

Changing CSPC Nanhai Skyline

Construction of the huge US\$4.3 billion Nanhai Petrochemicals Complex in Southern China continues to progress apace. Construction activity will peak in the next few months with the present workforce of 8,000 expected to rise to nearly 30,000 towards the middle of 2004.

'Getting out of ground' and 'changing the skyline' are commonly-used construction expressions, but they hardly do justice to the transformation that is taking place at the jobsite in Daya Bay.

The second half of 2003 saw a system of roads and drainage emerge from the prepared and levelled site, the virtual completion of pile-driving and substantial progress on concrete foundation works. With civil works continuing, steel and concrete structures are rising skyward and, with major equipment now starting to arrive at the construction jetty, the site is preparing for the start of equipment and piping erection.

Amongst the major challenges of 2003 were SARS, the annual monsoon season and the worst typhoon experienced locally for 25 years. The typhoon caused substantial damage to the facilities under construction at the time and caused extensive flooding of the

jobsite; however, remedial works were put in hand almost immediately and construction work continued. 2004 is expected to be another challenging year. Currently no effort is being spared to complete all ground works before the start of the next monsoon season, which is expected to start in May.

The Nanhai project is very much a multi-cultural project with Chinese and international contractors working together to build this world-class plant to uncompromising quality and HSE standards. Teamwork and on-the-job training are helping to achieve the best of Chinese practices and international standards.