

开 平 碉 楼 与 村 落

Fieldwork on  
Kaiping Diaolou and Villages

# 田野调查

张国雄 梅伟强 编著



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中国华侨出版社

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# 序 言

黄继烨

2006年元月，国务院正式确定“开平碉楼与村落”为2007年唯一代表中国申报世界文化遗产的项目，这对我们多年的“申遗”工作是一个极大的鼓舞和鞭策，同时也是给予了更大的工作重担。

我们的“申遗”工作是从2000年底正式启动的，到今天已经第6年了。我想“开平碉楼与村落”项目之所以能够用6年的时间就取得国家的肯定，获得这一宝贵的机会，是因为我们一路走来虽然十分艰辛，但是方向和技术路线正确，具体工作做得科学、认真、踏实。在这些工作的背后，有国家文物局等有关部委和省市领导的大力支持，有开平两届市委市政府对决策的坚定不移贯彻，有开平上百万海内外乡亲的积极参与，同时我们还获得了华侨历史学、建筑学、人类文化学等不同学科的海内外专家学者的无私帮助。没有这些力量的共同努力，我们是难以取得今天这样的成绩，打下这样坚实的基础的。

为什么说我们的具体工作做得科学、认真、踏实呢？我从自己分管这项工作的经历中，深切地感受到，6年来“申遗”工作的每一个方案的制定，都紧紧结合了“开平碉楼与村落”的资源特点，注意从实际出发。开平碉楼与村落从资源的角度看，我认为有这样几个特点：一是数量大、分布散，1833座碉楼分布在全市15个镇（办事处）的3000多条村落中；二是与海外华侨华人联系密切，很多碉楼的业主长期在海外生活，政策性很强；三是文化内涵丰富，而对它的研究基础很薄弱。之所以研究开展不够，就是很多专家学者想做工作，但是苦于资料难以收集。所以，我们的“申遗”工作一开始就在普查碉楼，摸清家底，抢救碉楼历史文化方面大做文章。没有这样最基础的工作，谈何研究，谈何决策，更谈何保护管理。

在碉楼的普查方面，经过组织全市性两次全面的摸底调查，我们已经建立起了完整的碉楼数据库，村落的普查也在积极的开展。这项细致的工作为政府决策提供了科学的依据，并多次获得了来访的外国世界遗产专家的高度评价。

同时，我们还非常注意对碉楼与村落历史文化的发掘、抢救。这一方面是对村落和碉楼内现存的文物大力收集整理，建档案库，尤其纸质文物是这一工作的重点。

另一方面就是深入下去，走村入户，从老人口中去抢救活的历史。开平是一个洪水多发的地区，很多有关碉楼与村落的历史文献经过数十年的风雨已经消失了，但是关于碉楼、村落、华侨、家庭等方面的历史还在村民中间流传，这些民间流传的历史文化往往会随着老人的去世而断绝，去世一个就少一个知情人。因此，这项工作比碉楼和村落的普查更有时间的紧迫感。从2001年以来，我们就一直将发掘、抢救碉楼与村落的历史文化列为“申遗”工作的重点，支持专家学者并组织开平碉楼与村落保护管理办公室的同志持续地进行乡村访谈调查。多年下来取得了可喜的成绩，丰富了开平碉楼与村落的资料积累，这对深入开展学术研究会有很大的帮助。

我要特别提到的是，在乡村调查工作中，五邑大学的张国雄博士和梅伟强教授给予我们极大的支持。他们将开平碉楼与村落的研究当成自己最热爱的事业，积极配合“申遗”工作的进程，不计任何报酬，常常利用节假日和寒暑假，深入到乡村，与村民座谈，获取最基础的工作资料。

他们还主动提出要将手中掌握的最基础的原始调查记录和开平碉楼与村落保护管理办公室其他同事所做的调查一起整理出版，我认为这是一件非常好的事情。据我所知，按照学术研究常理，这些原始的资料往往是要

等到他们的研究成果出来后才出版，现在两位教授的做法无疑是为其他专家学者研究开平碉楼与村落提供了方便，这种胸怀是我们推动开平碉楼与村落研究非常需要的。他们无私的工作精神和严谨的治学态度令我们感动！

同时，我认为这本书的出版还是我们“申遗”工作在开平碉楼与村落历史文化发掘抢救方面的一个重要展示，我也相信国内外的专家学者从这里可以看到我们的“申遗”工作是如何科学扎实开展了的。

对开平碉楼与村落历史文化的发掘抢救还有很多工作要做，政府也将一如既往地大力支持开展乡村调查，争取抢救、保存更多活的历史和文化。因此，希望这本书的出版能够进一步地推动这项工作更加广泛深入的进行。

(作者是开平市委常委、宣传部长)

# Preface

by Huang Jiye

In January 2006, the State Council of the People's Republic of China officially decided on Kaiping Diaolou and Villages as China's sole site applying for Cultural World Heritage status in 2007. This is greatly encouraging us and has pushed us to make even greater efforts. But we also feel heavier responsibilities on our shoulders.

Our World Heritage listing bid started at the end of 2000 and now it is in its sixth year. The project won the recognition of the national government in a relatively short span of time mainly due to the correct direction and technical course we have taken and to our scientific, meticulous and down-to-earth efforts. Behind our efforts are related national ministries and commissions, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage in particular, officials from the provincial and prefectural governments, and the present and the preceding Kaiping Party Committees and City Governments that have steadfastly followed and implemented the decision to bid. Much credit must also go to the enthusiastic participation of hundreds of thousands of Kaiping folks at home and abroad and the selfless support and assistance of experts and scholars from home and abroad in different disciplines including history of overseas Chinese, architecture, and human culture. Without these wide-ranging efforts, we could not have achieved our present results and laid down such a solid foundation for our



World Heritage inscription application.

Why do we say our bidding efforts have been scientific, meticulous and down-to-earth? Since I was assigned the task, I have deeply felt that during the six years, each working scheme of ours was realistic and in light of the characteristics of Kaiping Diaolou and Villages. From the perspective of resources, the project has a number of characteristics. The first is the large number of diaolou towers and their wide dispersal: the 1883 towers are scattered in over 3000 villages in the 13 townships of Kaiping. The second is the overseas connection to the towers, for most of their owners live permanently abroad; so the national policy concerning overseas Chinese must be taken into consideration. The third is that the towers are rich in cultural content but our foundation for researching them is still very weak. Although many scholars wanted to be involved, the information about the towers was hard to obtain. Therefore, from the beginning of our bidding efforts, we concentrated on a census and rescuing the historical and cultural contents of the towers. Without such basic work, there could not have been research and decision-making, let alone protection and management.

In terms of the census of the diaolou towers, two overall city-wide investigations were organized and an investigation of the villages is now under way. A comprehensive and sophisticated database thus resulted providing a sound basis for the decision-making by the government and has won acclaim on multiple occasions from visiting experts of the World Heritage Committee.

Meanwhile, we pay great attention to the excavation and

rescue of the history and culture of the diaolou and villages. Strenuous efforts were made to collect and organize the remaining relics related to the towers and villages, particularly paper relics. Another important job was to go to the villages and households to rescue living history from the mouths of old people. Kaiping is an area prone to floods and many historical documents about its towers and villages have gone with the winds and rains over the decades. However, the history of the towers, villages, families and overseas folks is still circulating among the villagers by word of mouth. Such folk history and culture often disappear with the passing away of these old people who are becoming fewer day by day. Thus the rescue of the oral history has been even of greater urgency than the investigation of the towers and villages. From 2001 on, the digging up and rescuing of the history and culture of the towers and villages has been the core of our World Heritage bidding efforts. Support and assistance were offered to scholars and experts and the staff of the Office of Protection and Management of Kaiping Diaolou and Villages to encourage them to go into the countryside to conduct interviews and investigations. Gratifying achievements have resulted from the years\* hard work. The results have enriched the treasury of information about the towers and villages and are of great help to further research.

What is particularly praiseworthy is the great support given us in our fieldwork by Doc. Zhang Guoxiong and Pro. Mei Weiqiang. They have taken the research on the towers and villages of Kaiping as their favorite study and have actively cooperated with the progress of our World Heritage bidding, without consideration of pay. They often took advantage of their

weekends, holidays, summer and winter vacations to go deep into the countryside and chat with villagers to obtain the most basic information.

They also volunteered to offer their original investigational records for publication together with the investigational results obtained by the staff of the Office of Protection and Management of Kaiping Diaolou and Villages. I think this is admirable. To my knowledge, in the academic community, it is customary for the owners of original materials not to publish them until their research has been concluded. These two scholars\* generosity will undoubtedly assist other scholars researching the towers and villages of Kaiping. Their magnanimity can greatly promote the research on the towers and villages and their selfless work and rigorous academic attitudes are moving.

This book is also an important display of our efforts to excavate and rescue the history and culture of Kaiping towers and villages in the course of our World Heritage bidding. I believe experts and scholars from home and abroad could know from the book how our bidding for World Heritage status was scientifically and professionally evolved.

Much more remains to be done to uncover and rescue the history and culture of Kaiping diaolou and villages. The government of Kaiping will "as ever" continue to give support to fieldwork and to rescuing and preserving more living history and culture. I hope the appearance of this book can give an impetus to further this enterprise.

(Huang Jiye, member of CPC Kaiping Standing Committee and Director of Kaiping Publicity Department)

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