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Project Research Group Studies on Interaction
between Ethnic Culture Vitalization and Economic
Development in Sino-Vietnam Border Area

中越边境民族文化振兴与经济发展互动研究项目组

民族文化 与经济互动

**Interaction
Between Ethnic Culture
And Economy**

主 编 袁少芬

副主编 李 红

Chief Editor Yuan Shaofen

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福特基金项目“中越边境民族文化振兴与经济发展互动关系比较研究”典型考察点分布图。



福特基金项目官员何进博士(左三)到广西大学指导本项目工作,广西大学党委书记余瑾教授(左四)接待何进博士听取课题组负责人汇报。



2003年年末,本课题举行学术研讨会暨课题结题汇报会,国家民委民族问题研究中心李红杰副主任(左二)、广西大学副校长卢克焕教授(右二)、广西壮族自治区民委黄济健副主任(右一)出席了会议并讲话,课题总负责人袁少芬教授(左一)向大会作了课题结题汇报。



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在防城港市民委支持下，课题组在万尾村召开了“保护与开发京族文化资源学术研讨会”，地方政府负责人、广西大学副校长、广西知名学者、村民代表等 30 多人出席。(2003 年 7 月)



举办京族喃字培训班。



边境农业与商贸开发座谈会



课题组、镇政府共同组织的农业与商贸开发座谈会，子项目负责人李士玉副教授(上图左一)、李红高级经济师提出农商结合开发的建议。



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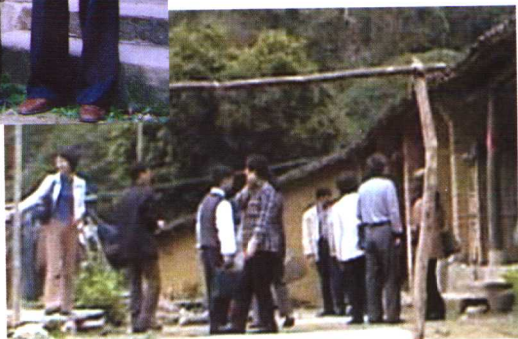
课题组与靖西县政府共同组织的首届绣球等工艺品大赛的绣球展品。(2003年9月)



越南福莲乡的染织工艺。



课题组中越学者联合考察越南子项目点新清乡，与村民合影。图右二为越南南方新清乡子项目负责人杜进森博士。



课题组中越学者联合考察中方子项目点万尾村。前左一为越南南方福莲乡子项目负责人吴德盛教授。





课题组中越学者
学术研讨会。
(凭祥 2003 年 2 月)



中越学者联合考察越南新清口岸开发区，听取负责人介绍边贸发展情况。(2002 年 3 月)

总课题组举办专家
讲学，培训课题组成员。



百色地区领导接见课题组成员。

**Contrast Study on Interaction Relation between
Ethnic Cultural Vitalization & Economic Development
in Sino – Vietnam Border Area**

Project Conclusion Report
(substitution for the book's abstract)

I. Basis for Research

I – 1. Basis and Objective. In September 2000, our Research Group was granted a three – year project under the Ford Foundation namely “Contrast Study on Interaction Relation between Ethnic Cultural Vitalization and Economic Development in Sino – Vietnam Border Area” (headed by Prof. *Yuan Shaofen*). This project arose out of our contemplation on such a bewildering fact that: Why does it so frequently happen that the minority regions where with particular historical and cultural features and the minority groups that have rich cultural resources are always accompanying with economic poverty? Meanwhile, “Economic integration and cultural diversity” are becoming the goal for sustainable and high – quality development of human society. Culture is regarded as the soul for economic development, and, economic and cultural interaction is gaining increasing global concern. This again puts us into contemplation: How could the minorities with backward economic development alter such situation whilst protect their splendid traditional culture through the utilization of abundant ethnic cultural resources? How could the ethnic minorities with comparatively developed economy maintain their cultural diversity and realize desirable interaction between culture and economy? These are the

common problems in minority development in China urgently pending for settlement. On this basis, we proposed the research project concerning interaction between cultural vitalization and economic development of minorities.

I – 2. Research Content. The main contents of the project research are: To make clear how much ethnic cultural resources possessed by local minorities; to decide which of them may or may not be exploited; to study the relationship between protection and exploitation; to research how to protect and how to develop them; to undertake some experiments for protection and exploitation; or to summarize, compare and explore the rules of interaction between culture and economy.

I – 3. The Focus of Field Investigation and Its Background and Significance. This project chooses the villages of different ethnic groups with different cultural and economic development types at both Sino – Vietnam border areas as the places for field investigation and comparative study. Why? The reasons are that these places are the most typical ethnic regions with distinctive cultural features, difficulty and complexity for development. Moreover, the border area between Southwest China and countries in Indo – china Peninsula is one of the areas where are mostly concentrated by cross – border ethnic groups in the world. In addition, the profound historical cultural background and ethnic characteristics, good human environment and abundant cultural resources as well as interaction between culture and economy in border area make it the right place for investigation of this project.

China and Vietnam share inland border of more than 1000 kilometers. Within Chinese border area, there live 12 nationalities inclusive of *Zhuang*, *Han*, *Dai*, *Buyi*, *Miao*, *Yao* and *Jing*. Especially, in Guangxi border area, the population of border counties and cities reaches 2.32 million (in 1997), among which *Zhuang* people accounts for 77.6%. Computed as confirmed nationalities in Vietnam, Sino – Vietnam cross – border ethnic groups include 26 Vietnam minorities.

In the long history, China and Vietnam have been keeping close and

deep cultural and economic exchange and interaction. Peoples of both nations maintain long – lasting friendship and peaceful coexistence. It is certain that, (1) From political point of view, as an international border, Sino – Vietnam border is a sensitive belt to current political situation and political policies of both nations. (2) From economic point of view, comparing with inland areas of both nations, Sino – Vietnam border area is showing in the valley of economic development. The social economic development of 8 counties and cities in Guangxi border area is comparatively lagged behind the southeast area of Guangxi. The northern rocky area of Vietnam has long been lagged behind the south and central parts of Vietnam in economic development. (3) From cultural point of view, any ethnic group within Chinese border generally has close relationship with its same group within Vietnam border. Guangxi section of Sino – Vietnam border is a multi – ethnic belt dominated by *Zhuang*. These ethnic groups are featured with special and abundant traditional culture, being the culture treasure houses. This is the essential element for the development of border area. In addition, Southeast Asia is the area for mixture of ancient Chinese culture and Indian culture. Thus, it is under the influence of both cultures. To sum up, Sino – Vietnam border is not only the joint for Sino – Vietnam politics and economy, but also the joint for China – ASEAN economic market as well as the joint for multi – ethnic culture.

Since the normalisation of Sino – Vietnam relationship in 1991 and with the rapid development of Sino – Vietnam border trading, the academic circle, enterprise circle, governmental and non – governmental departments have launched numerous research projects on border trading from various angles. But such research was limited to border trading and border economy, neglecting border residents and their culture. There were few researches focusing on contrast study of cultural anthropology and ethnic economics in border area from the perspective of the exploitation and utilization of cultural resources as well interaction between culture and economy. At the thread hold of new century and with the great development of Chinese west regions and the integration of China – ASEAN regional economy, the research project on Sino – Vietnam border culture and economy is especially important. Therefore, we

expect to implement contrast study on the interaction relation between ethnic culture and economy in Sino – Vietnam border area.

II. Selection of Sites for Research

Different ethnic groups , natural environment and level of social economic development have different interaction between culture and economy. In order to select the typical type of interaction between indigenous culture and economy, the chief project group invited a small – ranged bidding among academic colleagues at the end of 2000. The scholars were encouraged to attempt a thorough investigation in Sino – Vietnam border, select border villages of different culture types and participate in the research project from different field and orientation. Accordingly, 6 sub – projects, i. e. 6 investigation places were fixed after assessment by the person in – charge and experts. (Particularly, investigation places in Vietnam served as major places for integrative contrast.)

II – 1. Study on Protection and Exploitation of Cultural Resources of Jing people. Jing, who located in coastal and land border, belongs to marine ethnic cultural type, being the unique marine minority. Thus, it has the unique abundant tourism resources correlative with marine production and life style. Since 1990's, *Jing* has achieved great economic development and has ranked the top among Chinese minorities. However, *Jing's* traditional culture has the tendency of being lost and becoming weak. *Jing's* culture is undergoing a severe vicissitude and confronting development problems. Take tourist culture as example, *Jing* has rich culture resources, some of which has been developed into culture tourism project, bringing good economic benefits. To develop ethnic cultural tourism is of typical significance. However, the potentials of its ethnic cultural resources are far from well – exploited. This project selected a well – off village—*Wanwei* Village of *Jiangping* Town, *Dongxing* City of *Guangxi* as typical place for study. Focusing on the protection and utilization of *Jing's* cultural resources, we explored the ways of coordinative de-

velopment between the protection of splendid ethnic culture and social economy as well as the ways of combination of exploitation of cultural resources and tourism development through investigation and demonstrative experiment on typical places in three islands where *Jing* people live. It is of important practical and theoretical significance for border minorities to shake off cultural and economic poverty and enhance the interaction between culture and economy in Sino – Vietnam border area.

II – 2. Study on Agro – commercial Culture of Zhuang people.

Pingxiang City of Guangxi is located in hilly zone and on the main international passage to Vietnam where border trading were early and mature. In the long history and in such special geographical and social historical environment, there has been formed in local area a culture type of “agro – commercial culture” that is different from normal inland rural culture but combines agriculture and border trading. This is an inevitable phase of economic development and a particular cultural development type in the process of agricultural commercialization in minority area. This cultural type is common in border area. Through field investigation in communities of *Zhuang* in *youyi* Town of *Pingxiang* City, our sub – project group systematically summed up the conception of “Agro – commercial Culture” and its development rules, including the causes, connotation, features, forms and the influence on local social economic development. On the basis of profound understanding of the connotation of agro – commercial culture and its development rules, we made small experiments on agro – commercial culture through the participation and complementary combination of villagers, scholars and governmental officials. With the experiments, we explored how, in the process of border opening – up and market integration, to vitalize and develop agro – commercial culture of border ethnic groups, facilitate the economic development in border area and make better life for border residents as well as to realize the promotion from traditional individual farming and trading to large – scale modern farming and trading.

II - 3. Study on Craft Culture Development of Zhuang people.

Craft culture is the major manifestation of traditional culture of minorities. Its progress has recorded the history of the nationality, showing the characteristics of ethnopsychology, economic culture and social development. Our sub-project group took embroidered ball, the folk craft-work, as the objective for study because embroidered ball is an important symbol of traditional culture of *Zhuang* for its distinctive features, rich connotation and profound influence. *Jiuzhou* Street, famous for embroidered ball making, which is located in *Jingxi* County of Guangxi, was selected as typical place for field investigation. Through the study on embroidered ball making industry in *Jiuzhou* Street and comparative study with silk craftwork of *Jingxi* County, we carried out the study on various aspects of interaction between craft culture and economic development such as inherit development of minority craft, craftsman training and their quality cultivation; optimized quality of craftwork, promotion of aesthetics value; popularity, encouragement and conduction by government; the cooperation between folk craft association and marketing organization etc. We studied on the development experience of embroidered ball making industry of *Zhuang* and probed into the conditions for minorities to develop craft resources and its social and economic benefits in the process of modernization. We also studied on the unsettled problems at present and in the future and the ways facilitating positive interaction between the exploitation of national craft industry and economic development.

II - 4. Study on Educational and Cultural Vitalization of Miao people. The border ethnic economy develops slowly and its modernization construction fails to keep the pace of other groups. There are many reasons. Viewing the history and present situation, we can find that backward education is an important reason. Therefore, to strengthen education, cultivate personnel with modern awareness and high quality in science and technology is the fundamental requirement for accelerating the development of minority area. However, to a multi-ethnic nation, modern education system grows from principal national culture. In this case, the premise that maintenance of