

INTRODUCTION

Before the founding of the People's Republic of China, population dynamics was characterized by high fertility and high mortality. After the liberation, the crude death rates are gradually decreasing accompanied with social and economic development and the improvement in the public health conditions. While the crude birth rates still maintained high, due to the influence of old ideas, such as "a prosperous posterity" and the encouragement in having many children by the government. In 1960s the fertility recorded highest since the founding of the nation, and such high birth rates and low death rates brought about a rapid population growth. Since the beginning of 1970s government promoted the family planning programme, the crude birth rates dropped from 34 per thousand in 1969 to 17 in 1979, 50 per cent fall within 10 years. Here China has completed her demographic transition from high fertility and high mortality to low fertility and low mortality.

Since the end of 1970s the economic reform policy has launched, internal migration from urban to rural areas has been increasing according to the development of commodity economy. Migration was strictly controlled to administer the household registration since 1949. Recently there are some thinking to modify the originally strict migration policy.

The Research Committee on "Factor Analysis of China's Population Change", which started in 1989, aimed to analyze China's population trends and factors in changes since the founding of the nation and engaged in study concerning the evaluation of static and vital statistics, fertility, mortality, migration, sex and age composition, labor force, education and population policy and at the same time compiled the basic materials. This is the second book and the first one was published in 1990 entitled *Population Statistics of China*. The major contents of the second book are vital statistics and population policy of China including Regulations on Family Planning, the Marriage Law, Regulations on the Household Registration, the Compulsory Education Law, the Labor Contract System and so on.

The present volume also contains statistical maps and figures with demographic and socio-economic indices which may be useful for grasping the characteristics of socio-economic status in China.

This book also contains six brief articles; I-2 Population Change and Its Determinants in China (Mrs.Hayase), I-3 Evaluation of China's Vital Statistics (Mr.Huang), I-4 The Proximate Determinants and Socio-economic Factors of Fertility Decline in China (Mr.Sato), I-5 Mortality Trends and Changing Factors in China (Mr.Ueda), I-6 Internal Migration in China (Mrs. Hayase), I-7 Family Planning in China (Miss Wakabayashi).

Our thanks are to all those who participated in the Research Committee,

contributed articles and collaborated in some way or other. We hope to obtain their further support and cooperation in the future too. We are convinced that the present volume shall help improvements in the evaluation and utilization of China's population statistics.

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Yasuko Hayase

Organizer of the Research Committee
Statistical Research Department
Institute of Developing Economies