

TRADE ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Since the start of China's economic reforms in 1978, Fujian has experienced rapid export expansion, based primarily on agricultural production. By 1996, Fujian's exports had increased to Cdn\$ 14.3 billion (a 7% rise compared to 1995) and consisted primarily of canned and processed food products, textiles, electronics and handicrafts. Fujian is China's 5th largest exporting province, after Guangdong, Shanghai, Jiangsu and Shandong. **Foreign Invested Enterprises (FIE)** contributed over half the export figure (Cdn\$ 8.3 billion) and the Xiamen SEZ alone contributed Cdn\$ 5 billion.

Xiamen Special Economic Zone is Fujian's economic hub, and has been the primary focus of foreign investment. Over the past five years

Xiamen has utilized over Cdn\$ 9 billion of overseas investment. In 1997, Xiamen's imports and exports were the 4th largest among China's cities and per capita GDP in Xiamen reached RMB 26,841 (Cdn\$ 4,709). Fuzhou, Quanzhou, and Zhangzhou have all developed rapidly. Fuzhou has an international airport project planned and is expanding its large-scale port facilities, while significant investment is being undertaken to improve road and rail links to Quanzhou and Zhangzhou. Fujian's coastal ports handled a total of 2.8 million tons of cargo in 1996, including exports of Cdn\$ 930 million.

Xiamen SEZ

