

Overview of Fujian

Lying in the southeastern coast of China and bordering Zhejiang Province, Jiangxi Province and Guangdong Province, Fujian is facing Taiwan across the Straits and one of the closest mainland provinces to Southeast Asia and Oceania, as well as an important window and base of China for global exchanges. Boasting a long history, Fujian was called the Region of Minyue during the Spring and Autumn Period and the Prefecture of Min-Zhong during Qing Dynasty. In the middle of Tang Dynasty, the post of Fujian Military Commissioner was established, and the province was hereafter called Fujian. The brief name of Fujian, "Min", is derived from Min River, the greatest river within the province. Covering a land area of 121,400 square kilometers and a sea area of 136,000 square kilometers, Fujian governs Fuzhou, Xiamen, Quanzhou, Zhangzhou, Putian, Longyan, Sanming, Nanping and Ningde (nine municipal cities), as well as 85 subordinated counties, cities and districts (including Jinmen County). By the end of 2005, the total population of Fujian reached 35,350,000 (exclusive of Jinmen and Mazu). As one of the earliest provinces opening to the outside world, Fujian has launched 12 national development zones and special economic zones, bringing about an all-round opening-up configuration. The people of Fujian are famed for their diligence, courage, industry and hospitality. This mountainous province is also renowned for the tradition of starting career in overseas countries, which makes it a famous hometown of overseas Chinese.

Geography & Climate

Located in the subtropical zone, Fujian has a moderate climate and is abundant rainfall. The mean temperature of 2004 was 15.3-21.9°C, and the average rainfall was 930- 1843mm, making it one of those provinces with the greatest rainfall.

Located at latitude 23°31'- 28°18' north, Fujian is close to the Tropic of Cancer, which grants Fujian the typical subtropical climate. Fujian can be divided into Central Asia tropical zone and South Asia tropical zone demarcated by the line connecting Fuzhou, Fuqing, Yongchun, Zhangping and Shanghang. The primary characteristics include: 1) Monsoon climate. The change of climate and four seasons follows the monsoon circulation. 2) Short winter and long summer, abundant thermal resources. The duration of frost-free period is between 250-336 days, and 300 days or more in some regions. This figure is fully comparable to that of Guangdong Province, Guangxi Province and Taiwan, offering Fujian a superior climatic condition. 3) Warm winter and great temperature difference between south and north; cool summer and small temperature difference between south and north; 4) Clearly demarcated rainy season and dry season, with sufficient water resources; 5) Complicated landforms, bringing about diversified climates; 6) Frequent natural disasters: flood, drought, windstorm and frost. The flood mainly refers to rainfall flood and typhoon flood, while the windstorm consists of typhoon, gale and cold air, all bringing about coastal strong wind and intense convective climate. As for drought, there are spring drought, summer drought, autumn drought and winter drought, while the frost can also be divided into late frost, May frost, early frost and deep winter frost.

Natural Resources

Mineral resources

Under the complex geological structure, there are 118 kinds of mineral resources of which the reserves have been proved, including 2 energy mineral resources (blind coal and terrestrial heat), 31 metallic minerals, 82 non-metallic minerals and 1 aqueous mineral resources. There are also extensive reserves of gold, silver, lead, zinc, manganese, kaolin, cement rock, granite, alunite, pyrophyllite and sulfur etc. The reserve volume of limestone hits 700 million tons, which can be used for manufacturing cement for 200 years. The reserve volume of Shoushan Stone ranks top in China, while that of kaolin ranks third. Both the reserve volume and the quality of quartz sand rank top in the country.

Maritime resources

Boasting a large sea area, Fujian has a coastline extending more than 3,300 kilometers, 1400 large and small islands and 22 large harbors capable of building 10,000-ton deepwater berths. The maritime domain of Fujian is a transitional sea area between East China Sea and South China Sea, and is the shallow sea of subtropical continental shelf with the convergence of cold and warm currents and injection of extensive fresh water. The fertile water quality brings about extensive floating organism and abundant aquatic resources. The total area of available offshore fishing grounds reaches 125,000 square kilometers, in which the total area for breeding of seashell, alga and marine products hits 2,700 square kilometers. With more than 500 fish stocks, Fujian is one of China's major fishery regions.

Water resources

Rich in water resources, Fujian boasts its densely covered streams. There are 29 water systems and 663 rivers, while the total length of inland rivers hits 13,569 kilometers. Its river density ranks top in China. The theoretic waterpower reserve amounts to 10,460,000 KW, with a possible installed capacity of 7,050,000 KW, ranking top in East China.

Forest resources

Fujian is one of four major forest regions of China. With abundant forest resources, its forest coverage reaches 6,667,000 hectares, and the total wooded area hits 6,000,000 hectares. The timber reserve amounts to 0.4 billion cubic meters, with timber output ranking top 3 in China. The forest cover rate of 62.9% also ranks first in China. Abounding with tree resources, there are 1,943 species of wood plants, 400 species of timber trees and 140 species of bamboos. Besides providing extensive logs, they are also widely applied in the industry.

Administrative Regions

1. Fuzhou

Fuzhou, also known as the City of Banyan, is the capital city of Fujian Province, as well as the provincial center of politics, economy, science & technology, education and culture. Lying in the southeastern coast of Fujian and lower reaches of Min River, Fuzhou is located at longitude 110°08'-120°31' east and latitude 25°02'- 26°29' north. The total area of Fuzhou amounts to 12,000 square kilometers, in which the urban area reaches 1043 square kilometers and the built-up area reaches 160 square kilometers. The total population hits 6,600,000, including an urban population of 2,430,000. With a coastline extending 1,137 kilometers and a maritime domain amounting to 12,000 square kilometers, Fuzhou is facing Taiwan across the Straits, while Pingtan Island is only 68 sea miles from Hsinchu, Taiwan and Huangqi Peninsula of Lianjiang County is only 8,000 meters from Matsu. Fuzhou now governs 5 districts (Gulou, Taijiang, Cangshan, Jinan and Mawei), 2 subordinated cities (Fuqing and Changle), 6 counties (Minhou, Lianjiang, Luoyuan, Minqing, Yongtai and Pingtan) and Langqi Economic Zone.

2. Xiamen

Xiamen is located at latitude 24°25'- 24°55' north and longitude 117°53'- 118°27' east. Situated in the southeast of Fujian and at the mouth of Jiulong River, it is bordering the flatland of Zhangzhou and Quanzhou and facing Jinmen Islands, Taiwan and Pescadores across the Taiwan Strait. Covering a land area of 1565.09 square kilometers and a maritime domain of 300 square kilometers, the city consists of Xiamen Island, Gulang Island, Tongan and coastal regions along the north shore of Jiulong River. As the principal part of Xiamen, Xiamen Island is 13.7 kilometers long from south to north and 12.5 kilometers wide from east to west. Covering a total area of 128.14 square kilometers, Xiamen Island is the fourth largest island in Fujian.

Xiamen governs Siming, Huli, Jimei, Haicang, Tongan and Xiang'an. The urban population mainly consists of the Han nationality, as well as over 20 minority nationalities as Hui, Man, Zhuang, She, Miao and Gao-Shan. Owing to its geographical location and historical background, there are extensive returned overseas Chinese, relatives of overseas Chinese, native overseas Chinese and compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

3. Quanzhou

Located in the southeastern Coast of Fujian, Quanzhou is sited at latitude 24°22'-25°56' north and longitude 117°34'- 119°05' east, and covers an area of 11,220.5 square kilometers. With a total population of 6,546,200, Quanzhou governs 4 districts (Licheng, Fengze, Luojiang and Quangan), 3 subordinated cities (Shishi, Jinjiang and Nan'an) and 5 counties (Huian, Anxi, Yongchun, Dehua and Jinmen), where Min-nan (South Fujian) dialect is the native language.

Quanzhou is the starting-point of "Maritime Silk Road", as well as one of the first batch of 24 historical cities listed by the State Council. As early as in Tang Dynasty, the Ci-Tong Port of Quanzhou was one of major four foreign trade ports of China, and it was as well known as the Alexandria Port of Egypt and praised as the Grand Oriental Port during the Song Dynasty and the

Yuan Dynasty. The city is also known as a famous hometown of numerous overseas Chinese and Taiwan compatriots. Currently, there are more than 6 million overseas Chinese of Quanzhou origin dispersed over 100 countries and regions, as well as 680,000 Hong Kong and Macao compatriots. Among all Taiwan compatriots, there are 9 million compatriots (44.8%) with Quanzhou origin, and it has always been a tradition of numerous overseas Chinese and Taiwan compatriots of Quanzhou origin to assist the development and construction of Quzhou City.

4. Zhangzhou

Located in the southeast of Fujian and at longitude 117°-118°east and latitude 23.8°-25°north, Zhangzhou is close to Taiwan Straits and facing Xiamen across the sea. It borders Quanzhou to the east, Longyan to the northwest and Shantou of Guangzhou to the southwest. Covering a total area of 12,600 square kilometers, Zhangzhou governs eight counties (Zhangpu, Yuxiao, Dongshan, Zhaoan, Pinghe, Nanjing, Huaan, Changtai and Longhai City) and two district (Xiangcheng and Longwen). The total population amounts to 4,500,000, most of which are of the Han nationality, as well as 21 minority nationalities as She and Gao-Shan. Being a famous hometown of overseas Chinese, there are 700,000 overseas Chinese and Hong Kong & Macao compatriots.

Zhangzhou is a famous time-honored cultural city listed by the State Council. Also known as a emerging industrial city, Quanzhou has developed its light industry system relying on brand-name, high-quality and specialty products and based on rural enterprises. Being advanced in agriculture, Quanzhou is approved by the State Council as the national export-oriented agricultural demonstration zone and Cross-Strait (Zhangzhou) agricultural cooperation experimental zone, boasting Taiwan-oriented agriculture, high-quality agriculture and export-oriented agriculture.

5. Putian

Putian, also known as "Xing-Hua", is located in the eastern coast of Fujian and at latitude 24°59'-25°46' north and longitude 118°27'-119°40' east. Covering a area of 4,060.4 square kilometers, Putian borders Taiwan Strait to the east, Quanzhou to the west and to the south and Fuzhou to the north. There are jagged mountains in the northwest and chains of undulating hills in the middle, while the broad plains in the southeast and the meandering Mulan River, Yanshou River and Qiulu River also help constitute the typical Southern Chinese river-side scenery.

Administrative division: Putian was called Xin-Hua and Xin-An in ancient times, and has always been an important political, economic and cultural center in Middle Fujian. The city now governs Xianyou County, Licheng District, Chengxiang District, Hanjiang District and Xiuyu District, with a land area covering 4,200 square kilometers and total population amounting to 3,230,000. There are more than 600,000 overseas Chinese, foreign citizens of Chinese origin, and Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan compatriots with Putian origin. Among them, there are 470,000 overseas Chinese and foreign citizens of Chinese origin, making Putian one of major hometowns of overseas Chinese in Fujian.

6. Ningde

Located at longitude 118°32'- 120°44' east and latitude 26°18'- 27°4' north, Ningde borders

Fuzhou to the south, Zhejiang to the north, Nanping to the west and Taiwan Strait to the east. The region now governs three cities (Ningde, Fu'an and Fuding) and six counties (Xiapu, Zherong, Shouning, Gutian, Pingnan and Zhouning). Covering a land area of 13,400 square kilometers and a sea area of 44,600 square kilometers, Ningde has a total population of 3,235,700, among which the population of She Nationality amounts to 200,000 (accounting for 40% of the national population of She Nationality). The native language is Min-Dong (East Fujian) dialect, while Min-Nan (South Fujian) dialect is also spoken in some coastal regions and Pu-Xian dialect in a few places. Furthermore, besides Min-Dong (East Fujian) dialect which is popular in some northern places, Wu dialect is spoken in North Shouning and Hakka dialect is spoken in Lanjian of Fu'an. The broad lands of Ningde bear commercial crops of wood, tea, fruit and bamboo, while such native products as tea, domestic fungus, four-season pomelo, Bin-Lang taro, late-ripened leeches, late-ripened longan, apple, seedless persimmon and hairy chestnut enjoy a good market at home and abroad. It is an ideal place for developing brand-name, high-quality and specialty agricultural by-products.

7. Sanming

Located in the northwest of Fujian Province and at latitude 25°29'- 27°07' north and longitude 116°22'- 118°39' east, the region of Sanming is 230 kilometers wide from east to west and 180 kilometers long from south to north, and borders Fuzhou to the east, Quanzhou to the south, Longyan to the west, Nanping to the north and Jiangxi to the northwest. Covering an area of 22,928.8 square kilometers, in which mountainous regions account for 82%, farmlands account for 8.3% and water areas/others account for 9.7%, Sanming is therefore described as "80% mountain, 10% water and 10% farmland". The forest cover rate reaches 73.8%, while the mean annual temperature is 19.4℃. Featuring central Asia tropical climate, Sanming is long in summer and short in winter, and is a ideal tourist resort all the year round. Sanming now governs two districts (Meilie and Sanyuan) and nine counties (Yongan City, Mingxi, Qingliu, Ninghua, Datian, Youxi, Shaxian, Jiangle, Taining and Jianning), and has a total population of 2,667,200. The Min-Zhong (Central Fujian) dialect is the native language of Sanming (municipality), Yong'an and Shaxian, while Min-Nan (South Fujian) dialect is spoken in Youxi and Datian, Min-Xi (West Fujian) dialect is spoken in Ninghua and Qingliu, and Min-Gan (Fujian and Jiangxi) dialect is spoken in Jianning, Taining, Jiangle and Mingxi.

8. Longyan

Located in the southwest of Fujian (generally called West Fujian), Longyan borders on Guangdong Province and Jiangxi Province, and is sited at latitude 24°23'- 26°02' north and longitude 115°51'- 117°44' east. The Min-Nan (South Fujian) dialect is the native language of Longyan and Zhangping, while Hakka dialect is popular among all other regions. Longyan governs Xinluo District, Zhangping City, Yongding County, Shanghang County, Wuping County, Changting County and Liancheng County. With a total urban area of 19,100 square kilometers and a population of 2,865,100, Longyan also has approximate 1 million overseas Chinese and Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macao compatriots.

The West Fujian is a renowned revolutionary base area. There are totally 610 revolutionary base

villages and 23,600 martyrs, accounting for more than 50% of the total number of revolutionary martyrs of Fujian. During 1955-1965, the number of newly-promoted generals with Jiangxi origin hit 68, accounting for 82% of total number of generals from Fujian. The long-term revolution had brought up the tradition of diligent and hard-working, the habit of simple and plain living and the revolutionary spirit of intrepidity and utter devotion, which are regarded as the precious advantages for opening up and developing the regional economy of West Fujian.

9. Nanping

Located in the north of Fujian and on the southeast side of the north segment of Wuyi Mount, Nanping lies on the borders of Fujian, Zhejiang and Jiangxi, which is called "North Fujian", and is situated at latitude 26°15'-28°19' north and longitude 117°00'- 119°17' east. Covering an area of 26,280.6 square kilometers, it is the biggest municipality in Fujian. With a total population of 3,040,800, Nanping governs Yanping District, Shaowu City, Wuyishan City, Jian'ou City and Jianyang City, as well as five counties as Shunchang, Pucheng, Guangze, Songxi and Zhenghe. The Min-Gan (Fujian and Jiangxi) dialect is the native language of Shaowu, Guangze, Shunchang, while Wu dialect is popular in Pucheng and Min-Dong (East Fujian) dialect is popular in Nanping (this dialect is the official dialect in North Fujian). The Min-Bei (North Fujian) dialect is spoken in all other places.

As a major grain-producing area of Fujian, 8 out of 10 counties (cities) under the jurisdiction of Nanping are national or provincial marketable grain producing base counties. The annual output of marketable grain accounts for 1/3 of the total output of Fujian. Also known as one of major forest regions of South China, Nanping is also famed as "Green Treasury". With a forest cover rate of 68.3%, Nanping accounts for 30% of the total timber reserves of Fujian. Meanwhile, the North Fujian is also a major bamboo production area, while Jian'ou and Shunchang are both listed among the top ten hometowns of bamboo in China.

Industrial Economy

Agriculture

The gross output of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery industry hit 131.728 billion in 2005, an increase of 5.1% over the previous year. It is the greatest growth rate within the last five years. The output value of nine major products, namely livestock, aquatic product, vegetable, fruit, domestic fungus, tea, flower and cured tobacco, accounts for 77% of the total value of agricultural production. The agricultural cooperation between Fujian and Taiwan features distinctive effects. Enjoying a good growth potential, the export value of agricultural products in Fujian reaches USD 2.6 billion, in which the revenue in foreign exchange created from the exportation of spitchcock, canned food, orange, domestic fungus and egg ranks first in China, tea ranks second, vegetable ranks third and aquatic product ranks fifth.

Forestry

The strategic decision of constructing the "green west coast of the Taiwan Straits" has been proposed on the provincial forestry working conference. The forestry production has witnessed steady development in 2005. The total area of afforestation & reforestation all the year around hit 69,600 hectares, in which the afforestation area reached 17,900 hectares and the reforestation area reached 51,700 hectares. Among those afforestation & reforestation areas, the proportion of private sectors has grown from 40.9% of the previous year to 52.8%. The forest cover rate of the entire province accounts for 62.96%, while the total output of merchantable timbers reaches 5,823,400 cubic meters, a growth rate of 12.3%.

Industry

The industrial production, continuing its rapid growth, is able to provide breakthroughs in stimulating the growth of national economy. In 2005, the gross industrial output value of Fujian reached RMB 1,000.1 billion (an increase of 16.2% over the previous year), while the industrial added value hit RMB 279.8 billion (an increase of 13.5%). The added value of three leading industry of Fujian, namely electronics, petrol-chemical and machinery, hit RMB 78 billion in 2005 (an increase of 15.2%), while that of traditional advantageous industries as knitting, metallurgy and construction material reached RMB 45 billion (an increase of 26.3%). The growth of power production has provided strong guarantee for the industrial development. The power output has increased 18%, while the power consumption has also increased 14%, in which the industrial power consumption increased 14%.

Aquaculture

In 2005, the gross output of fishery economy in Fujian hit RMB 86.566 billion, featuring an increase of 10.56% over the previous year and accounting for 31.35% of the total agricultural output of Fujian. The added value of fishery economy reached RMB 48.384 billion, featuring an increase of 9.66% and accounting for 7.99% of the provincial GDP. The total output of aquatic products reached 5,912,100 tons (an increase of 3.22%), while the per capita consumption of aquatic products hit 168.39 kilograms (a growth of 2.45% over the previous year). The foreign exchange revenue created from the exportation of aquatic products hit USD 0.85 billion (an increase of 57.7%), and the output value of aquatic product processing reached RMB 16.198 billion, an increase of 21.22%.

Communications and Transportation

Land Transportation

By the end of "The Tenth Five Year Plan", the length of highways opened to traffic in Fujian reached 58,286 kilometers (including 7,829 km of second-class highways), while the highway density hit 48.01 kilometers per 100 square kilometers. The expressway network and provincial-level trunk highway network have begun to take shape. All municipal cities are interconnected by expressways, allowing the formation of "4-hour traffic economic circle" from

municipal cities to the capital city.

Water Transportation

The coastline of Fujian extends 3,324 kilometers, accounting for 18.3% of that of China and coming second in the country. From north to south, there are Shacheng Port, Sanduao Port, Kemen Port, Mawei Port, Jiangyin Port, Meizhou Port, Quanzhou Port, Xiamen Port and Zhangzhou Port. The total length of inland navigation fairways reaches 3,955 kilometers, while the total number of quay berths within Fujian hit 485, including 58 10,000-ton level deepwater berths and boasting an annual handling capacity of approximate 100 million tons. Listed as one of ten major container ports of China, Xiamen Port has launched 36 international regular lines reaching more than 70 ports in the world, and has established business relationships with over 200 countries and regions. A trial direct line has also been launched between Fuzhou Port, Xiamen Port and Kaohsiung Port, allowing direct exchanges between costal regions of Fujian and Jinmen & Mazu.

Air Transportation

Currently, there are five airports in Fujian, namely Xiamen Gaoqi International Airport, Fuzhou Changle International Airport, Quanzhou Jinjiang Airport, Nanping Wuyishan Airport and Liancheng Airport, constituting an integrative airport system.

Railway Transportation

The total length of railways in Fujian reaches 1,565 kilometers, including Yingtian-Xiamen Railway, Hengfeng-Nanping Railway, Meizhou-Kanshi Railway and Ganzhou-Longyan Railway. These four major railways have been linked with the national railway network, and will increase to seven railways.