

具体的な実例による「融合文化研究」に対する論評
Comments and Reports on Adopting the Principle of
“Harmony & Combination of Cultures”¹⁾ through a Solid Example

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「融合文化」という考え方に触れたとき、その実際の意味は一体何だろうか、ある社会、あるいはある国全体の国民が外来文化を融合するならどうなるか、を考えた。去年2回ほど中国に行き、その答えが見つかった。世界の経済と文化を融合しているこの国は、20年という短期間に急成長した。とても不思議である。その理由に関してさまざまな説があるに違いない。しかし、もっとも説得力のある解釈は「融合文化論」であろう。本稿では、故郷、広州の急変は「融合文化」の活動にかかわっていることを述べる。

The principle of “Harmony & Combination of Cultures” indicates that it is very important to borrow and to be friendly towards foreign cultures. We have a lot of problems in our society. We need good ideas to solve these dilemmas. If we were lack of proper ideas, it would be desirable to import foreign wisdoms. Many countries have chosen “close-door” policies once a while. But in order to improve their living standards or to keep peace or to fulfill other purposes, they opened up again. There is a convincing example to demonstrate the incredible changes through the practice of the above principle.

Many people in the world are conducting this foreign cultural absorbing and renovation process. Within 20 years of time, one country in this world, for example, has made tremendous progress through adopting this process. This country is P.R.China. Many places in this country are developing rapidly in almost every field. My hometown, Guangzhou city, is a striking example. The city is the capital one of Guangdong

province with a population of about 10 million. Last year the Guangdong province produced 12% of the GDP of China.²⁾ (There are 29 provinces in China).

Furthermore, 14% of the national tax income came from this province last year. And 14% of the national savings in the banks belongs to the people of Guangdong province.³⁾ “The richest town in this province is my hometown, Guangzhou. The average monthly income of the citizens ranks number two in China.”⁴⁾ Any corners of Guangzhou contain beautiful tall buildings.

Nevertheless, 15 years ago, there were few tall buildings in the city, and the streets were narrow. For instance, there were few buildings around the foot of Mt. Baiyun (a mountain within the city area, see the photo below). But the secret of the above success is owing to the Chinese slogan, “Opening, Reforming” policy, which means that China has to be flexible and ready to accept any ideal foreign cultures as well as to overcome native irrational decisions in order to solve their problems. The people of Guangzhou, for example, are combining native good ideas and foreign ones to create policies which facilitate economic development. I think many developed countries have once adopted these policies (more or less), too, such as Japan, Korea, Chinese Taiwan, etc.

“First, they made the influx of foreign investment and equipments come in easily and smoothly through several measures such as the free use of land to foreign investors, the availability of well-structured industrial centers, imposing low tax to foreign companies. Second, the people of Guangdong built nuclear electricity generators to guarantee sufficient power supplies. Third, they deliberately created a unique industrial structure which is that they chose primarily to develop an economy basing on consuming-style industries such as chemical ones, light industries of textiles & electric utensils, housing industry, automobile (car & motor-bike alike) industry, and service ones.



Buildings under the foot of the Mt. Baiyun now. Photo by Eito Takano.

Forth, they require foreign companies or co-operation firms to export most of their products. In this case, the province is earning plenty of foreign currencies. They use this money to purchase foreign hi-techs and equipments in order to make high-quality products to compete internationally. Fifth, they ask foreign economic experts from the so-called capitalist countries to be their managers and advisors. As a result of the above policies, the Guangdong people, especially the Guangzhou people are being able to absorb foreign ideas and funds to produce large quantities of goods and services. Good products were selling well and they were exported. So great amounts of income went into the city.”⁵⁾

20 years ago they criticized capitalism for being exploitable and depressive. Now they are welcoming capitalists with widely opened arms and hugging them tightly. Their success mentioned above is a result of combining and making harmony to various cultures, at the moment, mainly economic cultures.

Now let us briefly study how the Guangzhou citizens adopted foreign ideas to solve their housing problem. 10 years ago, the people were living crowdedly. “But after they adopted the ‘Hong Kong, Singapore’ tall building technology, their shelter spaces got broadened. They asked foreign architects to design tall buildings for them.”⁶⁾ Now you can see tall residential and business buildings of over 30 stories in many places of the

city.

In conclusion, because the Guangzhou people could open up their minds for good ideas from different cultures and skillfully combine them, they have been being able to attract foreign investments and experts. It is obvious that they can quickly accept good ideas and take actions on them. That is why there have been so many changes since I left there 15 years ago. I completely believe that, if a nation adopts the principle of “Harmony & Combination of Cultures”, they can have a prosperous life, and can enjoy higher level of social civilization.

References:

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- 3) Lo Kaifu, “Guangdong overpassed four little dragons in Asia”, *Yangcheng Evening News* , CN44-0006, No.8207, Aug.2002, p.1.
- 4) Comments from Prof. Song Shi -der, expert on Asthma disease and Medical Statistic, Professor of “Guangdong Nanda Professional College”.
- 5) Comments from Mr.Song Fangwen, General Manager of “Shenzhen Jian An Pharmaceutical Co. China”, in charge of the branch offices in 4 provinces.
- 6) As above.