

DO PHUONG QUYNH

THE HA LONG BAY AND THE QUANG NINH PROVINCE



THE FACE OF VIETNAM

THE GIOI PUBLISHERS - HANOI 1994

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PREFACE

The Ha Long Bay is one of the tourist attractions of Vietnam. The film *Indochine* starred by Catherine Deneuve shows fine images of this 8th Wonder of the World.

And yet without being told in advance visitors may not know that the province of Quang Ninh, part of which is the Ha Long Bay, also stores the most attractive treasures of mankind.

Recently I have been carried away in an autumn flight to Yen Hung, the southwestern district of the border province of Quang Ninh. Crossing the immense Pha Rung ferry, some 20 km northeast of Hai Phong, we made a stop to explore the hinterlands, thus giving up the classic "package tour" around the Ha Long Bay.

In the 17th century, nineteen ancestral pioneers, mostly from the capital, mobilized boatmen and their families to build coastal dykes and clear the salty marshes so as to make their ricefields fertile. The grateful inhabitants built a temple in memory of them. Every year on the 7th day of the first moon (Tet) a festival is held here. This event was regarded as the discovery of the first source of fresh water. A popular ceremony to honour the old people of eighty years old or more go with solemn procession to the temple for sacrifice. Four patriarchs put four clods of earth in front of the altar then proceeded to the site of the construction of the dykes. They then took part in a symbolic fight. These rural works can only start in wake of these ritual shows. Their seven villages have their own communal houses dedicated to the pioneers and their pagoda, typical of the architecture of the village in the delta of North Vietnam. The communal house of Phong Coc destined to the worshipping of the Four Saints - a Chinese empress of the Sung Dynasty and three young ladies escaping the invasion of the Mongol and lost their lives in the open sea is a real jewel - with an ancient-tile roof of 600 square metres, a row of huge wooden pilars and above all its superb wood work.

"Last but not least," we can see a group of historic vestiges relating to the resounding riverine victory of Bach Dang in 1288 where a fleet of Mongol troops including 400 fighting boats with 40,000 soldiers of the invading army were annihilated. Generalissimo Tran Hung Dao, whose name has been given to major streets of all cities, lured foreign troops into an ambush: He planted at the entrance to the river wooden pikes covered with iron heads so that when the ebb tide flowed back, they perforated the Mongol boats. In 1953, while consolidating the dyke, the villagers found by chance in the marshy land of Yen Giang these pikes planted there 200 years ago. In this region there are two temples - one in memory of an old tea merchant on the bank of the Chanh River who gave General Tran Hung Dao the information about the terrain and the movement of the ebb-tide, and the other in honour of the General himself with an original statue: the warrior coiling his let-down chignon.

In Hung Yen district alone there are a lot of tourist and historic places of interest. Quang Ninh province has got nine districts with different attractions. Mt. Yen Tu is the cradle of the Zen Buddhism whose Truc Lam Sect had the Van Yen Tu and Quynh Lam Pagodas built in the 18th century. The present-day province of Quang Ninh attracts us with its coalmines and its trade with China and many other countries of the world and is inhabited by the Viet majority people and many ethnic minorities such as Tay, San Chay, San Dziu, Nung and Hoa.

It can be said that tourists to the Ha Long Bay will have a lot to discover. This book will give them a foretaste.

March 1994

HUU NGOC

PART ONE

PANORAMIC VIEW

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Quang Ninh is a border province of Vietnam, extending from 106° to 108° East longitude and from 20° to $21^{\circ}44'$ North latitude. It has an area of $5,900 \text{ km}^2$ consisting mostly of hills and mountains. It measures at maximum 195 km from east to west and 102 km from north to south. In the north, it adjoins Lang Son and the Chinese province of Guangxi (122 km of common border). In the west, it is contiguous to Ha Bac, Hai Phong and Hai Hung provinces. In the south and the east, it is limited by Bien Dong (South China Sea) (250 km of coast).

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A HILLY AREA

Quang Ninh consists mainly of hills intercalated with mountains below 1,000 m in height; summits exceeding 1,500 metres are very rare.

The area may be divided into two different parts.

The western zone from Dong Trieu district to Cam Pha provincial city, is the base of the "Dong Trieu orographic

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sở ban văn hóa

arc" comprising less than 1,000-m mountains with the exception of Yen Tu (1,068 m) and Nam Vap (1,094 m). The gravel hills from Dong Trieu to Cam Pha, and even to Mong Duong, may be grouped into this western hilly area. This is the site of the biggest coal mines in the country.

The eastern part (from Cam Pha to Hai Ninh), possesses scattered high summits: Cao Xiem (1,330 m) in Binh Lieu, Nam Chau Lanh (1,506 m) and Lam Lang (1,256 m) in Quang Ha.

The major rivers flow in a west-east direction. Let us mention the Pho Cu and the Ba Che rivers. The Tien Yen river alone, the longest in the province, flows in a north-south direction. Other rivers may be mentioned: the Ka Long in the east, flowing from China, and the Bach Dang, coming from Hai Hung province. These rivers make easy the communications within the province.

A MARITIME AREA

Along the national highway linking Cam Pha and Mong Cai, there are chains of hills of 25 to 50 m height which extend at places several kilometres into the sea. The vegetation consists only in thick bushes.

As for the narrow coastal plains they have been formed by the silt both of the sea and the rivers. They are still expanding in the direction of sea, especially in Mong Cai. They are composed of coarse sand in the lower strata and of fine sand and mud rich in organic substances in the upper ones. These alluvial strips do not allow the building of big harbors. On the other hand, in the direction of Hong Gai, there exist natural harbors accessible to big vessels.

Although the rivers of Quang Ninh are small and carry little silt, there are a great many shoals covered with mangroves (80,000 ha).

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Among the coastal plains of Quang Ninh, those of Yen Hung and Dong Trieu being close to the mouth of rivers in the Red River system have benefitted in part by its silt. Along with Quang Ha, they constitute the three granaries of the province.

THE ISLANDS

From Mui Ngoc, the biggest peninsula on the northern end of the country to Hong Gai, there are over one thousand islands totalling more than 600 km² arranged in two arcs on an area of about 6,000 km².

The islands from Tien Yen northward are usually long, mountainous rocky islands: Vinh Thuc, Cai Chien, Cai Bau, etc. Southwest of Cai Bau lie hundreds of small lime-stone islands extending on a 95-km distance around the Bai Tu Long and the Ha Long bays.

This whole island area presents the features of an ancient continental limestone mountain region subsequently submerged.

THE CLIMATE

Quang Ninh is strongly affected by the winter monsoon blowing from North Asia (from November to April). Winter is colder here than in other provinces of the same height and latitude (1 to 3°C).

In Quang Ninh as in the whole northeastern region, winter is longer than summer and lasts from four to five months. Summer and winter are here the two main seasons of the

Trans
year. Spring and autumn, although transitory bring pleasant changes to the climate.

Quang Ninh is one of the northern Vietnamese provinces having a heavy rainfall. The rainy season lasts from May to September. The heaviest rainfall is recorded in Nam Chau Lanh-Yen Tu on the side exposed to the winter monsoon, and in the coastal plains of Hai Ninh, Quang Ha, Tien Yen districts. The annual rainfall exceeds 2,400 mm (ranking among the heaviest of the Bac Bo delta). The smallest rainfall is recorded in Ba Che district, reaching only 1,400 mm. In remote islands such as Co To, the average annual rainfall is 1,700 mm.

Temperature and humidity vary with the geographical location and the specific features of the terrain. The coastal areas are particularly warm and humid. Due to the influence of the sea, the temperature never falls below 0°C. Winter is not too dry thanks to small rains.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Quang Ninh's main natural resources are forest products, aquatic products and minerals.

Its soil is constituted either by ferrarite or silt. The ferrarite lands cover the mountains and bare hills and are suitable to afforestation as well as the expansion of industrial cultures and fruit culture.

Alluvial lands for rice growing do not exist in abundance, and are mainly concentrated in Yen Hung, Dong Trieu, Quang Ha district and river valleys. There is also a whole

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strip of coastal alluvial lands and brackish water lands suitable for the expansion of mangrove forests, and the breeding of aquatic products. The vegetation of Quang Ninh is fairly diversified including both tropical and subtropical trees.

The Quang Ninh forests are easily exploited on account of the low altitude, but slower to recover than in other places. In Yen Tu there are many species of pines. The Dong Trieu arc possesses a strip of Merkus pine trees. Near the seaside, there are mangrove forests. A primitive forest has been preserved on Ba Mu island. It is 20 km long and 1.5 km wide. It possesses two tiers of vegetation. The primary tier includes precious essences. The secondary tier includes rare medicinal plants such as ancanthopanax, pseudo-ginseng, etc.

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Besides forests, there are in Quang Ninh special cultures such as cinnamon, anis, camellia, tea. As a result of widespread forest destruction, many rare animals have come to virtual extinction (monkeys, gibbons, wild-goats, wild boars, salamanders, eagles, flying squirrels, deers, and others). The Mong Cai pigs have been added to the national list of valuable pig species.

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Fish constitutes another resource of Quang Ninh. There are 1,000 species. In coastal waters there are: oyster, abalone, holothuria, cuttlefish, shrimp, lobster...

Quang Ninh possesses the biggest coal mine in the country producing mainly anthracite whose quality is comparable to that of the British cardiff. This is an open-pit mine which extend from Mao Khe (Dong Trieu) to Cai Bau (Cam Pha). The coal layer is 2,000 m thick, 20 to 30 km wide. There are hill tops where coal is found after removing the external layer; in other places, underground works have to be built as the mineral lies at a depth of about one hundred metres.

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Besides coal, there is white sand (Van Hai archipelago and Vinh Thuc island), which is a valuable raw material to make high quality glass for the fabrication of optical instruments, crystal, and such.

In Quang Ninh, there is also marble (Quang Ha), kaolin, antimony...

A POLYETHNIC POPULATION

According to the 1990 census, Quang Ninh has a population of 834,000 inhabitants belonging to different ethnic groups: Viet or Kinh (the ethnic majority), Dzao, Tay, Nung, San Chay, San Dziu, Hoa...

THE VIET (KINH)

The Viet account for nearly 90 percent of the population. They came here as a majority from the northern plain.

Whether they have settled here for centuries or more recently, whether they live mixed with other ethnic groups or in separate communities, the Viet have preserved the characteristic features of the Delta peasants. Wherever they live, whether in the far north of the country or on remote islands, they have erected their own communal houses, temples, pagodas according to the practices existing in the delta.

THE DZAO

With a population of 60,000, the Dzao are divided into two groups: the Thanh Y and the Thanh Phan distinguished

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by their garments: the ones wear trousers, the others -
women included - wear knickers. Dzao women's clothes are
embroidered in rich colors, especially red. The Dzao live in
small groups comprising a couple of families on the sides of
high summits in Binh Lieu, Hai Ninh, Quang Ha, Ba Che,
and Hoanh Bo districts.

They practise slash-and-burn culture, breed cattle, and ex-
ploit forest products. The Dzao - the women in particular -
are excellent weavers.

Their customs are patriarchal. When the father dies, the
eldest son succeeds him. Women must not eat together with
guests. Daughters-in-law must not come near the sleeping
places of their fathers-in-law and brothers-in-law. Boys are
formally given names at the age of ten. The Dzao practise
the cult of ancestors.

THE TAY

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The Tay rank third in number after the Viet and the Dao.
Living mainly in Binh Lieu, Ba Che and Tien Yen, they
form a fairly homogeneous community. The Tay village
counts on an average 15 to 20 households each (great vil-
lages may count not less than 60-70 households). It is lo-
cated at the foot of mountains near streams or in valleys. The
Tay have always been good cultivators. They grow almost
all species of food plants of tropical and subtropical areas.

man chuan
The Tay wear indigo garments. They eat ordinary rice
while glutinous rice is used to make cakes on festive days.
Men smoke tobacco and women chew betel.

The Tay family is based on the patriarchal system. The
cult of ancestors is essential. More or less superstitious prac-
tices continue. It is forbidden at the feast of the dead to wear
a hat in the village, to pound rice, or to plough the land;

child-bearing must take place outside the family's house; in some areas, white mosquito nets are not in use; visitors have to refrain from sitting at the thresholds, and visitors who are a married couple are no allowed to sleep in the same bed, etc.

The Tay possess a fairly rich cultural heritage with stories and legends, songs and dances. They are plain, hospitable, open people.

THE SAN DZIU

San Dziu is the official name of these inhabitants who have also other appellations: San Diao, Man wearing knickers, Man wearing slitted skirts, Trai Dat, San Nhieu... These people belong to the Hoa language group, they live in Cam Pha, Hoanh Bo, Uong Bi, and Dong Trieu.

The San Dziu row rice according to the methods practised in the delta. They are particularly experienced in reclaiming forests.

During a San Dziu wedding there is a ritual called *Khao Hoa Tieu*. Two eggs are boiled, two red threads are put into the middle, a coin is put at either end; the whole is put on the altar besides a bottle of alcohol. Then the yolk of the eggs is mixed with alcohol and offered to the guests who drink to the happiness and long life of the married couple.

The San Dziu possess a rich treasure of songs and legends. Young men and girls sing the *soong co* during weddings to express their sentiments, improvise verses, tell legends and folk stories.

Dance is another cultural activity of the San Dziu. Besides dances with a religious character (stick dance, lamp dance, devil-chasing dance), young folk carry out folk dances on the occasion of festivities.

THE NUNG

The Nung pertain to the Tay-Thai language group. They are in great majority immigrants who came from the Chinese province of Guangxi in the middle of the 19th century.

Neighbor to the Tay, they live on agriculture and grow rice like the Tay and the Viet; they also practise various handicrafts. The Nung live in Tien Yen, Ba Che, Uong Bi... either in small groups or in hamlets comprising several dozen households. Their villages are located at the foot of mountain along streams or on flat lands. They dwell in houses similar to those of the Tay. They like silver ornaments. Women wear bracelets, collars and ankle chains. Men wear bracelets and rings. Those objects have, in their thought, the power of keeping away the evil spirits.

In addition to the cult of ancestors, the Nung worship Avalokitesvara whose altar is put either at the most sacred place of the house or on the top of a pass. They also worship patron gods of trades (stone carving, brick and tile-making, blacksmithry...).

The Nung are fond of music. Young men and girls sing on the occasion of festivities and on market days to exchange their sentiments.

THE HOA

The Hoa are people of Chinese origin who had settled in Vietnam for centuries. They live on agriculture, trade, handicrafts or work in mines and harbors. A number of them dwell in Quang Ninh (Ha Coi, Mong Cai, Dam Ha, Ha Tu, Ha Lam, and on Co To island).

Good cultivators of the same standard as the Viet, they have surpassing skill in the building of irrigation works. They are also skilful handicraftsmen (weaving, ceramics).

The Hoa mainly speak the Guangtong dialect.

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A LOOK AT HISTORY

FROM NGO QUYEN'S SPIKE FIELD TO THE EXPLOITS OF TRAN HUNG DAO ON THE BACH DANG RIVER.

Quang Ninh has been through the centuries the scene of many fights in which our people had to face a professional army coming from the North.

In the year 43, Chinese general Ma Yuan invaded the country with 300,000 men. Part of his forces passed Quang Ninh. The invaders were routed by Thanh Thien, a lady general, at Qui Mon Quan in Tien Yen district.

In 938, history recorded a resounding feat of arm of Ngo Quyen in Quang Ninh. Correctly assessing the march route of the Chinese invaders, Ngo Quyen had a spike field established at the mouth of the Bach Dang river (Yen Hung district). At high tide he provoked the enemy's combat junks to sail upstream then counter-attacked with all his river forces at low tide. In their retreat, many enemy boats were sunk by the spikes.

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This victory of Ngo Quyen over the Nam Han troops ended ten centuries of domination and opened up an era of independence for Dai Viet (ancient Vietnam).

The northern feudalists were to come back several times. In the 13th century, after suffering two successive defeats in

1258 and 1283 the Yuan invaders staged a new conquest attempt (late 1287-early 1288). They came to Vietnam by land and by sea. The infantry columns commanded by Prince Thoat Hoan crossed the border at Dong Dang (Lang Son province) while the supply boats came by sea and entered the Ha Long Bay. A naval battle took place at the Cua Luc mouth (present-day Bai Chay) in the course of which all Yuan supply boats were turned to ashes. *land*

Meanwhile, in the plain, the occupation troops were inter-
cepted everywhere. The news of the Cua Luc defeat sowed *land*
panic in the enemy ranks. The Yuan commander O Ma Nhi decided to withdraw from the Vietnamese capital Thang Long (Hanoi) and to retreat by sea. On April 9, 1288, O Ma Nhi's war boats were sailing in the direction of the mouth of the Bach Dang river to take to the sea. There a battle was fought which marked a date in the history of the Vietnamese people's struggle for independence. Resorting to the tactics used by Ngo Quyen 350 years before, General Tran Hung Dao, who directed the operation in person, had spikes planted at the river mouth while his troops were lying in ambush on the two banks. The enemy vanguard entered the flow of the Bach Dang at ebb. Tran Hung Dao sent his light *fein*
boats to start a short fight, then feigned defeat. In their hot *gia*
pursuit, the enemy vessels fell into the ambush. It was at this *is*
moment that the bulk of the Vietnamese river forces inter-
vened. Pushed into the spike field, the Yuan vessels suffered *vin*
the fate of the Chinese fleet 350 years before. *can*

In the 16th century, the Hong Gai-Cam Pha area became *van*
an important position in the defence plan of the Mac dy-
nasty. In Cam Pha, there remain vestiges of the Mac's for-
mer citadel. *can*

In mid 18th century, Quang Ninh was one of the bases of *can*
the peasant uprising led by Nguyen Huu Cau. *ung*

THE FRENCH INVASION AND THE US AIR WAR OF DESTRUCTION

In 1858 French gunboats shelled the Da Nang harbor (formerly named Tourane). This marked the beginning of a new invasion.

In March 1883, the French colonialists occupied Quang Ninh. In January 1884, a French capitalist took hold of a mining concession, 21,132 ha in area from Hong Gai to Cam Pha. Later on, other corporations were founded in Dong Trieu and other places. The foreign patrons recruited labor from among the poor peasants of Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, Hai Duong, Hai Phong. The number of laborers employed reached about 40,000 in 1929. Ill-treated and harshly exploited, the miners responded with insubordination to superintendents - even resorting to blows - destruction of equipment and sabotage of products. Their struggle was to take soon a both economic and political character. Revolutionary organizations were created for the purpose of achieving national independence, democracy and better living conditions.

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In August 1945, the revolution achieved victory. The Vietnamese people regained their independence from the hands of the Japanese and the French.

One year later, the French started new aggression against Vietnam.

Many areas of the province fell into the enemy's hands. Together with the entire people, Quang Ninh led a resistance war.

The 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina restored peace in Vietnam. Quang Ninh was completely liberated on April 24, 1955. But peace was not to last long.

In the afternoon of August 5, 1964, the Quang Ninh sky was suddenly troubled by the roar of jet plane. The US Air Force had selected it as the first target of the US air war of destruction against North Vietnam. The US jets launched their bombs and rockets on the populated quarters junks and fishing boats, and rest houses. In this unequal test of strength, the people of the province and their armed forces shot down three planes and captured one pilot, Lieutenant Alvarez.

During eight years, from 1964 to 1972, Quang Ninh faced 7,147 air attacks. Two hundred US Air Force planes downed by our anti-aircraft defence crashed on the ground and in the waters of the province.

THE CULTURAL ASPECT

FROM THE TAN MAI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE TO THE HA LONG CULTURE

Archaeological excavations on Tan Mai mountain show the presence of man in Quang Ninh some 300,000 years ago. By the years 1938-1939, Swedish archaeologist J.G. Anderson and French archaeologist Colani found polished axes and ceramic artefacts in grottoes located on the banks of the Cua Luc and on islands of the Ha Long and Bai Tu Long Bays. According to them, these artefacts dated from the mesolithic age.

During excavations made in 1964 and the following years at Cam Pha, Hoanh Bo, Hai Ninh, Hong Gai and other places, artefacts of value were discovered, which allowed

Vietnamese researchers to draw conclusions about the existence of ancient Viet in Quang Ninh as early as the stone age - the palaeolithic, mesolithic and neolithic.

This old culture, which bears the name of Ha Long, was achieved by those of the Red River, the Lam river, the Ma river and so on, brought by the delta people who came and settled in Quang Ninh. The traditional and diversified cultural features have left traces in the daily life of the inhabitants (food, garments, entertainment, customs, religious creeds, labor...)



RELIGIONS

Buddhism: Buddhism was introduced into Quang Ninh about one thousand years ago. In late 13th century, King Tran Nhan Tong (1279-1293) entered religious life and founded at Yen Tu the Thien Truc Lam religious order. In the 14th century, the Yen Tu and Quynh Lam pagodas (Dong Trieu) became Buddhist centres of Vietnam where bonzes of both sexes were trained. There have remained in Quang Ninh about 30 pagodas located mainly at Yen Hung, Uong Bi, and Dong Trieu.

Catholicism: It has been introduced into Quang Ninh for over 200 years. There are now in the whole province 27 churches frequented by over 40,000 believers. The Ha Bac area alone (Yen Hung) counts over 10,000 catholics.

Caodaism: With a few scores of believers, this religion is about to disappear.

Popular creeds: Like in other places, the Quang Ninh people have built communal houses, pagodas, temples, altars dedicated to the cult of great men and legendary figures, all of whom are worshipped as saints or geniuses.

RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES AND POPULAR FESTIVITIES

They are numerous in Quang Ninh. Let us mention two of them, the most typical which are celebrated one in the maritime area and the other on an island:

The festival of the Temple of the nineteen pioneer patriarchs (Tien Cong)

The Cam La temple (Yen Hung district) dedicated to the cult of nineteen pioneers who put forth in 1434 the idea of building dykes push back the sea, creating the villages of Cam La, Phong Coc, Lien Hoa...

Since 1805, the festival has been celebrated every year on the seventh day of the first lunar month. It is a feast in honor of the old folk.

One day in advance, on the sixth lunar day, all men (and later on, women, too) aged 70, 80, 90 years and more celebrate their birthday at their home.

In the morning the seventh lunar day, each of them, installed in a hammock-chair or a palanquin is carried with great pomp to the temple by his whole family. At noon sharp begins the official ceremony in which each comes in turns to present before the altar his offerings to the nineteen Tien Cong.

Then comes the inaugural ceremony of the field works: four old folks, chosen among the most healthy and carrying each a handful of earth, make the gesture of building a dyke. Only after this practice can the villagers go to the fields. The four old folks make (symbolic) demonstrations of martial arts before being led back to their homes, always with great pomp.

Subsequently the people's games start and are to go on until late in the night: cock fights and buffalo fights, chess

played with living chessmen, song exchanges, and more. For the occasion, the cultural service of the district organizes sport competitions and artistic performances. People come from everywhere. The festival of the temple of the nineteen Tien Cong has become a feast of the whole province.

Quan Lan village festival

Quan Lan is a village on the island bearing its name. The festival, which takes place there from the 10th to the 26th day of the sixth lunar month of each year, is celebrated in commemoration of the great naval victory won by Tran Hung Dao over the Yuan in 1288 (see page 17 above); it is also a festival for sailors.

It is held at Ben Dinh by the sea. Ben Dinh is the temple dedicated to the cult of Tran Khanh Du, a lieutenant of Tran Hung Dao, who has become famous for his naval exploit at the mouth of the Cua Luc in the 13th century (see above, page 17).

The key part of this festival is a boat race held on the 18th lunar day when two opposing represent the two village groups, the Eastern and the Western ones.

Preparations begin as early as on the 10th lunar day. Each boat is served by 25 to 30 rowers, not counting about ten cheerleaders whose task is to wave banners and to beat the drum; at the end of the boat stands the "admiral" who directs the "operation". The boat is painted in several color and ornamented with a dragon figure.

The competition is held in the afternoon of the 18th lunar day, at a moment when the tide rises to the level of the temple. In impeccable order, the two teams advance to the sound of the drum, the one wearing a white uniform, and the other, black. After arriving at the temple's yard, they place themselves in order of battle while their commanders accompanied

by the village head carry out before the altar the usual ritual, then take the lead of their team in the boat.

With drums beating, the two boats head out to sea and arrive at the place where there are two spikes, each with a white flag. The distance from the temple to the spikes is 1,500 metres. The two boats take up the flags and exchange them with each other. The race begins. The team members row with all their strength towards the temple, stimulated by the drum beats and shouts of supporters. The members of the winning team are to carry their captain on their shoulders to the temple, then the two "admirals" come and bow before the altar. Both teams get rewards, the first prize being five times as big as the second one.

Afterwards, games and entertainments are to go on until the 20th lunar day: swinging, chess played with human chessmen, dramatic performances, and so on.

On the 20th lunar day, the festival is ended with a ceremony in which prayers are offered to the guardian angel of the village peace and prosperity to all the villagers.

EDUCATION

Before the August 1945 Revolution, there were only a small number of primary school in the whole province; the only high school was in Quang Yen, the district town of Yen Hung (chief town of the former Quang Yen province). Almost all ethnic minority children had no opportunity to go to school. Over 90% of the population were illiterate. The 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina restored peace in the

country. Quang Ninh started a literacy campaign and instituted compulsory primary education.

In 1961, illiteracy had been eliminated in the whole province. Almost all communes possessed primary schools; all districts possessed second-degree education schools; third-degree education schools began to be opened at Dong Trieu, Hong Gai, Cam Pha, and Quang Yen. By 1975 all communes possessed primary schools, almost all of them possessed second-degree education schools with the exception of the communes located on remote summits.

Education in the mountain area

Since 1975, Quang Ninh has taken various steps to raise the level of education of ethnic minorities. Classes have been organized in the most remote hamlets. A group of a dozen households can have a teacher. Since September 1992, the teachers in areas on the high mountains have been receiving allowances 2.5 times greater than in the rest of the province. Ninety percent of ethnic minority children in the school age bracket (6 to 14 years) are going to school. Five boarding schools have been set up on the highlands of the districts of Hoanh Bo, Tien Yen, Ba Che, Quang Ha, and Binh Lieu. Each of them can accommodate about 100 students beneficiaries of scholarships.

Elimination of illiteracy and popularization of primary education

In application of the national program of struggle against the relapse into illiteracy and for popularizing primary education, out of 12 illiterates in the 15-35 age bracket 6,500 people in Quang Ninh had learned to read and write in 1990-1991; the remaining people will be taught to read and write from now to 1995. So far, primary education has been popularized in 77 urban wards and communes of Quang Ninh (out of 177). It will have been popularized on the highlands

by the year 2000. A number of vocational schools have been opened for the civil servants and workers.

*collier city
near
mother*

PUBLIC HEALTH

Quang Ninh counts 464 medical doctors, 277 of this number are working in provincial hospitals. Each district possesses a polyclinic where five to ten doctors are working. In each commune or city ward, there is a medical station manned by three health workers; these stations have been donated instruments and medicines by the "Doctor without frontiers" organization. There are in addition hospitals directly under the central administration such as the Vietnam-Sweden hospital in Uong Bi, the hospital of the colliery in Cam Pha. The province counts 34 hospital beds, for every 10,000 inhabitants (national norm 18 beds for 10,000 inhabitants in 1993).

collier Quang Ninh being a mining area, possesses research centres on vocational diseases especially lung diseases. *this is a*

than The health service of the province also pays great attention to the prevention and treatment of goitre and malaria, two diseases widespread in Vietnam's mountain areas.

VESTIGES AND SITES

THE HA LONG BAY

Ha Long means "the flying down dragon". This name of the bay takes its origin from a legend. In ancient times, a majestic

of a good friend in the bay
chim men 2 bit than
dragon was seen from time to time flying down from the clouds to play with its fledgelings on the islets of the bay. In periods of drought the animal came to water the dried up lands. In moment of storms, it protected fishing boats in the open sea with its body and brought them back to the harbor. But one day the mother dragon and its fledgelings disappeared in the sky, and wicked men came and sowed ruins and death in the region. The inhabitants called for the help of their benefactor who flew down at once from the clouds spitting flames on the wicked people. The swooping place of the mother dragon was named Ha Long Bay, and the tongues of fire which fell into the sea were turned into a multitude of rocky islands.

lens facts x was time
In reality, these islands are the tops of limestone mountain ranges pertaining to the primary era which have been submerged. Rain water has eroded these rocks, digging grottoes and tunnels in them through which underground water flows. What makes the beauty of Ha Long is nature in all its savage splendor. Foreign tourists have surnamed it the Eighth Wonder of the world.

Imagine a stretch of water 1,500 sq. km in area with one thousand marvellously beautiful rocks which take different forms according to our imagination. One rock appears like two fighting cocks, another like an old fisherman in meditation, another - the head of an Indian, still another like a Mediaeval castle or a giant prehistoric dolmen.

crowmlech
In Ha Long, each season has its own charm. In spring mornings, the landscape disappears under a silvery fog which gradually fade away, revealing a multitude of small islands shining in the tropical sun. In summer, the bay presents a marvellous beauty at the moment when the sun shines in the firmament; the sky and the waters take a new splendor before turning violet at the time when the fishing

boats sail home. In moon-lit autumn nights, a cruise in the bay will discover to you a universe of dream which turns this immensity into the paradise of lovers of calm and purity. Even in winter, vegetation here retains its freshness and verdure. *verdant*

Let begin the visit of the Ha Long Bay by Bai Chay *verdant* which the French once called Vatchay. Bai Chay, which *verdant* means "Burnt Bank", is on the western coast of the bay.

Separated by the Cua Luc river from the tumultuous *on a small river* Hong Gai, the cradle of the colliery industry, it is an excellent resort. On its entire length, there is a range of pine-hills ornamented with green grass carpets on which are built pretty villas and comfortable hotels. The holiday-maker will spend pleasant moments to walk on the alley along the coast, under coconut trees and blooming flamboyants.

Several stories immortalize this place. History records that in spring 1288, the supply boats of the Yuan aggressors fell into an ambush at their arrival in the Cua Luc mouth.

From the upper reaches, rafts loaded with flaming dry grass and pine resin were rushed up on them, burning a great number. Driven by the northeast wind the flames invaded the western bank of the Cua Luc, reducing to ashes a vast expanse of forest which is now called Bai Chay.

According to another legend transmitted from generation to generation by the local population, boats often came in the evening to that place. The limpets which were sticking to them were burnt with pine branches. Seen from afar, the bank appeared as flaming, wherefore the name of Bai Chay. Whatever the case, this Burnt Bank is now a beautiful beach which draws in more and more tourists from all corners of the country as well as from abroad.

A visit to the bay itself is made on board a motor boat (some people prefer junks or frail fishing boats). The traveler starts from Bai Chay to come to Dau Go.

Dau Go means small pieces of wood. This is the name of a great grotto inside a 189-metre-high rock. Ninety stone steps lead to the entrance which has the shape of a starfish. On the origin of its name, there are several variants. One claims that the small pieces of wood found in the grotto are the remains of the spikes made here and planted in 1288 by Tran Hung Dao in the bed of the Bach Dang river to send the boats of the Yuan aggressors to the bottom of the water. The other is the following: in the past, fishermen coming from remote provinces took shelter in this grotto in winter. The pieces of wood are the remains of tree trunks used by them to warm themselves. The French named it the Grotto of Wonders. It comprises three parts. The outer one is very big and decorated with stalactites hanging from the vault. As the visitor goes into the middle section, the space becomes narrower, the stalactites and stalagmites take on a strange brilliancy in the deffuse daylight. The inner part possesses rocky wells with pure water. The visitor is fascinated by the beauty of the stone statues-Wonders, which have various shapes: a horseman brandishing his sword, an angry elephant, a running horse with its mane in the wind...

The boat will then lead the tourist to the Tuan Chau island, a natural park with luxuriant vegetation, a genuine harbor of peace.

Pursuing its itinerary, the boat heads for the Bo Nau grotto - also called Bo Nong, name of a kind of pelican which often comes here to build its nests. Across now narrow, now wide channels, it negotiates its way between rocks bearing evocative names such as "Heaven's Gate", "Incense

Burner", "Cocks at Fight", and so on. In contrast with the Dau Go grotto, this one is widely open to its visitors: a 200-metre opening with stalactites hanging on the rocks like inverted bamboo shoots. Inside the grotto several stone columns are erected at various heights; in the bottom, three rocky blocks like three old men absorbed in a chess game.

Always starting from Bai Chay, another no less pleasant trip can be made. The boat passes first by Rock N^o 1, site of a beacon which gives light at night. Defile before our eyes the Tortoise Rock, the Horse Rock, and so on... And we arrive at the Sung Sot grotto or Grotto of Wonders.

It is situated on Bo Hon island. To reach it, it is necessary to climb about one hundred rock steps under a cover of orchids. By the light of torches, the rocks shine with rosy jade colour. The vault of the grotto reminds of the ceiling of a treatre room, which secures good acoustics. Seized by the charm, the visitor cannot help uttering an admirative "oh" which is echoed by the rocks. A narrow passage leads to a second grotto where a multitude of stone statues present the most diverse forms.

Not far from the Grotto of Wonders lies the Trinh Nu grotto whose lime deposits are no less pretty as the above-mentioned. This grotto's name (Grotto of the Maid) is due to a stone statue representing a women lying with the face turned to the sea. According to the legend, formerly a pretty and virtuous young girl lived in the region and was in love with a poor fisherman. The two lovers swore to remain faithful to each other. Once the young fisherman sailed to far-away seas in the hope of earning enough money for their wedding. That was his last trip. Meanwhile an old rich man in the village compelled the poor young girl to marry him. Out of despair, the girl fled away on a boat. She sailed from

one island to another in search of her beloved, and finally arrived exhausted in this grotto. In vain she waited for her man whom she was never to see again. She breathed her last there and was turned into a stone statue.

Leaving the Grotto of the Maid, the boat sails by the rocks of the Drum, the Dragon, the Toad to arrive at a corner among the most picturesque of Ha Long: the lake with the Three Tunnels which are natural grottoes dug into the rock. The water stretch lies amidst a rectangular low place surrounded on three sides by high mountains which project their shadow on the water surface. Visitors enter the first grotto on small row-boats which negotiate a passage amidst a forest of stalactites with rich colours - violet, rose, white, pale blue - some almost touching the water. A deep calm reigns here, which is troubled by "the noise of the rowers who rhythmically strike the harmonious waves". As one penetrates into the grotto, the water is of crystalline purity. Suddenly the eyes are dazzled by a ray of bluish light from a fissure on high. The boat heads forward, casting aside the orchid branches which grow out of the rock fissures, and accompanied by groups of small fish on its two sides.

The second grotto presents the same aspect as the first. There is, however, an age-old tree which gives fruit round the year to the great joy of greedy parrots, monkeys, squirrels, and so on.

One enters the third grotto, the Kingdom of bats with wings like butterflies, through the small tunnel.

To end the cruise, take a bath on a white sand beach which lies at the foot of three small rocks like three peaches, wherefrom its name of beach of the Three Peaches.

BAI TU LONG BAY: VAN HAI AND CO TO ARCHIPELAGOES

Bai Tu Long Bay is near Ha Long Bay. Its 600 or so islands and islets form several archipelagoes, among which Van Hai and Co To. The Van Hai archipelago is about fifty kilometres from Hong Gai chieftown by sea. Its biggest island is Tra Bau which has a length of 30 km and the shape of a bamboo boat. South of it lies the Van Don Bay, about 100 square kilometres in area and protected by a rampart of rocks.

Since the 12th century, this island has become a great commercial centre with its port which received many foreign ships coming on trade business. At that time, maritime communications with the North were easier than by land. As a result of its privileged natural position, Van Don was an important link between North and South. Researches and excavations made between 1967 and 1969 made it possible to discover a whole network of ancient ports on several islands of the Bay.

In the eastern part of the archipelago lies the oblong Van Hai island. Han (Chinese) graves and many other vestiges have been found which show that the Bai Tu Long zone had possibly played a great economic role and that right at the beginning of our era it had drawn the attention of the emperors of the Chinese dynasty of Eastern Han.

Quan Lan island, south of Van Hai, possesses scores of square kilometres of white sand, an excellent raw material for the fabrication of crystal and optical glass.

The Co To archipelago groups 29 islands the biggest of which are Thanh Lan and Co To. It distinguishes itself by earth mountains with rich flora.

On Thanh Lan island where the highest summit culminates at 190 metres, rice and secondary food crops are grown in the rare valleys and at the foot of the mountains. The bottom of the waters surrounding the island abounds in corals.

The lower mountains (170 metres) on Co To island have less abundant vegetation: one of them is surmounted by a light-house visible all around from a distance of 15 miles. Ricefields here hold a greater area. Vehicles can circulate easily on the roads. The island is bordered with high rocks and cliffs, with a fine sand beach where ships take shelter in stormy weather.

In spite of an important rainfall, the streams have become dry. For a dozen years, the people have built about twenty barrages and a whole network of irrigation and drainage canals which can serve 80% of the cultivated land. Besides rice and vegetables, orange trees are grown in orchards, on hill sides or even in forests. When the season comes, the ripe oranges give the archipelago a brilliant colour.

Co To possesses many valuable sea products: fish, shrimps, cuttle-fish, holothuria. Pearl oysters are bred, too. Off Thanh Lan island there is a fish-market visited even by foreign ships.

At Co To the sea is incredibly beautiful by day as by night, at sunrise as at twilight, during moon-lit as moonless nights, and even in stormy weather.

YEN TU MOUNTAINS

Situated on the confines of Ha Bac, Hai Hung and Quang Ninh provinces, Yen Tu has always been recognized as a particularly picturesque site of Vietnam. It is a mountain range extending in a west-east direction, and the highest

peak (1,068 m) of which is surmounted by the Dong pagoda, the last leg of a pilgrimage to Yen Tu.

Yen Tu is 14 kilometres northwest of Uong Bi. Where does this name come from? Formerly many medicinal plants were growing on these mountains. A hermit named An Ky Sinh made medicines with these plants, and saved many human lives. In sign of gratitude, he was surnamed An Tu (Master An), this surname has become Yen Tu as a result of a phonetic transformation.

The architectural ensemble comprises eleven pagodas with tower and stupas scattered from Bi Thuong to the Dong pagoda perched on the highest summit.

Of the Bi Thuong pagoda, the starting point of the pilgrimage, there have remained only the foundations, the edifice having been destroyed by French troops during the Indochina war (1946-54). Then the visitor walks across a valley to arrive at Cua Ngan mount at the foot of which flows the Tam stream (Stream of the Bath). It is reported that when entering religion at Yen Tu, King Tran Nhan Tong (1279-96) took a bath in its water to clean himself of the dust of this world. He was to arrive soon at the Cam Thuc pagoda (Abstinence Pagoda) where he refrained from eating to drink only fresh water, then he came to the Lan pagoda of which there has remained only a three-piece house surrounded by 25 stupas the biggest of which, made of stone, keeps the remains of its founder.

Always by following this woody way across valleys and hills, we arrive at the Giai Oan (Absolution) stream: when Tran Nhan Tong left his throne to lead a religious life at Yen Tu, the heir prince sent there women of the harem to ask the pious sovereign to come back. As the latter did not change his decision, the poor women killed themselves. The King

then had a pagoda built near the stream bearing the same name to secure for the souls of the dead women a happy stay in the other world. The pagoda, demolished by time, was rebuilt with smaller dimensions a century ago.

Leaving the Giai Oan pagoda, we again go deep into a vast stretch of forests to arrive at an elevated and wide platform called the Hon Ngoc Stupa Park where Yen Tu bonzes were buried (from the 16th to the 19th century).

Another elevation dominates the above platform. A flight of stone steps leads to this 100-square metre plane surface where there are 97 stupas and graves. In the centre of the place is erected the big tower Thap To (Patriarch's Tower) where are kept the remains of Tran Nhan Tong, the founder of the Truc Lam buddhist sect at Yen Tu. It is a typical work of art of Vietnam in the Tran dynasty. The foundations are made with 46 stone blocs the external face of which bears sculptures in the form of waves and mountains. The socle has the shape of a lotus flower on which lies the quadrangular foot of the tower. The tiers are separated from one another by stone roofs with curved angles. Inside one of these tiers is placed a marble statue, 0.62 metres in height, which represents King Tran Nhan Tong sitting with a relaxed countenance. The top of the tower is surmounted by a lotus bud engraved with decorative ornaments. The yard which has 12.7 metre-long sides is paved with ancient bricks; the tower is surrounded by walls.

The Thap To, with its Patriarch's Tower and countless stupas of great architectural beauty, is a unique place in Vietnam.

From this spot we come to the main pagoda along an alley bordered by age-old trees, formerly paved with 84 square bricks and decorated with figures of chrysanthemum, dating

from the Tran Kings' epoch. That is the Hoa Yen pagoda. From the old construction, there have remained only the foundations. The pagoda was rebuilt 100 years ago. In its inner piece is installed a bronze statue of Tran Nhan Tong with a serene face. At the entrance is hung a bell dating from the 18th century, on which is graved the history of the Thien Truc Lam Buddhist sect. On the left side of the pagoda there is a spring with underground water in which the former sovereign took his bath. The surrounding landscape is beautiful. One enters a universe of relaxation and purity.

The sun already sets in the West. After a night spent in the guests' room, the visitor pursues his trip on the following day. He will arrive at the Pho Da pagoda with near it the Do Nhan brick tower, a 1.5-metre-high one whose socle is constituted by beautiful bricks sculpted with figures of dragon heads and lotus flowers. Then comes the Mot Mai pagoda where religious books were kept. Right at the entrance, one sees water which streams from a fissure. Pilgrims call this water "maternal milk" and do not fail to drink it to get Heaven's benediction.

In front of the Ngoa Van temple, the Tu Cascade falls from a height of 10 metres into a precipice. On either side of Ngoa Van there are two other temples where formerly Master An prepared his miraculous medicines.

From here the road runs up steeply. After a tiresome walk, we see before our eyes the High-perdied Bao Sai pagoda. Bao Sai is the name of a brilliant disciple of King Tran Nhan Tong. At the side of the pagoda, a stone roof shelters three bronze statues dedicated to the three founders of the Truc Lam buddhist sect. Behind it there is another temple where King Tran Nhan Tong preached religion to his disciples.

A walk of several hundred metres leads you to the Van Tieu pagoda. A fire ravaged it at the end of the last century, sparing only the foundations and a few statue socles which lie now near incinerated pines. In front of the pagoda, on a lower hill, there is a park of six stone and brick towers. One of them, Vong Tien Cung has an hexagonal shape with six tiers, and lie on a socle representing a tortoise, an original vestige of the more recent Nguyen dynasty.

On the way from the Abstinence stream to the Van Tieu pagoda there is a sumptuous forest of bamboo with all its varieties from the biggest to the smallest, wherefrom the name of Truc Lam (Forest of Bamboo).

From the Van Tieu to the Dong pagoda, the final leg of the pilgrimage, the way becomes more and more difficult because of steep slopes and the absence of stone steps. We have to cling to tree branches to climb forward... At a few hundred metres of Cong Troi (Heaven's Gate), a pass between two mountains, there suddenly appears, enveloped in a veil of fog, a bonze who is doing his prayer. It is in reality a stone bloc that a skilful artisan has arranged to represent the benefactor - Master An. After crossing Cho Troi (Heaven's Market), we arrive at a square and flat spot, the highest point of the Yen Tu range (1,068 m), the final destination of the trip. The tourist is surprised at the presence of a petrified mangrove forest with rocks bearing traces of water waves and mollusc shells. These are vestiges left by the sea which existed here millions of years ago.

On this stone platform, towards the 17th and 18th centuries was built a bronze pagoda which, later on, fell in disrepair. At the beginning of this century, the pagoda was rebuilt in its former shape. It is a concrete work, a square measuring 2 metres on its sides, in which are installed a statue of Buddha, a bell and a gong. Near the pagoda there is a flat stone

bloc - the chessboard of the Immortals. On a rock opposite the pagoda, someone has carved in big Chinese characters the word "Buddha". The ambiance makes you feel as if you are in an unreal world.

From this height, the visitor embraces in a look the immensity of Vietnam's northeastern zone: in the east, the wide Ha Long Bay with its thousands of rocks; in the south, on one side the Hai Phong port city bordered by the silvery flow of the Cam river, on the other, the vast expanses of the Hai Duong plain; in the east, majestic and boundless mountains and forests.

QUYNH LAM PAGODA

The Quynh Lam pagoda (Trang An commune, Dong Trieu district) is situated in a slow area bordered by hills which are a prolongation of the Yen Tu range.

According to the legend, it was in existence in the 6th century. Under the Ly dynasty (11th -13th centuries), bonze Khong Lo made in it a 20-metre-high bronze statue. A stone stele (2.46 m x 1.53 m x 0.25 m) is still found today on which is graved a dragon figure typical of the Ly art: cylindrical body, smaller and smaller towards the tail, three-fingered feet. So it may be believed that this pagoda was in existence at least in the Ly dynasty.

The local population say that the place was very large at the time. To run round it, two horses starting from the same point in opposite directions put a whole morning to meet each other.

Under the Tran dynasty, the pagoda became a rallying centre of the country's Buddhists, "a first-class ancient site" of Vietnam. The merit for it belongs to bonze Phap Loa, one of the founder of the Thien Truc Lam religious sect. A stele

reports that in 1317 this bonze established there a 2,000-acre wide domain to provide for the activities of the pagoda. Poets set up in it the Bich Dong literary group to recite poems.

In 1319, bonze Phap Loa called on believers to give their blood for printing books of prayers.

From the 15th to the 18th century, the pagoda was destroyed and rebuilt on repeated occasions. But the wars which went on, and the French air bombing in 1947 razed it to the ground.

On the old ruins, some objects of historical value have been found: stelae, statue socles, stone stupas and columns dating from the Ly, Tran, late Le, Nguyen dynasties.

VESTIGES OF THE BACH DANG NAVAL BATTLE

Starting from Hanoi, the tourist arrives first in Hai Phong port city where Binh ferry brings him to the other bank of the Cam river. Another twenty kilometres on the way to Ha Long Bay, and he will be at the mouth of the majestic Bach Dang river. There another ferry carries him across the widest section of the river. He will arrive soon in Yen Hung which is illustrated by historical names: Bach Dang spike field, Tran Hung Dao temple, Vua Ba temple, Trung Ban communal house - names linked to the naval victory achieved by Tran Hung Dao in 1288 (See above, page 17).

The Bach Dang spike field lies in a marshy area of Yen Giang commune, 2 km southwest of Quang Yen township and 50 metres south of national highway N^o 10. It includes hundreds of spikes planted either vertically or with an inclination of 15°, making zigzags. With a length of 2 to 3 metres, these spikes were made with ironwood; sections of this same wood have remained planted into the ground. Today for the requirements of agricultural production, the field's

area has been reduced to 220 sq. metres with 42 spikes in their primitive state.

The temple of Tran Hung Dao - the Bach Dang victor - and the Vua Ba temple are on a strip of land which juts out into the river. The Vua Ba (Lady King) temple is dedicated to an old green tea seller. According to the legend, when Tran Hung Dao was preparing his battle plan, she supplied him with valuable information on the topography of the site and the tide calendar.

Once Tran Hung Dao came to survey the terrain on a hill of the Trung Ban village. Suddenly his chignon was undone. He then planted his sword into the ground to remake his hair. In commemoration of this event, the inhabitants of the village built on this elevation a communal house; on the altar was placed a statue of the national hero with his hair undone.

PHONG COC COMMUNAL HOUSE

It lies on the confines of the Phong Coc and Phong Hai communes, Yen Hung district. It is dedicated to the cult of four goddesses who are the guardian angles of the Phong Coc village. As a matter of fact, it is only one of about one hundred similar constructions along the coast of north Vietnam. The main temple, Coc, is situated in the maritime area of Quynh Luu district, Nghe An province. According to the annals, in the Tuong Hung year, the Sung were defeated by the Yuan in Nhai Son. The queen mother and her three daughters fled on a boat and were drowned in the sea. Their bodies were drifted onto the Cua Con coast. Local people built a temple in their honour. In their southern expeditions, King Tran Anh Tong (1293-1314) and King Le Thanh Tong (1460-97) passed by Cua Con. One night they saw in dream these four divinities who ensured their victories in calming

the waters on the passage of their embarkations. By way of gratitude, the Kings sanctified them.

The Phong Coc communal house is one of the greatest ones in Vietnam. Its columns are so colossal that a man can hardly reach around them with his hands.

What makes the value of this temple is the wood carvings executed by masterly hands: dragons moving amidst clouds, four fabulous animals namely the dragon, the licorn, the tortoise and the phoenix, scenes of life (martial fight, cocks' fight, a young man courting a pretty girl, and so on).

Built by the end of the 17th century, the Phong Coc communal house constitutes a rare cultural vestige of Vietnam.

TRA CO

If Vietnam has the form of an S, Tra Co is at the point from which this letter begins. An archipelago of Hai Ninh district, it is separated from Bai Chay by 195 kilometres of motorway and 202 kilometres of sea route. With an area of 12 square kilometres, it is inhabited by about one thousand Viet who still observe the traditional customs and habits. It possesses picturesque sites (Mang and Sa Vi sand banks), and beautiful historical vestiges (Tra Co communal house, Linh Khanh and Xuan Lan pagodas, a church).

The Tra Co communal house, built in 1550 and restored on several occasions, bears the stamps of Vietnamese culture. With a length of 29.8 m and a width of 18.5 m, it is an imposing architectural work composed of two buildings with seven parts each. The construction rests on 48 ironwood columns, the main ones of which have a height of 5 metres and a circumference of 1.63 metres; the columns themselves are supported by a solid woodwork and linked together by sculptured wooden frescoes (3.4 m x 1.4 m) which are

master-pieces of sculptural art. At the two ends of the communal house, there are two horizontal lackered boards. One of them reads: *Nam Son Tinh Tho* (Lasting and Stable Southern Country), and the other *Dia Cuu Thien Truong* (Eternal Land, Boundless Sky).

Five hundred metres to the east, the Tra Co beach stretches on a length of 17 kilometres. Its sand is fine and brilliant; its water, being not polluted, remains very pure. At ebb-time, it is immensely wide. The flow turns it into a huge basin with virtually flat bottom, so that one can walk on very far. An ideal beach for holiday-makers.

PART TWO

THE ECONOMY POTENTIALITIES - PROSPECTS

INDUSTRY

COAL

Since early 20th century, the local rural population has come to know the properties of coal and put it to use in handicraft forges. Under the reign of King Minh Menh (1820-40), a governor of the province got permission to exploit the colliery of An Lang (Dong Trieu) which was to supply fuel to potters workshops, glas-making works and lime-kilns in the Vietnam-China border area.

After conquering Vietnam, the French immediately realized the importance of this mining area. The *Société française des charbonnages du Tonkin* (French Society of Tonkinese Collieries) was established in 1888, followed by other enterprises. Coal has been exploited since 1890 in Hong Gai, Cam Pha, Mao Khe, Ke Bau (Oai Bau), Hoanh Bo and Vang Danh.

In 65 years (1890-1955), the French exploited about 41 million tons of coal mainly with artisanal methods. In 1929 the number of Vietnamese workers in the mines was 35,900

people. On April 24, 1955, when the colliery was taken over by the people's power, the whole mining area possessed only three auxiliary technicians. Gradually a contingent of technicians and workers was formed and supplied with new equipment. Between 1955 and June 1990, the Quang Ninh exploited 150 million tons of coal. The highest output was reached in 1987-88, amounting to 7 million tons/year. But as from 1989 the figure was down to about 4 million tons/year. This was due in part to a reduction of export order. On the other hand the exploitation became more and more difficult. Vietnam lacked sufficient capital to renovate the equipment. The coal services expect to reach the target figure of 5 million tons in 1995 and 7 million tons in the year 2000. At present there are in Quang Ninh 18 enterprises under the provincial authorities and three companies under the Ministry of Energy. About 50,000 workers are employed.

1. **The Uong Bi coal company:** Its domain of exploitation extends from Bai Chay to the confines of Dong Trieu. Main mode of work: underground galleries. Production in 1992 was 1.2 million tons with 25 percent of this figure earmarked for export. The two major mines of Vang Danh and Mao Khe turned out 800,000 tons/year, double the figure for the ten smaller units. The Uong Bi coal company is now associated with Indonesia for the exploitation of the Uong Thuong and Dong Vong mines.

2. **The Hong Gai coal company:** The domain of activity from Deo But to the Bai Chay ferry. 1992 output: about one million tons, 30 percent of which are earmarked for export. A major open-pit mine is Ha Tu. Two underground mines are Ha Lam and Tan Lap. The Nui Beo mine is to start production at an early date. That company is contemplating to dredge Hong Gai harbor to allow easy access to coal-carrying

ships. It also plans to purchase Australian coal-selecting equipment to raise the quality of its products.

3. The Cam Pha coal company: It is the biggest company of the province. It comprises six mines with 26,000 workers (three underground mines: Thong Nhat, Mong Duong and Khe Cham, and three open-cast mines: Deo Nai, Coc Sau, and Cao Son). Among its 19 enterprises, the Cua Ong coal-selecting one is equipped with Australian machines. In 1991 the coal company exported over half a million tons of coal. Its export capacity may reach one million tons. The Cua Ong harbor is deep and accessible to 25,000-ton ships. Those of 50,000 tons anchor at Hon Net, and their loading will be easily made by transshipment.

As early as the 20's and 30's Vietnam sold to Japan hundreds of thousands of tons of coal; (673,000 tons in 1939). Vietnam is exporting coal to a several European and Asian countries. It wants to cooperate with foreign companies in the extraction production and marketing of its coal.

EXPORTED VIETNAMESE ANTHRACITE

Category	Dimension	Under the norm	Humidity Average Max	Ash Average Max	Combustion	Sulphur	Caloric Power
	in mm	%	%	%	%	%	Kcal/kg
Lump							
No 2A	+50	20	2.5 4.0	3.5 5.5	6	0.5	7,850
3A	35-50	15	3.5 4.5	4.0 6.0	6	0.5	7,800
4A	15-35	15	3.5 4.5	4.5 6.0	6	0.5	7,680
5A	6-15	15	3.5 5.0	5.0 7.0	6	0.5	7,630
Dusty							
No 1	0-15		7.5 11.5	6 8	6	0.5	7,400
2	0-15		7.5 11.5	8 10	6	0.5	7,140
3	0-15		7.5 11.5	13 15	6	0.5	6,740
4	0-15		7.5 11.5	24 26	6	0.5	5,820
5	0-15		7.5 11.5	31 33	6	0.5	4,950
6	0-15		7.5 11.5	34 36	6	0.5	4,630

TAN MAI MARBLE

In Tan Mai (Quang Ha district), there is an old stone layer where crystallized stony substances emerge on the earth surface. This stone layer of milky white colour with pretty rays, is malleable at the moment of extraction. It is a kind of solid kaolin with a high content of aluminum oxyde (34-38% or 28-34%) used as fire proof materials in the structure of steel-furnaces cement factories and thermo-electric plants. It is also used in the manufacture of white cement, glass fibre, package materials, bottles or art articles. This reserve of mineral reaches about one hundred million tons.

LIMESTONE

Most Quang Ninh mountains are constituted by limestone. This is a source of raw materials for the cement and building materials industry.

GIENG DAY CLAY

In the 20's of this century, a French naval officer found in the Gieng Day area, a kind of red, sticky and pure clay. After being demobilized, he opened here a brick factory with an annual output of 2.5 million bricks and tiles. His products were exported to Hongkong, France and Singapore. This clay of great plasticity has a high iron content (3 to 5%), a pretty red color and is fit for the production of art items, decorative coating in architectural works, especially those of Southeast Asian style. This reserve of clay amounts to one million cubic metres. At present in Gieng Day, there are three brick enterprises of which Gieng Day 1 has a big clientele while the other two are searching for markets. The export of Gieng Day bricks is facilitated by the proximity of great ports.

DONG TRIEU CLAY

In Kim Sen, Trang Bach, Bac Ma and Binh Duong (Dong Trieu district), there are clay mines with reserves estimated at scored of millions of cubic metres. This earth is fit for the manufacture of pottery and porcelain. There are now three plants in Quang Ninh: the Quang Ninh porcelain factory (Yen Hung district), the Dong Thanh cooperative (Dong Trieu) and the Anh Hong cooperative (Mao Khe). These establishments produce porcelain at high temperature ($1,350^{\circ}$), decorative ceramics and great-dimension articles which are found nowhere in the northern part of the country.

WHITE SAND

The Van Hai archipelago (Cam Pha district) and the Vinh Thuc island (Hai Ninh district) are the sites of many white sand beaches and dunes. With a content of silica exceeding 90% - 96,98 or 99% at places, this sand constitutes an excellent raw material for the glass. Furthermore, as its content of iron oxyde does not go down to below 0.03 or 0.02% it can be used in the crystal industry.

In the past, the exploitation of this substance by the French gave about ten thousand tons/year. In 1945 under the Japanese occupation, the figure reach 100,000 tons. At present the exploitation of white sand in Quang Ninh remain weak. It is advisable to put to use this precious raw material.

BUILDING MATERIALS

In view of its physical features Quang Ninh offers the greatest advantages for the fabrication of building materials.

The Hoang Thach cement factory is situated in the Hai Duong province, but its products, which are superior in quality and quantity to those of all other factories in the country are packed and exported right at Quang Ninh. In the future, Hoanh Bo district will be provided with a cement factory which will produce one million tons/year.

MINERAL WATER

Between two mountain ranges in Quang Hanh commune (Cam Pha) underground water is found at a depth of several hundred metres. Its composition: Na⁺, K⁺ (1,070.1 mg/l), Ca⁺⁺ (168.3 mg/l), Mg⁺⁺ (109.9 mg/l). Negative elements: Cl (198.57 mg/l), SO₄ (193 mg/l), F (0.14 mg/l), HCO₃ (250.1 mg/l), B (4.9 mg/l). Three wells have been bored for water bottling. These bottles have begun to appear in Hanoi, Hai Duong and Hai Phong. If investments are made to modernize the equipment and improve quality, this mineral water may be used as a drink by tens of thousands of tourists.

1. Well 14B: Water flow about 1,000 cubic metres/day and night. Mineralization density: 3.2-3.8 g/l.

2. Well 4B: Water flow: 1,000 cubic metres/day and night. Mineralization density: 5 g/l.

3. Well 3B: Water flow: 1,000 cubic metres/ day and night. Mineralization density: 2.6-2.8 g/l.

There is also in Quang Hanh a hot water spring (Mineralization density: 27 g/l. Temperature: 45°C). The health service has established there an establishment for the treatment of diseases such as chronic arthritis neurasthenia

and sciatica. However the province lacks funds to put to use all the natural advantages of this station. The prospectors have also found important sources of mineral water. At Tam Hop and Deo But (Cam Pha), the well 28B has a depth of 402.5 metres (Water flow: 1,000 cubic metres per day and night, temperature of the water: 53°C. Mineralization density: 21 g/l).

FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

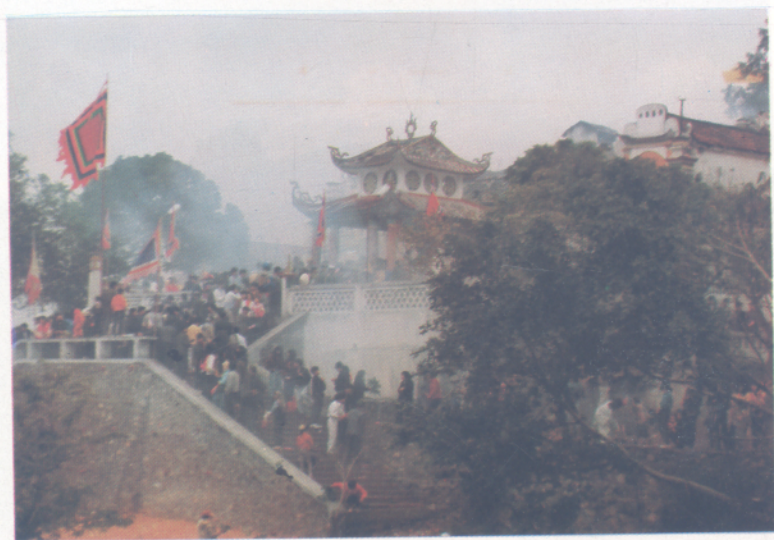
* The enterprise for processing straw mushroom in Yen Hung district: It has been in activity for a few years with the assistance of the UN HCR. In 1991 it exported 20 tons of mushroom. It may produce about one hundred tons/year, but has not yet found markets.

* The aquatic product export enterprise N°1 (in Hong Gai, chieftown).

* The aquatic product export enterprise N°2 (in Yen Hung district).

Equipped with a modern production chain, it supplies the market with good quality products. Its frozen cuttlefish and shrimps are sold in Europe; Japan purchases from it seaweed products.

* The Quang Ninh brewery: It is producing one million litres/year of beer while the local population's requirement reaches 10 million litres/year. Quang Ninh wishes to cooperate with foreign countries in the production of beer, bottled and canned beer and other refreshments to meet the requirements of its population and of tourists.



- *Trong lăng Quy Đức (T.K. XIV. Yên Tử - Uông Bí)*
- *In the Quy Duc Tomb (14th c., Yen Tu, Uong Bi)*
- *Le Tombeau de Quy Duc (14e s.) Yên Tử - Uông Bí*

- *Đền Cửa Ông (Cẩm Phả)*
- *Cua Ong Temple (Cam Pha)*
- *Fête du Temple Cửa Ông - Cẩm Phả*



- *Mộ thuyền cổ (trước Công nguyên, Uông Bí)*
- *Boat-shaped coffins (prior to AD, Uong Bi)*
- *Cercueil en tronc de bois (avant J.C.) - Uông Bí*

- *Hồ Yên Lập (Hoành Bồ)*
- *Yen Lap Lake (Hoanh Bo)*
- *Lac de Yên Lập - Hoành Bồ*

- Con Sấu đá ở chùa Quỳnh Lâm (T.K. XVIII ? Đông Triều)

- Stone Dragon-Licorn at Quỳnh Lam Pagoda (18th c. ? Dong Trieu)

- Dragon-Licorne à la pagode Quỳnh Lâm (18e s. ?) - Đông Triều

- Trong vòm hang núi Con Mèo (Đông Triều)

- In the Con Meo Cave (Dong Trieu)

- Grotte du mont "Con Meo" (le chat) - Đông Triều



- Ông Bình Giang,
Bí thư tỉnh ủy
Quảng Ninh đi
thăm công trình
lấn biển ở Yên
Hưng (12-1992)



- Mr Bình Giang,
Secretary of the
Quang Ninh
Provincial
Committee, on a
visit to the
sea-expanding
area in Yen Hung
(Dec., 1992)

- M. Bình Giang,
Secrétaire du
Comité provincial
du Parti de
Quảng Ninh, au
chantier
d'empiètement sur
la mer, à l'est de
Yên Hưng
(Dec. 1992)



- Di tích bãi cọc
Bach Đằng (T.K.
XIII - Yên Hưng)

- Wooden-spike site
on the Bach Dang
River (13th c.,
Yen Hung)

- Pieux plantés
dans le lit du
fleuve Bach Dang
(lors de la bataille
fluviale contre les
Yuan - 13e s.)
-Yên Hưng



- *Xí nghiệp thông Quảng Ninh ký kết hợp tác với hãng TOMEN (Nhật Bản)*

- *A meeting between the Pine-Growing Enterprise (Quang Ninh province) and the TOMEN firm of Japan.*

- *Signature de l'accord de coopération entre l'entreprise de Quang Ninh de culture de pins et la firme japonaise TOMEN*



- *Rừng thông Quảng Ninh*
- *Pine grove in Quang Ninh province*
- *Bois de pins de Quang Ninh*

- *Gạch Giếng Dáy*
- *"Giếng Dáy" bricks of Quang Ninh*
- *Briques "Giếng Dáy" de Quang Ninh*



- *Động Hang Hanh (vịnh Bái Tử Long)*
- *Stalactites in the Hanh Cave
(Bai Tu Long Cove)*
- *Grotte Hang Hanh (Crique de Bái Tử Long),
Baie d'Halong*



- Khe Tù (đầu T.K. XX - Tiên Yên)
- Khe Tù (early 20th c., Tien Yen)
- Khe Tù, (début du 20e s.) - Tiên Yên

- Ven sông Tiên Yên
- On the bank of the Tien Yen River
- Sampans sur la rivière de Tiên Yên

- Thác Chúc (Ba Chẽ)
- Chuc Falls (at Ba Che)
- Chute Chuc - Ba Chẽ



- Đảo Nêm - nơi nghỉ của công nhân mỏ Cao Sơn (Cẩm Phả)
- Nem Islet, a rest house for the workers of the Cao Son mine (Cam Pha)
- Îlot de Nêm, lieu de repos des ouvriers de la mine de Cao Son - Cẩm Phả



- Ngai đá-côn trình điêu khắc của tạo hó (Thác Chúc)
- Stone stool, work of art b nature (Chu Falls)
- Rocher en form de trone (Chut Chuc)





- Phiên chợ miền núi
- Market day in a mountainous area
- Foire montagnarde

Trong bếp nhà
người Dao

Kitchen of the Dao
ethnic minority

Âtre dans une
maison Dao

Chiều ở Bình Liêu

An afternoon at
Bình Liêu

Après-midi à Bình
Lieu ▼





- Di tích nhà thờ Trà Cố (đầu T.K. XX – Hải Ninh)
- Ruins of the Tra Co church (early 20th c., Hai Ninh)
- Ruine de l'église à Trà Cố (début du 20e s.) – Hai Ninh
- Di tích đình Quan Lạn (T.K. XVIII – huyện Cẩm Phả)
- Vestige of the Quan Lan communal house (18th c. Cam Pha district)
- Ruine de la maison communale de Quan Lan (18e s.) – district de Cam Pha

FORESTRY

In Quang Ninh there are 193,231 ha of forest land including 150,809 ha of natural forests and 42,422 ha of planted forests. Waste lands accounts for 201,896 ha. During the past five years, the natural forest area has been reduced by 17%; the increase in the planted forest area is insignificant, and the woodland area has decreased by 27%.

The province possesses 18,000 ha of special-use forest: 2,000 ha where there are historical vestiges, 4,000ha reserved to tourism (Bai Chay, Tuan Chau...), 12,000 ha of virgin forests. The coverage extent is now 32%, an alarming figure. It is necessary to raise it to 60-70% and even more in the zones of protection.

In 1991-1992, thanks to the financial assistance of foreign organizations and Government subsidies as well as with the fund of the province, 4,000ha of forests have been planted. The new policy of allotting forest lands to each household encourages forest planting and preservation. Quang Ninh plans to grow 30,000ha of industrial plants, 15,000 ha of resinous pines, 7,000 ha of cinnamon, and 8,000 ha of other plants. These trees grow in abundance in Binh Lieu, Ba Che..., but the processing industries have not given high quality products. Moreover, markets are lacking.

Resinous pines are planted in abundance in Hoanh Bo, Yen Hung, Uong Bi...The Quang Ninh pine resin factory which is cooperating with the Japanese firm TOMEN offers good-quality products.

In Quang Ninh there are two types of resinous pines: *Pinus Mekusii var Tonkinensis* (5 to 6 kg/tree/year) and the *Pinus Massonianna* (2 to 2.25 kg/tree/year).

AGRICULTURE

Quang Ninh possesses about 60,000 ha of agricultural land including 33,000 ha of cultivated land. Its three main agricultural zones are Dong Trieu, Yen Hung and Quang Ha. Binh Lieu was in the past a poor mountain district. Over the past few years, its lands have given a good yield thanks to the use of a new variety of rice and the application of new growing techniques. In 1990, its per capita on food production was 440 kg. In the same year, the whole province got 140,550 tons of rice; the figure rose to 154,000 tons in 1992. It is expected to reach 170,000 tons in 1995. By reclaiming waste lands, Quang Ninh can get 20,000 new hectares of cultivable land. Several areas are fit for agriculture and aquatic product breeding: the eastern part of Yen Hung (2,700 ha), the area north of Cua Luc (1,500 ha), Dong Rui - Tien Yen (7,000 ha), Quang Ha (1,000 ha), Hai Ninh (2,000 ha).

WATER CONSERVANCY

Quang Ninh has built a system of water conservancy works to develop agriculture and fishery. The dykes have a total length of 377 km. They protect 28,300 ha of cultivated land. They are mostly sea dykes. The only river dyke at Dong Trieu is 4 km long and protects 8,200 ha of land.

In addition, the province has built 72 ~~lakes~~ of dams - reservoirs which can provide water to irrigate over 21,300 ha; the biggest reservoir that of Yen Lap can provide enough

water to 10,050 ha. The irrigation and drainage of 6,355 ha are ensured by 58 electric pumping stations. Small irrigation works service about 5,000 ha. A system of 194 drainage works makes it possible to drain 25,152 ha. In mountain districts, there are 30 hydropower stations, the most important of which is Khe Soong at Tien Yen (400 kw). In Tien Yen and Binh Lien, many families have their own hydropower motors (350 to 400 kw).

SEA PRODUCTS

The maritime area of Quang Ninh with its many fishing fields can yield annually 15-20 thousand tons of fish and other sea products. Since 1989 four fish markets have been opened off the islands of Ha Mai and Thanh Lan (Cam Pha), Cai Chien (Quang Ha), Mui Ngoc (Hai Ninh). The fishers, about 7,000 in number, possess over 3,000 motor boats. They operate mainly along the coasts as fishing in the open sea does not practically exist.

Quang Ninh offers a great variety of sea products much appreciated by the consumers: shrimps, cuttlefish, crabs, oysters, lobsters, holothuria... It possesses in addition 7,000 ha of water surface for the breeding of aquatic products. It is projected to arrange a thousand ha more of water surface east of Yen Hung (Hoang Tan and Ha An 2) and in the maritime zone of Vauh Kieu 1-2-3 in Uong Bi.

COMMUNICATIONS

ROUTES

4 routes link Hanoi and Bai Chay:

* Route 1: to drive along national highway N° 5 (Hanoi-Hai Phong), cross two rivers (Binh and Rung ferries), pass by Quang Yen urban centre before arriving in Bai Chay.

* Route 2: To drive along national highway N° 5, turn left at Lai Khe, drive to Kinh Mon, cross two rivers (May and Trieu ferries) to drive on to Dong Trieu, Uong Bi and Bai Chay.

* Route 3: To drive along national highway N° 1A at Bac Ninh to take highway N° 18 A, to cross a river (Pha Lai ferry) to drive on to Dong Trieu, Uong Bi and Bai Chay.

* Route 4: To drive along national highway No 5. After crossing the Phu Luong bridge, to turn to road 183, cross a river (Binh ferry), drive on up to Chi Linh where is highway N° 18A which will lead to Bai Chay.

Each of these four itineraries presents advantages and inconveniences. In the future, when the construction of the Binh bridge is completed, itinerary N° 4 will prove to be the most advantageous as there is no ferry on it.

Since 1992, the road linking Bai Chay and Mong Cai has been asphalted. But on the whole, the road network at Quang Ninh is not in a very good condition. In the rainy season, torrents from the mountains flood entire road sections before flowing into the sea. Along the 162 km of highway N° 18A from Vang Chua to Tien Yen, there are 62 bridges (537 metres). On a 15-km section of highway N° 10A there are 28 bridges and ferries.

Since the application of the open-door policy, Quang Ninh has striven, in spite of its limited investment possibilities, to renovate its road network in order to facilitate home and foreign trade. The construction of the Ba Che, Binh and Khe Tu bridges will be completed respectively in 1993, 1994 and 1995. The Bac Luan bridge has been built through Vietnam-China cooperation. The present roads built for 10-ton vehicles have to bear the weight of 20-ton trucks. Steps are necessary to protect them. National highway N^o 18A and highway N^o 4B pass across all the districts and chieftowns of the province with the exception of Hoanh Bo, Ba Che and Binh Lieu. An asphalted road will link the latter two districts to the national highway; another road will make it possible for vehicles to come to the Ky Thuong mountain commune in Hoanh Bo, the only place which has remained inaccessible to motor traffic. Regular car services link Quang Ninh to other provinces of the country. The Bai Chay-Ho Chi Minh City trip takes two days and two nights.

RAILWAYS

Once every two days a train leaves Hanoi for Bai Chay, passing by the Kep station in Ha Bac. This line of 200 kilometres mainly serves the two provinces of Ha Bac and Quang Ninh. Its passengers are mostly traders.

RIVER AND SEA WAYS

The most used lines are those linking Hai Phong to Quang Ninh: Hai Phong - Hong Gai (60 km) and Hai Phong - Tra Co (150 km). Another line starts from Hai Duong province. In the future will be opened the lines from Hong Gai to China and from Hong Gai to Southeast Asian countries.

PORTS

The great potentialities of Quang Ninh are coal and the sea. In the future, the sea will constitute its greatest wealth. The province possesses a network of ports, several of which are accessible to great tonnage ships; it can become an international communication link, one of the most important ones in the country and even in the region. However, the necessary funds are lacking for a better exploitation of this network. In the specialists' views, the situation of Quang Ninh's ports is as follows:

1. **Uong Bi sector:** For the eventual export of a quantity of coal less than one million tons/year (exploited in cooperation with a foreign company), a port can be built for less-than-5,000-ton ships. When the quantity of coal exported exceeds one million tons, the port of Cai Lan is to be used.

2. **Hong Gai sector:** The Cai Lan port does not present any silt deposit; its greatest depth is 6 metres at ebb and over 100 metres at flow. It has been projected to build there seven harbours (only one was built in 1992). Investments are necessary to build a port accessible to big-tonnage ships (30,000 tons) and several harbours for containers. The Cai Lan port is expected to be between 1995 and the year 2000, in position to load and unload each year several million tons of goods. It will become the biggest maritime communication link of north Vietnam and will be called upon to play a no less important role in Southeast Asia.

The B12 petrol port is receiving a great part of fuel imports in the northern part of the country. But at long last, it will prove to be unusable as a result of its location.

The Hong Gai coal port can now receive 12,500-ton ships. A project is under study for the installation of floating docks making it possible to load and unload 30,000-ton

ships. but it would be better in the future to link the Hong Gai mining area to Cam Pha with a railway line, for the existence of the Hong Gai port could impede the development of tourism.

The new harbour at Lan Be can now receive 600-ton ships. It will become accessible to 900-ton ships with some construction works.

3. Cam Pha sector: Cua Ong is the biggest coal port of Vietnam. It is being enlarged to receive ships of 30,000-40,000 tons. Thanks to the existence of subsidiary ports and by transhipment, 50,000-ton ship anchored at Hon Net can be loaded.

4. Eastern sector: For a long time now, the Mui Chua port (accessible to less-than-2,000-ton ships) has not been in use. Lying at the junction of three ways (eastern region - western region - Lang Son province), it is likely to develop in the future.

5. Cam Pha district: The district possesses a port for the transport of Van Hai white sand, a choice raw material for glass making. For purposes of export, the sand is transported to Hon Net where it is loaded on big merchant ships.

FRESH WATER

The Quang Ninh Water Supply Company manages four water plants distributed in the four sectors of the province.

1. Hong Gai chieftown - Cam Pha chieftown sector:
The Dien Vong water plant (Duong Huy commune, Cam Pha

chieftown) has a capacity of $60,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$, that is double the present consumption. It supplies water to the Cam Pha and Hong Gai chieftowns. In addition, the exploitation of 15 underground wells gives each day $15,000 \text{ m}^3$ of water.

2. Bai Chay sector: The Dong Ho water plant has a capacity of $20,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$ (this figure will be doubled in the future). According to a project, it will supply only the tourist site and the industrial enterprises located in the sector.

3. Uong Bi sector: The Vang Danh water plant (under the Hai Duong Water Supply Company) supplies daily $1,000 \text{ m}^3$ of water to the Uong Bi chieftown.

4. Mao Khe sector: The water plant in this sector ($10,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$) supplies 80% of its production to the Hoang Thach cement factory; the remainder (20%) is for Mao Khe.

In addition, there are in various localities water supply stations under the local administration such as the pumping stations of Hai Ninh ($2,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$), Binh Lieu ($1,200 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$), Dong Trieu ($2,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$), etc.

But if the volume of water produced by far exceeds consumption requirements, the distribution network does not meet the development tempo of urban centres like the Hong Gai and Cam Pha chieftowns. On the other hand, the sources of water tend to diminish, particularly in periods of drought. An artificial lake which may retain 7 million m^3 is in construction at Cao Van (Duong Huy commune, Cam Pha chieftown), which will be completed in late 1994.

ELECTRICITY

Quang Ninh is supplied in electric power by the Hoa Binh hydropower plant and the Pha Lai thermo-electric plant.

The 110 KV Dong Trieu - Mong Duong electricity transport is connected with the national network. Another 110 KV line supplies power to Tien Yen and will be prolonged to Ba Che - Binh Lieu. As the installation of an electricity transport line at Hai Ninh encounters difficulties due to lack of funds, Mong Cai has to purchase power from China.

In the high regions and remote islands, efforts are being made to get power from various sources of energies (solar heat, force of wind and water...)

POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The central post located at Hong Gai has begun operating since 1986. In September 1991 it was furnished with a 60-channel microwave system (about 500 channels in August 1992). The Hong Gai telephone network is connected with the national one, which makes it possible to communicate with all other regions of the country and with foreign countries as well. It is the same for Cam Pha chieftown and Yen Hung district. Telephonic switch-boards are installed at other district towns, by late 1993 the telephonic system of the province will be completely automatized. Liaison with the islands is effected by telegraph. In 1995 the mountain areas and remote islands will be equipped with mobile communication systems.

The Quang Ninh post office ensures the dispatch of letters and packages to the whole country and abroad, and reversely their distribution.

TOURISM

Quang Ninh is separated from China by a 122-kilometres borderline with three passage points: Mong Cai in Hai Ninh district, Hoanh Mo in Binh Lieu district, and Bac Phong Sinh in Quang Ha district. Its 250 kilometres of coasts are cut off by the Ha Long and Bai Tu Long Bays and Ha Coi with countless islands and grottoes. A sea way links it to southeastern part of China and the outside world. Its physical feature is also characterized by the existence of high mountains and dense forests, great rivers and streams. A coal field with open-pit and underground mines extends on an area of about one thousand square kilometres. The province is inhabited by numerous ethnic groups with original and varied cultural practices. These national and social conditions to which is added a plurimillenary history turn Quang Ninh into a first-order tourist place of Vietnam.

From whatever direction you may come to Hong Gai, the provincial chieftown, you will discover at any moment beautiful corners which seduce you by the variety of their charms.

Starting from Hanoi, you will arrive first at Dong Trieu after passing by Pha Lai. In front of you there extends a rustic landscape of undulating ricefields and hamlets nested in

the verdure of bamboo hedges, at the foot of some hill. The forests hold many historical vestiges.

On the road to Hong Gai, don't fail to make a trip to Yen Tu mountains (Uong Bi), the cradle of a Buddhist sect - Thien Truc Lam. A long circuit of mountain trails and streams with on the way ancient pagodas and mossy stupas, and which will end at the Dong pagoda on top a 1,068-metre-high mountain.

Always starting from Hanoi, you can take the road to Yen Hung via Hai Phong: a deltaic landscape of the North with its typical villages, ancient temples and pagodas, its traditional habits and customs, its popular festivities. The Bach Dang river, which traverses the locality, was the theatre of many naval victories achieved by the Vietnamese people in their long struggle against the northern invaders. The Hoang Tan island in Yen Hung promises to become an excellent tourist spot.

Whether you take the Dong Trieu - Uong Bi road or that of Yen Hung, make a little stop at Hoanh Bo district to visit the pretty Troi village. You can also go hunting in the woods of Ky Thuong - Dong Tam, fishing on the fishy lake of Yen Lap.

Or you come from China by crossing the Ka Long river which separates Hai Ninh district from the Chinese province of Guangxi. You will enter the border town of Mong Cai, an immense market with intense commercial activities, the rendezvous of traders from all over the country and elsewhere. Not far from that spot there is a very reposing corner, Tra Co, one of the most beautiful beaches of Vietnam. We can take a walk along the coast up to Con Mang, the northern tip of the country. A visit to the surrounding villages will discover to you cultural and historical vestiges which ex-

plain the formation of the village communities through the centuries.

Make a stop at Quang Ha district to enjoy the tasty tea of Duong Hoa and also to buy some small souvenir made of Tan Mai marble, much looked for by tourists. Walk along the old streets of Ha Coi, a plain and peaceful town which still retains the Asian architectural style of early 19th century.

After Quang Ha comes Binh Lieu, a mountainous border district. In contrast to the animation which prevails at Mong Cai market, the Binh Lieu one is frequented by minority ethnic groups who wear clothes with brilliant colours. Genuine amber honey and rare forest products are sold there. Ten kilometres from that place is found the Khe Van cascade of grand and savage beauty. On the way, enter some Dao, Tay, San Chi villages. You will soon note all the kindness of mountain people.

Ba Che district offers the same landscape of mountains and forests. Go and see the Chuc rapids. On part of the Ba Che river, hundreds of big and small rocks eroded by water present the most unusual sculptural forms. Before leaving the districts of eastern Quang Ninh, make a leap to Tien Yen, a picturesque river side spot.

Cam Pha chieftown with its port where foreign ships come to load coal, its Cua Ong temple built on top a rock where you will enjoy the magnificent panorama of the Ba Tu Long Bay.

From here, the road to Hong Gai is bordered on one side by beautiful beaches and on the other by a succession of coal mines: Cao Son, Deo Nai, Coc Sau, Thong Nhat, Mong Duong, Khe Cham, and so on, which are either open-pit or underground mines.

Hong Gai, the provincial capital of Quang Ninh. A blooming urban centre with its broad avenues, its imposing administrative quarter, its pretty villas, its comfortable hotels.

Bai Chay is lined to Hong Gai by a ferry. This "Burnt Bank" possesses a beach which make the joy of holiday-makers. From there, you will board a small ship for a cruise in Ha Long Bay; the countless rocky islands, beaches and grottoes there wonder you by day and fascinate you by night.

Nature grants to Quang Ninh many advantages which still remain unexploited. Mountains and forests, sea and beaches, a bay which makes jealous the most beautiful sites in the world, all that are waiting to be put to use by man's hands. On the other hand, the bad state of the roads is not likely to encourage tourists. Quang Ninh needs funds to build its touristic infrastructure. To invest in this enterprise is certainly a good placement.

Projects to build tourist sites in Quang Ninh have been worked out, especially "The Ha Long Bay in the year 2000", a work of Jean Pierre Quignaux, director of the French Office of Technological Information. Appreciated for its creativeness and its realistic character, this project aims to exploit all the potentialities of the Ha Long Bay which Mr. Quignaux regards as unique in the world for its natural beauty.

HOTELS AND GUEST HOUSES

Let us mention some of them:

BAI CHAY

Ha Long Hotel

Tel. * 46445

- Ha Long 1: a big villa from the colonial period, built on a promontory offering a splendid panorama of the bay, with 16 large and comfortable rooms.

- Ha Long 2: Big building with two stories, 40 rooms.

- Ha Long 3: Big building with four stories, 57 rooms.

Vuon Dao Hotel

Tel. 46427

70 rooms. Good service, good cuisine. 25 to 35 \$US a double room.

Suoi Mo Hotel

Tel. 46389

45 comfortable rooms. 25 to 35 \$US a double room.

Bach Dang Hotel

Tel. 46285

40 rooms looking on the beach. 20 to 30 \$US a double room.

* Telephone code of the province: 33

Van Hai Hotel

Tel. 46403

Located near the Post Office and the Bai Chay landing station. Comfortable accommodation.

Guest-house of the Post Office

Tel. 46205

Located in the centre of the tourist site. Telephonic communications with the interior and outside the country. 20 to 30 \$US a double room.

TUAN CHAU ISLAND

Three beautiful villas and one restaurant. A cooperation project with a foreign partner has been worked out for the construction of several villas and hotels.

HONG GAI

Pho Moi Hotel in Tran Hung Dao ward Tel. 25232

Hotel No 1 in Bach Dang ward Tel. 25265

Fairly comfortable hotels with moderate prices are available to tourists in Hai Ninh, Uong Bi and Cam Pha.

PART THREE

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

THE PRESENT QUANG NINH PROVINCE COMPRISES THREE CHIEFTOWNS AND NINE DISTRICTS

HONG GAI CHIEFTOWN

Area: 143 sq. km

Population: 134,200 inhabitants

(932 inh./sq. km)

Provincial capital and political, economic and cultural centre of Quang Ninh, Hong Gai has special position and terrain conditions. It lies midway between Hanoi and Mong Cai, on highway N° 18A.

In the east, it confines to Cam Pha chieftown, the biggest colliery of Vietnam; in the west, it confines to Yen Hung district, a prosperous agricultural area; in the north, it confines to the Hoanh Bo mountain district; in the southeast, it is bordered by the Ha Long Bay. Its coast, about 20 kilometres long, is protected by the thousands of limestone rocks of the Ha Long and Bai Tu Long Bays. The sea here is calm all the year round. In view of the absence of virgin forest, Hong

Gai possesses no rare essence. On the other hand, its vast expanses of pine forests embellished by flowers and winged fauna give constant interest to the landscape.

Climate: Hong Gai is part of the maritime tropical zone visited by monsoons. Average annual temperature: 22.8°C. Average temperature in summer: 26.4°C (highest temperature: 35.7°C). Average temperature in winter: 20°C (lowest temperature: 4.2°C). Average annual rainfall: 2,005.4 mm. (From May to October: over 100 mm). Average annual moisture: 81%. Summer monsoon from March to August, winter monsoon from September to February. Typhoon season from August to October (two to three typhoons/year, average velocity of wind: degree 8 or 9).

The Cua Luc river divides Hong Gai into two parts: east and west.

Eastern Hong Gai comprises 13 wards (Bach Dang, Ha Long, Tran Hung Dao, Yet Kieu, Ha Khanh, Cao Xanh, Cao Thang, Ha Lam, Ha Trung, Ha Tu, Ha Phong, Hong Ha, Hong Hai) and one commune: Thanh Cong.

Western Hong Gai comprises 3 ward (Bai Chay, Gieng Day, Ha Khau) and 2 communes (Hung Thang and Tuan Chau).

Hong Gai possesses 3 townships: Ha Tu, Ha Lam and Bai Chay (the biggest).

Most inhabitants of Hong Gai are Viet (people coming from the plain). They came from all parts of the province and from various other areas of the country. Among the vestiges and sites, let us mention the Bai Tho mount and Western Hong Gai.

The Bai Tho mount: It is a 106 m high limestone rock in the very centre of the Hong Gai, on the coast of the Ha Long Bay. Viewed from Lan Be, it looks like a huge castle with

three high towers. Viewed from the south, it looks like a fortress protecting the Ben Tau, Cho Cu, Ben Doanh streets which form a half circle at its foot.

In the past, it was called Truyen Dang or Signal Lamp. Under former dynasties, it was used as a garrison place. At night a lighted lamp was placed on its top as a sign of calm. In case of invasion, wood logs were burnt to signal danger.

In 1468 the King-poet Le Thanh Tong made a stop here in the course of an inspection tour. Charmed by the beauty of the landscape, he composed a poem which was carved on the flank of this rock. That is the reason for its name Bai Tho or Mount of the Poem.

Western Hong Gai: This sector comprises a stretch of land and several islands. The stretch of land of 11 kilometres extending from Bai Chay to Dong Dang possesses low hills and bits of ricefield. The place is very favourable to the construction of public utilities, industrial and touristic works. One half of the area of the Bai Chay ward, 10 square kilometres, can be exploited for tourism. There are already a score of hotels and guest houses put at the disposal of tourists. The Tuan Chau island close to Bai Chay has all the natural advantages to become a choice tourist site.

CAM PHA CHIEFTOWN

Area: 381sq. km

Population: 132,000 inhabitants

(271 inh./sq. km)

The Cam Pha chieftown lies on the national highway which links Hong Gai to Hai Ninh. It is limited in the north

by the Ba Che district, in the west by the Hoanh Bo district and Hong Gai chieftown, in the east by the Tien Yen district and the island district of Cam Pha, and in the south by the Bai Tu Long Bay.

Its total area is 38,125 hectares including 16.29% of midlands, 55.4% of mountainous area, 15.01% of plain and 13.3% of coastal area. It includes 2,590 hectares of rocky mountains most of which have an average height of 200 metres (the highest top, Khe Sim, is over 400 metres high).

Its main resources are coal and mineral waters.

Climate: Average annual temperature: 23°C; average temperature in summer: 34°C; average temperature in winter: 10.9°C; average annual moisture: 84.6% (lowest: 75%); average annual rainfall: 2,307 mm.

The present Cam Pha chieftown, founded on November 12, 1956, is divided into 11 wards (Mong Duong, Cua Ong, Cam Tinh, Cam Phu, Cam Son, Cam Dong, Cam Tay, Cam Thanh, Cam Trung, Cam Thuy, Cam Thach) and 5 communes (Quang Hanh, Cam Binh, Duong Huy, Cam Hai, Cong Hoa).

The population is composed of Viet, Tay, Dzao, San Dziu, San Chi and Hoa. Urban people: about 100,000, rural people: over 22,000. Over 76,000 people are in the working age bracket, among whom about 34,000 work in industry.

The Cua Ong temple is both a historic vestige and a beautiful spot. The Dzeu islets, 500 metres from each other constitute a picturesque corner. Since 1962, the Health Ministry has established there a centre for breeding monkeys whose number is about one thousand.

UONG BI CHIEFTOWN

Area: 246 sq. km

Population: 82,750 inhabitants

(338 inh./sq. km)

Located in the western part of the province, and on national highway N^o 18A, Uong Bi is limited in the east by Yen Hung district, in the northeast by Hoanh Bo district, in the west by Dong Trieu district, in the north by Son Dong district (Ha Bac province) and in the south by Thuy Nguyen district (Hai Phong City).

Two-thirds of the Uong Bi chieftown are composed of mountains sloping southward. There are three distinct forms:

- The northern mountains (48.6%) in Thuong Yen commune and Vang Danh and Bac Son wards;
- The low mountains and the plain (44%) in the Phuong Dong and Nam Khe communes and the Quang Trung, Thanh Son and Trung Vuong wards.

The low lands (8.4%) in the Phuong Nam commune (being reclaimed)

Climate: average annual temperature: 24°C. Degree of moisture: 81%. Annual rainfall: 1,842 mm.

The Uong Bi chieftown, set up on August 1, 1961, comprises five wards (Vang Danh, Bac Son, Thanh Son, Quang Trung and Trung Vuong) and four communes (Thuong Yen Cong, Thuong Dong, Phuong Nam and Nam Khe). The population is grouped in the urban sector and along national highway N^o 18A. Vang Danh (13,000 inh.) and Phuong Dong (14,000 inh.) are the most populated area; the Thuong Yen Cong commune has the smallest population (3,300 inh.).

The population is composed of Tay, Hoa, San Dziu, Nung, San Chay, Dzao and Viet. The latter make up more than 90% Uong Bi people. Forest laborers number about 32,400, farm-hand number 18,200, 47,700 are busy with other trades.

Communications: - The Hanoi-Bai Chay railway passes by Uong Bi.

- A route linking Hanoi and Bai Chay passes by Uong Bi.

The Da Bach river flows through the Phuong Nam commune at Uong Bi. This river way links the chieftown to Ha Bac, Hai Hung and Hai Phong.

In the future, a civilian airport may be built at a point 8 km from Uong Bi and 11 km from Hai Phong.

DONG TRIEU DISTRICT

Area: 409 sq. km

Population: 134,000 inhabitants

(32 inh./sq. km)

*Two urban agglomerations: Dong
Trieu and Mao Khe.*

Dong Trieu is located 90 km from Hanoi and about 80 km from Hong Gai. An intermediary area between the plain and the mountain it bears all the characteristic features of the Midland. It is limited in the north by Ha Bac province, in the south and the west by Hai Phong port city and Hai Hung province, in the east by Uong Bi (Quang Ninh). The district is watered by many rivers: Kinh Thay, Da Bac, Dam Thuy, Vi Thuy and Cam. A network of artificial lakes has been put in the service of agriculture. Those of Ben Trau (Binh Khe commune), Khe Che and Trai Loc (An Sinh commune) ensure water for 1,800 hectares of ricefields.

Climate: Average annual temperature: 23.4°C. January is the coldest month (average temperature: 16.6°C), June is the hottest month (average temperature: 28.4°C). Average moisture: 81%. Annual rainfall: 1,809 mm.

Dong Trieu is composed of two urban agglomerations and 19 communes.

The Dong Trieu urban agglomeration: situated in the centre of the district, it has an area of 3.5 sq km and a population of nearly 5,000 inhabitants. Economic structure: agriculture and industry. Since the Ly and Tran dynasties (11th-14th centuries), Dong Trieu has been a big trading centre.

The Mao Khe urban agglomeration: Area: 40 sq km. Population: 34,000 inhabitants, most of whom work in the coal mine of the agglomeration. There is a railway station, two ancient pagodas (Non Dong and Te), and a catholic church.

The 19 communes are Trang Luong, Trang An, Nguyen Hue, Binh Duong, Thuy An, Anh Sinh, Viet Dan, Tan Viet, Duc Chinh, Hung Dao, Hong Phong, Xuan Son, Kim Son, Yen Tho, Yen Duc, Hong Que, Hong Thai Dong, Hong Thai Tay and Binh Khe.

Among the 134,000 inhabitants of the district, 63,000 are in the working age bracket. Population increase rate: 2.2%.

The district is inhabited by Viet, Hoa, Tay, San Dziu and Dzao. The ethnic minority groups total 2,000 people - nearly 2% of the population. They live mainly in the two mountain communes of Binh Khe and Trang Luong.

The Quynh Lam pagoda is a classified historic monument. There exist in Dong Trieu many vestiges of the epoch of the Ly and Tran Kings, vestiges which have a great historical and artistic value.

YEN HUNG DISTRICT

Area: 311 sq. km

Population: 117,850 inhabitants

(336 inh./sq. km)

Urban agglomeration: Quang Yen

Doorstep of Vietnam's northeastern zone, and situated in the southwestern part of the province, Yen Hung possesses many rivers, immense beaches, silted banks and entire mangrove forests. It is limited in the north by Uong Bi chieftown and Hoanh Bo district, in the west and the south by Thuy Nguyen district, the mouth of the Nam Trieu river and Cat Hai island. It comprises three main areas: mountains and hills, plains and salted lowlands. The mountains and hills occupy an area of about 5,000 ha and are fit for the development of forestry. The forests have an area of 2,477 ha including 1,759 ha of planted forests are composed of resinous pines.

Rivers: The Bach Dang which flows across Yen Hung is a large river, the name of which is linked to the great exploits of our people in the struggle against foreign invasion under the former dynasties. The Chanh, a ramification of the Bach Dang is part of the coastal navigation line which links Hai Phong port to the mining area of Hong Gai and Cam Pha and the northeastern border area. This river divides the Yen Hung district into two sectors - Ha Bac and Ha Nam.

Climate: Like Dong Trieu, Yen Hung is the hottest district of Quang Ninh province. In winter, the climate is rather humid; the temperature may go down to 5°C and even lower. Yen Hung is also one of the two driest places in the coastal zone. The volume of evaporated water exceeds rainfall by far.

The Yen Hung district comprises an urban agglomeration and 17 communes. The Chanh river divides it into two sectors: Ha Bac and Ha Nam.

Ha Bac on the left bank has an area of 21,638 ha. It includes the Quang Yen urban agglomeration and 10 communes: Yen Giang, Hiep Hoa, Cong Hoa, Tien An, Hoang Tan, Minh Thanh, Dong Mai, Dien Cong, Hoa An and Song Khoai, the last two being recently encroached on the sea. The Quang Yen urban agglomeration was the provincial capital of former Quang Yen province.

Ha Nam on the right bank, is a low island protected by an enclosure of dykes. Area: 6,503 ha. 7 communes: Nam Hoa, Yen Hai, Phong Coc, Cam La, Phong Hai, Lien Hoa, Lien Vi.

Ha Nam has kept all features of the north Vietnamese countryside with its pagodas, temples, communal houses, traditional rites and customs.

The population is composed mainly of Viet; ethnic minority groups number only about 100 people. Peasants represent 70.4% of the population. There are 34,700 farmhands.

Yen Hung lies on the road from Hai Phong to Quang Ninh, national highway N° 18A passes by the northern part of the districts. Highway N° 10 runs through its centre. If the project to build an airport, 11 km from Yen Hung is implemented, the trip to Quang Ninh will take less time than now. The Rung ferry across the Bach Dang river links Yen Hung to Hai Phong.

HOANH BO DISTRICT

Area: 911 sq. km

Population: 47,000 inhabitants

(52 inh./sq. km)

Urban agglomeration: Troi

Situated in the western part of Quang Ninh, Hoanh Bo district is limited in the west by Yen Hung district and Uong Bi chieftown, in the north by Ba Che district and Ha Bac province, in the east by Cam Pha chieftown, in the south by Hong Gai chieftown. It is a region of forests and mountains, rivers and coasts.

The 89,000 ha of forests distributed throughout the district possess products of high economic value: precious essences, resinous pines, bamboo, rattan, santal, cardamom, polygonum, multiflorum... At river mouths, the coast abound in mangroves and terrains fit for the breeding of shrimps, crabs, and fish. The Yen Lap artificial lake has an area of 17,000 ha and contains 120 million cubic metres.

Climate: Being an area of high mountains an low depressions, Hoanh Bo has a harsh climate. Average annual temperature: 22.8°C, highest temperature: 37.9°C, lowest temperature: 5°C. Annual rainfall: 1,941 mm.

The Hoanh Bo district comprises one urban agglomeration and 14 communes.

Troi urban agglomeration: Lying between the sea and the mountains, Troi is a small pretty urban agglomeration with its newly built houses. The little river which flows across it adds a picturesque note to the landscape.

The 14 communes are Ky Thuong, Dong Son, Tan Dan, Dong Lam, Hoa Binh, Vu Oai, Bang Ca, Dan Chu, Quang

La, Son Duong, Thong Nhat, Le Loi, Dai Yen and Viet Hung (the most populated one - 9,000 inhabitants).

The population is unequally distributed. In Troi, the density is 415 inh./sq km; in Ky Thuong commune: 5 inh./sq km. The Viet constitute the majority of the population, followed by the Dzao (12%), San Dziu (about 5%), Tay (4%).

National highway N° 18A passes by the Dai Yen commune; highway N° 18B passes through the district centre. Troi can receive over-200-ton ships; the harbour of Vu Oai commune is accessible to 100-ton ships.

TIEN YEN DISTRICT

Area: 617 sq. km

Population: 36,600 inhabitants
(59 inh./sq. km)

Urban agglomeration: Tien Yen

Tien Yen lies in the centre of the eastern part of Quang Ninh, limited in the north by Dinh Lap district (Lang Son province) and district and Cam Pha chieftown, in the east by Quang Ha district, in the south by the Bai Tu Long Bay.

The district is characterized by the existence of many mountains, hills, valleys and rivers; its coasts extend on 40 kilometres.

Climate: Cold winter, fresh and rainy summer. Average annual temperature: 22.4°C. Average annual rainfall: 2,427 mm. Frequent drizzle: 38 days/year.

Tien Yen comprises an urban agglomeration which bears its name and 10 communes.

Tien Yen urban agglomeration: situated at the confluence of two tributaries of the Tien Yen river. In face of it extend on 6 km up to the sea side, fields of culture which supply

food to the population of the agglomeration and of the mountain communes. Created in the early 20th century, the agglomeration presents a great military and commercial interest.

The 10 communes are: 5 mountain communes (Dien Xa, Ha Lau, Phong Du, Dai Duc, Yen Than), 4 coastal communes (Dong Ngu, Dong Hai, Tien Lang, Hai Lang) and one island commune (Dong Rui).

The Tien Yen population comprises: Viet (55%), Dzao (20%), Tay (12.3%), San Chay (7.3%) and a small number of San Dziu, Nung, Hoa...

The Viet have settled in Tien Yen for a very long time, the ones coming from the delta to earn their living, the others having rebelled against their sovereign and taken refuge there. They dwell in the coastal areas such as Tien Lang, Dong Ngu, and Dong Hai. The Tay who came also at an early date, live in the valleys. Later came other ethnic groups who live on the hill sides and along the streams, with the exception of the Hoa who inhabit the urban agglomeration and the trading points.

In view of the importance of its physical geography, right from the beginning of the century, Tien Yen has been supplied with a network of communications which links the entire eastern part of Quang Ninh to the mining areas of Cam Pha, Hong Gai and Uong Bi.

National highway N° 4, which has become famous in the Vietnamese people's war of resistance (1946-54), starts from Mui Ngoc in the extreme north of the country, traverses Tien Yen, and links it to the border provinces of Lang Son and Cao Bang. Highway N° 10 links Tien Yen to the Binh Lieu border district. From the time of the French, an airport was put to service in Yen Lang. From Tien Yen it is possible to

reach by ship all seaports of the country. Lying on the Hai Phong - Mui Ngoc maritime line, the district offers deep ports for the transshipment of goods.

BA CHE DISTRICT

Area: 605 sq. km

Population: 18,132 inhabitants

(27 inh./sq. km)

Urban agglomeration: Ba Che

It is a mountain district in the northern part of Quang Ninh, 65 km from Hong Gai. It is limited in the north by the districts of Dinh Lap (Lang Son province) and Tien Yen, in the south by Hoanh Bo district, Cam Pha chieftown and Cam Pha district, in the east by Tien Yen district, in the west by Son Dong district (Ha Bac province).

Ba Che is an area of high mountains which extend in a northeast-southwest direction. Ninety per cent of its area are composed of mountains, forests and bare hills.

Climate: If the district has a tropical monsoon climate, its physical features entail an unequal distribution of rains; droughts and floods constantly threaten the life of the population. The average annual rainfall exceeds 2,000 mm. The 1927 flood made scores of victims and destroyed hundreds of houses. Big floods were periodical (1969-1981-1992).

Ba Che comprise an urban agglomeration and seven communes.

The Ba Che urban agglomeration (over 3,000 inhabitants) presents the form of a low depression traversed by streams and surrounded by mountains.

The seven communes are: Don Dac (the most populated: 3,600 inhabitants), Lam Son, Thanh Lam, Thanh Son, Dap

Thanh, Luong Mong, Minh Cam (the least populated: 500 inhabitants).

The population of the district is unequally distributed: 150 inhabitants/sq. km in Ba Che urban agglomeration, 17 inh./sq. km in some communes. Ethnic groups: Dzao, Viet, Tay, San Dziu, Hoa and Nung. The Dzao live in Lam Son, Don Dac, Thanh Lam, Thanh Son communes; the Viet inhabit mainly the urban agglomeration and Don Dac commune. The birth rate is high (over 3%), especially among the Dzao; the death rate is also high. The Dzao have not yet settled for a sedentary life.

Communications: The Ba Che river, which traverses the district on its entire strength before flowing into the sea, constitutes an important navigable way.

A 60-odd-kilometre long road, which was broadened recently, links the urban agglomeration and all the communes of the district. A new, 33-kilometre long road, which starts from the agglomeration, joins national highway N^o 18A. These communication ways make it possible for the district to have contact with the Tien Yen and Cam Pha districts, and the Cua Ong port. Other roads pass by Hoanh Bo and Dinh Lap districts. However, the circulation is difficult in the rainy season.

BINH LIEU DISTRICT

Area: 479 sq. km

Population: 20,760 inhabitants
(43 inh./sq. km)

Urban agglomeration: Binh Lieu

Binh Lieu is a mountain district in the northeastern part of Quang Ninh, 130 km from Hong Gai. In the north it has a

48 km-long border with the Chinese districts of Phong Thanh and Nanning (Guangxi province); it is limited in the south by Tien Yen and Quang Ha districts; and in the east by Dinh Lap district (Lang Son province).

Climate: Under the influence of a continental climate, winter in Binh Lieu is cold and lasts six months. The average annual rainfall is 2,400 mm.

The Binh Lieu district comprises an urban agglomeration which bears its name (3,500 inhabitants) and seven communes, namely: Tinh Huc, Vo Ngai, Dong Tam, Huc Dong, Dong Van, Luc Hon and Hoanh Mo. The last commune lies on the Vietnam-Chinese border and is called upon to become a commercial centre not only of the district, but of the whole province.

Binh Lieu is inhabited by five ethnic groups: Tay (58.4%), Dzao (25.6%), San Chay (15.4%), Viet (3.7%), Hoa (0.36%). The percentage of Viet tends to increase. Most Tay, Hoa and Viet dwell in the valleys and along highway N°10B; the other ethnic groups are scattered on the mountains or on the stream banks. All lead a sedentary life. The birth rate is high: 3.5% in 1988, 2.79% in 1991. Over 10% of the population are affected by goitre.

Highway N° 10B, which starts from the Hoanh Mo border commune and traverses Binh Lieu on its entire length, links it to the other districts of the province. The communes are linked together by roads. In general, circulation is difficult, especially in the rainy season.

QUANG HA DISTRICT

Area: 722 sq. km

Population: 65,000 inhabitants

(90 inh./sq. km)

*Two urban agglomerations: Dam Ha
and Ha Coi*

Situated in the eastern part of the province, Quang Ha is limited in the north by Binh Lieu district, in the northeast by 36 kilometres of common border with China, in the east by Hai Ninh district, in the west by Tien Yen district, in the south and the east by the Bien Dong (South China Sea).

Quang Ha district covers an area of 72,000 ha including 51,000 ha of mountains and hills. The highest tops, Lam Lang and Tai Voong Mo Leng, culminate at 1,256 m and 1,100 m respectfully. The Quang Nam Chau chains separate the northeastern part of Quang Ninh from China.

The Dam Ha river which takes its source at Dong Van (Binh Lieu district) traverses Quang Ha, on a distance of 24 km before flowing into the sea. The Ha Coi river which takes its source at Cao Ba Lanh (on the Chinese border), flows across Quang Ha on a distance of 35 km. The Quang Duc river which flows also from the Chinese border, joins the Ha Coi river at the Ha Coi urban agglomeration before flowing into the sea. There are in addition several small rivers such as Duc Yen and Quang Thanh.

Climate: It is under the influence of both the mountain and the sea. Humidity: 83%. Highest temperature: 33°C, lowest temperature: about 4°C. The weather is frequently foggy. Average annual rainfall: 2,400 mm.

Quang Ha district was formed in 1969 by merging of two old districts of Dam Ha and Ha Coi. It comprises two urban agglomerations and 23 communes.

Dam Ha urban agglomeration: its 36 ha area is occupied by 4,000 inhabitants. The Dam Ha women have a beautiful stature and are hard working. A saying is wide spread in the province: The best pigs are those of Mong Cai, the best women, those of Dam Ha and the best hens, those of Tien Yen.

Ha Coi urban agglomeration: Area: 33 ha, population: 5,000 inhabitants. In the future, with the opening of Bac Phong Sinh passage point, this urban agglomeration will become a big trading centre.

Four communes of the highlands: Quang An, Quang Lan, Quang Son, and Quang Duc.

Six communes of the midland: Duc Yen, Quang Tan, Quang Loi, Quang Long, Quang Thinh and Quang Thanh.

Twelve coastal communes: Quang Dien, Quang Trung, Phu Hai, Quang Minh, Quang Chinh, Quang Thanh, Dai Binh, Dam Ha, Tan Binh, Duong Hoa, Tien Toi, and Quang Phong.

One island commune: Cai Chien.

The population comprises Viet (about 20,000) who came from other districts of the province and from other provinces, Dzao, Tay, Hoa, San Dziu, and San Chay. The working-age people number: 30,000. Birth rate: 3.06%.

The Mieu mountain and the Cai Chien island are beautiful sites which possess many sea products. The Cai Chien cuttlefish and the Mieu shrimps give excellent food.

HAI NINH DISTRICT

Area: 520 sq. km

Population: 35,300 inhabitants

(68 inh./sq. km)

*Two urban agglomerations: Mong
Cai and Hai Son.*

Hai Ninh lies in the confines of the northeastern zone of the country; it is a passage point from China to Vietnam, and from the Bac Bo Gulf to the Vietnamese northeastern area. It is limited in the north by a common border with the Chinese province of Guangxi (70 km), in the east and the south by the Bac bo Gulf, in the west by Quang Ha district. The Ka Long river, which takes its source in China, flows across its territory (60 km). An arm of the Ka Long, the Bac Luan river, separates Hai Ninh from the Chinese district of Phong Thanh.

The district's mainland part accounts for 85% of the total area; 75% of it are constituted by mountains, hills, valleys, rivers, and beaches. These mountains slope gently southward. The highest summits (664 m and 710 m) lie in Hai Son commune in the northwestern and northern part of the district. The forests (8,300 ha) possess essences and medicinal plants of high economic value. The mineral products are clay, kaolin and granite.

The islands (To Chim, Vinh Trung, Vinh Thuc, and so on) represent 15% of the district's area. People there practise fishing and breeding of sea products. The coastline is 50 km in length. Tra Co, one of the most beautiful beaches of the country, extends on 17 km along the coast.

Climate: In comparison with the other districts of the province, Hai Ninh has a lower temperature and the biggest

annual rainfall (2,751 mm) with a low evaporation rate. Average annual temperature: 22.5°C.

The district is divided into two urban agglomerations and 11 communes.

Hai Son urban agglomeration: It was at the origine a commune of high mountains and immense forests (over 200 sq. km). The urban agglomeration was established in 1978 but its population has been decreasing.

Mong Cai urban agglomeration: A major centre of trade with China, Mong Cai was in the early 20th century the chieftown of the former Hai Ninh province. In the years 1978-1990, it was razed to the ground during fights at the Vietnam-China border. Since 1991, with the new development of Vietnam-China relations, it has again become a flourishing commercial centre with its big market, its hotels and its new houses. On its 3.2 sq km, 10,000 people are living. The figure will exceed 20,000 in 1995.

Nine coastal communes: Quang Nghia, Hai Tien, Hai Dong, Hai Yen, Ninh Duong, Van Ninh, Binh Ngoc, Tra Co, Hai Xuan.

Two island communes: Vinh Trung and Vinh Thuc.

The Viet represent over 90% of the population; the Dzao (over 400 people) mainly live at Hai Son.

The highest population density is recorded in Mong Cai and the lowest at Hai Son. Birth rate: 2.3%.

Communications: The national highway links Hong Gai and Mong Cai is being improved. Intercommunal roads have been improved. From Mong Cai urban agglomeration to the Tra Co beach, the road is good. A project has been worked out to install a port on Vinh Thuc island, 20 km from the mainland, which will be accessible to 10,000 - ton ships.

Three kilometres from Mong Cai there existed a French air-field; a civilian airport can be built there.

CAM PHA DISTRICT

Area: 517 sq. km

Population: 32,400 inhabitants

(62 inh./sq. km)

Urban agglomeration: Cai Rong

Situated in the northeastern part of the province, Cam Pha district is a border area which is both mountainous and insular. It is constituted by three archipelagoes, totalling about 600 islands and islets in the Bai Tu Long Bay. They bear the names of Co To-Thanh Lan, Van Hai and Cai Bau. About 20 of these islands are inhabited, most of them are rocky.

Cam Pha is limited in the north by Tien Yen and Quang Ha districts, in the east and the south by 20 km of coasts; in the west, it is separated from Cam Pha chieftown by a small strait.

Area: 52,700 ha including 38,800 ha of forests. Maritime surface: 324,600 ha. There are few rivers. Most mountains are limestone ones. Over 300 m high mountains are found on the larger islands near the coast; less than 200 metre high mountains are on the smaller remote islands.

Climate: is varied because of the great distance which separates the archipelagoes. The Co To-Thanh Lan archipelago is very foggy, especially in February and March; it is affected by many typhoons. There are few drizzles. Average annual rainfall: 1,748 mm; at Ban Sen on the Van Hai archipelago, it is 2,442 mm.

The Cam Pha district is divided into an urban agglomeration and 13 communes.

The inner archipelago, Cai Bau which includes Cai Rong urban agglomeration and six communes: Don Xa, Ha Long, Binh Dan, Doan Ket, Dai Xuyen, Van Yen.

The central archipelago, Van Hai which includes five communes: Minh Chau, Ngoc Vung, Ban Sen, Quan Lan, Thang Loi.

The outer archipelago includes two communes: Co To and Thanh Lan.

The Cai Rong urban agglomeration: Founded in 1981. Area: of 10 sq. km; population: 4,000 inhabitants. Lying 9 km from the Tai Xa ferry which links it to Cam Pha chieftown, the agglomeration is endowed with making it possible to communicate with the other communes of the district and with the other localities of the province.

The population is composed of Viet, San Dziu, Hoa, Dzao, Tay. It is scarce in Co To and Thanh Lan as well as in Ban Sen and Ngoc Vung. Those who live in remote islands show a tendency to come and settle in Cai Rong urban agglomeration and the surrounding communes.

The San Dziu number about 2,000. The Dzao and the Tay: about one hundred people dwell on the Cai Bau archipelago. Birth rate of the district: 2.6%, exceptionally 4% in Ngoc Vung and Thang Loi communes.

The putting into service of the Tai Xa ferry and the Cai Rong port has greatly facilitated the travel communications between Hong Gai and Cam Pha. There is a daily naval service between Hong Gai and Cai Rong and between Hong Gai and Van Hai archipelago.

The Co To-Cai Rong ship service runs twice a week. The Hong Gai-Cai Rong car service runs twice a day.

ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONES

Quang Ninh People's Committee	
km 8. Hong Ha ward - Hong Gai	
External Relations Bureau	35860(*)
Quang Ninh Coal Mines Union	
Hong Ha ward - Hong Gai	35828
Hong Gai Coal Company	
Ha Long ward - Hong Gai	25772
Cam Pha Coal Company	
Cam Thuy ward - Cam Pha	62039
Uong Bi Coal Company	
Thanh Son ward - Uong Bi	54491
Sea Product Export Enterprise N° 1	
Bach Dang ward - Hong Gai	25196
Sea Product Export Enterprise N° 2	
Road N° 10 - Quang Yen	75269
Pine Resin Enterprise	
Thanh Son ward - Uong Bi	54275

(*) Telephonic code of the province: 33

Gieng Day Brick Factory N° 1	
Ha Khau ward - Bai Chay	46521
Gieng Day Brick Factory N° 2	
Gieng Day ward - Bai Chay	46551
Quang Ninh Brewery	
Yet Kieu ward - Hong Gai	25117
Tan Mai Marble Exploitation Site	
Quang Ha	79277
VOSCO Representation	
Ha Long ward - Hong Gai	25375
European Community's Representation	
Bai Chay	46448
Provincial Bank	
Bach Dang ward - Hong Gai	
Foreign Currency Bureau	25775
Foreign Trade Bank	
Bach Dang ward - Hong Gai	25509
Quang Ninh Tourist Company	
Bai Chay	
Welcoming Centre	46312
Air Ticket Selling Service	
Bach Dang ward - Hong Gai	25766
Provincial Hospital	
Bach Dang ward - Hong Gai	25499

Traditional Medicine Hospital

Cao Xanh ward - Hong Gai 25307

Bai Chay Hospital

Gieng Day ward - Bai Chay 46566

Vietnam - Sweden Hospital

Thanh Son ward - Uong Bi 54279

Quang Ninh Insurance Company

Bach Dang ward - Hong Gai 25594

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