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research

Villagers' Representative Assemblies: Towards Democracy or Centralism?

By 1994, over half the villages nationwide had established VRAs. Those who support them believe that direct democracy is simply impracticable in modern life. Those who oppose them feel powerless in stopping continuous infringement of their democratic rights by higher-level governments and abuse of power by their elected officials.

by Sylvia CHAN 179

Parasites or Civilisers: The Legitimacy of the Chinese Communist Party in Rural Areas

The CPC is struggling to redefine its legitimacy in poor, rural areas. It is well aware that not only can public opinion potentially shake the leadership, but that the Party-state cannot get things done if it is not perceived as legitimate. The credibility of the Party appears to be particularly fragile at the township-village interface.

by Stig THØGERSEN 200

Household Decisions and Gender Inequality in Education in Rural China

Improving girls' enrolment in formal schooling is an important challenge in rural China. In a survey of four rural counties in Gansu and Hebei, parents clearly had higher educational expectations for boys than for girls. Gender inequality in education is inherent in China's widening rural-urban disparities.

by Danke LI and Mun C. TSANG 224

The Quest for Good Governance: Hong Kong's Principal Officials Accountability System

Since the Handover in 1997, Hong Kong's government policies and operations have been subject to increasing scrutiny by the public, media and Legco. The POAS was introduced in Hong Kong in July 2002 in an attempt to enhance the quality of governance and accountability among its principal government officials.

by CHEUNG Chor-yung 249

China's Outward Direct Investment: Expanding Worldwide

Chinese business ventures have been established in more than 160 countries. The rapidly growing ODI reflects not only China's increasing integration with the global economy, but also its continuing need to expand overseas to secure natural resources and advanced technology. However, compared to other countries, government support for ODI is weak.

by John WONG and Sarah CHAN 273

comments and notes

China and Asia in a New Era

China is now becoming widely perceived as an economic threat to the world, particularly Asia. The government is therefore keen to put this fear into perspective, and to maintain and further develop strong political, social, and economic ties with neighbouring Asian countries, both large and small.

by FU Ying 304

Hong Kong's Autonomy: Concept, Developments and Characteristics

Before 1 July 1997, Hong Kong underwent great change from de facto autonomy to de jure autonomy. Today, the Joint Declaration ensures it enjoys high autonomy at the international level, while the Basic Law ensures it at the level of Chinese domestic law.

by ZENG Huaqun 313

Taiwan: Consolidating its Democracy?

Taiwan's so-called consolidation of democracy did not make the political system work better. In fact, it made political reform nearly impossible. The power transition also caused the economy, social relations, human rights, military policy, and foreign affairs all to deteriorate.

by John F. COPPER 326

China's Export Tax Rebate Policy

China is now the fifth largest exporting country in the world. Of the various policy measures adopted by the government to encourage exports, the export rebate policy is amongst the most important. However, it has become a heavy fiscal burden for the central government.

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China-ASEAN relations

Chronology of Events: October 2002 to June 2003

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“India's Perspective on ASEAN and the Asia Pacific Region” address
delivered by H.E. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister of India, Annual
Singapore Lecture at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore

“Japan and ASEAN in East Asia — A Sincere and Open Partnership” speech
by Prime Minister of Japan Junichiro Koizumi in Singapore

Joint Statement “ASEAN+3 Ministers of Health Special Meeting on Severe
Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)” in Kuala Lumpur

Joint Statement “The Special ASEAN-China Leaders Meeting on the Severe
Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)” in Bangkok