



The Guangdong Model of Urbanisation

Collective village land and the making of a new middle class

Him Chung and Jonathan Unger



Electronic version

URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/chinaperspectives/6258>

DOI: 10.4000/chinaperspectives.6258

ISSN: 1996-4617

Publisher

Centre d'étude français sur la Chine contemporaine

Printed version

Date of publication: 1 September 2013

Number of pages: 33-41

ISSN: 2070-3449

Electronic reference

Him Chung and Jonathan Unger, « The Guangdong Model of Urbanisation », *China Perspectives* [Online], 2013/3 | 2013, Online since 01 September 2016, connection on 28 October 2019. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/chinaperspectives/6258> ; DOI : 10.4000/chinaperspectives.6258

This text was automatically generated on 28 October 2019.

© All rights reserved

The Guangdong Model of Urbanisation

Collective village land and the making of a new middle class

Him Chung and Jonathan Unger

ABSTRACTS

In some parts of China – and especially in Guangdong Province in southern China – rural communities have retained ownership of much of their land when its use is converted into urban neighbourhoods or industrial zones. In these areas, the rural collectives, rather than disappearing, have converted themselves into property companies and have been re-energised and strengthened as rental income pours into their coffers. The native residents, rather than being relocated, usually remain in the village's old residential area. As beneficiaries of the profits generated by their village collective, they have become a new propertied class, often living in middle-class comfort on their dividends and rents. How this operates – and the major economic and social ramifications – is examined through onsite research in four communities: an industrialised village in the Pearl River delta; an urban neighbourhood in Shenzhen with its own subway station, whose land is still owned and administered by rural collectives; and two villages-in-the-city in Guangzhou's new downtown districts, where fancy housing estates and high-rise office blocks owned by village collectives are springing up alongside newly rebuilt village temples and lineage halls.

INDEX

Keywords: Guangdong., land retention, urbanisation, village collectives

AUTHORS

HIM CHUNG

Him Chung is Associate Professor of Geography, Hong Kong Baptist University. Department of Geography, Hong Kong Baptist University, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong (himchung@hkbu.edu.hk).

JONATHAN UNGER

Jonathan Unger, a sociologist, is a Professor in the Political & Social Change Department of The Australian National University and director of the ANU's Contemporary China Centre. Contemporary China Centre, Coombs Building, ANU, Canberra 0200, Australia (jonathan.unger@anu.edu.au).