

Introduction to Enterprises

JINCHUAN—CHINA'S NICKEL CAPITAL

The Jinchuan Nonferrous Metals Complex, known as China's Nickel Capital, is situated in the city of Jinchang, along the ancient Silk Road, in the middle Part of the Hexi Corridor of Gansu Province. As an extraordinarily large nonferrous metals complex comprising mining, mineral processing, smelting, chemical engineering and auxiliary production, the Jinchuan Complex is the biggest nickel-cobalt base and platinum family metals refinery center in China. It mainly produces electrolytic nickel and other by-products such as copper, cobalt, gold, silver, platinum, palladium, osmium, iridium, ruthenium, rhodium, sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, caustic soda, liquid chlorine, and elemental sulphur. At present, the output of nickel, cobalt metal, and platinum family metals account for 85 %, one third and 90 % respectively, of the national output.

Abundant in natural resources, the Jichuan mining area is a large polymetal intergrown deposit, second to Sudbury mining area of Canada. The nickel reserve takes second place in the world and account for 75 % of that known in China. Both copper and cobalt reserves take second place in China. Platinum family metals reserves take the national lead. The Jichuan mining area is unique at home and abroad for its large mineral deposits, concentration of ore bodies and many utilizable metals. Jichuan nickel deposit were discovered in 1958. At the end of 1959, construction of the base commenced and, in 1966, commissioning and start-up began step by step.

Jichuan's rich resources have provided an especially favourable condition for comprehensive utilization. In 1978, Jichuan was listed as

one of the national bases for comprehensive utilization of resources and began with scientific and technological research to tackle key problems on a large scale. Thanks to the scientific and technological research, not only have great changes taken place in Jinchuan, but the level of comprehensive utilization of Jinchuan's resources has been upgraded. Jinchuan was awarded a special prize for state scientific and technological progress in resource development and comprehensive utilization in 1989. After the completion of construction of the second phase of the project, approved by the State Planning Commission in February 1986, the annual capacity of the Jinchuan complex will be 40,000 tons of nickel, 2,000 tons of copper, 600 tons of cobalt and 400,000 tons of sulphuric acid. The gross industrial output value will be 1.2 billion RMB yuan and the profit and tax 0.5 billion RMB yuan.

In recent years, while insisting on scientific and technological progress and speeding up technological improvement, the Jinchuan Complex has carried out deep reform inside the enterprise. It has also expanded its international economic and technological cooperation and lateral economic associations within the country. The implementation of a series of policies like those above will help Jinchuan go beyond the western district to face the domestic and international markets, so as to enable the complex to become a more active and open enterprise which enjoys great prestige both at home and abroad.

(Rewritten according to Introduction of Jichuan Complex by Peng, Chaoqun)