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MORE JOBS THAN WORKERS

by Ray Arthur Monigold II
[see end piece for source material]

JOBS for anyone willing to work
WE WILL TRAIN YOU
Pays best salary in industry
ALL BENEFITS included – Call

MOVE HERE TO WORK
We will pay for your move
No contract to sign
BEST STARTING PAY
Includes ALL MEALS FREE

SIGNING BONUS
For all qualified workers
NEED Supervisors
May include NEW CAR and Gas

Fantasy classified ads? No, they are real - plucked from the newspapers and copied off the handbills plastering every blank wall in towns and cities throughout China.

THERE IS A LABOR SHORTAGE IN CHINA!

This is significant. First noted and reported in 2004, the Chinese officials who once discounted the phenomena as an anomaly are now indicating that a shift in production is taking place. Not a country who welcomes foreigners for anything but tourism, China has a strict anti immigration policy. Compounding this is the need to increase the speed of agricultural automation. Farmers are leaving home in hopes of becoming a part of the fastest growing group of people in the world today - China's Middle Class.

The labor in industry problems are so complex and pervasive that China is officially rethinking it's national strategies. Having decoupled from the weary dollar as a method of monetary measurement and refusing to revalue it's own currency, too much money - in country - is becoming a problem. Unable to simply ship dollars back to America for fear of fouling our money nest with inflation, thus hobbling the power of 200 million crazed shoppers, China is redistributing green backs in an effort to get the bucks returned to their home court through the back door. A large South American country has just paid it's defaulted World Bank loans, in full, with dollars from China. In exchange, they are aerating millions of acres to plant soy beans for China. This same thing is happening throughout South America and soy oil products could soon displace petro oil products as the top cash producer for the region. Likewise, a few former Soviet States are now partnering with China to develop their vast oil reserves using - you guessed it - American Dollars.

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[continued]

Meanwhile, due to the human resource shortage, some of China's factories are having to pay more for labor than non subsidized, genuine capitalistic precepts might otherwise permit. These same facilities are rapidly upscaling to higher priced, more sophisticated manufacturing, thus leveling out the economic balance sheets. Asian computer chip makers, once thought to have a lock on high tech production, are now looking over their shoulders as China's dragon of expansion and innovation moves closer to their factory doors.

And on the low end production news, China is borrowing a page from our play book - outsourcing. Some of China's basic goods, like textiles are being off loaded to Vietnam and Bangladesh where labor is still cheap, but quality remains high. These two countries are still reeling from the shut down of U.S. importing after our government raised tariffs on their products to protect the now missing American textile giants. Glad to see a resurgence of interest from anyone, Vietnamese and Bangladesh business owners are welcoming China with open arms.

And to wrap up this tale of money, people, factories and shopping malls, lets take a look at two more classified ads (of the near future) - this time they are in The States:

DISHWASHER WANTED

Minimum – Masters of Science

Long Hours – Low Pay

Only Registered U.S. Citizens need apply

Dry-cleaning steam press operator

Must be experienced with recommendations

Will be laid off or fired

When better applicant is found

Good Luck to us all, fellow Americans, we are going to need it!

This story was compiled from the filings of reporters stationed in China. Published in The New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, BBC World News and culled from the contemporary archives of public records.

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Founded in 1946