

in China, becoming a “Great Leap Forward” on the Yangtze bound for rough rapids. A recent poll taken among CCP cadres before Deng Xiaoping’s death in February 1997 found that most expected “turmoil” after his death.

The dam project may come to a halt with any major political reshuffle. Once Premier Li Peng finishes his current term of office in March 1998—and if he is not appointed to any other position—the dam project may be “reconsidered” and scaled back to a more manageable size without its extreme social and environmental costs. A Japanese government delegation of hydroelectric experts and officials was received in October by Li Peng and took one of my company’s cruise ships to Yichang to inspect the dam site. In an aside to me, one of the Japanese delegates said that the group doubted the claims of the dam officials and did not plan to participate in the project. They felt the dam as planned would not survive Li Peng’s exit.\*

Even in that event, a series of low rise dams would likely be built, as recommended by most international consulting agencies. Then the world would certainly rush in to help finish the job, if the river dragon ever allows the waters to be stopped.

\*In December 1996, Japan’s Export-Import bank offered credit to Japanese companies bidding on part of the Three Gorges project. The Swiss, German, and Swedish governments have also indicated their intention to provide similar public financing.

## Appendix A

### Acknowledgments from “General Plan for Population Resettlement”

*Li Boning*

This volume, *Developmental Resettlement Is Good*, was compiled at the suggestion of Comrade Cheng Zihua before he passed away.\* In 1986, as a member of the Three Gorges Project Coordinating Group under the Central Committee, Comrade Cheng took an extensive inspection tour of the Three Gorges area. He met with and heard the reports of cadres at different levels of government from Sichuan, Guangxi, and various other counties and municipalities and investigated local resettlement trial projects extensively. He visited the experimental rice paddy plot in Zigui County and watched a video titled “The Advantages of Developmental Population Resettlement.” He gave a very positive review of the experiences gained from the trial projects and subsequently suggested to me that since the Three Gorges project was not well-understood in Chinese society and there was even considerable misunderstanding of it, a volume be compiled describing the good results produced by the trial projects. This, he felt, would help people understand the real situation and ease their worries and concerns. Based on this suggestion, we compiled the first volume of this work and have plans to publish one or two additional volumes.

This volume reflects the experiences of the five-year trial projects. The data and articles contained in it draw from typical experiences in county and municipal trial projects, assessment reports, articles about resettlement prepared by district and municipal leaders, and extensive discussions about relevant issues raised by the trial projects. Although the trial pro-

\*This appendix was originally included with Li Boning’s section of Chapter Four.

jects are still at the preliminary or experimental stage, they point us in the right direction for implementing resettlement and provide us with valuable experiences to help deal with the problems created by the process.

In this volume there are more articles on rural resettlement than on urban resettlement, and with good reason—rural resettlement is one of the most difficult issues we face and it is the number one priority of a successful resettlement policy. Included herein is an article on The First Team of Lejiaping Village, Dongrangkou Township titled, “Explore Land Resources Within the Team and the Initial Success of Moving the Entire Village Back from the River and Resettling in Nearby Areas.” Hongyan Village, Renhe Township, Fengdu County, provided another article titled “Experiences in Planting Orchards for Relocatees Using Available Local Resources and Moving Back from the River and Resettling in Nearby Areas.” Shuitianba Township, Zigui County, concentrated on the development of local land resources, and its valuable experience in moving back and resettling in nearby areas can be applied in other villages. Xingshan County explored a number of measures that are described in the article titled “Gaining Benefits Before Inundation and Good Planning After Inundation.” Baoping Township, Yunyang County, expanded its existing orchards. Wuling Township, Wanxian County, expanded its town-owned orchards which years ago had been a sent-down educated youth farm (*zhishi qingnian nongchan*) and provided experiences in township-run orchards. Shizhu County provided an article titled “Develop Land to Resettle Relocatees and Increase Profits.” Changshou County reviewed the experience of developing a local fruit known as sandy tangerines and of laying a foundation for resettlement. Badong County provided experiences in using resources on state-owned farms to plant orchards for relocatees. Taipingxi Township, Yichang County, provided experience from developing tea farms on which relocatees can be resettled. Fengjie County provided experiences in animal husbandry and similar endeavors.

The experiences drawn from these trial projects in rural population resettlement are varied and rich and reflect the success of these projects. They also indicate that there is sufficient space for resettling people. This not only guarantees that the people’s current living standards will not decline, but indicates that they will prosper and may get rich.

Though there are fewer articles on urban resettlement, the volume provides general information on its success. It also points out that urban resettlement needs to focus on the construction of road, water, and electricity projects and must control construction below the submersion line. Another important focus is education, which is touched on in many arti-

cles and which is key to the success of resettlement work. Why is the orange technology program organized by the Badong Population Resettlement Bureau so welcome? And why did the same program in Zhenxi Township of Fuling Municipality achieve such rapid results? The key to their success was the considerable attention paid to education.

Resettlement is an important part of and a critical factor in the success of the entire Three Gorges project. Our five-year experience demonstrates that we must reform the lump-sum reimbursement practice followed in past resettlement projects. Each case in this volume examines one aspect of the new method and points out where improvements should be made.

The purpose of this book is, on the one hand, to inform society and help people from all walks of life understand the situation and, on the other hand, to play a role in exchanging experiences in the Three Gorges reservoir area so as to generate support for the project and do a good job in resettlement work. For this reason, we sincerely hope that those who are concerned with and those who participated in trial projects contribute good articles for future publications.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Vice Premier Zou Jiahua, who wrote the inscription on the book flyleaf, to State Council member Chen Junsheng, to Vice President Wang Renzhong, who wrote the calligraphy on the cover of the book, and to all those comrades who expressed an interest in the book. We would also like to extend our gratitude for the concern and support we received from comrades in the central government, which will undoubtedly inspire cadres and masses in the Three Gorges area to devote even greater efforts toward the construction of the project. It is a pity that our beloved Comrade Cheng Zihua passed away before the book’s publication. But on his sickbed his concern for the project remained and he too wrote inscriptions for the flyleaf. Let us dedicate this book as an everlasting memorial to this great proletarian revolutionary as well as to our revolutionary predecessors.