

# Xinjiang boasts mineral riches

**E**XPLORATION and development in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region is experiencing rapid growth which is supporting the region's industrialization.

During a presentation at China Mining, the region's Department of Land and Resources Leading Party group member Hu Jianwei said, "We will cautiously study and grasp the development trend, seize and make good use of the development chance, advance with the times, develop and innovate, carry out coal resource exploitation in a down-to-earth manner, promote transformation of advantageous resources and economic and social development in Xinjiang."

Xinjiang is a resource-based region with 138 various minerals, 94 of which have verified resource reservations. The province has five mineral reserves ranked first in China, nine second, 27 in the top five and 41 in the top 10.

It has an estimated oil resource of 20.9 billion tonnes, more than 30% of China's total, estimated gas resources of 10.4 trillion cubic metres or 34% of China's total and estimated coal resource of 2.19 trillion tonnes or 40% of China's total. There are also substantial copper, iron and various non-ferrous metal resources.

Since the 10th Five Year Plan, Xinjiang has seen continuous enhancement of exploration and development of mineral resources.

Since 2001 about 1 billion Yuan has been invested in basic geological surveys. Through basic geological development, Xinjiang has identified a large number of geochemical anomalies and mineral occurrences, laying down a foundation for further exploration.

From 2001 to 2008, about 4.5 billion Yuan was invested in exploration. Significant progress has been made in coal, uranium, iron, gold, copper, nickel, lead, zinc, antimony, tungsten, molybdenum, sylvite, sodium nitrate and special non-metallic mineral resources.

Sixty-nine large and medium-sized mineral deposits have been found and evaluated with reported resource reserves of 107.9 billion tonnes of coal, 0.6 billion tonnes of iron, 0.25 billion tonnes of sylvite, 6.612 million tonnes of copper, 0.375 million tonnes of nickel, 6.29 million tonnes of lead and zinc, 0.21 million tonnes of gold, 0.24 million tonnes of vanadium, 1.15 million tonnes of titanium, 0.14 million tonnes of molybdenum, 0.016 million tonnes of tungsten, 0.1 million tonnes of antimony, 0.25 billion tonnes of sodium nitrate, 0.6 billion tonnes of bentonite and 26.63 million tonnes of andalusite.

## China regional focus

The proportion of Xinjiang's gross mining output has been increasing. In 2007 the region had 3156 mining enterprises and 126.877 billion Yuan of mining production, accounting for 36.5% of gross industrial output. Compared with 2000, production of crude oil increased by 40%, natural gas 490%, coal 60%, iron ore 610% and nickel 580%.

The CPC Xinjiang Autonomous Region Committee and Xinjiang Autonomous Regional People's Government have been attracting large enterprises to resources projects with strong development potential. The region now hosts nearly 80 national large enterprises.

Coal exploration has been a major focus with Xinjiang attracting 16 large enterprises with estimated investment of 416.3 billion Yuan. The investment in exploration and development of metals and non-metallic minerals is 74.3 million Yuan with 11 large enterprises attracted.

Hu Jianwei says while there have been many advancements, there are still deficiencies which officials are addressing. These include low level basic geological and mineral exploration, insufficient large and medium-sized areas for development, unreasonable structure of development and utilization of mineral resources, small scale mine development, low comprehensive utilization and further processing capacity, inadequate institutional mechanisms and insufficient precision in mine administration and management.

"However, we believe, with attention and support from the state and the autonomous region the exploration and development of Xinjiang mineral resources will be bound to make new breakthroughs."

A number of targets have been set with the aim of completion by the end of the 12th Five Year Plan, including increasing coverage of regional geological survey on a 1:50,000 scale by 8%; new discoveries of 100 deposits urgently needed by the state and 20-30 ore concentration areas with potential of large mineral resources; and gaining an additional 1 billion tonnes of iron, 10 million tonnes of copper, 10 million tonnes of lead and zinc, 0.3 million tonnes of tungsten, 300 billion tonnes of coal, 30 million tonnes of sylvite and 200 million tonnes of sodium nitrate.

## 新疆自治区积极开发丰富的矿产资源

新疆维吾尔自治区的矿产勘探和开发工作正高速发展，为自治区工业化进程提供了支持。

在中国矿业大会上所做的一份报告中，自治区国土资源厅党组成员胡建卫说：“我们将慎重地研究并抓住发展趋势，把握并利用好发展机遇，与时俱进，开拓创新，脚踏实地实施煤炭资源开发，推动优势资源转化以及自治区经济和社会发展。”

新疆是一个资源大省，拥有138种矿产，其中已探明资源储量的矿产达94种。储量居全国首位的矿产有5种，居全国第二位的有9种，有27种矿产储量居全国前五位，41种居全国前十位。

新疆的估测石油资源量为209亿吨，占全国总资源量的30%，预测天然气资源量为10.4万亿立方米，占全国总资源量的34%，预测煤炭资源量为2.19万亿吨，占全国总资源量的40%。此外，新疆还拥有可观的铜、铁和各种有色金属资源。

自从十五计划以来，新疆不断加强矿产资源的勘探和开发工作。

从2001年起共投资约10亿元用于基础地质调查。通过基础地质调查的进步，新疆发现了大量的地质异常以及矿点，为进一步的开发打下坚实的基础。

2001至2008年期间，共投资约45亿元用于勘探。在煤、铀、铁、金、铜、镍、铅、锌、锑、钨、钼、钾盐、硝酸钠以及特种非金属矿物资源上取得了显著的进步。有69处大型和中型矿床被发现并加以评估，报告的资源储量为1079亿吨煤，6亿吨铁，2.5亿吨钾盐，661.2万吨铜，37.5万吨镍，629万吨铅和锌，21万吨黄金资源，24万吨钨，115万吨钛，14万吨钼，1.6万吨钨，10万吨锑，2.5亿吨硝酸钠，6亿吨膨润土，2663万吨红柱石。

新疆采矿业总产值所占份额一直在增长。2007年自治区共有3156家采矿企业，采矿总产值为1268.77亿元，占工业总产值的36.5%。与2000年相比，原油产量增长了40%，天然气产量增长490%，煤产量增长60%，铁矿石增长610%，镍增长580%。

新疆自治区党委和自治区人民政府正吸引大型企业来开发具有巨大发展潜力的资源项目。目前自治区已聚集了近80家大型国企，如神华、鲁能、新汶、潞安和国投。

煤炭勘探是新疆的一个主要热点，目前已吸引了16家大型企业，总投资额估计达4163亿元。对金属和非金属矿产进行勘探和开发的11家大型企业的总投资额则达到7430万元。

胡建卫说，尽管已经有了很大进步，但依然存在不足之处——对此政府官员们正在解决，包括基础地质勘查以及矿物勘探水平低，开发所需的大型和中型面积区域不足，发展结构以及矿产资源利用不合理，矿山开发规模小，综合利用水平和矿石处理能力低，机制不完善，矿山管理不严格。

“尽管如此，我们相信，通过国家和自治区的关注支持，新疆矿产资源的勘探和开发必将取得新的突破。”已制定了许多目标，要在第十二个五年计划结束之前完成，包括将1:50,000区域地质调查的覆盖面积增加8%，寻找100个新的国家急需矿床，20-30个有可能拥有大型矿产资源的矿石集中区，新获得10亿吨铁、1000万吨铜、1000万吨铅和锌、30万吨钨、3000万吨煤、3000万吨钾盐以及2亿吨硝酸钠。