



City development in China

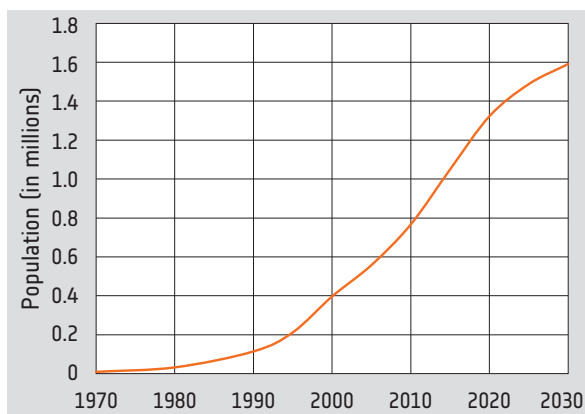
The city of Suqian lies in the Jiangsu Province, East China, and is a typical example of the rapid urban development and growth in that country. Suqian's roots can be traced back to ancient times when it served as a transportation hub along the Grand Canal, connecting northern and southern China. Over the centuries, it evolved into a regional centre for trade and commerce.

In recent decades, Suqian has experienced an economic boom, which is reflected in the land use changes visible in the satellite images. The gross domestic product (GDP) grew from 1 billion Euro in 2000 to over 30 billion Euro in 2020. This growth has been driven by investments in industry, agriculture, and technology, with annual export values exceeding 20 billion Euro. The city's strategic location, excellent infrastructure, and business-friendly policies have attracted over 10,000 domestic and international enterprises.

Suqian has committed itself to sustainable development and green initiatives, including the establishment of over 800 square kilometres of forest coverage and the adoption of renewable energy sources, meeting 30% of its energy needs. Urban planning efforts have already resulted in a reduction in pollution levels and an increase in green spaces.



6. View of Suqian.



7. Suqian. Development of the population figures since 1970. The rapid growth started with the opening of China after 1990.



8. Suqian, China, in 1987. Data: Landsat 4, 1987-04-21.



9. Suqian, China, in 2023. Data: Sentinel-2, 2023-04-16.