

Zhaodong 肇东

Zhaodong City is located in the southwestern part of Heilongjiang Province in northeast China. It is home to 900,000 people, 98% of whom belong to the majority Han Chinese ethnic group. Zhaodong also contains 8,300 Manchu people, 3,200 Muslims belonging to the Hui nationality, 2,800 Mongols, and about 650 Daur. The Daur, who speak a language related to Mongolian, are found in Heilongjiang Province and neighboring parts of Inner Mongolia.

Zhaodong is sandwiched between two giant cities. Harbin, the provincial capital, is located just 53 km (33 miles) south of Zhaodong while Daqing is 74 km (46 miles) to the north. Temperatures in Heilongjiang plummet to around minus 20 for most of the winter. Almost all homes and offices use oil or gas heating to keep warm.

By Chinese standards Zhaodong is a new city, constructed in 1735. Today it is known as the "Spring city of the north." The city planners have placed many overpasses, elevated roads, trees and street lamps throughout the city in a bid to make Zhaodong's appearance modern and beautiful.

Although coal and oil production form an important part of Zhaodong's economic base, agriculture still plays the most significant role for the

Population:
797,432 (1990)
892,511 (2000)
998,900 (2010)

Province:
Heilongjiang

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 98.1%
Manchu 1.0%
Hui 0.4%
Mongol 0.4%

Christians:
27,000 (3.0%)

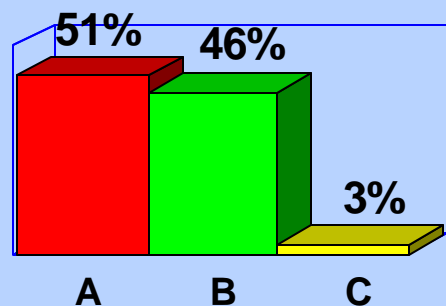
city's people, with over 73% of the work-force employed in the agricultural sector. Corn, rice, beans, and sorghum are the main crops produced in and around Zhaodong. In recent years the city's leaders have tried to transform Zhaodong into a chemical and petrochemical production center. Several large foreign-Chinese joint venture projects have commenced. The city's drive to modernize and go high-tech has been slowed by the low levels of educational attainment among Zhaodong's workers. In 1990, just 683 people living in the city had ever attended university, while 27% of adult women were

unable to read. Efforts since that time have improved these figures, but Zhaodong still seems to remain a farming city struggling to fit the new course the city's leaders have plotted for it.

Although Zhaodong is little known outside of the province, locals are eager to tell visitors about several major events that have taken place locally in recent years. One such incident took place when Shi Yansheng, a railroad worker, was wrongly sentenced to life in prison for the murder of a video store worker in 1993. Shi was arrested simply because he turned up at the store to return a video soon after the murder had taken place. Seven of Shi's family members were also sentenced to long prison terms after



Status of Evangelization (Awareness of Christ and the Gospel)



A = have never heard the Gospel or the Name of Christ
B = were evangelized but have not yet become Christians
C = Adherants to any form of Christianity



the police forced confessions from them by torture. A few years ago the case was thrown out on appeal, after the eight people had already spent a combined total of 5,101 days in prison.

The Gospel reached Heilongjiang Province later than almost any other part of China. While Catholic missionaries have been active in China since the 13th century, they never made a concerted attempt to establish churches in northern Manchuria. To this day the Catholic Church in Heilongjiang has very minimal influence. Protestant missionaries first worked in Heilongjiang in 1890. Even in Harbin City, the capital of the province, work was established as recently as 1912, when members of the Danish Missionary Society secured premises within the city walls.

A remarkable revival has impacted the city of Daqing to the north of Zhaodong. One house church movement that had 80 members in 1991 counts more than 200,000 today! They have sent evangelistic teams out to different parts of the province, with varying degrees of success.

Today the Church in Zhaodong is growing, though not at the phenomenal rate as in Daqing and other parts of the province. The total number of Christians in Zhaodong City is believed to be about three percent of the population.

Pray for Zhaodong

- 1** Pray all barriers separating the people of Zhaodong from faith in God would crumble in the Name of Jesus.
- 2** Ask the Lord to take full possession of the city of Zhaodong.
- 3** Pray the Church in Zhaodong would be bold and evangelistic.

Overview of Zhaodong (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation : "Jaow-dong"
Old Spelling : Chaotung
Location : SW Heilongjiang Province, NE China
Population : 797,432 (1990 census)
Males : 405,684 (50.87%)
Females : 391,748 (49.13%)
Households : 187,340
Average Household : 4.3 people
Divorced People : 2,274
% divorced of Population : 0.29
Centurions (1990) : 0 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City : 9,970
From same province : 8,716 (87.4%)
From other provinces : 1,254 (12.6%)

Employed People : 380,167 (47.7% of total population)
Main Industries : Agriculture 73.2%, Industrial 10.9%
Education (highest level attended) : University: 1.4%
 High School: 36.3%
 Primary school: 43.8%
 Never attended any school: 18.5%
Population under 15 : 245,762 (30.8%)
Adult Illiteracy : 19.4% (men 12.0%; women 27.0%)
Major Nationalities : Han 782,137
 Manchu 8,265
 Hui 3,185
 Mongol 2,792
 Others 1,053 (14 groups)
Christians (2003) : 27,000 (3.0%)