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ANNOTATION

Tomsk Oblast is situated on Western-Siberian plain in the mid stream of the river Ob. It occupies 316,9 thousand km². Over 85 % of the territory is difficult of access equated to hyperborean region. The climate of Tomsk Oblast is continental, conditioned with its geographical position (the oblast is situated at middle latitudes, 55—61° of north latitude) and characterized by seasonal changeability of solar radiation inflow and by northeastern air mass prevalence.

The atmospheric emissions from point sources at 1029 registered enterprises amounted to 252,8 thou tones in 2001, which was 126,8 thou tones less than in year 2000. This reduction was caused by switching to non-black oil-well gas flaring by Luginetzkeft Oil and Gas Company and by adoption of new improved technique to estimate the emissions from cattle-breeding industry, which resulted in considerable decrease in particular emission components (ammonia, etc.). Tomsk Oblast input in total emissions of polluting substances in West Siberia makes up 6,4 %.

The surface water amounts to 185 km³ per annum. The stock of ground water comes to 1028,14 thou m³/day. The annual use of water equals 72 km³, which amounts to less than 1 % of surface water and not more than 40 % of ground water resources. Therefore, the ground and surface water resources are exploited in a sustainable way. Nevertheless, there is degradation in quality of water resources as a result of polluting wastewater discharge in some areas.

There were 538,83 mln. m³ of effluent and transit water discharges to surface water bodies in 2001, which was 22,21 mln. m³ more than in 2000. The quality of surface water is considered as poor, given the concentration of oil, phenols and other polluting substances. The contamination of ground water was observed in a number of cases, as a result of economic activity. The wastewater discharges in Tomsk Oblast amount to 2,3 %.

Total decline in agricultural land in Tomsk Oblast amounted to 1,7 thou hectares: the tillage reduced by 2,1 thou hectares, the fallow land and land under perennial plants increased by 0,4 thou hectares. The land in northern parts of the oblast is exposed to oil and salt senoman water contamination, as a result of numerous spills, leaks and failures at oil fields, water and oil pipelines.

The total stock of timber amounts to 2,760 mln. m³, of which 63 % of timer is matured or over matured. The estimated felling area makes up 28 mln. m³, including 7 mln. m³ of coniferous wood. The felling area was used up for 5,4 % (1.77 mln. m³) in 2001, including 1,115 thou m³ of coniferous and 652 thou m³ of deciduous wood. In 2000 6,3 % of estimated felling area was exploited. There is a continual decline in timber export. The annual distraction of 0,1—1,2 % of wood in calculated felling area is caused by forest fires. The forestland area has increased by 80.4 hectares.

The key game stock amounts to 351,76 thou animals. The total number of duck in spring migration period equals 600—750 thousands. The assessed goose stock in spring period approximates 2,930 thousands. The population of waterfowl and game bird is steadily large. The population of black grouse and wood grouse has increased considerably over five-six past years. Also, the growing population of brown bear, otter, sable, beaver, Siberian weasel and American mink has been observed. The population of elk, fox, glutton, lynx, ermine, white hair and squirrel is relatively stably. Siberian roe and wolf population has decreased.

Although, less than 15 % of game population is annually extracted in Tomsk Oblast, the local degradation since overexploitation and habitat transformation in course of economic activities is taking place.

The annual fish catch makes up less than 2 thousand tones (excluding extraction by households). Drastic reduction in catadromous fish catch in 2001 was induced by flood and increased temperature during migration period. The population of whitefish going upstream for spawning is gradually decreasing. This type of fish catch has diminished by 25—30 times since 60s. A lower rate of catch decrease is typical for white salmon.

Sterlet is the most valuable type of local fish species. The extensive extraction of sterlet (including poaching) has drastically diminished the population of this fish.

Due to catastrophic situation with sturgeon being a catadromous fish of Ob River this fish has been registered in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation.

The situation with radioactive pollution in Tomsk Oblast has been relatively favourable. The exposure dose intensity within 30 km zone of *Siberian Chemical Combinat* (nuclear industry) and within Tomsk City averaged 8,0—13,5 micro roentgen/hour, at the maximum of 16.0 micro roentgen/hour and did not exceed background radiation rate, according to the data received from the measurement points of round the clock operating automatic control system, as all from route surveys.

The total amount of domestic and industrial waste generated and accumulated in Tomsk Oblast by the year 2002 equated to 20,8 mln. tones. There have been 1,42 mln. tones of over 150 types of industrial and domestic waste of different toxicity generated in 2001, of which 74,5 % of domestic waste (1,06 mln. tones) and 25,5 % of industrial waste (0,36 mln. tones). A minor increase (0,009524 mln. tones) in waste generation in 2001 as compared to 2000 is subject to better accounting of consumption residues, mainly solid domestic waste.

The overall economic value of the natural capital of the oblast (excluding carbon absorption capacity of forest and marsh and recreation resources) comes to 72065,06 mln. R., which is four-five times more than the physical capital value. In this connection the depletion rate for existing natural resources shall be identified, as well as conservation measures and resource management efficiency improvement measures should be developed and implemented.

There are 165 specially protected natural areas in Tomsk Oblast presently, with the total area of 1422,6 thou hectares (4,8 % of the oblast territory).

Some areas in Tomsk Oblast are used for separable booster parts dropping. The total area allocated for dropping comes to 2140,4 thou hectares. The concentration of formaldehyde, saline ammonium, nitrites and nitrates increases after dropping operations (basing on data from snow samplings).

BACKGROUND HISTORY

Tomsk was founded in 1604 by decree of the Russian tsar Boris who dictated "a place for the town to find where the countryside was very beautiful, clear the site and with the God's mercy found a town on firm grounds".

The Kossaks chose to build the fortress, called Tomskoi ostrog, on the river bank rising above the Tom on the spur of the mountain, yet to be called Voskresenskaya (of the Resurrection) which was steep on the one side

and protected by swampy bogs in the east and by a small river - Ushaika - in the south. In the north, the most dangerous direction, the Cossacks erected a fortress wall made of tall pillars sharpened on the top.

The new settlement was made on the lands of the Eushtin Tatar prince Toyman who took out Russian citizenship and promised to help the tsar Boris strengthen the Russian power in Siberia. The Tomsk fortress, according to historians, repeatedly pushed away the raids of the Kirgizs and other militant steppe nomads.



From the latter half of the 17th century, after the towns of Yeniseysk and Krasnoyarsk had been founded, the military-strategic influence of Tomsk tended to wane. Tomsk became a peaceful town and at different times was included in the Yeniseyskaya Province and the Tobolskaya Gubernia.

In 1804, when Tomsk became an administrative center of the Gubernia, a new leaf in its history was turned. The Tomsk Gubernia occupied a huge area, including the present Altai Territory, Novosibirsk, Kemerovo, East-Kazakhstan and Tomsk Oblasts and part of the Krasnoyarsk Territory. Growth of the town was especially booming in the 30s of the 19th century when gold was found and its intensive mining started in the Tomsk and Yeniseysk Gubernias.

Notwithstanding the fast economic development, an increase in the population was virtually due to exiles - counting out 30 thousand men and over 7 thousand women. Every fifth resident of Tomsk and its neighborhood was an exile.

The most outstanding personality among the Tomsk political exiles of the time was G.S.Batenkov. He was born in the town of Tobolsk. In the war of 1912 he showed uncommon valor and eventually became a lieutenant-colonel. In Petersburg Gavriil Batenkov joined the "Northern Society" of Decembrists. After the arrest and imprisonment in the Petropavlovskaya Fortress he was exiled to Tomsk and lived there for 10 years.

In 1880 the foundation of the Siberian University was laid. The architectural design of the main building was done by the Moscow architect academician A.K.Brune. The accumulation of the University Library was started even earlier. Count A.G.Stroganoff, a descendant of an old dynasty of Russian industrialists, granted a handsome collection of books to the future University.

Eight years later, in 1888, Emperor Alexander III "by his sovereign will" opened the Tomsk University, the first in Siberia. In its early history the University had only the department of medicine which enrolled 72 undergraduates and 2 freelance students. A great contribution to establishing the University was made by the outstanding Russian scholar V.M.Florinsky. The year 1900 saw the opening of the first Technological Institute in the Asian part of Russia (now the Polytechnical University). And years later the Pedagogical, Medical and Civil Engineering Institutes were founded.

Early in the 19th century Tomsk ranked first in Siberia in the number of educational establishments. The cultural life of the town was boisterous. Four newspapers were published. A brick building of the theater was erected. In the encyclopedia of F.Brockhaus and I.Efron mention was made of the fact that Tomsk had gone ahead of all other Siberian towns as a cultural, commercial and industrial center.

Tomsk supplied cereals, fish, salt, wine, fat, copper, wax and leather to the neighbor gubernias. Cedar-pine nuts and furs were supplied to the western part of Russia and went for export. The Tomsk Gubernia was the main producer of butter, contributing 60% of the butter exports of Russia. The Siberian butter was quite competitive with the best brands of high-quality Danish and Dutch butter.

In the 90s of the 19th century the Siberian railroad was built. It ran to the south of Tomsk, bypassing woodland and swampy terrain. A branch line connected Tomsk with the main road in 1896. That seemingly minor event turned out to be of great importance for the development of the settlement of Novo-Nikolaevsk (now known as Novosibirsk) which became the main railway junction in the Tomsk Gubernia. Being away from the main road, Tomsk came to yield to other Siberian towns in the pace of economic development.

After the revolution of 1917 Tomsk became part of the Siberian Territory and later of the West-Siberian Territory. In 1937 Tomsk and its nearby neighbors became part of the Novosibirsk Oblast.

Historians are agreed that Tomsk lost ample opportunities for cultural and economic growth due to its status of a subordinate town in the pre-war period.

As far back as 1932 Ilya Erenburg wrote that the lot of different towns could be readily judged by railroad stations: it was suffice to see what kind of bread the local people ate. In Tomsk it was brown, soggy and heavy: the five-year-plan did not have any effect on the town, and it was dying. However, the famous writer further added that Tomsk could have died but for the University. Shortly before the Great Patriotic war Tomsk won fame as a town of science and schools of higher learning, where every twelfth resident was a student.

Within the first year of the war 30 enterprises were evacuated to Tomsk. They laid the foundation for the industrial growth of the city. By the end of the war the industrial output was trebled. New branches of industry, such as electrical engineering, optomechanics and rubber engineering, were developed and machine building and metalworking as well as light and food industries expanded.



In August, 1944 an order was issued which decreed the formation of the Tomsk Oblast, since by that time Tomsk had regained its status of a big economic and administrative center in Siberia.

The post-war development of the Tomsk Oblast is in many ways connected with exploration and commercial development of oil and gas deposits. The first commercial oil influx occurred in the August of 1962 at the Sosninskoye oil field near the settlement of Alexandrovskoye. In 1966 the Oil Field Management Agency TOMSKNEFT was established. In succeeding years the Alexandrovskoye-Anzhero-Sudzhensk oil pipeline and the Nizhnevartovsk-Parabel-Kuzbass cross-country gas line were built and bridges across the rivers Ob and Tom were constructed.

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE



The Tomsk Oblast is located in the south-east of the West-Siberian Plain and occupies an area of 314000 km². The meridian distance between its southern and northern boundaries is about 600 km. As a consequence, there is a marked difference between climatic conditions of the southern and northern territories. The Oblast lies almost entirely in taiga. The climate is continental, with an average annual temperature of minus 1.30C. Winters are severe and long. The average temperatures in January are minus 19-20C, in July - plus 17-18C. The frost-free period is only 100-105 days and the annual precipitation is 435 mm. The neighbor territories are the Omsk, Novosibirsk, Kemerovo and Tumen Oblasts and the Krasnoyarsk Territory.

The total area of the agricultural land is rather small, about 1.3000000 ha. In much of the territory there are forests, bogs, rivers and lakes. The largest rivers are the Ob, the Tom, the Chulym, the Chaya, the Ket, the Vasyugan and the Tym. The entire river system belongs to the basin of the Ob river which flows about 1000 km across the Oblast from south-east to north-west. The number of lakes, especially numerous in the river flood lands, reaches 95000. The water table of the largest lake in the Tomsk Oblast, the Mirny, lying amongst the marshes of the flatlands between the rivers Chusik and Chizhapka is 18 km².

ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL STRUCTURE

There are 16 regions and 6 towns in the Tomsk Oblast, including 5 Oblast towns and 2 urban settlements (Belyy Yar and Samus'). Tomsk is composed of 4 municipal boroughs: Kirovsky, Leninsky, Ochyabrsky and Sovetsky. In close proximity to Tomsk is the town of Seversk, a closed administrative-territorial unit with a population of 117 000 inhabitants.

POPULATION. LABOR FORCE

As of January 1, 1993 there were 1,071,000 residents in the Oblast, with 705,000 living in the towns and 374,000 in the country. About 50% of the population lives in the capital city of Tomsk. The population density is extremely nonuniform, being only as low as 0.3 persons per km² in remote northern areas. The average density is 3.5 persons per km². 80 nationalities and ethnic groups inhabit the Oblast, including 22 ethnic groups of the North. The most numerous residents are the Russians (88.2%), the Ukrainians (2.6%) and the Tatars (2.5%).

The working force of the Oblast counts 608,000 people, where 443,700 people have jobs (73%), 58,000 are students (9.5%) and 106,400 (17.5%) are people of the working age who are not engaged in the economy. The average annual number of workers in the national economy in 1994 was 412,900 people. Experts forecast that the number of people involved in material production will gradually decrease by the year 2000, while the number of workers employed in education, culture and science, i.e. in the non-productive sector, will increase. The number of those employed in cooperatives and private farms will grow by more than 20%. The current trends show that up to 14,000-18,000 workers will lose their jobs every year. As of January 1, 1995 the unemployed numbered 12,300 people. It will take a great deal of effort to provide additional labor opportunities.

POLITICAL SITUATION. BODIES OF POWER

The Tomsk Oblast has been traditionally renowned for its political stability, notwithstanding the number of parties and public organizations available (about 10). Neither mass strikes nor national, nor ethnic conflicts occurred. Legislative power is vested in the Tomsk Oblast Duma. Chairman of the Duma is Boris A. Maltsev. Executive power is performed by the Administration of the Oblast. Governor is Viktor M. Kress. Representative of President of the Russian Federation in the Tomsk Oblast is Alexander M. Fedenev. Executive power in the capital city of Tomsk is vested in the Mayor of Tomsk, Gennady V. Konovalov.

NATURAL RESOURCES

OIL AND GAS. Potential geological reserves are estimated to be 3.1-3.4 billion tons of oil and 17 billion cu.m of gas. Mineable oil and gas resources amount to 2.130 million tons and 518 billion cu.m. The extent of exploration of oil and gas totals 47%.

As of January 1, 1995, explored and blocked out, prospected, extrapolated and inferred reserves accounted for nearly 480 million tons of oil and about 262 billion cu.m of gas. Experts predict further increase of reserves of raw hydrocarbons. The Tomsk Oblast numbers 98 hydrocarbon deposits, including 78 oil and 12 gas and gas-condensate fields. Those are mainly low-grade deposits. Nearly 45% of oil is concentrated in the Sovetskoye, Pervomayskoye, Luginetskoye and Igolsko-Talovskoye fields. Approximately seven million tons of oil and 135 million cu.m of associated gas were produced in 1994. A major



part of the gas was flared.

ZIRCON-ILMENITE. The Tugan zircon-ilmenite deposit, 30 km off Tomsk, is considered to be most promising from a commercial point of view with its rich natural metallic mineral deposits. It has been included in the list of the Federal development projects within the framework of the Russian Metallurgy Program. A unique feature of the local zircon-ilmenite sands is a high content of scandium, tantalum, hafnium and rare earths, including lanthanum, cerium, samarium, neodymium, ytterbium, etc. Plans have been designed to launch commercial development of the Tuganskoye deposit and construct a mining and concentrating plant. The Tomsk Oblast is rich in iron ore available in 4 fields in Bakchar, Kolpashevo, Parabel - Chuzic and Parbyg deposits. These reserves have not been sufficiently explored as yet.

UNDERGROUND WATERS. Large reservoirs of artesian drinkable water, thermal and balneal waters (containing radon, bromide, iodine and hydrogen sulphide) as well as unique medicinal muds have been found in the Oblast. Of special significance are the Chazhemto mineral springs. Suitable for commercial exploitation are reservoirs of mineral water in the Kolpashevo, Verkhneketsky, Teguldetsky and Parabel regions and near the town of Strezhevoy.

PEAT. Geological reserves of peat of 40% moisture content are estimated at 31 billion tons. The Tomsk Oblast ranks second in peat moors. These reserves have not been utilized extensively. Many opportunities are in sight, however, for a significant increase of peat extraction and manufacturing of nutrient yeast, peat bricks, growth stimulators and such. Peat resources have been explored by the Siberian Research Institute of Peat of the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (the only institution of its kind in the Asian part of Russia). Found in the Oblast are also considerable non-metallic mineral resources, such as raw clays for production of bricks and expanded clay aggregates, sandstone grid, lime-stones and brown coals.

WOOD. Woodlands cover about 57% of the territory of the Tomsk Oblast. The total area of the forest stock constitutes over 19.5 million ha. A major part is made up of commercial forests, with the estimated stock of technically exploitable and overmature forests being 1.8 billion cu.m.

Coniferous species, such as pine, Siberian cedar pine, spruce and silver fir, appear to prevail. The forests of high industrial potential are located in the basins of the Ket and Chulym rivers and also in the Alexandrovsky region. Availability of the forest stock makes it possible to maintain wood-working, wood-pulp and paper, wood-chemical and furniture industries. Only one third of an annual estimated felling area of 34.3 million cu.m is presently utilized.

VEGETAL RESOURCES. Among the main kinds of vegetal resources found in the Oblast are cedar-pine nuts and oil, soft resin, mushrooms, as well as medicinal raw materials: birch leaf buds, nettle leaves, mountain cowberry leaves, coltsfoot leaves, ashberries, birdcherries, hips and milfoil.

Until recently wild growing vegetal raw materials have been mainly stored up by the Consumers Union, the Forestry Management Agency, the Tomsk Oblast Forestry Administration and the Board of Pharmacy. Reorganization of the work of these Agencies and changes in the mode of ownership has made it difficult to collect information. Therefore, the figures provide only approximate data on stocking of wild medicinal and vegetal food resources.

MARKETABLE GAME AND FISH. Although these resources, according to experts, are quite huge, they become scantier with each year. The total list of marketable hunting animals and bird-game consists of 24 species of mammals and over 30 species of birds. The data collected by the Hunting Industry Department show that the number of squirrels, white hairs, beavers and reindeers has drastically decreased. The sable population has reduced by 50% within 5 years. The river Ob and its bottom land flood basins are of major importance for fish industry. The upper reaches of the river within the Oblast and some of the its tributaries are spawning grounds for fluvial andromous

fish like sturgeon, white salmon, muksun (white fish) and pelyad (freshwater fish of the salmon species).

TRANSPORT

A major part of the Tomsk Oblast is located in regions which are not easily accessible. Within the Tomsk Oblast cargoes are largely carried by water or by road. The total length of hard-surface motor roads is 2.6 000 km, i.e. 8.3 km per 1000 km² of the territory, which ranks 63rd in the Russian Federation. From November through March use is made of iced roads to forward freight to northern regions.

The railroads are only 345 km in effective length. The main trunk railway is Belyy Yar—Tomsk—Taiga. The total length of navigable inland waterways is about 5.000 km along the Ob river and its tributaries.

Hard-surface motor roads connect Tomsk with 50% of district centers. Many of remote settlements in the Tomsk Oblast can be reached only by air. This generates a need for further development of highway engineering and road building, construction of new runways and modernization of river ports and landing piers.

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE



Tomsk is the oldest educational and scientific center in Russia to the east of the Urals. Over 100-plus years there developed a unique scientific, educational and engineering complex often referred to as Siberian Athens. About 60.000 students (local residents and newcomers from different parts of Russia, Commonwealth of Independent States, Near Eastern and Asian-and-Pacific nations.) attend day and evening division classes or study by correspondence at technical secondary schools, colleges, universities and academies. There are 7 higher educational

establishments in Tomsk: State University, Polytechnical University, Siberian Medical University, Pedagogical University, Academy of Automated Control Systems and Radio Electronics, Academy of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Higher Military Command Signal School and Higher Economics and Law College (private school).

Tomsk holds the lead in Russia in the number of distinguished scholars. 47 scientific institutions are engaged in research work, with 11 being part of the universities. Among these are Siberian Physicotechnical Institute, Applied Mathematics and Mechanics Institute, and Biology and Biophysics Institute associated with Tomsk State University, High Voltage Institute and Introscopy Institute affiliated with Polytechnical University, and Automation and Electromechanics Institute at Academy of Automated Control Systems and Radio Electronics. The Tomsk Scientific Center of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences comprises 9 research, design and engineering institutes, among which are Institute of Atmospheric Optics, Institute of Petroleum Chemistry, High Current Electronics Institute, Institute of Strength Physics and Materials Science, Institute of Ecology of Natural Complexes and others.

The major research areas of particular interest to our scientists are theoretical and experimental physics, high-energy physics, plasma physics, computer-aided design of advanced materials and processes, mesomechanics, environmental monitoring, biotechnology, cybernetics, self-propagating high-temperature synthesis, structural macrokinetics, smart materials, precision instrument engineering, nondestructive testing, to name only a few. Ingenious work of our scientists pertaining

to the humanities (philosophy, law, philology, history, ethnography and linguistics) has won universal recognition.

Good progress is being made by the Tomsk Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences. It comprises 5 research institutes dealing with cardiological, oncological, pharmacological, and genetic problems as well as those related to mental health, balneology and physiotherapy.

A lot of credit must go to scholars of world renown who laid the groundwork for the development of new schools of thought in different branches of science. Among those famous people who added a glorious page to the history of Tomsk are the geologists Z.A.Obruchev and M.A.Usov, the mathematician I.M. Vinogradov, the chemical physicist N.N. Semyonov, the doctors N.N.Burdenko, A.G.Savinykh, N.V.Vershinin, D.D.Yablokov and S.P.Karpov, the physicists V.D.Kuznetsov and A.A.Vorobjev. Space considerations make it impossible to list the many individuals who lived in Tomsk and made outstanding contributions to science.

A scientific and educational program of the Tomsk Oblast incorporates 636 projects in 18 branches of science and engineering, including 90 advanced developments in new medical preparations, equipment, procedures and techniques, 73 resource - saving inventions, 57 ingenious designs of control instrumentation and diagnostic devices for radio and power engineering and



information technology, 50 novel products, preparations and processes for petroleum chemistry and oil and gas production, 38 developments for improving fertility of soil, increasing crop yield and processing farm produce, over 60 advanced processes for woodworking industry, wood waste reclamation and economic energy consumption, and new types of heating appliances and communication facilities, about 100 ecological innovations, including efficient nature management technologies, environmental pollution monitoring and decontamination, about 80 rationalization proposals pertaining to computer software support of educational establishments, new specialties and specializations, educational services, etc.

There is a unique material and technical foundation for conducting research and training scientific personnel. Students of science have at their disposal a set of radiation-emitting machines operating in a wide range of powers, a nuclear training and research reactor (the only one to the east of the Urals), cyclotrons, microtrons, high-current ion and electron accelerators, advanced cryogenic facilities and such.



The Siberian Botanical Gardens are the oldest park in the Asian part of Russia. Its collection numbers more than 5,5 000 plant species. Dozens of local science and training museums (paleontological, archeology and ethnography, mineralogical, anatomical, forensic medicine, etc.) hold much favor.



Of particular value for the scientific and educational community of Tomsk is the research library of Tomsk State University. There are 4 million books there, among which are hosts of unique collected works and incunabula.

Findings and developments of our scientists have aroused considerable interest on the world market of high-tech products. They were represented at a Russian - American workshop in

Washington in Marth, 1993 and CEETEX-94 in London. Innovative and entrepreneurial efforts of our scientists are supported by the regional SibinFund and by the TACIS program.

The Tomsk Technopark was among the first to be established in Russia. Its operations are very effective in encouraging and promoting small and high-tech businesses and in marketing scientific and engineering products.

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