

IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

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Dr. Glenn Shive, Executive Director of the Hong Kong-America Center (HKAC) and Dr. Christopher Smith, HKAC Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, planned and managed a meaningful itinerary and agenda for the PRD I delegation throughout the entire study tour. Thanks to HKAC's close working relationships with nine major universities as well as other institutions and individuals in south and southeast China, the study tour participants were able to witness first-hand the historical roots, physical integration, economic dynamism, and future prospects of the entire Pearl River Delta (PRD). The delegation's day-long orientation sessions at the April 2005 ASIANetwork conference in Whittier, California and the delegation's first day in Hong Kong the following June -- coupled with the pre-assigned readings which participants had done -- were solid preparations for the experience.

The itinerary was designed to illuminate not only the contours of the PRD but to highlight the following five themes around which the working teams were organized: 1) the development of new business enterprises and their interaction with international and domestic markets; 2) the impact of economic growth on Chinese society, especially migrant laborers from other parts of China; 3) the impact of economic growth on traditional Chinese "high culture" and popular culture; 4) the roles of government at national, provincial, county, and local levels in fostering social and economic development; and 5) the development of regional planning strategies and the impact on the environment of rapid economic development.

The itinerary began in Hong Kong. A visit to the Hong Kong History Museum and Maryknoll House immediately conveyed to program participants the importance of Hong Kong as an historic bridge between Asia and the West and, since 1842, colonial bastion of British law, Christianity, and commercial enterprise. Visits to Hong Kong's few remaining factory neighborhoods dramatized the transfer of Hong Kong's industrial base to the PRD's emerging manufacturing cities during the 1980's and 1990's. And tours of the HIT container port (the world's largest) highlighted Hong Kong's role as a service, logistics, and financial center in transferring global investment into the PRD. Visits to public housing estates, and a squatter community showed the success of Hong Kong in mentoring the growth and management of urbanization.

PRD I participants next visited the former Portuguese colony on Macau. Thanks to HKAC's contacts, the chief of the city's UNESCO protected historic sites guided us through a day-long series of lectures and tours of time-honored churches, libraries, and merchant houses demonstrating Macau's four-century connection to the West and its current emergence as a center of tourism, gaming, and finance.

We then explored both banks of the Pearl River. The western side, with cities such as Zhaoqing, retains a mix of traditional agriculture with emergent urbanization. The dense

urbanization of the eastern side is epitomized by Shenzhen -- the first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) which post-Mao market reformer Deng Xiaoping established to absorb investment from Hong Kong, Taiwan, 51 million overseas Chinese and other global sources -- and Dongguan. Our visit to Guangzhou (traditional capital of South China) at the Pearl River's apex took us to the heart of traditional Cantonese culture, current nerve center of the booming PRD, and connecting point to nine provinces which are now members of the "Pan-PRD."

From Guangzhou we traveled to two former treaty ports-turned-SEZ's: Shantou and Xiamen. These and other culturally- and ethnically-distinct cities along the southeast coast sent astute business practitioners throughout China, Asia and the world and are now enticing investments from nearby Taiwan, Hong Kong, and overseas Chinese. An afternoon spent with Ye Wende, former party secretary of Lin Village -- immortalized in Huang Shumin's, *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1998) -- demonstrated the urban take-over and rising prosperity of fast-disappearing villages.

Readings profiling the PRD and work group topics prepared participants for some thirty lectures (usually in power point format) by noted authorities drawn from the nine universities to which HKAC introduced us. These presentations highlighted such important PRD themes as geographic identity, economic integration, urban/regional planning, environmental management, social transformation, and cultural change (especially regarding women's migration). Tours of gleaming cityscapes, public facilities, universities, art galleries, temples, and factories revealed the remarkable growth of civic culture and intra-China migration into the PRD as well as the activism on behalf of workers rights and migrant education being provided by a growing number of NGO's. Briefings by government officials, city and regional planners, "red capitalist" entrepreneurs, factory managers, and officials at the U.S. consulates in Hong Kong and Guangzhou as well as at the Hong Kong American Chamber of Commerce -- and discussions with migrant workers, cab drivers, and shopkeepers -- helped explain why Deng's market reforms began in the South; the importance of the region's access to Southeast Asia (now the world's largest free trade zone) and to India; and the impact of globalization. They also revealed an optimistic scenario for the PRD's continuing economic development as well as such challenges as regional inefficiencies (*e.g.* the presence of five underutilized airports and two redundant container ports within a 100-mile radius), demographic pressures, intensifying pollution, and an increasing rich-poor gap.

Our meetings with university administrators and foreign affairs officers underscored the fast-increasing university population of future Chinese technicians and managers as well as a thirst for increasing interchange with foreign institutions of high learning. In fact, a highlight for the Fulbright-Hays delegation was the opportunity to interact with Chinese students and teachers. At three universities, we offered lectures and panel presentations. This was an ideal opportunity for dialogue regarding the study tour's issues. At Sun Yat Sen University, we held a joint seminar on preparing China-related curriculum materials with community college teachers who had just completed a study tour organized by the

University of Michigan's Midwest Institute. At the same university, we mentored students from China, Hong Kong, and the United States in panel and plenary sessions at a student leadership conference on "Urbanization in the Pearl River Delta." In this way, we were able to exchange our emerging views of the PRD with the next generation of "PRD Hands." During the same conference, members of the group were interviewed on videotape about their preliminary conclusions. HKAC and AN plan to integrate these interviews into educational materials which can educate more American professors about the PRD.

Throughout the itinerary, delegates met in their working groups as well as in other configurations to discuss their findings and test their hypotheses. Since returning to their campuses in late July, participants have been preparing to disseminate their findings in various ways. During the near future, nearly three dozen courses (including gateway, senior seminars, and capstone level offerings) will be enriched by PRD content, and a dozen new courses will be created. In addition, participants are giving presentations on their study tour at venues on and off campus. They are also working on developing two PRD-related websites and audio-visual packets (which will include the power point presentations we saw in China).

Most of the delegates will attend the April 2006 ASIANetwork conference and present two panels on findings from the PRD seminar. Papers are being readied for other conferences as well. Five articles are in process, several of which we hope will be published in *ASIANetwork Exchange: A Newsletter for Teaching About Asia and Education About Asia*. Finally, participants intend to include PRD material in two textbooks they are writing. Two delegates have begun to study the Chinese language. Finally, several delegates have initiated a number of e-mail relationships with colleagues they met in China. One PRD I participant is planning a student/ faculty exchange with Shantou University, and another is working with a Hong Kong university to develop a study tour of the PRD in future years.

We believe the PRD I project is faculty development at its best and that faculty re-tooling in mid-career will contribute significantly to America's understanding of China's rise in this "Asian Century." We are also convinced that this is an effective model for PRD II.