

A SUNSHINE HOME

阳光家园

HUMANITARIAN
SETTLEMENT IN
GUANGDONG

——人道安置在广东

HAN SONG



岭南美术出版社

LINGNAN ART PUBLISHING HOUSE

A SUNSHINE HOME

—— HUMANITARIAN SETTLEMENT
IN
GUANGDONG

WRITER: HAN SONG

TRANSLATORS: LUO JUN, KUANG JIAMIN, LU FANG

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

阳光家园：人道安置在广东；英文/韩松著，—广州：
岭南美术出版社，1999. 9

ISBN 7—5362—2034—0

I. 阳…

II. 韩…

III. 印度支那半岛—难民—安置—工作—广东—英文

IV. D523. 91

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (1999) 第 61299 号

A Sunshine Home—Humanitarian Settlement in Guangdong
Province

Published and Distributed by : Lingnan Fine Art Publishing
House, China

Printed by: Printing Mill of Guangdong General Bureau of
Agriculture and Reclamation

First Edition: September, 1999

First Printed: September, 1999

Format: 880×1194

Sections: 11.75

ISBN 7—5362—2034—0/I.51

Price: RMB ¥50

PREFACE

Xu Liugeng

To most Chinese people, “refugees” seems a rather unfamiliar term though they may feel sympathy for them. Chinese people are more familiar to the term-victims of natural calamities. Once people are stricken by major natural disasters when their homes are engulfed by the floods, crops destroyed, workshops toppled down, children deprived of schooling and life destabilized, the government, people of all lines, even overseas friends will do their utmost to assist them. Whenever there is natural calamity, there are bound to be many touching stories and moving scenes about the victims that will keep our journalists extremely busy. However, few people realize that in most cases, refugees have to face far worse situations. When fleeing from their own lands, taking the old and the young, many of them have to cross mountains and rivers, even the seas to foreign countries where food and shelter are uncertain and lives may be in danger. The same is true with the Afghanistan refugees, the African refugees and the Kosovo refugees etc. Up till now no statistics have possibly been made to calculate how many refugees have died in the mountains, in the

deserts, in the seas and in the foreign lands on their way of migration. These refugees are the right group of people deserving more sympathy and relief.

Are there any refugees in China? The People's Republic of China does not create refugees, but on its territory there do exist refugees as many as 300,000. As a signatory state of the Geneva Convention on Refugee Status (1951) and the Protocol on Refugee Status (1967) China is obliged to shoulder the responsibility to international humanitarian rescue. Since 1976, China has been involved in receiving and settling over 200,000 refugees from the three Indo-Chinese States, namely, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

20 years ago when China first implemented its reform policy and opened its door to the outside world, China itself was facing a lot of difficulties in need of great assistance for its development after the ten-year cultural catastrophe. However, when its door was opened, the first batch of visitors she welcomed were the over 200,000 Indo-Chinese refugees. Nevertheless, as a member of the international community, China determinedly undertook the arduous tasks of receiving and settling this group of refugees. Within a few months China managed to settle these refugees in Guangdong, Guangxi, Yunnan, Fujian, Hainan and Jiangxi provinces and autonomous region. At that time, Hainan, as a part of Guangdong Province, offered to accept and settle 30,000 refugees despite its un-

derdeveloped economy of agriculture.

I first became involved in this work as early as 1979 when I served at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs(MFA), where I was occasionally sent to assist the Office for Receiving and Settlement of Indo - Chinese Refugees (ORSIR) of the State Council, which was under the Ministry of Civil Affairs(MCA) . This short working experience of mine in this area, unexpectedly led to my new appointment to the MCA from the MFA in 1987. In the past 12 years, I have served as the Deputy Director General and then, the Director General of ORSIR, taking direct charge of the humanitarian project. Filled with deep love for and lofty sense of mission in the job. I have turned down several tempting offers for better fame and gain, devoting myself to this humanitarian mission.

To my great relief, remarkable achievements have been attained through the common efforts of the refugee - settlement personnel of the Central Government and the six southern provinces concerned, Except for those voluntarily repatriated, hundreds of thousands refugees have settled down here in China, not only ending their destitute and homeless life, but also merging with local people for common benefit and advance. The achievements have been highly praised in the international world.

After the twenty - year efforts, it is time to have the settlement work systematically summarized. Owing to my

busy work, however, I have not been able to do so. The author of this book, Mr. Han Song, is a new friend of mine, who, as a senior and sharp journalist with rich experience is both fore sighted and warm hearted. Having worked for Guangdong Overseas Chinese Newspaper over ten years, he has familiarized himself with the settlement work of the Indo - Chinese refugees in China and has gathered abundant information in this respect. Although what is presented in this book is mainly about Guangdong's efforts in refugee reception and settlement, it has provided us with a good hint of the general picture of the settlement work across the whole country. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Han Song.

June 1999, Beijing

CONTENTS

Chapter I . Review: The West is Veiled in Rain, the East Enjoys Sunshine	(1)
Refugee is not an un-real concept	
“China has set an excellent example for refugee settlement.”	
Guangdong is one step ahead of others in refugee settlement	
Statement of the Vice Minister of Civil Ad- ministration	
Comments of UNHCR officers	
State ORSIR Director General Xu Liugeng speaks with fervour and assurance	
Guangdong ORSIR Director General Xu Lihua is gratified	
Refugees say: we are now living in peace and contentment	
Chapter II . Fate: To Argue if an Alien or HomeLand You'll Try	(37)
How the refugee tide came into being	
“Old settlement workers” recall their experi- ence in the past	

The unrest of the refugees alerted Mr. Xi Zhongxun

To prevent refugees from fleeing out

The open letter of Mr. R. Hall

Ms. Xu Lihua's answers to the journalist questions

The refugee settlement as viewed by foreign journalists

Sunshine turns an alien land into a homeland

Chapter III . Responsibilities: For you, never I Mind

Getting Pallid and Wan (84)

Seven UNHCR Representative Officers to China in the past 19 years

Madam Sadako Ogata: the weather may delay our plan, but we should not

The Internal Auditor's face turned pleased on seeing the account books and bills

Mr. Yan Mingfu will surely visit the refugees whenever he comes to Guangdong

Mr. Yi Meihou visited the refugees in the rain

Marshal Ye Jianying helped the refugees remove their worries and difficulties

Ms. Xu Lihua dared to speak of the difficulties in front of Mr. Hu Yaobang

Never let the flood wash away refugee children's opportunity of education

- The refugees jumping out of the farms to towns
- Haiyan refugees' application for building more resident houses
- A disturbance in the vegetable field of Feng shou Farm
- Chapter IV . Learning: Waste No Time, You Should Learn for the Good of Your Life Time
..... (147)
- The refugee vocational training center: one good attempt deserves more followers
- Every student has his own story
- Ms. Liao Xuehui's witty answers to her fellow schoolmates
- Training Class held in the forefront of farm production
- Heart - to - heart talks among the students
- Correspondences between ORSIR officers and refugee children
- Chapter V . Becoming Wealthy: A Man Born in the World Is Sure to Find his Talent Useful
..... (214)
- Three models of getting rich under the guidance of the farm
- A bright road: Pick up the right project and develop collective economy
- Dahuai - Beihai Road: correspondent ad-

justment for full utilization of skilled people
Tonghu - Dawang Road: Free choices for
jobs and more channels for selection

Five well-off people's stories

King of Pineapple Mr. Fu Cailong's dream of
an orchard hotel

The major pig raiser Mr. Chen Jinqiang
talks about economic theories

The young marshal of cultivation Mr. Huang

Kuishan intends to retire at 50

Brand Chef Mr. Zhu Maoxing skillfully
meets the taste of different people

King of Leatherware Mr. Chen Muyang will
keep on enlarging his business

Chapter VI. Prospecting: The News of the Apricot
Flowers in the Sound of Rain(278)

A representative to the 14th National Con-
ference of the Communist Youth League
plans to fly overseas

Mr. Xie Junnan regards himself a "Chinese
doctor"

Mr. Xu Changbao applies what he has learnt
in his orange farm

How Ms. Yao Shuigu gained the May 1 La-
bor Medal

Poor refugees in poor farms attract people's
concerns

Guangdong Government suit the remedy to
the problem

It won't take too long to thoroughly solve
the refugee problem

Chapter VII . Appendices.....(332)

UNHCR aid projects (1979 to 1998)

College and technical school students of re-
turned overseas Chinese and refugees families
in financial difficulties supported by Guang-
dong ORSIR



On Jan.16th, 1979, Marshal Ye Jian-ying , Vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, Chairman of the National People's Congress, visited Xing-long Overseas Chinese Farm in Hainan Province, where thousands of Indo-Chinese refugees settled down. Marshal Ye accompanied by Xu Li-hua, Deputy Secretary of CCCP of the farm visiting the coffee garden.



On Nov.27th,1993, Yan Ming-fu (1stright), Vice Minister of the State's Civil Affairs Ministry, visited the Overseas Chinese Town Toy Factory in Shenzhen to inspect the working conditions of the Indo-Chinese refugees.



On Nov.18th,1990,when the Southeast Asian Restaurant in Guangzhou, which was an assistance project of UNHCR , opened, the distinguished guests took a photograph together. From the 2nd (left) at the rear are: Situ Rong-sheng, Director of Guangdong Overseas Chinese Office; Xu Li-hua, Deputy Director of Gangdong Overseas Chinese Office; Yang Li, Deputy Governor of Guangdong Province; Chen Qing-guang, ex-Deputy Director of the Political Department in Guangzhou Military Area; Liang Ling-guang, ex-Governor of Gangdong Province; Liu Tian-fu, ex-Governor of Gangdong Province; Fontaine, former Chief of Mission in Beijing; Xu Liu-gen, Director of the State's ORSIR; Lo Tian, Chairman of the People's Congress of Gangdong Province; Cao Xing-ling, Director of Overseas Chinese Office under the People's Congress of Guangdong Province; Lu Fa-quan, Deputy Director of Guangdong Overseas Chinese Office; Li Xu-guo, Deputy Director of Guangdong Provincial ORSIR.



On Feb. 7th, 1987, Huang Qing-qu (centre), Deputy Governor of Guangdong Province; Situ Rong-sheng (3rd left), Director of Guangdong Overseas Chinese Office, were cutting the ribbons at the Opening Ceremony of the Training Centre Building on Guangming Live Stock Farm, which was a UNHCR assistance project.



On Nov. 16th, 1998, Lu Zhong-he, Deputy Governor of Guangdong Province, met Mr. Surasak Satawiriya (centre), the Senior Regional Programme Officer of UNHCR.



At the beginning of Nov, 1990, Xu Li-hua accompanied Yi Mei-hou, Vice Chairman of the People's Congress of Guangdong Province, Chairman of Guangdong Overseas Chinese Association, to look into the work of refugees on Da Wang Overseas Chinese Farm. Mr Yi was enthusiastically talking with refugee girls at work . (photo by Han Song)

On Jan. 21st, 1999, during the UNHCR working conference of Indo-Chinese refugees ,Xu Li-hua reported to Xu Rui-xing(1st left), Deputy Minister of the State's Civil Affairs Ministry, about the training situation of the refugees.



On May 12th, 1981, Mr.J.Moucher (2nd left front), the first UNHCR representative to China came to Yangcun Orange Farm to inspect the fulfillment of the assistance project, and took a photo with the farm leaders.



In 1992, Ling Bo-tang, Deputy Governor of Guangdong Province, welcomed Mr.Carpenter, ex-UN representative to China, Acting Director of Asia and Pacific Bureau, UNHCR.