

SOME PROBLEMS ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN XIAMEN CITY

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ABSTRACT: Xiamen is an important coastal harbour and tourist city. Since the establishment of the Xiamen Special Economic Zone in 1980, great changes of developments in economy and urban construction have taken place. The comprehensive development is most important to Xiamen's future. Xiamen has favorable geographical location, high level of economy opening to the outside world and close relation with Xiamen—Zhangzhou—Guangzhou economic area. The Xiamen Special Economic Zone should play the role of central city in the south Fujian Province.

KEY WORDS: regional development, special economic zone, Xiamen City

I. IMPORTANT STRATEGIC POSITION

Xiamen is a city famous for its seaport scenery in the south of Fujian Province. In April 1984, the State Council decided to expand the scope of this special economic zone from the Huli Processing District (originally 22.5 square kilometres) to the whole island, including the Gulang Islet and its neighbouring waters, with a land area of 131 square kilometres and a population of nearly 360,000 (1988).

Xiamen should be considered neither as a general coastal city, nor as an isolated and narrow and small region; it should be recognized in the following four aspects:

Firstly, Xiamen City situated at an exceptionally advantageous geographical position is known as a principal gateway in the coastal city area of Southeast China. Xiamen lies between Shanghai and Guangzhou, only about 300—500 nautical miles away from Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hongkong, and 156 miles away from the port Gaoxiong, Taiwan Province. Xiamen will be the only one harbour characteristic of "pivotal role" among these southeast coastal ports such as Ningbo, Wenzhou, Fuzhou and Shantou.

Secondly, the Xiamen Special Economic Zone is one of the four special economic zones in China, characterized by specially socio-economic position to open to the outside world. Now this special economic zone has expanded to the whole island, covers an area of 131 square kilometres, belonging to one with the highest administrative levels. In the process of carrying out the policy of the partial free port, Xiamen has a strong attraction for those who are interested in it at home and abroad. Judging from the prospects of its development, Xiamen is possessed of increasingly potential superiority.

Thirdly, owing to its important strategic position, the Xiamen Special Economic Zone will become an international trading port and tourist spot in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Ocean Region. Xiamen City is surrounded by the sea, since the completion of the Gaoqi-Jimei Sea Wall in October 1956, it has been linked up with the continent. Xiamen is located on the east side of the outlet of the Jiulong River, with less deposited silt and broad waters, ice-free all the year round, coastline as long as 234 kilometres, among which deep-water shoreline is 50 kilometres; its main channel is 200 m wide and over 12 m deep; the breakwater is composed of such islands as Baishitou, Dadan, Erdan and Qingyu to form a natural defence. In history, ever since the Ming Dynasty, Xiamen has been a major port of external communications and trade along the southeast coast of China. In 1936, port transport set a high record with a volume of freight reaching up to 5,000,000 tons (under registration).

Fourthly, like the harbour city San Francisco in U.S.A., Xiamen City is characteristic of a splendid gulf-like city in its development toward ringlike pattern, with one city and six parts, and with a framework of a bigger city, and also with the advantages of medium-small cities, known as a development model of "a myriad of stars surround the moon" (1). Judging from the analysis and prediction by the Department of Urban-Rural Construction, Xiamen City by the year 2000 will develop into a potential metropolis, with population of over 500,000, or even up to nearly 700,000—800,000. And a tremendous motive power called "gathered economic effect" will be produced in the development of this special economic zone, giving an impetus to Xiamen City in the transition gradually toward a modernized metropolis, speeding up the organic revolving speed of the urban economic activities and playing the extensive role of its important strategic position.

II. FAVORABLE FACTORS OF THE XIAMEN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

1. Excellent Climatic Conditions and Abundant Biological Resources

Xiamen lies in the southern subtropical maritime climate region, warm, humid and rainy all the year round, neither severe cold in winter, nor extremely hot in summer, commonly frostless and with a sunshine of 2276.2 hours. The average annual air temperature is 20.8 °C, the maximum temperature 38.5 °C (August 15, 1979), the minimum temperature

2°C (February 12, 1957), the average annual precipitation about 1134.6mm. In addition to good climatic conditions, the biological resources are exceptionally rich. There are chiefly six categories of vegetation, namely, evergreen broad-leaf forest, evergreen coniferous forest, mixed forest, economic forest, mangrove forest and jungle. In the forest area, there exist a large number of wild and artificial Chinese medicinal herbs as well as some kinds of fast-growing precious saplings imported from foreign countries in the past years. Besides, cereal and cash crops are numerous in variety and high in output; vegetables are rich in variety. Flowers and plants have as many kinds as 207 including plentiful exotic flowers, rare trees and unusual grass. There are many fruit trees such as longan, lichee, banana, pineapple, citrus, loquat, peach, plum, apricot, pomelo, persimmon, grape, guava, etc., in addition, there are other kinds of fruit trees of the tropical, subtropical and temperate zones, amounting to more than 50 kinds in total. Especially longan and lichees are imbued with a stronger competitive force both at home and abroad. In Xiamen area, marine biological resources are quite abundant, including those with strong competitive force and capable of producing foreign exchange earnings like groupers, dolphin fish, oysters, Japanese prawns, eels, medical biological turtles, etc., all of them are possessed of superior ecological conditions and varied resources.

2.1 Establish a Biological Engineering Research Centre

In addition to fine climatic conditions and rich biological resources, there is a galaxy of talents specialized in the study of biology. The institutions of high learning here include the well-known Department of Biology of Xiamen University; Aquatic Products College; Institute of Subtropic Crops; Institute of Oceanography, Wanshishan Botanical Garden, the Overseas Chinese Botanical Garden, etc., they are rich in manpower and material resources, and distinctive in features. According to the resources, scientific research and social conditions, it is realistic and feasible to set up a bio-engineering research centre in this special economic zone. It was foretold by famous scientists in the world that the next century would witness a century of bio-engineering. So the establishment of such a research centre in this zone is of strategic significance.

The above-mentioned bio-engineering research centre in this special economic zone takes the study of the basic theory of life as the core, carrying out multi-administrative-level studies and developing multi-type scientific research products. In view of the characteristics of the locality, the current scientific research, the productive level and the international market trends, it will be necessary to select one or two breakthrough points and change them into productive force as fast as possible, achieve better economic benefit and make them become a giant economic industry with scientific research in type.

Since Xiamen City has fine climate, abundant vegetation and fresh air, the average life-span of the population is close to that of the world's developed countries. With the raising of people's living level, more and more importance has been attached toward

people's health and longevity. Therefore, it is really incomparable to set up a research centre of life mechanism in the Gulang Islet.

3. Rich Tourist Resources Endowed by Nature

(1) Advantageous natural geographical position. The Xiamen Island, with the mainland behind and the sea in front, is surrounded by mountains and waters, full of winding seashores, combined with the Gulang Islet in the southwest. As Prof. Chen Congzhou proposed "The Xiamen Island and the Gulang Islet are two different-size jadeites in a crystal pot." Hence, it has a broad prospect in the comprehensive development of tourism.

(2) Rich and varied plant resources. This city lies in the southern subtropical zone, warm in climate, with bushes and trees being evergreen all the year round and with fresh flowers in full bloom in four seasons. It is extremely abundant in longan, lichee, banana, pineapple, Chinese flowering quince, mango, palm, cactus, phoenix tree as well as a variety of tropic and subtropic exotic flowers and rare fruits. A number of neighbouring counties will be turned into export processing bases of the Xiamen Harbour for making further economic contact with foreign countries^[2].

(3) Unique and picturesque geomorphological landscape. On the island, the mountain peaks are composed of granites. Because the features of rift structures, sheer precipices and overhanging rocks are seen everywhere and they weathered for the longest periods of time, they have changed into queer rocks standing in great numbers with lofty and steep rock walls; some have become pebbled landforms, simple and natural, with a magnificent and picturesque outlook.

(4) Beautiful seaside resources. Encircled by sea waters, both the Xiamen Island and the Gulang Islet have a tortuous seashore, its coastline is 234 km in total length; in the seaside area, landforms are varied in types and have a variety of tourist functions. It is known that sea water, sunlight and sandy beach are three prerequisites for opening up seaside tourism. Spain is known to rank first in the world for tourism and has been quoted as boastfully saying: "We are exporting the sun and the beach to the whole world". Then, the bathing beach in Xiamen may also export "the sun, beach and fresh air" to the whole world.

(5) The glorious and bright resources of human culture and history. In Xiamen, there are a great number of scenic spots and historical sites, for example, the 1,000-year-old ancient temple; the South Putuo Temple at the foot of the Wulao Mountain Peak; the quiet and beautiful Jimei Educational Village; the Memorial Hall of Zheng Chenggong, a national hero in the Ming Dynasty in the evergreen small Gulang Islet, as well as the Lu Xun Museum; the overseas Chinese Museum of Xiamen; the Anthropological Museum and the Fort on the Huli Hill.

4. Turn Xiamen into a Tourist City and a Scientific, Cultural, Historical and Artistic City

As analyzed roughly in the above, the tourist resources in this area are really rich and varied, including mountains, seas, rocks, beaches and springs, flowers, birds, trees, monuments and temples. Thanks to the solid material base and the further processing industries in a multi-type and multi-administrative-level way by relying on an overall planning and all-round arrangement, we should properly handle these relationships between natural and artificial factors, between land and sea, between plants and animals, between boarding-lodging and market-shopping, between science and art, between history and customs and between tourist area and city proper. This area should be built into a tourist city called "Garden on the sea". In Xiamen, there should be built are six institutions of high learning, 11 technical secondary schools, 32 middle schools and over 300 primary schools, with an enrolment of students of 170,000 as well as 19 scientific research units under national, provincial or municipal administrations respectively, which have already provided favorable conditions for the creation of a city of science and education. In culture and art, Xiamen has a longstanding history; the local opera has long been famous in the countries of Southeast Asia. Especially notable is the art of music, talent-singers and players coming forth in large numbers. People in the Gulang Islet are very fond of music, their piano number ranking the first in the world, hence named "Islet of Pianos". In architecture, there are a variety of building patterns from 28 countries, hence having the reputation of "Islet of world's architectural fair". And what is more, Xiamen enjoys its tradition of calligraphy and painting.

In addition to the advantageous geographical position endowed by nature, Xiamen has added innumerable illustrious chapters to its history, with a continuous stream of visitors both at home and abroad coming here every year for sightseeing. In the process of economic development in this special economic zone, the major strategic task for the present generation is to build Xiamen into a city characteristic of tourism, culture and art.

III. UNFAVORABLE FACTORS IN THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

1. Deficiency in freshwater

This city is short of surface fresh water and underground water resources, devoid of a large-scale reservoir. Rivers here are small and short, with a smaller catchment area (Table 1).

Table 1 Characteristics of principal rivers

Name	Source	Length (km)	Valley area (km ²)	Outlet
Zhuxi	Northwest of the suburbs	23.0	146.2	Xinglingwan
Xueweixi	Mt. Tianzhu in the suburbs	14.8	35.8	Maluanwan
Pulingxi	Mt. Dajian in the suburbs	12.9	17.5	Maluanwan
Putuoxi	Baishimei in the suburbs	12.9	17.5	Jiaowei of Longhai

These rivers all originate from the periphery of Xiamen City. Among them, except the Putuoxi River flowing southwest toward the sea by way of Jiaowei in Longhai, all the rest rivers flow into the sea locally and individually. In the present circumstances, the deficiency in water resources in Xiamen City and in the area under its jurisdiction can be tentatively solved by drawing water from the northern stream of the Jiulong River. However, in dry season, there is a water shortage, especially in the water supply area of the storage project in the northwest part. As a whole, water supply for industry and living use in the Xiamen Island is far from demand; it is especially so for irrigation in some of the suburban areas. In 1984, the per capita multi-purpose daily water-consuming amount was less than 400 litres (among them, 138 litres for daily life); it is 700 litres in 1990 and with the rapid development of economy up to 800 litres by the year 2000. As the improvement of people's living level in this special economic zone, the demand for freshwater resources is getting more and more, thus other sources have to be exploited. Currently, various schemes concerning the Fangyang Reservoir are under investigation and consideration. From a long-term point of view, the desalination of sea water is worthy to be studied and applied though too expensive in cost.

2. Deficiency in Energy and Power

In this city, there is basically no such mineral resources as coal and oil, the power is supplied largely by the provincial electrical network, because there is only one small power plant (Xingling) with an installed capacity of 25,000 kw (2 sets) in this area. As a result, there is always an acute shortage of power. At present, the population in this island amounts to 360,000. In 1984, power consumption totalled 360 million degrees, and 400 million degrees in 1985. By the period 1995 to 2000, its population is expected to be up to 6,000,000—7,000,000, the electricity in demand would be increased by 10 times in accordance with the level of electricity supply in Hongkong. At present, to seek for a solution to this problem, a feasible study of the Songyu Power Station is now under way. From the long-term strategic point of view, efforts have to be made to carry out researches on tidal energy, solar energy, wave energy, thermo-electric energy of sea water, etc.

3. Land communication

Like water resources and energy, the land traffic in Xiamen is in a state of tension, which is a restrictive factor in the economic development of this special economic zone. In 1957, the completion of the Ying-Xia Railroad played a tremendous role in the economic development in Fujian Province. However, confronted with further flourish in economy, the driving force has been unsuited to the present conditions. According to a report from the Xiamen Railway Station, every year nearly 5,600,000 tons of goods were kept long in stock and could not be transported from other provinces into the zone. Apart from this, there was an increasing number of passenger transport: 199,000 in 1970; 720,000 in 1984 and even up to 1,723,000 in 1985. In highway communication, there is no expressway available for linking up with those major cities such as Fuzhou, Shantou, Zhangzhou, etc. At present, highways in Xiamen are low in grade, poor in pavement, tortuous in path and slow in speed. What is more important is that in each part of the city proper, the only passageway leading to numerous cities and towns is the Jimei Sea Wall, where the daily traffic volume reaches up to 8,500—9,500. In peak time, traffic is always jammed and blocked up, and accidents are much more, which constitutes an unfavorable factor to the economic development in this zone.

IV. OVERALL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND COMPREHENSIVE PROOF IN THE XIAMEN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

1. Turn the Xiamen Special Economic Zone into an Exported-Oriented Economy-Exploiting Region

(1) The domestic-oriented economy-exploiting region such as the industrial zone of the five large lake region in U.S.A., i.e. Chicago-Detroit-Cleveland-Pittsburgh Industrial Zone formed by making full use of the low-price water transport conditions of the five big lake waters; the Ruhr Industrial Area in The Federal Republic of Germany, i.e. the heavy industrial area formed by making full use of conditions of local natural resources and railway transportation; the integrated production complex in the Siberian area of U.S.S.R., and the economy-exploited area in the urban area of Hokkaido in Japan.

(2) The exported-oriented economy-exploiting region such as the traditional urban business area in northeastern U.S.A., i.e. an area ranging from Boston-New York-Philadelphia-Baltimore; the European Economic Community; the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) of the Eastern Europe; the Fushan Export Processing Area in South Korea; the Gaoxiong-Xinzhu Industrial Area in Taiwan Province and Hongkong.

(3) The domestic-exported-oriented economy-exploiting region such as Baton

Rouge—New Orleans—Houston harbours by making full use of the conditions of water transportation of the Mississippi and sea transportation of Mexico Gulf to open up the natural resources such as petroleum, land and light resources in the south, to develop in ternal market economy at home and Latin America.

Many scholars considered that in the development strategy of both the special economic zone and the cities to open to the outside world should use the experience of the Western European Economic Community for reference to create a favorable environment for developing fully the social commodity economy and to break down the administrative separation; and should also learn from and follow the examples of the East European Bloc of U.S.S.R. and the various economic zones of U.S.A. to practise a division of production specialities and exploit jointly natural resources. Nevertheless, the special economic zones in China should have the model of its own characteristics of China's socialist economic exploitation^[3].

Now the total area of the Xiamen Special Economic Zone has been enlarged to the Xiamen island and the Gulang Islet, where a number of policies may be put into effect to make it a free port step by step. In 1985, the development orientation of this zone was determined. However, now the key problem is how to put the idea into action and how to make the project become a reality.

On the basis of our investigation and study as well as the local conditions and the development trends at home and abroad, the objective of development strategy may be concretely summarized as follows: taking light-duty structure industry with advanced techniques and intensive labour as main body, greater efforts should be devoted to developing harbour and tourism and making Xiamen become gradually a multi-purpose exported-oriented special economic zone flourishing in commerce and trade, real estate, and scientific technology.

The Xiamen Special Economic Zone is an economic entity having a close relation with the surrounding areas rather than an isolated island. 178 out of 588 enterprises are the enterprises of the ownership by the whole people, with an output value of 1450 million yuan, of which light industry accounting for 70%. In terms of its industrial basis and technical force, Xiamen ranks the first among the four special economic zones in China, with many skilled technicians and engineers, capable of handling the up-to-date technology, such as the imported jacquard loom under the control of electronic computer; film-capacitor of the M-8 cigarette-making machine; electrolytic capacitor; tin-making production line as well as the automatic "KODAK" colour-film production line imported recently from U.S.A., which is known as the most advanced base of light sensitization in China at present, making an investment of 530 million yuan, and also known as the biggest new construction item in Fujian Province after liberation. Since the establishment of the Xiamen Special Economic Zone, the imported items through signing contracts with foreign countries in 1980—1985 amounted to 215 (including 86 items in 1984 and 105 in 1985), with a total investment of US \$ 428,883,000. Among those heavi-

ly-invested projects, most are enterprisers from Hongkong, Macao and Singapore, centering on electronics industry, tourist service, light industry, architecture, etc. In the Seventh Five-Year Plan, 60 outdated enterprises will be reformed, with a total investment of 780 million yuan^[4], which will play a vital role in the future economic development in this zone. Thus from now on, in the development strategy of Xiamen, we should, first of all, give considerations to those industrial departments with light-duty structure and at the same time devote greater efforts to the development of harbour and tourist trade, while those industries and enterprises, high in energy-consuming, more in land use, large in transport volume and serious in pollution, will be not allowed to locate on this island in order to develop the special economic zone and protect its regional environment.

2. Make the Xiamen Special Economic Zone Develop toward a Modernized Exported-Oriented and Multi-Purpose Harbour City and Gradually Become an International Port in Southeast Asia

As regards modern technology Xiamen City is in face of challenges in the structures, products and technology, subjected to the converging attacks from markets at home and abroad. Large numbers of newly established industries and enterprises and those old enterprises to be reformed will be turned into the principal industrial body of technology and light-duty structure. Under the local and practical circumstances, the principal industrial departments should be composed of electronics, light-sensitive materials, precision mechanical and nautical instruments and meters, new pattern materials, food industry and so on. The export industrial base which is taking shape in the area of southern Fujian should be adapted to the changeable international market. Meanwhile, it should set up comprehensive tourist-economic departments to develop overall tourist service trades, improve step by step the commercial network system of both wholesale and retail in the whole city and establish the commodity market and purchasing centres with typical features and systems^[5]. Besides, additional modernized harbour facilities should be available so as to enable the handling capacity for commodities to reach basically the level of a medium-size harbour, i.e., 20,000,000 tons by the year 2000 and become one of the commodity-distributing centres along the southeast coast of China.

3. The Xiamen Special Economic Zone Should Have Its Own Features

The development of urban functions should be combined with their own natural and economic conditions so as to give play to the superiority of "suiting measures to local conditions" and make the cities in the special economic zone develop their own feature. Shenzhen, for example, should take electronics and tourism as the main, concurrently do business such as real estate and entrepot trades. Xiamen should take light-industry such as light sensitive materials, biochemistry, food, instruments and meters as its main body, put emphasis on the development of tourism and commerce, while Shantou and Zhuhai

should take the processing industry of farm produces as the main in the former and building material and tourist trade in the latter respectively. Judging from the 14 coastal cities open to outside world, especially the 7 open harbours between Shanghai and Guangzhou along the southeast coast, there should be a division of work. As a matter of course, Xiamen plays a leading role among the southeast coastal harbour cities and it is likewise necessary to have a division of labour in terms of urban functions.

V. THE KEY MEASURES TO REALIZE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Being one of the four special economic zones in China, Xiamen is only next to Shenzhen in terms of administrative levels to open to outside world, but has higher levels of industrial foundation and scientific technology and culture compared with Shenzhen. Though Shenzhen possesses an excellent geographical position, close to the markets of both Hongkong and Macao, and not far away from metropolis Guangzhou, Xiamen has many advantages which can't be replaced by Shenzhen. Xiamen is not only a deep-water port under superior conditions, but also has a modernized international airport from which one can fly from Xiamen directly to Shanghai, Beijing, Hongkong, Guangzhou, Nanjing and Xian. In addition, there is an airline linking up with some cities of the world, thus strengthening the relations between Xiamen and other cities abroad. At the same time, this special economic zone has laid a good foundation for basic social facilities, in which the investments for capital construction are increasing year by year, amounting to 140 million yuan in 1983; 420 million yuan in 1984 and up to 750 million yuan in 1985. Nevertheless, as far as a modernized city is concerned, the basic facilities of urban construction in this special economic zone are still backward. Unlike Hongkong and Singapore which are situated at the main international channel, Xiamen has a fine deep-water harbour, but it is only a regional point at the international shipping line, with a handling capacity of only 3,000,000 tons, its harbour, wharf, breakwater, installations for loading and unloading lagging far behind such world's ports as New Orleans, Singapore and San Francisco in terms of modernization levels. In Xiamen, the passage between harbour and land is rough, only with an insignificant amount of export commodities and with a short supply of power and water, communication facilities not coming up to the advanced world standard, without complete system of unified transportation and the expressway. For this reason, greater efforts should be made with respects to the construction of harbour, communications, basic installations, etc.

To accelerate the development of this special economic zone, speed up the unified economic exploitation in south Fujian and strive for the realization of the developing strategic goal in the Xiamen Special Economic Zone, it is necessary to solve the following five major problems step by step.

1. The Unified Understanding of the Economic Development in the Xiamen Special Economic Zone

The Xiamen Special Economic Zone is a major product under the circumstances of economical opening to outside world, known as an epitome of the reform of economic system in China. As a "window", a "pivot" and an "experimental guide", these special economic zones such as Xiamen will play a mighty potential role in the nationwide economic advance. In this respect, the development of the Xiamen Special Economic Zone has a practical significance far more than that of its own.

2. Gradually Overcome the "Feedback" Effect of Limiting Factors in the Xiamen Special Economic Zone

The Shenzhen Special Economic Zone enjoys a superior geographical position, close to Hongkong and Macao, large in construction scale, numerous in new enterprises, free from the burden to reform the old enterprises, plentiful in local incorporate enterprises, active in economy and up-to-date in urban planning and construction. On the other hand, it has some unfavorable factors such as the unstable economic foundation, the unqualified scientific-technological force and the inadequate personnel quality. In the Xiamen Special Economic Zone, water, electricity and traffic are the major obstacles affecting the economic leap forward. Take water resources as an example, the Beitou and Beixi Reservoirs are now taken as the source of water supply on this island as well as in the Jimei and Xingling districts. In 1985, the daily capacity of water supply in the whole city was 140,000 tons (amounting to 120,000 tons for the island and the city proper), which did not meet the demand in the city and especially in peak time, an average per capita water supply of 138 litres / day was lower than that of the country. With the economic development in this zone, water supply both for industry and daily life will be in greater demand and the contradiction between supply and demand will be bigger and bigger. The water supply within the island was per day amount of 360,000 tons in 1990, hence, one more water source should be duly taken into consideration. At present, the issue of water source remains unsettled on account of such problems as administrative divisions and investment.

3. Establish an Economic Network of the Gold Triangle Area in South Fujian

In the Gold Triangle area of south Fujian, there are three cities and 19 counties, which cover an area of 25,000 square kilometres, with the population of over ten million, known as an overseas Chinese native land and a treasured place for industrial and agricultural production in this province.

To open up this area, the economic relations between cities and regions should be improved according to the requirements of economy to open to the outside world, and based on the principle of equality and mutual benefit. In consideration of the scope and

scale of the county led by the city, the number of counties led by the city should correspond to the actual economic strength to give full play to the horizontal contacts, smash the bonds of administrative divisions and establish a regional economic network with Xiamen—Zhangzhou—Quanzhou as its exploitative base. In addition to bringing the Xiamen Special Economic Zone into play and making the urban—rural economy active, the opening up of the Gold Triangle in south Fujian in combination with the three cities is a major breakthrough in the reform of the urban economic system. So we must strengthen the horizontal contact and step up regional economic combination, including united production, scientific—technological cooperation, interflow of commodities, setting up of information network, etc. to form gradually a group of cities composed chiefly of Xiamen, Zhangzhou and Quanzhou, a regional production comprehensive body with its own features in the Gold Triangle of south Fujian. Thus, a new economic pattern will take shape and a tremendous influence will be produced on the whole special economic zone^[6].

4. Build Xiamen into a Harbour—Type City

Xiamen is similar to the gulf city San Francisco, with tortuous seashore line as long as 234 km. long deep—water coastline, free from ice and silt, and easy for taking shelter from wind. less fog, it is a fine anchorage and deep—water berth. The channel is 10—25 m in depth; tide differs widely between flowing and ebbing. The oceangoing freighter with a tonnage of 10,000 can make port freely and those with a tonnage of 50,000 to 100,000 can take advantage of the tide. Therefore, Xiamen should be developed into a gulf city, a metropolis with extraordinarily promising future and development potentialities. By making comprehensive use of the natural and geographical conditions of the sea bay, sea islands and hills, Xiamen City will be turned into a gulf city stage by stage. The island itself and the Gulang Islet will be well—perfected with unique features, while both the city outskirts and the outer suburbs will be built into a relatively independent new urban district with a population of 100,000—200,000. In the short—term construction, stress should be placed on the Huli Industrial District, the Xingling District and the Jimei Educational Village, while in the long—term one, importance should be attached to such areas as Haicang and Maluan. As a gulf city, the features in the arrangements of both a sea port and an urban area should be taken into full account. Except a modernized harbour area to be built along the deep—water shoreline, one—third of the city must be reserved for tourism and sight—seeing. While making arrangements of the coastline, those industries and enterprises which contribute to environmental pollution should not be allowed to enter.

5. Expand the Economic Hinterland Scope of the Xiamen Harbour and Increase Its Own Economic Radiation Capacity

Now Xiamen's hinterland is too small, only 12,500 square kilometres in the

hinterland area of the Jiulong River valley and valleys in the neighbouring area, while Fuzhou has an area of 61,000 square kilometres. In the days to come, the developing prospect of the Xiamen Harbour largely depends on the economic development of the hinterland, by the development levels of the city-town industries in the region, by the commodity quantity in the hinterland to be transported and by the quantity and the capacity of passenger transport and goods transit in the international trades.

To expand the scope of the economic hinterland and draw more attraction to the Xiamen Special Economic Zone, what is the most important is to strengthen the regional construction of a network of communications and transportation. Of vital regional economic significance is the construction of the "San Nan" Highway, the Fuzhou-Xiamen First-Class Highway, and the Longmelguang Railroad. In 1985, the volume of freight handled in the Xiamen Harbour was only 3,350,000 tons, which lagged too far behind among the 14 open harbour cities, ranking the ninth in the whole country. If in the Seventh Five-Year Plan, the five deep-water wharves are to be set up, if the electrification project is to be completed in 1991, and if the "San Nan" Highway can be open to traffic, the handling capacity of the Xiamen Harbour will reach about 20,000,000 tons. By that time, a large amount of nonferrous metals of lead and zinc ores from Hunan Province and a great quantity of wood and cereals will be exported by the way of the Xiamen Harbour, and thus the Xiamen Harbour will play a considerable role in the collection and distribution of commodities along the coastal provinces in Southeast China, enhancing the economic relations of the Xiamen Special Economic Zone with the economic hinterland.

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