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TAMING STONY DESERTS P.26

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China establishes new city in the South China Sea



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A Seafaring Strategy

The Chinese Government made a strategic decision with far-reaching significance when it established Sansha City on June 21. The move solidifies China's sovereignty over the South China Sea islands and surrounding waters. It also shows the government's increased resolve to strengthen administrative management over the area, marking a symbolic milestone in China's development of the islands.

Historic records show that China began to exercise administration over the islands as early as A.D. 110. It was the first country to discover and name the islets around Xisha, Zhongsha and Nansha Islands and has since continued its administration over the region. Therefore, it is an indisputable fact that China possesses sovereignty over the islands and the nearby waters.

China has always pursued the principle of friendly relationships, peaceful coexistence and deepening ties with countries in the region. Despite some countries' provocative behavior in the South China Sea in recent years, the Chinese Government has adopted a rational attitude, with a commitment to avoiding deteriorating conditions over the disputes and fostering a positive atmosphere of peaceful development among relevant countries. China is not willing to see turmoil in the region. But, this does not mean that China will concede on the issue of sovereignty.

The establishment of Sansha is within China's right, and this will not be dissuaded by others. With the existence of the administrative body, follow-up economic planning, ocean protection, resource development and even a military presence will be put into place. These are the steps the Sansha Municipal Government must play to exert tangible management over the region.

The development of Sansha will be a big issue facing China. A prosperous and harmonious local society is helpful in safeguarding peace in the South China Sea area. Extensive development planning and basic infrastructure construction are necessary for the smooth operation of the local government.

Establishing Sansha City marks a turning point for China's policy in the South China Sea. It shows that China is moving forward confidently in the face of future uncertainties. It should be stressed that, on the precondition of protecting sovereignty, China is committed to maintaining regional peace, cooperation and common development. ■

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“China will tighten management of local government debt and strictly regulate new borrowing to guard against fiscal risks. The nation will continue to clean up and regulate local government financing vehicles and bar them from incurring new debt.”

Xie Xuren, Chinese Minister of Finance, in a report on the implementation of the 2011 budget to a session of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress in Beijing on June 27

“Production methods are evolving all the time, which makes crack-downs more difficult.”

Liu Yuejin, Director of the Narcotics Control Bureau of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security, saying that despite consistent efforts China still faces a grim drug-control situation, on June 26, International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

“The Turkish nation has no intention of attacking. We are just making provisions to stave off all threats to our unity and integrity, for our defense. We have never had an eye on the soil of any country.”

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, emphasizing that his country will not attack Syria after a Turkish fighter jet was shot down by a Syrian missile, at a ceremony to introduce Turkey’s first domestically produced training jet *HURKUS* in Istanbul on June 27

“It is imperative that we don’t promise things that we cannot deliver and that we implement what we have agreed. Joint liability can only happen when sufficient controls are in place. I don’t see total debt liability as long as I live.”

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, opposing quick solutions like Eurobonds or the use of European Union funds to reduce Italian and Spanish debt, at the German Bundestag in Berlin on June 26

Successful Landing

Astronauts Jing Haipeng (front center), Liu Wang (front left) and Liu Yang wave to a welcoming crowd after emerging from the return capsule of *Shenzhou-9* spacecraft in Siziwang Banner, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on June 29.

During their nearly two-week flight, the three astronauts completed the country’s first manual rendezvous and docking mission with the orbiting *Tiangong-1* lab module, which will pave the way for the country’s establishment of a permanent manned space station around 2020.



HIGH HARVEST Tibetan women pick tea leaves at the Yi'ong Tea Plantation in Bomi County in Tibet Autonomous Region. It is the highest tea plantation in China

Corruption Assets

China will strengthen the measures it uses to recover corrupt officials' illicit assets transferred abroad and demand concerned countries to freeze such assets to cut off the officials' means for living overseas, a member of the Anti-Corruption Bureau of the Supreme People's Procuratorate told Xinhua News Agency on June 27.

The official, who wished not to be named, said China has prevented a large amount of illicit assets from being transferred abroad by coordinating with other countries and regions.

However, there is an obstacle to the work, as procuratorates can only seal or freeze illicit assets involving crimes committed while in public duty for a limited period of time if the suspects are still at large or have escaped custody, instead of permanently confiscating assets.

The official said that the work will be fully carried out after the amendment to the Criminal Procedural Law takes effect on January 1, 2013, adding that procuratorates will improve measures to trace illicit money in the future and make breakthroughs in major cases.

Safe Drinking Water

The number of rural Chinese residents who lack access to safe drinking water was reduced by 221 million from 2004 to 2010, according to Vice Minister Du Ying of the National Development and Reform Commission.

"The feat was accomplished after the country launched a government-led rural drinking water project, which attracted an investment of 109.3 billion yuan (\$17.2 billion) from 2005 to 2010," Du said in a report to the bi-monthly session of the Standing

Committee of the National People's Congress, the country's top legislature, on June 27.

The Chinese Government will strive to solve the problems concerning drinking water safety for millions of rural residents in accordance with the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15) for the country's social and economic development.

By 2015, nearly 80 percent of the rural population will have access to safe drinking water through centralized water supply facilities, Du said.

Earthquake in Southwest

A 5.7-magnitude earthquake jolted the border of southwest China's Yunnan and Sichuan provinces at 3:59 p.m. on June 24, said the China Earthquake Networks Center.

The epicenter, with a depth of 11 km, was located at the border area between Ninglang County in Yunnan and Yanyuan County in Sichuan.

As of June 27, three people had been reported dead and another 394 injured.

The quake also damaged or destroyed the homes of 6,768 families in the disaster zone. More than 28,000 people needed to be evacuated. Provincial and city authorities sent relief supplies, including tents, coats, quilts, bottled water and food to Ninglang.

Healthcare Reform

Missions set in a three-year plan for China's

FASHION AND FUN A model poses in a fashion show at the opening ceremony of the 2012 International Tourism Festival at the Imperial Palace in Beijing on June 26



Famed Mathematician Passes Away

The renowned Chinese mathematician **Gu Chaohao** passed away in Shanghai on June 24.

Born in 1926 in Wenzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, Gu received his doctorate in physics and mathematics from Moscow State University in 1959. He was vice president of Fudan University in Shanghai and president of the University of Science and Technology of China in Anhui Province. He became an academican of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1980 and an academican of the Russia-based International Higher Education Academy of Sciences in 1994.

Gu won the nation's top science and technology award in 2009. He was honored for his important contributions to differential geometry, partial differential equations and mathematical physics, three subdisciplines of modern mathematics.

In August 2009, with the approval of the Minor Planet Center, an asteroid was named after Gu to honor his contributions to humankind.



healthcare reform program in the 2009-11 period have been completed on schedule, according to the Healthcare Reform Office of the State Council, China's cabinet.

The three-year plan missions included establishment of a basic medical care insurance system, implementation of the basic drug system and improvement of primary-level medical services.

Between 2009 and 2011, the Chinese Government invested 450.6 billion yuan (\$70.83 billion) in the country's medical care services, the office said.

By the end of 2011, over 95 percent of the country's population were covered by basic medical care insurance programs designed for employees, urban residents and rural residents.

The annual government subsidy for urban and rural residents' insurance was increased from 80 yuan (\$12.57) per person in 2008 to 200 yuan (\$31.43) in 2011, and the sum will be raised to 240 yuan (\$37.72) this year.

In the past three years, state investment in the construction and improvement of 33,000 primary-level hospitals totaled 63 billion yuan (\$9.9 billion).

Furthermore, reform programs have been launched in more than 2,000 public hospitals across the country.

Animal Epidemic Survey

Tibet Autonomous Region in west China has launched a large-scale animal epidemic survey, the first in more than 20 years in the region, to boost disease prevention efforts.

Veterinaries will fan out to 40 key spots and epidemic-prone areas in Tibet over the next 18 months to collect samples and conduct clinical studies, said Tsedrum, head vet of the regional government's Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Bureau.

The survey results will help the government draw epidemic prevention plans from 2015 to 2025 and set up a database for Tibet's animal epidemic situations, Tsedrum said. The last such survey was conducted in 1989.

This year's survey, funded by the government, is estimated to cost 24 million yuan (\$3.77 million), the official said.

Earth Monitoring Project

China is to invest 517 million yuan (\$81.25 million) to build a modern national network to monitor movements in the Earth's crust and other Earth sciences in the next four years, according to an announcement by the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation (SBSM) on June 26.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY A Hongkong Post worker shows special stamps and first day covers published for celebrating the 15th anniversary of the establishment of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region that fell on July 1



DEEPSEA FINDING An organism sample captured from the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean by China's manned submersible *Jiaolong*. The *Jiaolong* set a new national diving record on June 27 after reaching 7,062 meters below sea level. It collected three water samples, two sediment samples and one organism sample, placed a marker, and made several experiments during the dive

The program will mobilize more than 3,000 technicians nationwide to build a three-dimensional and dynamic "geodetic" network with high precision, it said.

The national geodetic network aims to build 360 GPS (Global Positioning System) reference stations, and a satellite-geodesy control network consisting of 4,500 control points.

SBSM Deputy Director Li Weisen said that the network will ensure people can get timely geodetic information for any point in the country's land area.

The network is also expected to offer services for construction projects, natural disaster relief and mineral resources development.

Divorces on the Rise

More cases of divorce and marriage were handled across China in 2011, according to a bulletin released by the Ministry of Civil Affairs on June 28.

In 2011, more than 2.87 million couples divorced through court ruling or civil affairs administrative procedures, up 7.3 percent year on year, the bulletin said.

The number of divorces per 1,000 people was 2.13 in 2011, 0.13 points higher from the previous year.

Civil affairs authorities nationwide also registered 13.02 million marriages in the same year, a rise of 4.9 percent year on year.

Shale Gas Exploration

A senior official on June 25 called for the country to speed up mass production of shale gas with its own technologies to ensure adequate energy supply.

Efforts must be made to achieve early breakthroughs in the appraisal, exploration and development of shale gas resources, as well as to discover ways to ensure environmental safety, said Liu Tienan, head of the National Energy Administration.

Liu stressed that the shale gas industry should be open to all types of investors. The departments involved should offer tax and fiscal incentives to encourage development.

Shale gas, a clean and high-efficiency energy resource, is produced from shale through

a complicated process called hydraulic fracturing. China's rich reserves of shale gas are estimated to amount to 31 trillion cubic meters, equivalent to the total amount of conventional natural gas.

ODI Surge

China's outbound direct investment (ODI) in non-financial sectors grew 40.2 percent year on year to \$28.52 billion during the first five months, the Ministry of Commerce announced on June 26.

In the first five months, Chinese investors made investments in 1,709 overseas companies based in 115 countries and regions. About 39.3 percent, worth about \$11.2 billion, went into mergers and acquisitions.

The flow of ODI into Hong Kong, the United States and the EU dramatically increased, up 50.9 percent, 45.9 percent and 23.6 percent, respectively.

As of the end of May, China's non-financial ODI had amounted to \$350.6 billion.

Currency Swap

The central banks of China and Ukraine on June 26 signed a currency swap contract worth 15 billion yuan (\$2.38 billion).

The agreement is for an initial three-year period and could be extended with the consent of both sides.

The move aims to step up bilateral financial cooperation, promote trade and investment, and safeguard regional financial stability.

NEW AIRPORT The Kunming Changshui International Airport in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, goes into operation on June 28



Numbers

98%

So far, 490 out of the world's top 500 companies have invested in China and established more than 1,600 R&D centers and regional headquarters, said Gao Hucheng, Vice Minister of Commerce.

648

China has 648 super-rich families with properties worth more than \$100 million each, ranking fifth in the world, according to the World Wealth Report released by the Boston Consulting Group.

Since the outbreak of the global financial crisis, China has signed currency swap agreements worth at least 1.5 trillion yuan (\$238 billion) with a dozen countries to support its trade and investment with these economies.

Sagging Shipbuilding

China's shipbuilding companies saw sharp declines in output and new orders in the first five months as a result of the dismal global economy.

New shipbuilding orders fell more than 47 percent year on year during the first five months, according to statistics released by the China Association of the National Shipbuilding Industry.

For the country's ship manufacturers, completed shipbuilding volume also fell more than 10 percent year on year in the first five months, with incomplete orders declining about 27 percent year on year by the end of May.

Due to slack external demand, ships delivered overseas fell more than 11 percent from January to May compared to the same period last year. Marine engineering equipment delivered overseas, however, surged 42.7 percent from a year earlier.

Analysts said severe challenges loom ahead for the shipbuilding industry, as insufficient external demand, shrinking orders and increasing instances of contract defaults will continue to squeeze the sector's profitability.

Funding Water Efficiency

Chinese authorities will create a fund worth 38 billion yuan (\$5.97 billion) by 2015 to develop water-efficient farms in northeast China's grain-producing areas.

The fund will be used to develop 2.53 million hectares of water-efficient farmland in four northeastern regions, according to a work conference jointly held by the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture on June 26.

The four regions, including Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning provinces, as well as the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, produce one fifth of the country's grain.

The funds will be used to promote efficient irrigation technology in the four regions over the next four years in an effort to ease water shortages and increase grain production.

Bankcard Expansion

China UnionPay Co. Ltd., the country's largest bankcard payment processor, announced on June 22 that it has inked a cooperation agreement with NETS, a leading payment service provider in North Europe, to expand its service in Europe.

China UnionPay and NETS will work together to expand UnionPay's card acceptance in more European regions, provide card processing and transaction services to more European institutions and increase service quality.

Currently, China UnionPay cards are accepted in 130 countries and regions worldwide, and its card services have been launched in 37 European countries, including Denmark and Iceland.

Expelled Governor

Huang Sheng, former Vice Governor of east China's Shandong Province, was expelled from the Communist Party of China (CPC) for severe disciplinary and legal violations. He was also dismissed from all government posts by the State Council, according to a statement released on June 25 by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), the CPC's disciplinary watchdog.

Huang has been caught using his position to seek interests for others, taking a large amount of bribes, and causing massive economic losses, in addition to moral corruption. Huang's illegal gains will be confiscated and his case has been referred to prosecutors, according to the CCDI.

Huang, 58, was born in Shandong and became vice governor of the province in March 2007.



WOODCARVING CITY An artisan works on a woodcarving artwork in Guangfeng of central China's Jiangxi Province on June 26. Guangfeng has more than 108 woodcarving factories and has vowed to build itself into the country's top woodcarving base

570 million yuan

A man in Beijing recently won 570 million yuan (\$90.48 million), becoming the biggest ever lottery winner on the Chinese mainland.

58.9 kg

Song Wendai, former Chairman of the Qiankun Gold & Silver Refinery Share Co. in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region has been detained for embezzling 58.9 kg of gold and 1.4 tons of silver.



BRITAIN

The Olympic rings hang on the Tower Bridge as organizers marked the one-month countdown of the opening of the 2012 London Olympic Games on June 27. The London Olympics will last from July 27 to August 12

Visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attend a press conference at the Israeli leader's Jerusalem residence on June 25



ISRAEL

ZHANG JUN



Reporters rush out of the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. on June 28 immediately after the court decided to uphold the controversial individual mandate of President Barack Obama's signature health care overhaul

THE UNITED STATES

XINHUA/AF



Visitors walk across a bridge situated 12 meters above the ground at Zoo Leipzig's Gondwanaland park in Leipzig, eastern Germany, on June 24. Gondwanaland, the largest tropical site in Europe, features about 300 animals and 17,000 tropical plants

GERMANY

XINHUA/AF



Activists hold banners during a demonstration in Tokyo on June 23. Some 500 people took to the streets against the Japanese Government's decision to restart two nuclear reactors, ending a brief period without any atomic power generation

JAPAN



Egypt's President-elect Mohamed Morsi (center) sits in the state television studio in Cairo on June 24 after recording a speech to the nation. The Muslim Brotherhood leader was declared the winner of the Egyptian presidential election that day

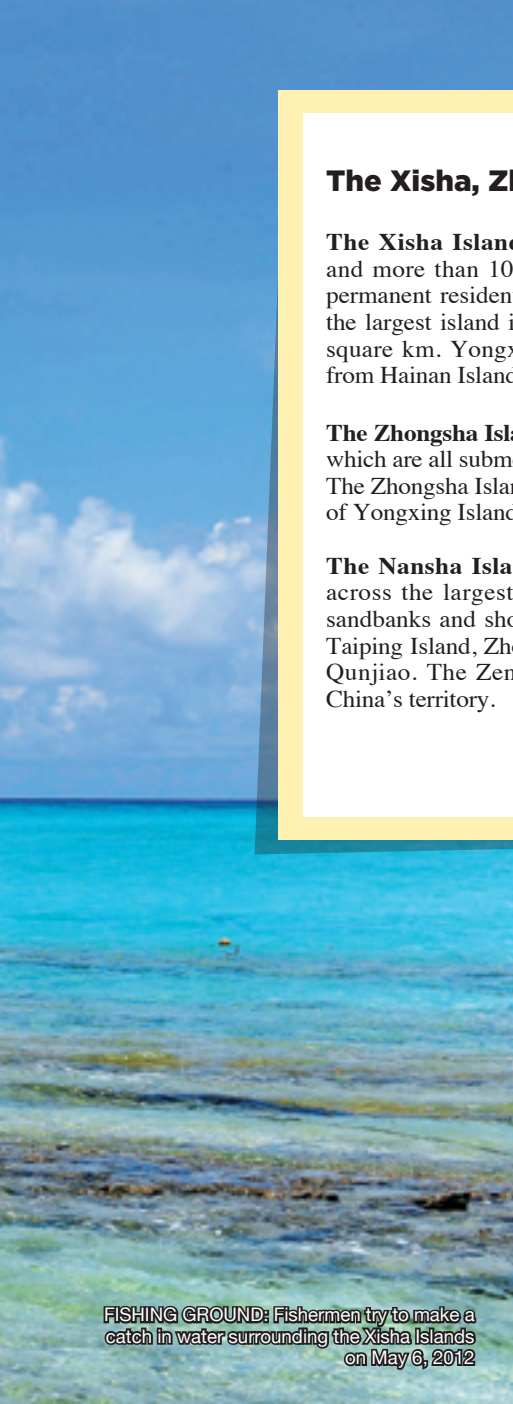
EGYPT



COVER STORY

SANSHA BY THE SEA

China sets up a city to govern the Xisha, Zhongsha and Nansha islands and their surrounding waters in the South China Sea By Lan Xinzhen



FISHING GROUND: Fishermen try to make a catch in water surrounding the Xisha Islands on May 6, 2012

HOU JIANSEN

The Xisha, Zhongsha and Nansha Islands

The Xisha Islands comprise 22 islets, seven sandbanks and more than 10 coral reefs. There are more than 3,500 permanent residents living on the Xisha Islands. Yongxing, the largest island in the archipelago, covers an area of 2.13 square km. Yongxing Island lies 182 nautical miles away from Hainan Island.

The Zhongsha Islands consist of sandbanks, reefs and islets, which are all submersed in water except for Huangyan Island. The Zhongsha Islands are about 200 nautical miles to the east of Yongxing Island of the Xisha Islands.

The Nansha Islands are the southernmost and scattered across the largest area, with more than 200 islets, reefs, sandbanks and shoals. Major islands in the archipelago are Taiping Island, Zhongye Island, Nanwei Island and Zhenghe Qunjiao. The Zengmu Reef is the southernmost point of China's territory.



an area of more than 2 million square km, most of which is water.

National strategy

Sansha is part of China's administrative plan and long-term strategy on the South China Sea issue, said Li Guoqiang, Deputy Director of the Research Center for Chinese Borderland History and Geography at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

In November 2007, the State Council approved plans for Sansha. The plan was proposed by the Hainan Provincial Government, which previously held jurisdiction over the region.

China is the first country to discover, name and exercise sovereignty over the islands and their adjacent waters. The People's Republic of China set up a county-level administration office governing the area in 1959. In 1988, Hainan Province was established, and the administrative office was put under its auspices.

A spokesperson of the Ministry of Civil Affairs said on June 21 that the founding of Sansha will help improve China's administrative management in the area, promote its future development and protect the waters of the South China Sea.

In its 50-plus years of history, the administrative office had fulfilled its responsibilities, yet its functions were no longer compatible with the area's social and economic development, said Li.

Qu Xing, Director of China Institute of International Studies, said that setting up Sansha City will not only strengthen China's governance over these South China Sea islands and waters, but also safeguard the

country's sovereignty and marine rights and interests in the area.

He said that Sansha will focus its routine work on marine environment protection, research and resource development. The Central Government and Hainan Provincial Government will provide necessary fiscal support to the city.

Through these actions, the Chinese Government is exercising legitimate jurisdiction over South China Sea islands, Qu said. Sansha will also handle fishery disputes in the South China Sea and protect fishermen's personal and property safety.

Investment opportunities

Like other cities, Sansha is bent on attracting investment to prop up its economy, improve people's livelihood, construct public utilities and improve social welfare, Li said.

"This is a very good opportunity for foreign enterprises to invest in the area," Li said. Foreign companies can seek approval from the Sansha Municipal Government to build factories or make other forms of investment to tap local resources according to relevant laws and regulations of the country, he said.

The South China Sea has huge oil and natural gas reserves. Data from the Ministry of Land and Resources show that the area has more than 200 oil-gas-bearing structures and 180 oil-gas fields; it has potential oil reserves of 55 billion tons and gas reserves of 20 trillion cubic meters.

Li said that Sansha can attract companies to develop oil and natural resources, and foreign companies can do so by forming joint ventures with their Chinese partners.

Technological breakthroughs in offshore drilling platforms and the new success of the *Jiaolong* submersible have demonstrated China's strength as a maritime power and its capacity to carry out offshore and deep water exploration and extracting.

Tourism is also a focus of Sansha, said Li. In 2009, the State Council mentioned developing tourism in Xisha in its plan to build Hainan into an international tourism island.

On June 25, the Hainan Provincial Bureau of Cultural Relics designated four reefs in the Xisha Islands as cultural heritage protection areas including the Beijiao Reef, the Huaguang Reef, the Yuzhuo Reef and the Yongle Reef. In cooperation with the Ministry of Public Security, the bureau will construct offshore monitoring platform and conduct routine law enforcement inspections to protect offshore cultural relics.

Moreover, Hainan has already set up six marine ecological reserves in the area since 1980. The area may soon become a hot tourist destination. "I am very optimistic about Sansha's tourism prospect," Li said.

Rich in fishery resources, the South China Sea has been a traditional fishing ground of Chinese fishermen. The establishment of Sansha marks a milestone in the development of Hainan's marine economy, said Zhao Zhongshe, Director of the Department of Ocean and Fisheries of Hainan Province at an interview on June 24.

Zhao said that Sansha will develop four types of fisheries, including marine fishing industry. He said that fishing grounds in the area can sustain a maximum catch of more than 2 million tons, whereas the current annual catch of Hainan Province is only around 80,000 tons, which promises big development poten-

tial. In addition, Sansha will develop deep-water net cage aquaculture, seedling industry and marine product processing industry.

"Each of the four fishery industries is very attractive to investors," Zhao said.

Rough waters ahead

Setting up Sansha City is a real political, economic, social and defense maneuver.

Gong Shaopeng, a professor of international relations at China Foreign Affairs University, said that a lot of work needs to be done to set up a new city, such as setting up local government organizations, and holding elections for local legislative and political advisory bodies.

And it will take a significant amount of time for Sansha to build its infrastructure, medical care and education systems, Gong said.

Yongxing Island, the seat of Sansha Municipal Government, has relatively good



FISHERY ADMINISTRATION: *China Fishery Administration Ship No. 311*, the largest of its kind, departs from a port in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, for the Xisha Islands on March 10, 2009



GUARDING THE ISLANDS: Border guards stationed on the Xisha Islands clean up a boundary monument on August 24, 2009

infrastructure such as a dock, airport, hospital, bank and post office. Yet infrastructure is still quite poor on other islands inhabited by fishermen, where there is no adequate supply of fresh water and electricity for daily use.

Currently, a pressing issue for Sansha is to improve access to the city, Li said. He suggested that Hainan Province should use the resources of Hainan Airlines to open normal flights to Sansha, and connect Yongxing Island to Hainan Island with regular marine passenger shipping and cargo shipping services and high-speed hovercraft.

While gearing for economic development, Sansha should avoid investment overheating and over-development, Li said.

“Sansha should have an overall plan that balances resource exploitation with environment protection,” he said.

Li said that the city should put environment protection at priority because the islands there are mostly formed by coral reefs, whose ecosystem is very fragile.

“If we overexploit the resources and do not protect the ecosystem properly, the consequence can be disastrous. So we must plan ahead and put protection at priority,” said Li. ■

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China's Jurisdiction Over the South China Sea

- China first discovered and named the reefs, islets and the surrounding waters of the Xisha, Zhongsha and Nansha islands, and has exercised sovereignty control continuously over the area.

- In A.D.110, the government of the Han Dynasty (202 B.C.- A.D.220) set up a government agency on Hainan Island, which marks the beginning of central governance over Hainan Island and the islands in the South China Sea. At that time, Chinese people often navigated on the South China Sea and lived and fished around the Xisha Islands and the Nansha Islands.

- In A.D.971, the navy of the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) cruised the Xisha Islands. This was the earliest record of China's naval patrol in the area.

- In the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1369), Emperor Kubla Khan sent astronomer Guo Shoujing to conduct astronomical observations in the Zhongsha Islands, which evidenced the government's sovereignty over the area.

- In 1911, the Guangdong Provincial Government of the Republic of China proclaimed that the Xisha Islands were put under the jurisdiction of Hainan's Yaxian County (currently known as Sanya City).

- After the end of the World War II, according to the Postdam Declaration issued in July 1945 and the Cairo Declaration issued in 1947, the Republic of China sent high commissioners to the Xisha Islands from 1946 to 1948 to take over the archipelago. A takeover ceremony was held on the islands, and a monument was put up to assert China's sovereignty. The government also stationed army and set up a service station for fishermen on Taiping Island, the largest of its kind in the Nansha Islands.

- In March 1959, the Central Government of the People's Republic of China set up the administrative office for the Xisha, Nansha and Zhongsha islands, which was governed by Guangdong Province.

- In October 1984, Hainan Administrative Region was set up, which took over the administrative office.

- In April 1988, Hainan Province was set up and the administrative office was put under the province.

- In June 2012, the State Council approved the establishment of Sansha City, which governs the Xisha, Zhongsha and Nansha islands and their surrounding waters. Meanwhile the administrative office for the area was abolished.



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