

# The dynamics of networking in a Chinese rural village

by FUKAO Yoko and YASUTOMI Ayumu

The dynamics of networking in a Chinese rural village on the Loess Plateau is discussed. In our field research, we concentrate our attention on the process of construction of a house, especially 'Yaodong' (a traditional cave-style house). Since a lot of labour is needed for house construction, we can observe the method for villagers to mobilize labour not only from the labour market but also through their 'Guangxi' network.

We find some villagers work with wage, and others work without it in the same scene of house construction. The former is called 'Gu' and the latter 'Xianghuo'. 'Gu' is highly related with the market, and 'Xianghuo' is connected to 'Guangxi'.

Villagers strategically adopt these two methods depending on the depth of relationship with others. If a villager's 'Guangxi' relationship with another villager is sufficiently deep, the former will work without wage when the latter constructs a house. If not, he will be employed with wage. The depth of 'Guangxi' affects on the choice between 'Gu' and 'Xianghuo', and the latter affects on the former.

The society of this village is organized as a network of 'Guangxi' between villagers. This organization is similar to that of bazaar in a city of Morocco, reported by C.Geertz. Critically analyzing his model, we propose a model of the dynamics of networking of Chinese people in this rural village.