

4. Ports

Ports at Beihai and Fangcheng are under expansion. The port of Beihai has five deepwater docks over the 10,000-metric ton level; the port of Fangcheng has eight such docks, being one of the four largest ports in South China. Both ports have established economic relations and trade ties with nearly 100 countries and regions, and both have major expansion projects underway.

Construction of the Three Gorges Dam will alter the shipping patterns of the Upper Yangtze, and Guangxi's ports have been designated for major expansion so that they can handle diverted cargo traffic from the southwest provinces of Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan.

5. Agricultural resources

Guangxi has 2.613 million hectares of cultivated land, paddy fields and dry land, with 0.46 million additional hectares of uncultivated land suitable for farming. The region has over 800 kinds of agricultural and forestry products, native produce and specialties. These include sugar cane, shatian pomelo, star aniseed, star aniseed oil, Lohanguo fruits, gum resin, banana, pineapple, rubber and shellac, lychee and longan. Dole (USA) is the major foreign investor in this sector.

6. Ocean resources

The provincial coastline equals 1,959 km, with 0.19 million hectares of coastal sea beach. The region produces pearls, shrimp/shellfish, oysters and other rare aquatic products, with over 500 varieties of ocean fish. Pearl fishing is a major industry, with South Sea Pearls an important export item.

7. Petroleum

There are rich offshore deposits containing natural gas and petroleum oil in Beibu Gulf. To date, China National Offshore Oil Corporation has signed 25

contracts with 31 oil companies vying for exploration rights in this area.

8. Water energy resources

There are 937 small-to-large rivers with rainfall catchment area of approximately 50 square kilometres. The main rivers are the Li and the Pearl.

9. Tourism resources

The tourism zones opened to the public are Guilin (including the tourism spots of Yangshuo, Xingan and Longsheng); Liuzhou (including Rongshui, Jinxiu and Sanjiang); Nanning (including Wuming, Longan, Congzuo and Ningming); the southeastern part of Guangxi (including Wuzhou, Guiping, Yulin, Luchuan, Beiliu and Rong county); Binhai (the city of Beihai).

CANADA-GUANGXI TRADE LINKS

Guangxi is one of China's fastest growing areas and a gateway to South East Asia by sea and land. It has extensive trade and investment ties to Asian countries and there could also be many significant opportunities for Canadian businesses. The province possesses considerable natural resources and could benefit from Canadian technology and expertise. The massive infrastructure program currently being undertaken in the province provides considerable opportunities for Canadian architectural, engineering, communications and transportation firms.

Guangxi's most pressing development obstacle is a shortage of capital. As one of China's less developed provinces, it has benefitted from World Bank, Asia Development Bank and Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) funding in the past, and is trying hard to maximize its capabilities. OECF funding was recently earmarked for environmental projects centred in Liuzhou.