

### **China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Sichuan Council**

### Sichuan Economic & Trade Bulletin

MAY 2009

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## Macro Economy

## The Main Economic Indicators of Sichuan Province were on the Rise in April

Sichuan Provincial Statistics Bureau released the main economic indicators of Sichuan Province in April. The data shows that, with the two big drivers of industry and investment, the main economic indicators of Sichuan Province continued to be on the rise, the industrial output of all quake-hit areas, except for Aba Autonomous Prefecture, grew at two-digit in April.

Investment remains the strongest "horsepower" to drive the economic growth of Sichuan Province. The statistics express shows that the total investment to fixed assets hit 103.79 billion RMB yuan in April, which was the third month wherein the investment exceeded 100 billion RMB yuan after the May 12 Wenchuan earthquake. The total investments in the past 4 months was up to 319.65 billion RMB yuan, up 78.9% over the same period of the previous year.

In light of that the first 4 months of last year were a rapid growth period for the industry of Sichuan Province, the trend in this April was a focus of extensive attention. As per statistics, the total output of Industrial enterprises above provincial sizeincreased by 47.03 billion RMB yuan, up 17.7% over the previous year, but down 1.5% than that of the previous month (March).

The figures released by the National Bureau of Statistics showed that, both CPI and PPI dropped in April, by 1.5% and 6.6% year on year respectively. Meanwhile, the Sichuan General Survey Team of the National Bureau of Statistics released Sichuan's price indices in April: CPI up 0.2% and PPI down 3.1% year on year, and down 0.3% and 0.7% respectively compared with March.

## The GDP of Sichuan Province in the First Quarter Increased by 10.8% over the Same Period of the Previous Year

As released by the Press Conference on the Economic Situation of Sichuan in the First Quarter hosted by Sichuan Provincial Statistics Bureau, GDP of Sichuan Province increased by 10.8% over the same period of the previous year, among which, the growth rates of the first, second and tertiary industries were respectively 3.3%. 68.3% and 28.4%.





## The Growth Rate of the Foreign Exports of Sichuan Province Topped in China in the First Quarter

Due to the rampant global financial crisis, the exports of China were in downturn in the first quarter this year. However, Sichuan Province had a good start with its growth rate of exports ranked first in China. As per the latest statistics by the Customs, Sichuan Province became one of the two provinces whose imports and exports were on the rise, with its exports up by 15.1%. Sichuan Province is ranked at the 11th position in terms of its imports and exports, imports, and exports respectively. It climbed by 5 positions over the same period of the previous year in the ranking of exports. The total value of imports and exports remains at No. 1 in central and western China.

Shown by the data from the Customs, the total value of imports and exports of Sichuan Province in the first quarter was 4.67 billion USD, up 12.6% over the previous month. Among which, the exports was 2.905 billion USD, with a growth rate of 29.9% ranking top in China; the imports was 1.765 billion USD, down by 3%.



## The Sichuan Industrial Enterprises Had a Good Start in the First Quarter

Released by Sichuan Provincial Economic Commission, the first quarter of 2009 witnessed a value added of Sichuan industrial enterprises on large scale at 131.58 billion RMB yuan, up 17.5% over the previous year. Out of which, the growth rate in March was 19.2%. Sichuan industrial enterprises had a good start in 2009.



## Major Projects

## Construction of Yingxiu-Wenchuan Expressway Launched

The construction of Yingxiu-Wenchuan expressway launched. This is another project of post-quake reconstruction, which kicked off on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of May 12 Wenchuan earthquake.

With a total length of 52 km, the Yingxiu-Wenchuan Expressway starts from Dujiangyan, via the exit of Longxi Tunnel (which is the end of Dujiangyan-Yingxiu Expressway), and ends at Aba Teachers' College in Wenchuan County. It is another Passage of Life for the areas heavily affected by May 12 Wenchuan earthquake.

#### Sichuan Province Invested 44.7 Billion RMB yuan to Renovate the National and Provincial Trunk Highways and to Reconstruct the Broken Highways in Rural Areas of Sichuan Province

Recently, the plans on renovating the national and provincial trunk highways and on reconstructing the broken highways in the rural areas of Sichuan Province are released. As per the plans, Sichuan Province will renovate national and provincial trunk highways in total length of 8327 km and will reconstruct broken highways in total length of 17,355 km in rural areas between Year 2009 and Year 2012.

## Construction of 9 Airports Will Kick Off within 2 Years in Sichuan Province

From the source of Sichuan Provincial Development and Reform Commission, construction of 3 airports in Sichuan Province will kick off this year, namely, Nanchong Airport, Phase III of Jiuzhaigou Airport, and Expansion of Xichang Airport. And another 6 airport construction projects will launch in Year 2010. The 9 projects involve an investment

of 9.786 billion RMB yuan. As professionals pointed out, such large-scale airport construction will push the development of feeder airlines in Sichuan Province, will uplift the comprehensive competitiveness of Sichuan airlines, and will consolidate the position of Sichuan Province as the hub for Western China.



### Information on Industries

## **Tourism of Sichuan Province Started to Boom One Year after Wenchuan Earthquake**

As per the statistical data released by Sichuan Provincial Bureau of Tourism, Sichuan Province received tourists of 9.3681 million persons/times and realized revenues of 2.875 billion RMB yuan from tourism during the May 1 holidays this year, respectively up 14.4% and 15% over the same period of the previous year. The tourism industry is more prosperous than the time before Wenchuan earthquake.

#### **Chengdu Marches into 3G Times**

Recently, China Mobile Communications Corporation Sichuan Company announced officially that it would launch TD-SCD-MA, declaring that Chengdu has marched in 3G communications times. Chengdu has also become the first city in Sichuan Province which launches 3G services ever since China released 3G Licenses on January 7, 2009.

### The Yearly Revenues of Chengdu from Outsourcing Services Will Hit 65 Billion RMB Yuan

Chengdu has decided to take IT industry as an important breakthrough to prevent economic downturn and to accelerate economic growth. It is estimated that at the end of Year 2009, the revenues from the core businesses of software and IT services will hit 65 billion RMB yuan, and 400 million USD from IT outsourcing services.

#### Sichuan Mining Investment Group Set up Its Shingle

On April 30, Sichuan Mining Investment Group set up its shingle. It is wholly invested by Sichuan Development (Shareholding) Company Ltd, and is merged of Sichuan Non-ferrous Metal Industrial Group Chengdu Company and Sichuan Nationalities Economic Development Company.

Sichuan Province abounds in non-ferrous metals, with the reserves of Vanadium, Titanium, Iron, Nickel and the like ranked high in China. Sichuan Mining Investment Group has a registered capital of 190 million RMB yuan, and will mainly invest, develop and trade metal mines, non-metal mines, energy mines, water, and gas.



## Projects Launched

## China FAW Group and German Volkswagen Start Car Project in Sichuan

On May 8, the car base constructing project jointly invested by China FAW Group Corporation and Volkswagen Group China with EUR 550 million was officially launched on May 8 in Sichuan. This is another major progress in car manufacturing in Chengdu since the signing ceremony last October.

## Mass Production of Changhong Oboni Plasma TV Sets Launched

Recently, the News Briefing on Changhong Oboni Plasma TV Sets Entering the Market was hosted in the headquarters of Changhong Group. Meanwhile, more than 10 patterns of 42" and 50" Changhong Oboni Plasma TV sets emerged on markets across China. This symbolizes that the first production line for the latest generation of plasma TV screens, for which China owns the Intellectual Property Rights, has gone into mass production.

#### Construction of Anren World-Class Town of Museums Kicked Off

Anren Town has 27 mansions combing both eastern and western styles, 11 modern museums, 16 relics protecting units, 800 plus collected items, 104 national first-grade relics, and unique resources like Liu's Manor, Jianchuan Museum complexes. Chengdu has decided to forge Anren into a world-class town of museums within 5 years.

To achieve this, Dayi County has formulated a series of preferential policies on land provision, fiscal support, fees, financing guarantee and the like, so as to induce the private money into construction of small and medium museums, tourist facilities and public infrastructure.



## The Project of Metal Silicon with a Total Capital Investment of 820 Million Euros Launched in Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture

Recently, on the fifth session of Spain-China Forum, Grupo Villar Mir signed a Framework Agreement in Chengdu with Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture on investing 820 million euro in a metal silicon project.

In accordance with the Agreement, Groupo Villar Mir will build a chemical metal silicon plant with a yearly production capacity of 100 thousand tons (the largest scale of its kind in the world) and a solar energy metal silicon plant with a yearly production capacity of 10 thousand tons (the largest scale of its kind in the world) in Kangding County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture.

The construction will kick off in September, 2009. The first furnace will start production in Year 2011, and totally 6 furnaces will do so in Year 2013. The current biggest metal silicon plant in the world is in South Africa, but the Ganzi one will be twice the scale of South Africa plant.

The Ferroatlantica of Groupo Villar Mir, based in Spain, is a world leader in metal silicon production, with its ferroalloy and silicon both ranked top in the world and a market share of 40%.

## IBM Takes Chengdu as Its Headquarters for Western China

By integrating its business operations in the 9 provinces and 1 city in Southwest and Northwest China, IBM has put forth its Greater Western China Strategic Plan, taking Chengdu as its headquarters for western China.

### Conventions & Exhibitions

## The 10<sup>th</sup> Western China International Economy & Trade Fair Invites Guests across the World to Visit Sichuan in October, 2009

The 10<sup>th</sup> Western China International Economy & Trade Fair (Western China Fair) will be hosted in Chengdu between October 16 and 20, 2009. On May 5, Sichuan Province takes the platform of Qinghai Investment & Trade Seminar to host Briefing on Sichuan Post-quake Reconstruction Projects and on Promotion of the 10th Western China Fair, inviting guests from across the world to attend the exposition and to visit Sichuan Province.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Western China Fair will set up specialized pavilions and theme pavilions, will highlight combination of exhibiting and trading, will strengthen its functions of investment attraction, trade and cooperation promotion, will organize specialized activities like investment attraction seminars, trading and commerce matchmaking, theme workshops, and will establish 5 major exhibition pavilions respectively for Showcase of Western Development Achievements, Pan-Asia Regional Cooperation, Post-quake Reconstruction, Hi-tech Industry, Pillar Industries' Cooperation, and one sub-pavilion for Conference on Buyers.

This exposition will highlight its internationalization feature, and will design and organize, in alignment with the two threads of Western Development Strategy and of Promoting the Economic Cooperation between Western China and Pan-Asian Region, 40 odd activities like the 2<sup>nd</sup> Western China International Forum with the theme of "Challenging the International Financial Crisis and Pushing Western China Development and Pan-Asian Regional Cooperation", Investment Promotion for the 12 Western China Provinces (Municipality and Autonomous Regions) and Xinjiang Production & Construction Corps, signing ceremonies for major economic cooperation projects, 2009 China (Sichuan) Sourcing Fair, 2009 International Chambers of Commerce and Industry Association (Chengdu) Summit

#### **Chengdu Real Estate Spring Fair Launched Dynamically**

On April 30, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Chengdu Real Estate Fair (Spring of Year 2009) opened officially in the New Century International Convention and Exhibition Center in Chengdu. 209 real estate developers released 259 building complexes, with exhibitors from 12 districts and counties of Chengdu, including Pujiang and Xindu. The numbers of exhibitors and of floor areas for exhibition both rank record high.



## The 7<sup>th</sup> China International Software Cooperation Forum in 2009 Was Hosted in Chengdu

Recently, the 7<sup>th</sup> China International Software Cooperation Fair in 2009 was opened in the International Conference Center of Chengdu New Century Convention and Exhibition Center. The number of attendees hit 1500, with record-high standard, scale and indicators.

#### Sichuan Enterprises Were Favored by Central Asia

In the morning of May 13, the 7<sup>th</sup> Kazakhstan-Asian Goods Exhibition 2009 opened in the Atakent Exhibition Centre, Almaty City, Kazakhstan. Sichuan enterprises, which first attended the exhibition, were favored by the businessmen from Central Asia.

Central Asia is becoming an emerging market for Sichuan goods. Year 2008 witnessed a stride in trade between Sichuan Province and the Central Asia: the total value of imports and exports with Kazakhstan hit 97.66 million USD, up 52.36% over the previous year, that with Kyrgyzstan

was 28.39 million USD. In the first 3 months this year, the imports and exports of Sichuan Province with Kyrgyzstan was 58.04 million USD, up 954.78% over the same period of the previous year.

Central Asia and Sichuan Province have much to complement each other. The Sichuan-made daily consumer goods, complete sets of equipment, small electrical and mechanical products have strong competitiveness in the Central Asian markets.

## China Import and Export Fair in Guangzhou Promoted China (Sichuan) Sourcing Fair 2009 (to be hosted in Sichuan Province)

China (Sichuan) Sourcing Fair 2009 will take place in Chengdu between October 17 and 18. The fair will mainly organize buyers from 8 industries, namely, equipment manufacturing and parts & components, electronic and electrical parts and appliances, textiles and garments, light consumer goods, refined chemicals, food & beverage, modern agriculture, medical health, so as to have a trading advantage. There will be no exhibition

pavilions, but discussion sections as per industries and regions. The Organizing Committee will organize matchmaking to the attending businesses. As learned, the fair will invite 400 overseas buyers to attend, with a scale bigger than the previous one.





# The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Festival of Intangible Cultural Heritages Chengdu, China Co-hosted by UNESCO and Chinese Ministry of Culture is to Hosted in Chengdu in June, 2009

The 2<sup>nd</sup> China International Festival of Intangible Cultural Heritages, the first international cultural festival cosponsored by UNESCO, is going to take place in Chengdu between June 1 and 13.

This Festival, sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Culture, Sichuan Provincial Government and UNESCO, themed "Rich Ethnic Cultures, Homeland to Human Spirit", will comprise a series of activities like street parade,

international forum, exhibitions, theatrical performance, etc. There will be more than 160 activities in the 13 days of the Festival, more than 40 countries and regions and each province (municipality under the direct leadership of the Central Government, autonomous region) across China will send delegations to the Festival, totally there will be more than 5 million persons/times of delegates, tourists and citizens.

## International Exchange

## Mr. Jiang Jufeng, Governor of Sichuan Provincial, Met with Mr. John Chambers, CEO of Cisco

On April 18, Mr. Jiang Jufeng, Governor of Sichuan Provincial People's Government, met with Mr. John Chambers, chairman of board and CEO of Cisco and his delegation.

On behalf of Sichuan Provincial Government and the earthquake victims of Sichuan Province, Mr. Jiang Jufeng appreciated the selfless aids from Cisco to support quake

relief and post-quake reconstruction, warmly welcomed Cisco to participate in the reconstruction, and willed to have more extensive and deeper cooperation with Cisco.



## Mr. Li Gang, Chairman of CCPIT Sichuan Council, Visited Brazil, Argentina and Peru

The 3-member delegation headed by Mr. Li Gang, Chairman of CCPIT Sichuan Council visited Brazil, Argentina and Peru between March 31 and April 10. The main purpose of the visit is to invite the political leaders and other high-ranking governmental officials, chambers of commerce, entrepreneurs to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Western

China Fair and the International Cooperation Forum, Pan-Asia Commerce Ministers Summit, Chengdu Summit of 2009 International Conference on Chambers of Commerce and Associations.

## Mr. Li Li, Vice Chairman of CCPIT Sichuan Council, Met with Guests from Pakistan

In the afternoon of May 13, Mr. Li Li, Vice President of CCPIT Sichuan Council, met with Secretary General of the Pakistan Muslim League (the Ruling Party), Mr. Mushahid Hussain Syed and his delegation. Mr. Li extended his warm welcome to the delegation and his gratitude for the aids and support from Pakistan when Sichuan was hit by Wenchuan Earthquake. Mr. Mushahid Hussain Syed said that he would set up the first unofficial organization promoting Sino-Pakistan trade and economic

cooperation in Pakistan, and would strengthen the bilateral cooperation by the advantage of Chengdu-Karachi direct flight. Then, both parties reached a consensus on attending the 10<sup>th</sup> Western China Exposition. Secretary General Mr. Mushahid Hussain Syed will come to Sichuan in August to further discussions on attending the exposition.

### CCPIT Sichuan Council

#### Mr. Li Gang, Chairman of CCPIT Sichuan Council Attended Thai Food Festival

To strengthen the friendly exchanges and cooperation between Thailand and Sichuan Province in trade and investment, a 10-member delegation led by Mr. Mr. Weeras ak Kohsurat, Vice Minister of Ministry of Commerce, visited Sichuan between May  $4^{\text{th}}$  and  $6^{\text{th}}$ .

In the morning of May  $5^{\text{th}}$ , the Consulate General of Thailand to Chengdu and Chengdu Ito Yokado co-hosted

Thai Food Festival. Mr. Li Gang, Chairman of CCPIT Sichuan Council attended the Festival upon the invitation and made a speech. Mr. Li Gang warmly welcomed the delegation led by Mr. Weerasak Kohsurat, and hoped that the friendly exchanges and cooperation between Thailand and Sichuan Province in trade, investment, culture and such sectors could be strengthened by means of activities like Thai Food Festival.



## CCPIT Sichuan Council Invited Foreign Experts on Architectural Planning to Attend the International Seminar on Post-quake Reconstruction of Yingxiu Town

On April 7 and 9, the International Seminar on Post-quake Reconstruction of Yingxiu Town sponsored by Sichuan Province was held in the Shawan International Convention & Exhibition Center. This Seminar was held to construct Yingxiu Town as a benchmark for post-quake reconstruction, a role model on disaster prevention and reduction, and a quality town with ethnic favors.

After many contacts and confirmations with relevant departments and organizations, CCPIT Sichuan Committee succeeded in inviting Dr. Elizabeth Hausler, an American expert, and Mr. Oliver Collignon, a senior German architect, to attend the Seminar and deliver speeches. The Seminar achieved solid results.

## CCPIT Sichuan Council Organized Training on Certification and Authentication to Registered Enterprises

In order to strengthen management on the certificate issuing and certificate accreditation, to improve the professional qualities and certificate issuing efficiency of the certificate signing person and the certificate taker in foreign trade, so as to guarantee that the foreign trading companies can settle their foreign exchange safely and conducting foreign trade smoothly, CCPIT Sichuan Council organized "A Series of Lectures (3) on Promoting Foreign Economic and Trade Development----Training to Registered Enterprises on Certificate Issuing and Accreditation 2009" on March 27, 2009 in Chengdu. More than 200 Certificate Signing Persons and Certificate

Takers from partial import and export enterprises and foreign-funded enterprises of Sichuan Province, and staff of local branches of CCPIT Sichuan Council attended the training.

