

## Introduction

China's population doubled from 5.4 billion to 11.2 billion during 40 years since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. China's population, which stands at about 20 per cent of the world total, has reduced the upward trend rapidly, owing to the strong population control policy, namely, "one child policy" promoted by the Government vigorously, which has been introduced since the late 1970s. China, which is still classified into the low income bracket countries, has remarkably reversed its dynamic trends in population from the high fertility and mortality rates at the time of founding of the nation to the low fertility and mortality rates and its fertility rate has reached the same level of the economically middle class countries in Asia and Latin America. Such rapid population control has been brought by various reasons such as promotion of family planning and economic and cultural factors.

The Research Committee on «Factor Analysis of China's Population Change», which started in the first Heisei year 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 population statistics, fertility, mortality, age structure, labor force, migration and population policy and, at the same time, sorted out basic materials.

The present book contains China's static trends in population in time-series by province from 1949 to '88 and the compilation of data from the four censuses of 1953, '64, '82 and '87. China's vital statistics and analysis of China's population shall be published in the second Heisei year, 1990 and the third Heisei year, 1991.

Besides, the present book carries four brief articles; «A Note on China's Population Statistics» (I-2), «The Education System Reforms in China» (I-3), «Minority Nationality in China» (I-4) and «Population Projections for China, 1987-2057» (I-5) in Explanatory Notes, which provide readers with reference materials and estimates for the future.

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 co-operation in the future too. We are convinced that the present book shall help improvements in the evaluation and utilization of China's population statistics.

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