

passenger and cargo flights. Foreign international airlines flying into Taiwan include Canadian Airlines International, Thai International Airways, Cathay Pacific Airways, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Malaysian Airlines System, Singapore Airlines, Northwest Orient Airlines, Korean Airlines, Philippines Airlines, Japan Asia Airways, Flying Tigers Lines, Cargolux, South African Airways, and United. Taiwanese civil aircraft carried 3,219 million ton-kilometre of freight in 1988, almost all on international routes. Chiang Kai-shek International Airport is expected to handle up to 500,000 tons of freight per year in the near future.

## **RAILWAYS**

In 1988, Taiwan had 4,600 kilometres of railway track which is entirely state owned. The network was completely electrified in 1979. Railroads are the backbone of Taiwan's transportation system. Three agencies operate Taiwan's railway services--the Taiwan Railway Administration (TRA), the state-run Taiwan Sugar Corporation and the Taiwan Forestry Bureau. The TRA operates both passenger and freight services for the general public; the other agencies ship their own products and offer only limited passenger service. Freight traffic on the railways has declined in recent years with the development of the road network.

## **HIGHWAYS**

During the mid 1970's, highways displaced the railroads as Taiwan's primary mode of transportation. Six extensive highway networks--the freeway, round-island, cross-island, inland, coastal, and connecting systems-- covering 19,886 kilometres, circle the island. Taiwan authorities continue to emphasize highway development and improvement. According to the *Economist*, there were 20,003 kilometres of road in 1988, of which 17,058 (85.3 percent) were paved. The highways carried 67.3 percent of total passenger-kilometres travelled in 1988, and 83.3 percent of freight traffic by ton-kilometres.