

Nam Wai HDP Summaries for the Global Archives website

1. Description of Nam Wai

Nam Wai is a "Hakka ancestral village located in the Sai Kung District on the south shore of Hebe Haven" (*Nam Wai* 3). The village's name "means 'South Wall' and refers to a seawall built by the villagers in the 1800's to enclose 24 acres of padi which were cultivated ...until the early 1960's when a major typhoon hit the area" (*Nam Wai* 3). Some problems faced by the village at the time were illiteracy among villagers over 30, only one two-room primary school with a student to teacher ratio of 50:2, bus transportation couldn't handle early morning commuters, and not many homes could be refurbished (*Nam Wai* 3). After much investigation and consultation, Nam Wai was chosen since "it is a clearly defined yet insular village, is readily accessible from Kowloon, displays obvious human need, and is representative of development needs in the Sai Kung District and the whole of the New Territories" (*Nam Wai* 4). Public and private figures in the Sai Kung District consented on the condition that the residents approved too and after meeting with village leaders, they "expressed whole-hearted appreciation and support for such a project" (*Nam Wai* 4). According to a July 1978 issue of *Amcham*, another reason for the site being chosen was "...that the local people were interested in self help. They wanted to change and they were ready to work at it" (34).

2. The Nam Wai HDP Consult Planning Event

The Consult took place from February 27-March 5, 1977 and there were 113 consultants in addition to about 100 residents being "indirectly involved through field work contacts (*Nam Wai* 4-5). There were 74 non-resident consultants and participants "from four other Human Development Projects: Inyan Wakagapi in North America, Kelapa Dua in Indonesia, Kwangyung Il in Korea, and Sudtonggan in the Republic of the Philippines" (*Nam Wai* 5). The Operating Vision included a goal of improving the local economy, construction projects to revitalize the area, increasing literacy and vocational training (*Nam Wai* 12-13) and "...enhancing cultural wisdom, particularly with regard to recovering the stories, songs, corporate stability and sensitivity of the Hakka heritage" (*Nam Wai* 13).

3. Summary of Accomplishments

According to a July 1978 article from *Amcham*, the ICA's program introduced more crops, two companies agreed to invest in the village, the Agriculture and Fisheries Department provided twelve pigs and a boar (34-35) and "[t]o further encourage agriculture, there has been an expanding education program in commercial vegetable production and horticulture" (35). At the time, the ICA introduced a total of thirteen programs, community cleanup days were created, the main road was repaired, and "[t]he utilities delivery system has resulted in half the village collecting pig manure twice a week, which is then processed for fertilizer" (35).

5. The "Residue"

Institute of Cultural Affairs. *Nam Wai Human Development Project: Consultation Summary Statement*. February-March 1977. Collection of the ICA-USA Greenrise, Uptown, Chicago, Illinois.

"A Question of Sharing." *Amcham, Journal of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong*, July 1978, pp.34-35.