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Coal Mining in China

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China obtains all her energy requirements from coal. Therefore, coal mining in China is the most important industry. This industry employs about 3 million workers in China. Coal mining China has about 30,000 mines but illegal mines run into thousands.

Mining Regions in China

Extensive mining in the interior parts of Mongolia has transformed this place and brought rich dividends to the people living here. The Wude coal field is in this region and is one of the largest of Chinaâ€™s coal mines stretching to about 15 square miles. It is not difficult to mine coal here as the mines are not very deep and gas emission is less compared to the other mines.

The Shanxi Province in central China is another area where coal is easily available. This is the main source of coal mining in China. But with recent problems with workersâ€™ safety and production problems, the government has moved to tap the resource from Inner Mongolia.

Linfen which is located in the Shanxi province is an area where coal deposits are in plenty. With large mines and number of workers, this city is noted for its high levels of pollution.

40% of Chinaâ€™s coal reserves are in Xinjiang and the Junggar Basin to the north of Xinjiang has the largest reserve of this ore.

Effects of Mining on the Environment

Coal mining in China has made some people wealthy, nevertheless at a cost. Coal mine fires are common especially to the north of Xinjiang. Deaths caused by accidents in the coal pits run into thousands every year. In addition, people living close to the coal plants face the danger of gas emissions.

Coal mine fires burning continuously has polluted the air as it emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This has resulted in global warming.

Another effect that coal mining China is facing is the dumping of coal waste in the villages leading to huge mountains. The dust from these mountains gets blown into the villages.

Safety measures have been taken by the government to protect the workers and the Chinese people. A national surveillance system has been set up to monitor the safety in the coal mines.

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