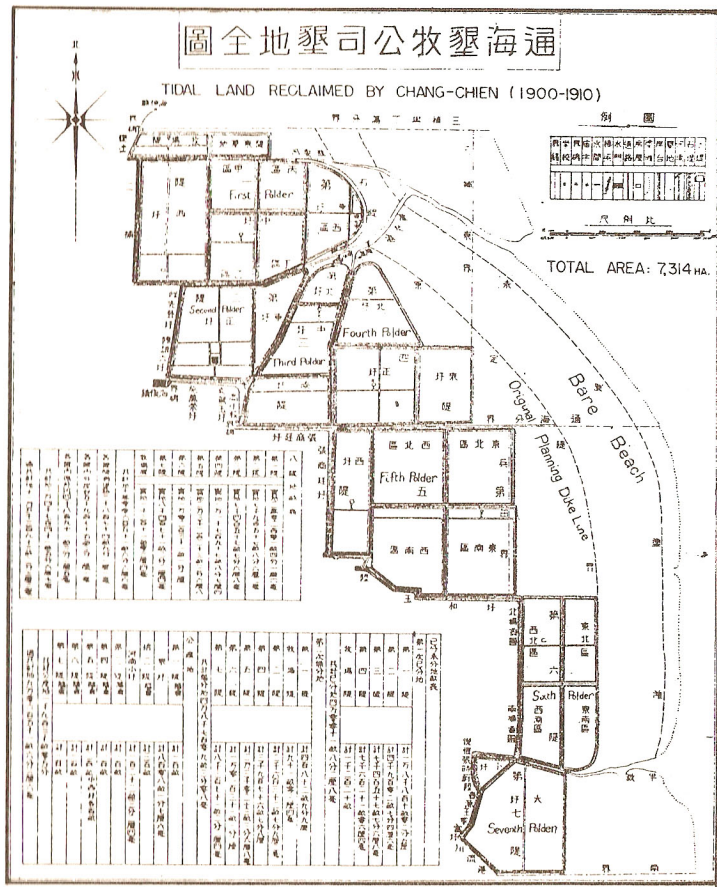




"To found the nation by agriculture" has been a promotional slogan for thousands of years in China (as in fact, in many countries in the world). Flood protection is one of the possibilities to extend the area of agricultural land. Past rulers of the country have ordered and encouraged their people to the reclamation work, the results of which can be seen along the banks of rivers or around the great lakes. More than 1,000,000 hectares of fore land emerged by the alluvial deposits of the Yellow River and the Hwai River. Those alluvial deposits were reclaimed by the farmers continuously. It is estimated that 370,000 ha of land were well cultivable at the end of the 19th century. At the moment the total reclaimed area is estimated to be some million hectares, consisting of real polders and other reclamations. This includes:

1. "Chang-Chien" reclamation

Around the turn of the century some 7,314 hectares of land was reclaimed in the southern end of Kiangsu Province Coast (north of the Yangtze River). After the dike was enclosed, the engineer Chang Chien deviated the common land reclamation practices by planting grass and grazing the land for two to three years to improve the soil properties. In the meantime, the land was desalinated by pumping and drainage of water with windmills.



"Chang-Chien" Polder Reclamation.

2. Polders areas in the Tai Lake Region south of the Yangtze River

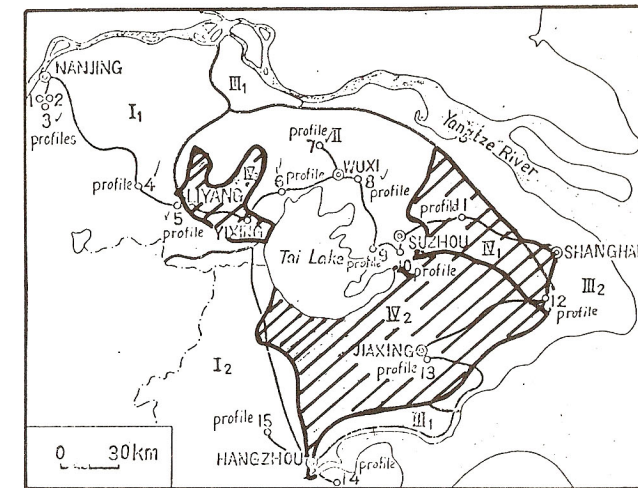
The following polder areas can be found, occupying depressions and lakes:

- Yang Chengu polder area,
- Plang-Jia-Hu polder area,
- Taogaihu polder area.

The total polder area is approximately 100,000 ha. The Tai Lake Region has a long history of cultivation, and is one of the most productive areas in China.

The polder areas are mainly covered by alluvium and lacustrine deposits.

Integration of farming, forestry and fishery is characteristic for the land use in the polder area of the region.



Legends

- I Hilly and mountain Area
- I₁ Maoshan Area
- I₂ Tianmushan Area
- II Tai Lake plain Area
- III Alluvial plain Area
- III₁ Marine Alluvial Area
- III₂ Alluvial plain Area
- IV Polder Area
- IV₁ Yangchenghu polder Area
- IV₂ Hang-Jia-Hu polder Area
- IV₃ Taogaihu polder Area

Polder area in the Tai Lake Region.

3. Yangtze River

Many polders occur in the middle part of the Yangtze River.

4. Canton area (South China)

A large polder area is found in the southern part of China near Canton. The area is drained by means of electrical pumps. The main crop is rice (a large part of the area is irrigated).

5. Huang Ho River

A considerable polder area exists in the Delta of the Huang Ho River. This river flows into the Gulf of Chihli (south-east of Peking). The total polder area is unknown.

