



China

25 Xi'an-Ankang Railway Construction Project (1)-(3)

This project's objective was to construct an electrified single-track railway line between Xi'an and Ankang in Shaanxi Province for the purpose of increasing the transportation of energy resources, freight, and passengers to northwestern and southeastern China, and thereby contribute to the economic development of these regions.

Loan Amount/Disbursed Amount: 35,000 million yen/27,043 million yen

Loan Agreement: November 1995-September 1997

Terms and Conditions: Interest rate 2.3%; Repayment period 30 years (grace period 10 years); General untied

Final Disbursement Date: December 2000-January 2003

Executing Agency: Zhengzhou Railway Bureau of the Ministry of Railways



External Evaluator: Mitsue Mishima (Overseas Project Management Consultants, Ltd.)

Field Survey: October 2004

Evaluation Result

In this project, construction of an electrified single-track railway between Xi'an and Ankang (Xikang Line) (including construction and installation of tracks, roadbed, bridges, tunnels, stations, substations, communications and signal equipment, etc.) was conducted almost as planned, except that the length of the Qinling Tunnel was extended in consideration of the expected demand in the future. Project period and cost both slightly exceeded those that were planned.

Freight traffic volume and passenger traffic volume on Xikang Line in 2003 were 4,062.88 million ton-km and 1,211.36 million person-km respectively, as against 4,343.4 million ton-km and 1,142.28 million person-km planned for 2005. Passenger traffic has already exceeded the target volume. Traveling time on the Xikang Line is around 4 hours, about half of that by bus, and the railway fare is one-third of the bus fare. Thus, the Xikang Line has become an important means of transportation for local residents. Compared with the existing Baoching Line, an alternative route between Xi'an and Ankang, the transportation distance has been reduced by 542 km and traveling time has been reduced by around 14 hours, showing that convenience has increased significantly.

The Xikang Line supports economic activity in Sichuan Province in the hinterland by transporting iron ore, petroleum, food, etc. In addition, as the number of tourists to the regions along the railway increased, this project is contributing to economic development of the regions along the Xikang Line*. The Ministry of Railways is working on overall efficiency improvement and streamlining, and there is no problem with its technical capacity, operation and maintenance system, or financial status.

* The total population of Xi'an, Zhashui and Zhen'an Counties, Shangluo City and Ankang is over 10 million.

Third-Party Evaluator's Opinion

This project, which helped increase transport capacity in Sichuan Province and the inland regions, is contributing to the development of the regions along the railway, as represented by the vitalization of underdeveloped Shangluo City located in the Qinling Mountains.

Third-Party Evaluator: Mr. Qunren Li (academia)

Obtained a master's degree in economics from China Academy of Railway Sciences. Presently holds the post of Research Professor at China Academy of Railway Sciences. Specializes in railway traffic and economics.

Changes in freight traffic volume, passenger traffic volume, etc. after the project

Indicator	Plan	Actual	
		2002	2003
Freight Traffic Volume (10,000 ton-km)	342,000 (2000) 434,340 (2005)	368,500	406,288
Passenger Traffic Volume (10,000 person-km)	92,796 (2000) 114,228 (2005)	103,984	121,136
Number of Passengers (10,000)	407 (2000)	400	454
Number of Train Services (average number of train services/day)	n.a.	46*	48

Source: Zhangzhou Railway Bureau of the Ministry of Railways
*Data for 2001

Project Area: Xikang Line running through the Qinling Mountains

The Xikang Line runs through the Qinling Mountains, approximately 150 km from Xi'an, in Shaanxi Province in Central China. The Qinling Mountains, a series of 3,000-meter peaks extending over 1,500 kilometers, are covered with abundant plants and regarded as a treasury of wild animals such as ibis, panda and golden monkey. It is reported that this project had a positive impact on tourism.



The Xikang Line running through Zhashui County