kinds of vegetation found in the Northern Hemisphere. Various kinds of forests are distributed in the humid east, while in the cold north are deciduous coniferous forests, and in the warm south, broad-leaved deciduous forests. Compared with those elsewhere around the world, subtropical forests in China cover the largest area, where grow small tracts of surviving ancient plants, such as metasequoia, *Cathaya argyrophylla* and ginkgo, which are regarded as “living fossils” and have disappeared in other parts of the world. The southernmost part of China has tropical semi-evergreen monsoon forests, rain forests and mangroves.





Mineral Resources

China has abundant mineral resources. A total of 171 kinds of minerals have so far been discovered, of which 158 have proven reserves. These include 10 kinds of energy mineral resources such as petroleum, natural gas, coal and uranium; 54 kinds of metallic mineral resources such as iron, manganese, copper, aluminum, lead and zinc; 91 kinds of nonmetallic mineral resources such as graphite, phosphorus, sulfur and sylvine; and three kinds of water and gas mineral resources such as underground water and mineral water. Currently, the supply of over 92 percent of China's primary energy, 80 percent of its industrial raw materials and more than 70 percent of its agricultural means of production come from mineral resources.

National land and resources surveys and geological explorations discovered a total of 205 new mineral deposits in large or medium size, including 24 energy mineral deposits, 66 metal mines, 113 nonmetal mines and two water or gas minerals deposits. Increased reserves were found for 56 minerals, including 1.1 billion tons of crude oil, 380.2 billion cubic meters of natural gas and 9.65 billion tons of coal.

Marine Resources

China boasts abundant marine resources. Scattered in the offshore waters are sedimentation basins, with a total area of nearly 700,000 square km, estimated to contain about 24 billion tons of oil reserves and 14 trillion cubic meters of natural gas. Fishing grounds in China's territorial seas cover 2.8 million square km. There are 2.6 million hectares of shallow seas, with a depth of 20 meters or below, suitable for aquaculture, of which 710,000 hectares have already been used for this purpose. Of the 2.42 million hectares of tidal lands suitable for aquaculture, 550,000 hectares have been used for the purpose. China has obtained an exclusive exploration and development area of 75,000 square km, rich