

XI. Resources and Environment Protection

New progress was made in the exploration of mineral resources. In 2004, some 16 new mineral deposits were discovered through national land and resources surveys and geological surveys. Increased reserves were found for 11 minerals, including 97.7 thousand tons of pencil lead and zinc and 936 thousand tons of coal. The geology park was included in the first world geology parks. The prevention and cure of geology disaster acquired effects and 34 geology disasters were forecasted successfully.

Water resource remained stable. In 2004, the water resource on per capita basis was 2,760 cubic meters , increased by 2.2 percent as compared with 2003. The annual average precipitation was 1425 millimeters, increased by 9.6 percent. The large reservoirs in China hold 12.1 billion cubic meters of water at the end of 2004.

The tendency of the shrinking of cultivated land tended to become slow. The year 2004 saw a net reduction of 17,263 hectares of cultivated land. Of which, 16,981.23 hectares were converted for ecological preservation, 454.47 hectares were destroyed by disasters, 1,112.49 hectares were turned to other uses due to the structural adjustment in the agriculture production and another 246.92 hectares turned to other uses due to the other reasons. In 2004, a total of 4,161.69 hectares of cultivated land were used for construction purpose, land reclamation and re-development projects restored 5,694.2 hectares of farmland, the cultivated land used for construction purpose realized the balance of occupied and suppling.

The environment protection was enhanced, and the environment quality was further improved. In 2004,180 smoke/dust control zones were finished, covering an area of 1,174.4 square kilometers, increased by 4.6 percent; and 166 of zones where the noise pollution was controlled within the standard were finished, covering an area of 723.1 square kilometers, increased by 3.4 percent. A batch of programs of urban environment infrastructure including clean fuel, sewage treatment and refuse disposal were began construction. The all-round monitoring of the rivers, lakes, air and serious pollution area were reinforced continuously. In urban areas, 38.1 percent of waste water was put under centralized processing systems, up by 11.1 percentage points as compared with 2003; 32.5 percent of solid waste from daily life was processed under nontoxic programs, up by 8.3 percentage points as compared with 2003.

Steady progress was made in ecologic environment construction. In 2004, the total afforested area was 333.7 thousand hectares, of which, 162 thousand hectares were acquired due to the ecological preservation. By the end of 2004, HUNAN had approved the establishment of 84 natural reserves, of which, 8 national natural reserves and 34 province natural reserves. The area of natural reserves totaled 1,049 thousand hectares, up by 5.4 percent. The forest coverage ratio reached 54.3 percent, up by 1.2 percentage points higher over the previous year.

XII. Population, People's Life and Social Security System

According to the sampling survey, at the end of 2004, the total population of Hunan was 66.98 million, and had an increase of 349 thousand. Of which, 23.78 million people lived in cities and towns and 44.20 million people lived in rural areas. A crude birth rate was 11.89per thousand, up by 0.07per-thousand-points; the crude death rate was 6.80 per thousand; the natural growth rate was 5.09 per thousand, or 0.14 per-thousand-points higher than that