

LONGYANG



龙岩

Pic. 1: map

FACTS

Inhabitants:	2.868.500(2002)
Surface:	19.100 km ²
Language:	Mandarin, Hakka
Climate:	subtropical
Topography:	mountainous
economical situation:	
GDP:	25,8 billion Renminbi
GDP per capita:	8.944 Renminbi
Export:	48 million US-Dollar
Import:	5 million US-Dollar

INTRODUCTION

Longyan county is the synonym for the Longan a fruit. Longyan is situated in south of Fujian on the border to Guangdong und Jiangxi province. Longyang is the home of the Hakka people. It is divided in seven districts: Shanghang, Wuping, Liansheng, Changding, Zhangping, Yongding, Longyan with the Capital

Longyan. Yongding district is situated to the border of Guangdong province. Yongding is famous for its earthrammed Hakka dwellings and the Wuyi Mountains. Hakka dwellings can be found: Long Yan City, Yongkanglou, Yanxianglou, Zhenfulou, Huanjilou, Chuxi Tulou, Gaobei Tulou, Chengqilou, Qiaofulou, Hongkeng Tulou and also in Zhangzhou county.

INFRASTRUCTURE



Pic. 2: Hakka dwelling village



Pic. 3: Hakka dwelling

The roadnetwork of Longyang county is like the rest of Fujian province in a good condition. Fujian has about of 50 000 km roads and 1000 km motorways. Today many road projects are under the rule of public-private partnership, therefore on many motorways and bridges you have to pay toll. The railway and telecommunication network is still underdeveloped.

SETTLEMENT STRUCTURE

A village in Longyang consists of two or three, or even one, of a tulou (the name of a earthrammed Hakka dwelling), each surrounded by a handful of huts and inhabited exclusively by a single clan. Each tulou contains many of the functions normally necessary for a village. In many respects, a tulou is a village. The tulou villages are rarely planned. The belief behind fengshui, wind and water, ordili, the principles of the earth, is that any change can evoke positive or negative forces and it is important to maintain the balance. Any change in the landscape has a series of consequences that must be controlled in order to maintain the balance. Therefore the major decisions regarding the choice of site and a building's orientation are taken by the geomancer, who by the use of the 'five phases' (or 'five elements', wood, fire, metal, water and earth) reads the landscape and ground conditions in order to exploit these forces

positively, and normally with respect for the neighbouring properties. The ancestral altar was the heart of the house. The geomancer first found the suitable spot for the altar, and the rest of the house was built around it. Its configuration channeled the qi of the local environment into the ancestral tablets where the reproductive vitality of the family was concentrated. A well sited and well layout or the house brought health, wealth, and happiness, and numerous male heirs; a badly sited dwelling brought strife between father and son, shameless daughters, loss of wealth, and illness. (Klaas Ruitenbeek („Carpentry and Building in Late Imperial China") in Francesca Bray: „Technology and Society in Ming China (1368-1644)", p.61, American Historical Association, 2000).

MOBILITY

Until the 1960's many villages in Longyang were connected to the outside world by narrow, almost impassable roads. Since then, small paved roads along the river or the valley have been built. Landslides caused by floods, with houses and roads disappearing into the river are not uncommon.

MATERIALS

For the construction of the tulou the Hakka people prefer stones (mostly from the local river), clay ,sedimentary mud from the rice fields, wood (normally pine), a type of mud, or a mixture of earth, sand and lime which is called sanhetu. Some tulou were constructed completely of cut granite or of substantial walls of fired brick. Most large-scaled tulous seen today were built of a composite material known as sanhetu.



Pic. 4: outer wall of an earthrammed tulou, Zhenchenglou, Hongkeng

Images:

Pic.-Nr.:1 <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bild:Zhangzhoukreise.png>;
Pic.-Nr.:2 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Hakka_tulou.jpg;
Pic.-Nr.:3 <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bild:HakkaYongding.jpg>;
Pic.-Nr.:4 Jens Aaberg-Jørgensen, <http://www.chinadwelling.dk>;

Literature:

Klaas Ruitenbeek „Carpentry and Building in Late Imperial China“ in Francesca Bray: „Technology and Society in Ming China (1368-1644)“, p. 61, American Historical Association, 2000.
Ronald G. Knapp: „China's Old Dwelling“, Honolulu 2000, p. 260 p.266.

Websites:

<http://www.chinadwelling.dk/>
<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fujian>
<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yongding>