



THE CHINA DREAM: GUANGDONG STORY

中国梦·广东故事

OPENNESS

开放的广东

LIU XIAOXING

TRANSLATED BY YANG CHENXI

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Preface

Located in southern China, Guangdong Province is the first region in China to implement the reform and opening up, and it is also one of the most affluent areas nationwide. The Pearl River, China's third largest river, runs across the whole province. The Pearl River Delta is an alluvial plain flushed by the Pearl River. After nearly 40 years of rapid development, it has already become one of the most important city groups of China. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the Macao Special Administrative Region adjoin to Guangdong Province. With the natural geographical relations and the same cultural background, they constitute China's unique Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area—a world-class vigorous economic and cultural area.

For nearly 40 years of rapid development, Guangdong has been playing a leading role in innovation, spurring the rapid development of new growth drivers. There are many rapidly grown-up enterprises in Guangdong, such as Huawei, Tencent, and UMi, which have become important engines of Guangdong's new economy development. Huawei and Tencent are now widely known in China. We try to approach such enterprises and their employees, to find the "secret" of the most innovative

and cutting-edge development in Guangdong.

Guangdong has been the most dynamic foreign trade area in China since ancient times. And Guangzhou has been a commercial city through the ages, as well as an important interconnecting city alongside the “Maritime Silk Road”. Foreigners from all over the world travel across major cities in Guangdong everyday, sightseeing, attending business meetings, studying or visiting friends. In Guangzhou, there are a large number of foreigners from Europe, America, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa and other places, doing business here everyday. They ship back clothing, fabric, seafood, electrical appliances or glasses; foreign trade is booming. In the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone ports, people and vehicles travelling between Hong Kong and Shenzhen are always lined up. Foreigners living here for many years gradually adopt and merge into customs and culture of Guangdong, and regard Guangdong as their “second home”. Meanwhile, tens of millions of workers from other provinces live in Guangdong, especially in the Pearl River Delta, where they work in factories, earn money to support their families, and try to realize their own dreams and ambitions. Whether foreigners or migrant workers, they are all practitioners, promoters and witnesses of Guangdong’s reform and opening

up. We conduct close observation of their work and life to record their ups and downs.

Ten years ago, the per capita income in the Pearl River Delta had already reached the level of that of moderately developed countries, and it is moving towards high-income phase. But the embarrassment is that in the eastern, western and northern parts of Guangdong Province, there are still large number of underdeveloped rural areas, and some places are even in extreme poverty, which distresses successive provincial governments. The government is determined to carry out large-scale "poverty alleviation" action, and vows to lift all peasants of impoverished areas out of poverty in three years, and promote common prosperity in these parts of Guangdong like the Pearl River Delta.

As the most populated, dynamic, and developed province that has been spearheading reform and opening up, recent practices in Guangdong are full of strength and sweetness. We go into it, and hope to find and record those breathtaking, touching and impressive stories of the development in Guangdong these years. Those people and those stories constitute a glaring part in the glittering development of the new era in Guangdong.

Through these stories, you can see diligence and endeavors of Guangdong people in the process of modernization. Through the perspective of Guangdong, you can see great efforts of Chinese people in realizing the China dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

总序

广东省位于中国南部，是中国最早实行改革开放的区域，也是目前中国最富庶的地区之一。中国的第三大河流珠江穿越广东省全境，由珠江冲积而成的珠江三角洲在经过近40年迅速发展后，已经成为中国最重要的城市群之一。香港特别行政区、澳门特别行政区与广东省毗邻，天然的地缘和一脉相承的人文情缘，构成了中国独有的粤港澳大湾区——一个世界级活跃的经济人文区域。

和中国其他地区一样，在经过长达近40年的高速发展之后，广东面临产业转型升级转变发展动能的重任，创新驱动成为推动本轮变革的重要抓手。广东省内有许多近年来快速成长起来的企业，比如华为、腾讯、有米科技，它们成为广东新经济发展的重要引擎。华为和腾讯，以及它们的“老板”任正非和马化腾，在中国几乎家喻户晓。我们试图走近这样的企业及其员工，找到广东创新驱动最前沿的发展“密码”。

广东自古以来是中国对外商贸最活跃的地区，广州是千年商都，是“海上丝绸之路”重要的节点城市。来自世界各地的外国人每天往来于广东省内各大城市，他们或旅游观光，或商务会议，或求学访友。在广州，每天大量来自欧美、东南亚、中东和非洲等地的外国人在这里做生意，他们把这里的服装、布匹、海产品、电器或者眼镜托运回国，外贸做得红红火火。在深圳经济特区口岸，进出香港和深圳的车辆、人流常常排成长龙。长年生活在这里的外国

人，在生活习俗和文化上逐渐接受并慢慢融入广东，广东成为他们的“第二故乡”。与此同时，更多的数千万计的来自中国内地的普通劳工常年生活在广东尤其是珠江三角洲地区，他们在工厂里“打工”，凭借“打工”挣下的钱养家糊口，并试图实现自己的人生梦想。无论是外国人还是农民工，他们都是广东改革开放的实践者、推动者和见证者。我们近距离观察他们的工作和生活，记录他们的喜怒哀乐。

珠江三角洲地区早在10年前人均收入便已达到中等发达国家水平，正迈向高收入阶段。但令人尴尬的是，在广东省的东、西、北部仍有大片生活并不富裕的农村，一些地方甚至还处于贫困状态，这让广东省历届政府颇感头痛。政府下决心开展大规模的“扶贫”行动，并发誓要在3年后让所有贫困地区的农民摆脱贫困，力促粤东西北地区与珠江三角洲地区走向共同富裕。

作为人口最多、经济最活跃、总量最大、地处改革开放前沿的省份，广东近年的实践既具有力量又让人感到温馨。我们深入其中，希望通过我们去发现去记录，在广东发展这些年中，那些或动人心魄或充满温情或饱含人性的故事。那些人，那些事，终将构成广东新时期史诗般发展历程中炫目的一环。

通过这些故事，人们可以看见，在现代化进程中广东人的奋发图景；透过广东，可以看见中国人民为实现中华民族伟大复兴的中国梦的奋斗历程。

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Century-aged Brand
“Jing Hua Fish Ball”

Dainty Fish Ball Descending through Five Generations

One winter back in the 1980s, it was not yet four o'clock in the morning and the sun has not yet risen. Liang Zhibo raced to the dock with heavy laden eyelids to check the freshness of the fish on the fishing boats. What a cold day for fishing! Yet, it was widely considered that fish in both autumn and winter are the freshest and most tender in texture for the finest fish balls. At that time, there was no ice nor cold storage techniques. Once the fishing boats were pulled in to the shore, the fish had to be bought in and made into fish balls by the craftsmen immediately. Liang Zhibo rolled up his sleeves, "Let's get started." The first and key step is to scrape the flesh from the bones of the fish. Being adept at the process, Liang handled the knife skillfully. Before we noticed the fall of the knife, the fish's head, skin, bones and tail were gone. Then the flesh was ground into a thick paste and was put into special handmade casks with special sauce. The second crucial step is to pound the flesh till it reaches the right consistency. The trick to the fish balls' soft, springy texture is slapping and pounding the

fish paste over and over until it turns smooth and glossy. It usually took thousands of times of lifting and slapping before the paste was ready for shaping into balls. Both the slapping strength and the time are of crucial importance. Otherwise, the fish paste would turn either loosening and grainy or hard in texture, losing the crunchy feel to it. After that, Liang Zhibo grabbed the fish paste in between the crook of his thumb and index finger and squeezed the balls out into cold water. When the fish balls congealed, they are ready to be dropped into the pot to finish cooking. As he waited, a smell of fresh fragrance penetrated the room and went into his nose... It's thrilling and animating to watch the cooked fish balls pop up and down in the slotted spoon, radiating a tasty smell.

One morning in December 2016, Liang Shaozhong, Liang Zhibo's son, drove to the food factory after cleaning up and getting dressed. He was going to inspect and supervise the work of the workers and boost their morale. Twenty minutes later, Liang Shaozhong arrived at the factory. He looked up at the banner hanging above the door "Inherit the century-old brand, Carry forward the traditional industry, March into the world market." After he was disinfected all over, Liang Shaozhong came to the nearest rough processing area where four workers were putting the flesh into the meat grinder. Within a few seconds, fish paste was squeezed out. Meanwhile, in the deep processed area, workers were also performing their duties with great efficiency and accuracy. Compared to three decades ago, the efficiency is obviously greatly improved. A worker passed by with a trolley. Three boxes of just cooked fish balls, rounded and shiny, crunchy and tender, fresh and fragrant, bumped along with the locomotion of the trolley. Two different times and spaces seem to interplay due to similar fish balls. The distinctive recipe, craftsmanship and the lingering taste were passed on from Liang Zhibo to his son, Liang Shaozhong in this way.

Shantou, the special economic zone of Guangdong Province, is an