

## **Territory of Our Country**

### **I. Overview of our country's territory**

- Our country is located in East Asia, on the western coast of the Pacific Ocean. Its total land area is approximately 9.6 million km<sup>2</sup>, and its total sea area is around 4.73 million km<sup>2</sup> (中國人民共和國中央人民政府, 2024). Our country is vast, roughly the size of Europe. It accounts for approximately 1/15 of the world's land area and 1/4 of Asia's area, making it the world's third largest country after the Russian Federation and Canada.
- Our country's land border stretches about 22,000 km<sup>2</sup>, while its mainland coastline is about 18,000 km<sup>2</sup> long. Within its sea territory, there are 7,600 islands of various sizes, the largest of which is Taiwan Island, with an area of 35,759 km<sup>2</sup> (中國人民共和國中央人民政府, 2024).
- Our country's land border stretches approximately 22,000 km, while its territorial waters include the Bohai Sea (an inland sea), and the Yellow Sea, East China Sea, and South China Sea (three marginal seas). The eastern and southern mainland coastline spans 18,000 km, with inland and marginal sea areas covering about 4.7 million km<sup>2</sup>. Our country has around 7,600 islands, the largest of which is Taiwan Island, covering 35,798 km<sup>2</sup>.
  - Bohai Sea: Located between Laotieshan Cape on the Liaodong Peninsula and Penglai Cape on the northern coast of the Shandong Peninsula, the Bohai Strait connects it to the Yellow Sea. The Bohai Sea covers 77,000 km<sup>2</sup>, with an average depth of 18 m and a maximum depth of 70 m.
  - Yellow Sea: Extending from the mouth of the Yalu River in the north to a line from the northern bank of the Chang Jiang estuary towards Jeju Island in the south, the Yellow Sea connects to the Bohai Sea via the Bohai Strait. It has an average depth of 44 m, a maximum depth of 140 m, and a total area of 380,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The seabed consists of a semi-enclosed, shallow continental shelf.
  - East China Sea: Bounded to the north by a line from the northern bank of the Chang Jiang estuary towards Jeju Island, and to the south by a line from Nan'ao in Guangdong Province to the southern tip of Taiwan Island, the eastern boundary extends to the Okinawa Trough, demarcating it from Japanese territorial waters. To the east, it extends 12 nautical miles beyond the eastern coast of Taiwan Island. The East China Sea covers an area of 770,000 km<sup>2</sup>.
  - South China Sea: The South China Sea basin features underwater mountain ranges, which emerge as the Dongsha, Xisha, Zhongsha, and Nansha Zhudao – natural extensions of our country's continental shelf. The total area of the South China Sea is approximately 3.5 million km<sup>2</sup>.
- The neighbouring countries of our country are (Figure 1):
  - 14 terrestrial neighbours, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Russia,

Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam.

- 6 maritime neighbours, including the Republic of Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, and Indonesia.

Figure 1: The geographic location and the neighbouring countries of our country



Map reference: 中華人民共和國自然資源部審圖號 GS(2023)2762 號 (Date of reference: 13 January 2025)

## **I. The four extreme points of our country**

- Our country's north-south span is approximately 5,500 km, and its east-west span is about 5,200 km. The four extreme points of our country are:
  - Northernmost: Centerline of the main channel of the Heilongjiang River north of Mohe, Heilongjiang, with a latitude and longitude of roughly 53°33'N, 123°16'E
  - Southernmost: Zengmu Ansha in the Nansha Qundao, with a latitude and longitude of roughly 3°51'N, 112°16'E
  - Easternmost: The confluence of the centerline of the main channel of the Heilongjiang and Wusuli River, with a latitude and longitude of roughly 48°27'N, 135°05'E
  - Westernmost: The Pamir Plateau in Xinjiang Zizhiqu, with a latitude and longitude of roughly 39°15'N, 73°33'E

## **II. Locational, environmental, and territorial advantages of our country**

- Our country's maritime and land positioning endows its coastal regions with significant developmental advantages, while its natural environment and topography form unique geographical features.
- From a latitude perspective, the majority of our country's land area is located in the temperate zone, while the southern part belongs to the tropical zone. None of our country's territory is situated in polar regions. Due to its latitude, our country has an optimal level of sunlight and heat.
- The geographical position of our country places it in the eastern part of Eurasia and along the west coastline of the Pacific Ocean. It possesses both maritime and land advantages. Towards the west, we can reach many countries and even the heartland of Eurasia. Towards the east, our country has vast maritime territories and numerous islands.
- Locational advantages of coastal regions:
  - Economic agglomeration and convenient transportation make our country's coastal areas the powerhouse of the national economy, with developed manufacturing and service industries attracting extensive domestic and foreign investment. Coastal ports such as Shanghai and Shenzhen rank among the world's busiest, turning our country into a global trade hub.
- Environmental advantages:
  - Our country's topography is metaphorically described as "three steps," with the east being low-lying, the middle being slightly elevated, and the west being high. This topographical diversity gives our country varying climates, ecosystems and land resources which provides a variety of conditions for the development of China's industry and agriculture.
- Territorial advantages
  - Our country has a vast land area, ranks as the third-largest country in the world, and is endowed with rich natural resources and a diverse cultural landscape.

### **III. Conclusion**

A comprehensive understanding of the geographical locations of our country's territory is essential for more than just the study of its natural features; it also plays a pivotal role in fostering a deeper appreciation of the country's broader context.

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