Along the Chinese Coastline, Economic Dragon Awakens

By EDWARD A. GARGAN
Special to The New York Times

SHUNDE, China — Xian Tian hefted a cardboard box containing a "Royal Flush" ceiling fan, a gaudy four-bladed contraption with a globular lamp destined for an American discount department store.

"For Americans," Mr. Xian said as he stood beside an assembly line in his cavernous electric products factory. "Everything we make goes to the United States."

Mr. Xian, his 1,500 workers and the fans they produce for America's Wal-Marts and K Marts represent a central pillar of China's new economic strategy, a policy that envisions using the relatively cheap labor along the nation's coast to produce industrial and consumer goods for world markets.

The Dragons of Asia

As China hurries away from the Soviet-style socialism it adopted in the 1950's and embraces an economy governed not by the planners' whims but by market demand, the country's leaders have increasingly turned to capitalist models of development.

The most visible of those models lie around China's edges. Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, the dragons of Asia, have been catapulted into economic success, first by reliance on inexpensive labor to manufacture cheap products for export, and later through integrated, highly developed economies that compete worldwide in a vast array of goods and services.

This is the pattern that China wants to copy, and it intends to do so along the 1,800-mile littoral that protrudes into the China Sea. The policy is perhaps most apparent here in Shunde, 1,200 miles south of Beijing and just 40 miles

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Princess Goes Home

Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, holding her unnamed 5-day-old daughter, the Princess of York, on their way home from hospital.