



southeastern coast of China. At present, the traffic total highway coverage in the city is 1618 kilometres, with a density of 78.4 kilometres per hundred square kilometres. 176 passenger transportation lines have been opened and 3,400 coaches run daily to the main cities in south China, east China and southwest China. Freight transportation routes reach all parts of the country except Inner Mongolia and Tibet.

Shantou Airport, which is equipped for large planes such as Boeing 757 and Boeing 737 to takeoff and land on its 2,500-metre-long runway, has opened 40 flight routes to 38 domestic cities and 5 countries and regions, namely, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia. The total number of passengers in 1996 amounted to 2 million.

The telecommunications industry in Shantou, based on program-controlled telephones, has extensively developed with the introduction of mobile, digital, satellite, and microwave telecommunications. The Shantou-Guangzhou Information Highway has been established and a middle-scale satellite station has been set up. The international mail exchange station sends mail directly to 12 countries, and long distance calls reach over 2100 cities in China and more than 210 cities abroad. Many new telecommunication businesses such as audio-video meeting, e-mail and audible post boxes have rapidly developed. There are 42.69 telephones per every one hundred urban residents. By the end of August of 1998, the mobile subscribers of the city amounted to 200,000, with a popularity ratio of 13 %. According to 1996 statistics, among the 20 coastal cities of China, Shantou ranked fourth in telecommunication capability. Shantou's modern telecommunication system will develop rapidly when the submarine cable, which connects with 33 countries and regions from France in Europe to Japan in Asia, lands at the Shantou Telecommunications Station.

Infrastructure Construction

From 1991 to 1995, Shantou invested a total of RMB 12 billion in constructing infrastructure projects and facilities such as the Guangzhou-

Meizhou-Shantou Railway, the Gulf Bridge, the Shenzhen-Shantou Expressway, and the Huaneng Shantou Electric Power Plant. In 1996, RMB 4.4 billion was invested to improve the investment environment and the general appearance of the city.

From 1991 to 1995, it expanded the urban area to 90.4 square kilometres, roads to 472 kilometres, the water supply capacity to 720,000 cubic metres per day and the coverage rate of the green area to 31%. Public transportation in Shantou has developed into a multi-directional traffic network.

The real estate industry in Shantou has developed ever since 1984, with complex market activities including land sales, real estate transfer, intermediary services and property management. There are now 320 real estate enterprises in the city and the real estate market is developing steadily.

National Economy

Shantou's mainstay industry is light industry. Since 1996, the city has introduced 120 high-tech industries with high value-added output and intensive capital investment resulting in a total industrial output value of RMB 44 billion.

Excellent natural conditions and farmer intensive cultivation has kept the grain production of Shantou leading the whole country. In 1996, the grain output per mu was 1,196 kg. The culture of eels, shrimps, pearls, turtles, quality fruit and vegetables for export has resulted in an integrated system. There are 122 wholesale and specialized markets for agricultural products in the city with 11 towns with an annual output value over RMB one billion each, 64 villages and 13 enterprises with output value over RMB 100 million each.

By the end of 1996, there was 1,282 financial institutions in the whole city, including four branches of state-owned banks, one branch of a government bank and three branches of shareholding commercial banks; four branches of insurance companies, three trust companies, eight city credit banks, five securities institutions and five representative offices of foreign banks.

Introduction of Foreign Investment

Overseas Chaozhou-Shantou people are scattered in more than 40 countries and regions worldwide. A large number of them, approximately 10 million, live in the Southeast Asia, Hong Kong and Macau. Since the policy of reform and opening-up was initiated, they have played a very important role in the economic development of Shantou. Mr. Li Kasheng, a famous businessman from Hong Kong, has invested RMB 4.38 billion in Shantou. The



Shantou University