

**The Largest Water Control  
Project in the World**

# THREE GORGES PROJECT IN CHINA



CHANGJIANG PRESS

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责任编辑: 高 伟

装帧设计: 朱红霞

摄 影: 卢 进 黄正平 王连生  
杨铁军 闫 伟 肖佳法  
徐 洪

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# Three Gorges Project in China

Chief editor: Lu Jin

CHANGJIANG PRESS



## Dream is Coming True (Preface)

Originating from the southwest side of Geladandong Snow Mountain, the highest peak of the Tangula Mountains on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau (known as the "Top of the world"), the Yangtze River converges hundreds of rivers, streams and creeks flowing through 11 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in China, the Yangtze River is 6300km in full length with a catchment area of 1,800,000km<sup>2</sup>, accounting for one fifth of the total area in the country and people in this area create 40% of the wealth in the country. The Yangtze River is the largest river in China and the third largest river in the world.

The Yangtze River came into being about 200 million years ago. Like the Yellow River, it is both the cradle for the Chinese nation and the place Chinese ancient culture originated. With the advent of the new century, the Yangtze River exhibits energy, vitality, enthusiasm and glory everywhere, and stands in the east world with its charming posture and grand air. The Chinese people are accomplishing a grand project in the Three Gorges on the Yangtze River, which provides robust power for the grand renaissance of the Chinese nation.

On June 1, 2003, the world-known Three Gorges Project began impounding water initially. Within a short time of 10 days, fundamental changes took place to the whole Three Gorges, turning it into a huge man-made lake in the world. On June 16, the dual-channel and five-step permanent ship lock for the Three Gorges Project was put into trial navigation. In June, the first generating units of the Three Gorges Project started to generate power and connected into power grid, indicating that the Three Gorges Project had entered its initial harvest period through extensive efforts in the past decade.

The Three Gorges Project has taken 70 years for conception, 50 years for research and 30 years for demonstration. The dream is eventually coming true! It is 86 years since the initiation of the Three Gorges Project dream by Sun Yat-sen in 1919. In near a century, the Three Gorges Project has attracted extensive attention from so many important figures, triggered extensive demonstration and left a lot of touching stories. The Three Gorges Project changes the grand Three Gorges, the masterpiece of nature, and reservoir impoundment raises its water level to EL.175m, thus

creating a huge reservoir with a storage capacity of 39.3 billion cubic meters.

Undoubtedly, we now have a clear picture in mind about the great expectation the Three Gorges Project brings for the Chinese nation! Indeed, the Chinese people have long dreamed of the Three Gorges Project! Faced with frequent occurrence of floodhazards in China, we cannot depend on countless civil people and military forces to resist rampant flood with their bodies year after year. When China is in urgent need of energy sources for her renaissance today, we cannot bear to see the substantial potential energy contained by the Yangtze River flow away without being used. At a historic moment when the development of West China and Yangtze River Economic Belt decides China's future destiny, we cannot bear to see the Yangtze River waterway that cuts through Central China and West China slow down her pace just because of natural obstructions at the Three Gorges. This is why the Chinese people have dreamed of the Three Gorges Project for a century and eventually turned this dream into reality. Witnessing the dramatic changes to the Three Gorges on the Yangtze River, it is our obligatory duty to record these great events in these albums.

The Chinese people have dreamed of the Three Gorges Project for a century but when this dream comes true eventually, the lovely homestead we have long lived in has become our by-gone dream. It is really a pity that nothing in the world is satisfactory in every aspect. Faced with today's mirror-like lake in the Three Gorges, we should feel sufficiently comfortable and satisfied that the Three Gorges has promoted her grandeur and vastness though she has lost some primitive tranquility and profundity. What's the most important, the construction of the Three Gorges Project has created a full range of new modern towns in the Three Gorges Reservoir region and enabled Three Gorges residents to get integrated into modern living at least half a century ahead of time. In addition, this has created robust power for China to accomplish her renaissance. Let's express our benediction to the Three Gorges, to Three Gorges people and to the constructors of the Three Gorges Project! Just remember: we cannot have today's Three Gorges without them!





■ Three Gorges Project on the Yangtze River



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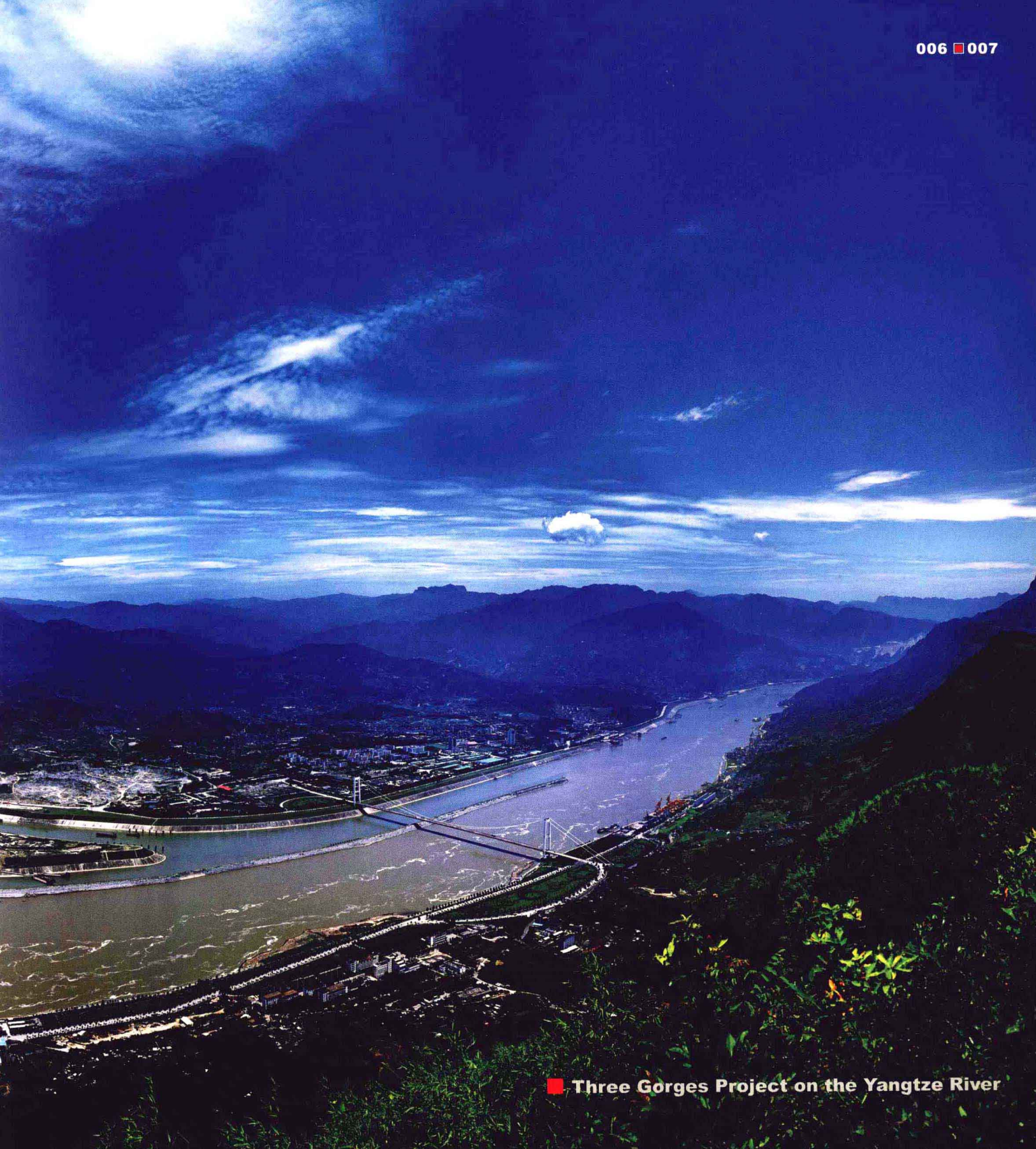
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Panoramic View of the Three Gorges Project





■ Three Gorges Project on the Yangtze River





Three Gorges Dam Flood Discharging





■ Three Gorges Project on the Yangtze River





Cut through Wushan





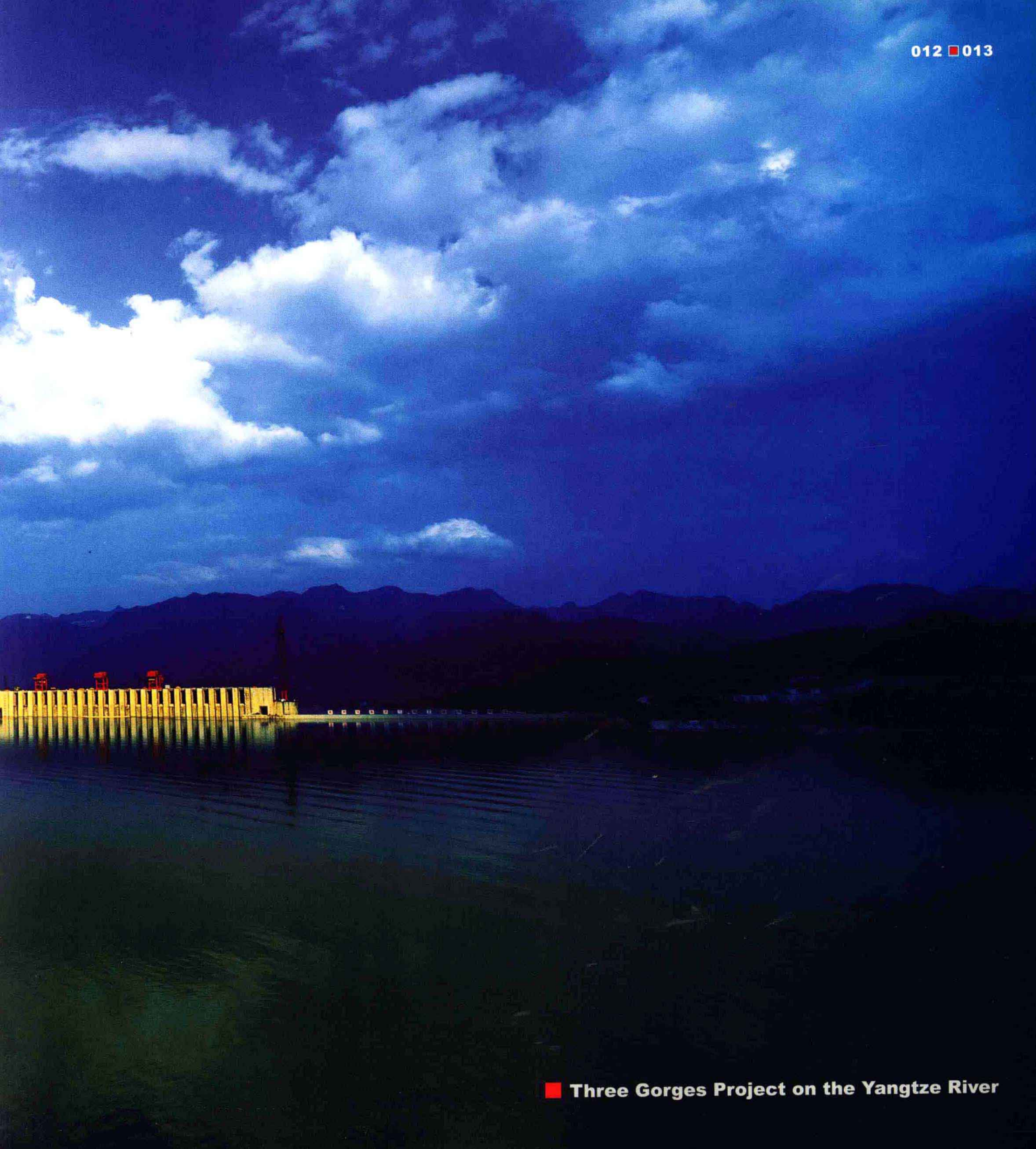
■ Three Gorges Project on the Yangtze River





Mirror- like Lake in Deep Valleys













■ Three Gorges Project on the Yangtze River