

Observations on November 4 Meeting with Professor Huang Ding Mo,  
Tsinghua University

Mr. Huang may be the prime example of entrepreneurship in a country becoming increasingly market oriented. In the 1950's, he adapted a Russian design for the first Chinese-manufactured car. In 1978, when China was beginning to emerge from the Cultural Revolution, he anticipated that economic management and joint ventures would become the wave of the future. He left engineering to specialize in finance -- not unlike the exodus of American engineering students into investment banking! As China becomes more entrepreneurial, he anticipates a situation in which the labor force gains higher skills and wages but, as he describes it, loses the security of the "iron rice bowl." He believes the government has the responsibility to ensure that everyone "continues to eat" but the population also should have a choice of a "wide array of dishes, some of which are delicacies." (It may not be coincidental that Mr. Huang is housed in the most modern building I visited in any educational institution in Beijing.)

The range of Mr. Huang's interests and expertise can perhaps best be illustrated by his requests for information on the topics below. He wants results of current studies in the United States, funding, and technical assistance.

Engineering Education

Reports on undergraduate and graduate engineering "reforms" in the United States, with a view toward providing information which will help Chinese universities provide a broader-based, less-specialized training in engineering.

Mathematics Education

Reports on curricula which stress practical mathematical applications, e.g. problem solving and statistics.

Technology Training

Information about funding sources for training programs, especially in electronics, under a cooperative agreement between an American university, Tsinghua University and industry.

Technology Transfer Policy

Availability of funding for seminars modeled after a recent seminar sponsored by the Economic Development Institute.

Joint Research Projects

Information about the United States/China Cooperative Research Program.

Fellowships

Information about graduate fellowships for which foreign nationals are eligible.

Management Training

Recommendations for university faculty who might conduct management training to help ameliorate culture conflict between Chinese and American managers participating in joint ventures.

  
Iris C. Rotberg