



through Shenzhen totaled 73.2902 million, accounting for 53.3% of the gross national number, and that of vehicles was 8.8263 million, accounting for 81.3% of the national total.

Shenzhen has built a three-dimensional transportation network, with roads, expressways, railways and quasi super-speed railways stretching out in all directions. The Beijing-Guangzhou Railway and Beijing-Kowloon Railway, the two main trunk railways in China, intersect in Shenzhen. Also, a connected cargo transportation network reaching Hong Kong and other 18 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions has been established. At present, there are 8 harbours, 12 cargo docks and about 30 shipping lines, which lead to over 10 countries and regions such as Hong Kong, Macau, Japan, Europe, North America, and Australia. The business turnover of containers handled in 1997 totaled 1.148 million TEUs, ranking second in China. Equipped with advanced post and telecommunications facilities, Shenzhen now provides direct-dial telephone services to over 200 international cities and 2000 domestic cities and towns. Shenzhen has sufficient water and power supply, with daily water supply of 3.282 million tons and installed generating capacity of 3000 MW, fulfilling the household and production requirements.

Living Conditions

As a coastal city, Shenzhen enjoys a beautiful landscape and an agreeable climate. Scenic spots such as Splendid China, the Chinese Folk Culture Village, the Window of the World, the Safari Park, the Botanical Garden and the Bathing Beach attract an increasing number of visitors from home and abroad. Shenzhen has seven golf courses of international standards that have held many national and international tournaments. There are 85 star-level hotels in Shenzhen, including 6 five-star hotels and 4 four-star hotels. Over 2000 restaurants, both of Chinese and Western style, are located in Shenzhen.



The 1998 Signing Ceremony between B.C. and Guangdong



A modern port

Visa exemptions are given by the Chinese government to foreigners from Hong Kong who can stay 72 hours in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone (SSEZ). In 1997, Shenzhen hosted 14.57 million tourists, among which overnight foreign visitors totaled 2.215 million. Shenzhen has a very active and comprehensive commodities market, including department stores, supermarkets, franchised shops, duty-free stores, special markets and wholesale centres. Both Walmart, the world's largest retailer, and Carrefour, Europe's largest retailer, have joined Shenzhen's retailing business. In 1997, the retail sales volume of Shenzhen reached USD 3.922 billion.

This city enjoys a well-protected ecological environment, with vegetation coverage of 44.1%. Shenzhen is aiming to become a garden city and has been named one of the four Model Cities of Environmental Protection in China.

Foreign Investment

Shenzhen's favourable investment environment has drawn the attention of a wide variety of foreign investors. By the end of 1997, investors from 63 countries and regions had undertaken 20,135 projects, with contractual foreign funds of USD 24.863 billion and actual utilized foreign funds of USD 14.74 billion. Of these projects, 15,173 were foreign direct investment (FDI) projects with utilized foreign funds of USD 10.374 billion and contractual foreign funds of USD 23.184 billion.

Among the FDI projects, 18 projects exceeded USD 100 million each, 100 projects were over USD 30 million, and 637 projects were over USD 10 million each. Fifty-one out of the 500 largest foreign investors