



ZHIHUI JIAOYU HUODONG CONGSHU

智 慧 教 育 活 动 丛 书

网络前沿

这里有阅读的眷恋、深情、体悟；
这里我们一起分享，让阅读与学习相长，思维共智慧齐飞……

全艳娜◎主编

[英汉对照]



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智慧教育活动丛书

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前言

许多教育专家都认同这样的观点：教育的一半是知识教育，另一半是智慧教育。智慧教育对学生的未来发展起着决定性作用。但如今，我们往往重视知识教育，却忽视了智慧教育。

很多人都看见过苹果落地，看见过吊灯的自然摆动，都觉得这是正常的。结果，苹果还是苹果，吊灯还是吊灯。但拥有智慧的牛顿、伽利略却能从中看到事物的本质，产生联想。从而发现了地球的引力作用，发明钟表。由此，我们不仅要推崇知识，更要启迪智慧。

生活本是智慧之源，当我们倡导教育要回归智慧的时候，理所当然呼唤教育也要回归生活。我们应该把书本中的智慧和生活中的智慧结合起来。引导这种结合，本身需要一种悟性，这种悟性只有热爱智慧的人在实践中才能获得；只有热爱智慧才能从书本中、生活中去汲取智慧、获得智慧，才能把对学习、生活水平的理想转化为现实生活中的实践智慧，从而走向智慧的优化和创新。可以说，热爱智慧——获得智慧——优化智慧，这就是智慧教育生成的三

部曲。

因此,我们精心组织编写了《智慧教育活动丛书》,让学生在阅读中,在获得知识的同时,积极思考,提高阅读能力,养成良好的阅读习惯,提升学生整体的阅读素养与人文素养,优化智慧。本套丛书选材广泛,内容丰富,体裁灵活多变,选入的主题有语言学习、体育运动、文化生活、环境保护、文学艺术、音乐影视、风俗礼仪、自然科学、饮食文化、兴趣爱好、科学技术、地球、电脑、情感、成长、诗歌、幽默、名人、旅游、交际、演讲等,从各个层面分主题介绍。并采取中英文对照的形式编排,让学生在学习过程中,体会、认识两种语言与文化的差异,增强跨文化意识;同时,本套书也可作为各种英语活动、竞赛的教材、参考资料。

限于编者水平有限,时间仓促,难免有纰漏之处,恳请读者批评指正。

编者



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What Makes Silicon Valley So Successful and Unique

Silicon Valley is a magnet to which numerous talented engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs from overseas flock to in search of fame, fast money and to participate in a technological revolution whose impact on mankind will surely surpass the epoch-making European Renaissance and Industrial Revolution of the bygone age.

With the rapid spread of the Internet since the early 1990s, and the relentless technological innovations generated through it, the information era is truly upon us, profoundly influencing and changing not only our life style, but also the way we work, do business, think and communicate with others.

The unprecedented^① success of the Valley is a testimony to



the concerted international endeavors and contributions by people from diverse cultural and racial backgrounds, made possible by the favorable political, economic and intellectual climate prevailing, as well as the farsighted^② policies of the US government.

It is noteworthy that close to 50% of its skilled manpower, including engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs, come from Asia. Prominent among them are Indians and Chinese, and not a few Singaporeans. They include such illustrious names as Vinod Khosla who cofounded Sun Microsystems, Jerry Yang of Yahoo fame and Singaporean Sim Wong Hoo, to name a few.

Many countries have, or are in the process of creating, their own “Silicon Valley”. So far, none has as yet threatened the preeminence^③ of the US prototype. What makes Silicon Valley such a unique entity?

First and foremost, it has the largest concentration of brilliant computer professionals and the best supporting services in the world, and easy access to world-class research institutions, like Stanford University, which contin-



ually nurtures would-be geniuses which the industry needs in order to move forward. Without these advantages, the Valley would be a different place.

Secondly, it actively encourages, or even exalts^④, risk taking. Hence, failure holds no terror and there is no stigma^⑤ attached to a failed effort. On the contrary, they will try even harder next time round. Such never say die approach is the sine qua^⑥ non for the ultimate triumph in entrepreneurship and technological breakthrough.

A third decisive factor is the vital role of venture capitalists who willingly support promising startups with urgently needed initial capital to get them started. Some would even give failed entrepreneurs a second chance if convinced that a fresh concept might lead to eventual success.

Of equal importance, many bright young people and middle level professionals are keen to work for a new venture at substantially reduced remuneration^⑦, as it offers more scope for entrepreneurship and job satisfaction than the established companies. There is also a pride of achievement if their efforts contribute to its fruition^⑧.



Intellectual challenges aside, it is a common practice for startups to offer generous share options to employees in order to attract the right talent into their folds. This is a powerful incentive to motivate the staff to do their utmost and to share in the company's prosperity if it reaches its goal. Many regard this as the foundation of a successful enterprise.

Those that have become high flyers, such as Netscape, Intel, Cisco and Yahoo, have turned many of their employees, including support staff like secretaries, into dot. com millionaires overnight, often at the relatively young age of 20s or 30s.

The Valley's professionals are among the most hard-working people anywhere. A 15-hour day and 7 day week is not uncommon, especially during the startup stage. They would give up social life, and curtail[®] their family life too, in order to pursue the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. It is this single minded pursuit of excellence, supported by strong ethos of team work and esprit decorps that sustain them until their mission is accomplished.

Paper qualifications, though useful, is not a be all and



end all. More weight is given to a candidate's proven abilities and aptitude for the job. This is amply demonstrated by industry icons like Apple's Jobs and Wozniak and Microsoft's Gates, all college dropouts who might not have emerged in a qualification conscious community.

While racial prejudice no doubt still exists in the United States, albeit[®] in a less degrading form as before, it is hardly discernible in the Valley. What counts most is one's vision and track record, and not one's nationality, skin color or creed. This, together with its multiracial society, informal lifestyle and agreeable climate, lure foreigners to its shores.

Its phenomenal success has led to a worldwide fever to proliferate dot.com companies, both as a prestigious symbol and a quicker way to wealth. Singapore is part of this rising tide.

In Consequence, many bright young people have given up their secure jobs to join in the race. But the reality is that, because of its high-risk nature, for every success story there are hundreds who will, perforce, fall by the wayside. Will they get a second chance, given their own operating en-



vironment?

However, with the collapse of the US Nasdag share index earlier resulting in the plunge in prices of technology shares listed on it and elsewhere, the hitherto valuable share options held by numerous paper dot. com millionaires have become virtually worthless in these changed circumstances. Those who could not take the heat, as it were, left their employment feeling disillusioned.

Be that as it may, the majority in the Valley view this traumatic experience only as a temporary setback for the industry. They are sanguine that its longer term prospects remain bright as the ultimate potential of the information age has not yet run its full course. They are confident that it will flourish well into this century provided it maintains its cutting edge in science and technology.

Notes



① unprecedented adj. 空前的

② farsighted adj. 有远见的



- ③ preeminence n. 卓越
- ④ exalt v. 晋升
- ⑤ stigma n. 污名, (植物)柱头, [动物]气门, 耻辱
- ⑥ qua prep. 作为, 以之……身份或资
- ⑦ remuneration n. 报酬
- ⑧ fruition n. 享用, 结果实, 成就, 实现
- ⑨curtail v. 缩减, 减少(经费等), 剥夺(某人的)特权
(或官衔等), 简略
- ⑩ albeit conj. 虽然



硅谷的独特氛围

硅谷犹如一块磁铁,把许许多多禀赋卓越的工程师、科学家、企业家从世界各地聚集来这里,一起追求成名致富,并投身于技术革命的大潮,其对于人类的影响,必将远超过划时代的欧洲文艺复兴和产业革命。

互联网急速普及,深刻地改变了人们生活、工作、贸易、思维以及彼此沟通的方式。硅谷成为世界电脑中心,其声誉无可动摇,靠的是美国和世界各地人才的不懈努力贡献。

值得注意的是,硅谷地区的专业人力资源,包括工程师、科学家和企业家,有将近一半来自亚洲,尤其是印度和中国,也有不少来自新加坡。其中声名卓著者,略举数例,便有太阳微系统的创始人之一文诺·考斯拉、雅虎的创始人杨致远,以及新加坡的沈望傅。

许多国家也有了自己的“硅谷”,或正在着手建设,但至今无一威胁到美国硅谷的领先地位。美国硅谷与众不同,究



竟秘诀何在？

首先，硅谷有着世界最大最密集的优秀电脑专才群体、最佳的后援服务体系，并紧密联系着斯坦福大学等世界一流的研究机构，而后者正源源不断地培育出电脑业赖以发展的明日天才。若缺少这些有利条件，硅谷的面貌便会大不一样。

其次，硅谷大力提倡、甚至鼓吹颂扬冒险精神，因此失败并不可怕，出师不捷者也无人耻笑，反而会重整旗鼓、再接再厉。这种永不言败的风气，是创业成功和技术突破所不可或缺的。

第三，创业投资家起了重大作用。他们乐于支持前途看好的新创企业，投入其急需的创业资本以助其起步。甚至对失败的企业，只要认定其概念新颖，最终有可能成功，有的投资家也会给予第二次机会。

同样重要的是，许多有为青年和中层专才并不热衷任职于老字号公司，反而不嫌薪酬低下，宁愿为新创的企业效力，因为后者有更广阔的开拓前景，而工作所得的满足感也更大。他们为自身的努力推动了企业成功而自豪。

除了给人专业上的挑战之外，新创企业为了招揽人才，还往往慷慨地给予员工们股票选购权。这一措施有力地激励员工们为公司尽心竭力，以期与公司共享成功。许多人认为这