

ClassNK Around the World

Qingdao office

Qingdao Harbor

The Chinese province of Shandong is known as the cradle of the Yangtze (Yellow River) civilization, one of China's four great historical civilizations. It is the birthplace of philosophers and thinkers such as Confucius (the father of Confucianism), and Mencius who was also a famous thinker.

Qingdao City is located almost in the center of the southern coastline of the Shandong Peninsula. With an area of 10,000 square km Qingdao City takes up about 7% of Shandong province, and about 1/3 of the province's population of 6,900,000 people is concentrated in this city area. The people seem to lead a comfortable life because population density is quite low when compared with the big cities such as Beijing and Shanghai.

The calm Western-style brick houses of the present day Qingdao City reflect the strong German influence in the city's history, which changed it from a small fishing village of a previously remote district. The Germans also quickly realized that the water which gushed out from the famous mountain "Laoshang" in the eastern part of the town, was most suitable for beer-making, so the production of beer began very early. Thus it came to be that the world famous Tsing Tao beer was produced.

Also famous for its clean sea and attractive streets, many people come all year round to Qingdao as tourists. Especially in summer, when the population increases greatly as many



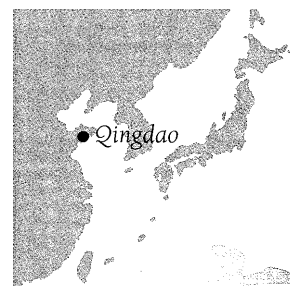
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tourists from all over China rush to the Qingdao seaside because it isn't as hot as the inland cities, even in summer. It is said that the climate in Qingdao is very easy to live with.

And of course, we mustn't forget Shandong cuisine which is considered typical among the various Chinese cuisines available in Qingdao. High-quality ingredients are abundant with the marine products caught in the nearby seas especially famous. A meal is always begun with the drinking of Qingdao beer and wine, and is generally finished with abundant fruit as the dessert. In any case, everyone eats

well, and then drinks well, and enjoys their meal.

At present, the city is actively promoting further tourism and is preparing the appropriate infrastructure with the construction of high rise buildings and so on.



Qingdao

On the other hand, Qingdao City also has its flip side as a significant industrial city. In particular, the textile industry has developed to rival Shanghai and Tianjin. Qingdao port is a port with quite a history, being built in 1892. It is one of the more important Chinese ports, in line with Shanghai, Tianjin, Dalian, and so on as a gateway to the continent. Many kinds of industries have developed in Qingdao because of its good geographical location. There are 13 piers and 71 quays in the port, which can also accommodate a ULCC in the oil berth. The container quay handled more than 1,500,000 teu last year, making it the second busiest in China.

The NK Qingdao office covers almost the whole area of the Shandong province. Sometimes travel in excess of 500km at a time is required but this distance is often covered as a pleasant train journey enjoying the scenery of the farm villages.

Typically, afloat surveys are done in Qingdao Port, Hungdao, Yantai, Weihai, Rizhao, and Lian Yun Gang,



(From left) NK Qingdao GM, Mr. Isao Takano, Secretary, Ms. Zhu Mei, Surveyor, Mr. X. W. Chen,

among others, while new shipbuilding and class maintenance surveys are undertaken at shipyards in Qingdao, Hungdao, Yantai and Weihai. Anchor chain inspections take place in Zibo & Jimo City, Boiler inspections in Jiaozhou City and Material inspections in Jinan City, while Life Boat inspections are done in Qingdao.

When many inspections are concentrated on the same day, a regional support system involving other NK offices in the neighboring areas has been established, in order to ensure that the inspection service which is most suitable for the client's schedule, is met.

It is expected that the ships travelling to and from China will increase further as the amount of trade will increase when China joins the WTO. This increase in the load movement is expected to not only impact shipping companies and shipyards, but also many other industrial developments, so we expect to deal with a variety of new enterprises and clients. We are looking forward to being able to meet many more people from now on.

Each NK office in China, including the Qingdao office, must prepare for the corresponding increase in inspections expected. We must strive to continue to provide the service which has so far kept our customers so satisfied.

On a personal note, I am very pleased and grateful that everything has gone smoothly since I arrived at my new post here in Qingdao, thanks to the wonderful support of the NK Qingdao team, and our clients.

Durban Office

The Port of Durban, which has 57 berths, is the busiest port on the African continent and is the largest in terms of container capacity. During 1999, 3,473 ocean going vessels of 131 million gross tons visited the port, of which an average of 110 vessels per month were container. Durban's container terminal is one of the largest of its type in the southern hemisphere with container movements exceeding 80,000 per month.

Being conveniently placed on the primary North and South Atlantic trade routes to Indian Ocean and Far Eastern ports, Durban is a favorite for vessels taking bunkers and also changing crew personnel.

With two floating docks and one graving dock, which can be divided into two separate independently floodable compartments, Durban is also a favorite call for routine and casualty ship repair. The larger of the two floating docks, owned and operated by Elgin Brown & Hamer (Pty) Ltd, has a lifting capacity of 8,500 tons and a floor length of 140m. The largest vessel to occupy the graving dock is a panamax sized container ship with a length of 265m and beam of 32.5m.

Richards Bay, some 90nm up the coast from Durban is Africa's largest port in terms of bulk cargoes exported. The coal terminal at Richards Bay can handle five capesize bulkers at one time with an average loading time of 48 hours for a capesized vessel.

ClassNK's new Durban Office, which opened during September 1999, is very active in the ports of

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