

# From backwater to boom town

**I**F YOU WANTED to identify a place that epitomises the export-led economic success story that has taken place in southern China, look no further than Yantian. This booming port town, situated just east of Hong Kong, provides importers and exporters with a convenient trading gateway and satisfies the ever-increasing needs of shipping lines and shippers.



**Then...** Back in the early 1990s, Yantian was a quiet coastal backwater of Shenzhen with few commercial prospects. That all changed with the creation of Yantian International Container Terminals Limited (YICT), a joint venture between Hutchison Port Holdings and the Shenzhen Yantian Port Group. The first ocean-going ship called at YICT on 20 July 1994, marking the start of an extraordinary period of growth that has seen Yantian Port become a world-class facility.

**Now...** Today, YICT operates and manages Phases I, II and III at Yantian and has 12 deep-water berths servicing 36 leading shipping lines. Looking ahead, the YICT Expansion Project will add a further six container berths by 2010.

But it is the numbers that tell the real story. In 2006, YICT handled 8,865,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), helping to make Shenzhen the fourth largest deepwater container terminal in the world. In 1994, the figure was just 13,000! 

