

F. University 671

Chapter 671: Casting for 'Wandering Earth'

"Xiao Chen, are the performing arts students from the Film and Television Academy ready?"

"Director Su, the students are already here."

"Alright, let them wait for a bit, I'll notify Principal Ding."

In the office building of the Film and Television Academy at Mist City Arts and Science University, Su Yangfan took out his mobile phone and dialed a number for Principal Ding.

Today was the casting for the science fiction movie project "Wandering Earth".

Specifically, it was for the two main roles, the male lead Liu Qi and the female lead Han Duo Duo. Based on his previous conversation with Principal Ding, Su Yangfan knew that they should ideally be chosen from among the performance arts students of the Film and Television Institute of Mist City Arts and Science University.

If no satisfactory characters could be chosen, they would have to search among the acting departments of other higher education institutions.

Su Yangfan understood Principal Ding's preference to prioritize his own students. Besides, it would be excellent if they could find suitable actors among the students from the same school's performance arts department. That would also save the trouble of later selecting the leads.

The reason that the casting for the lead male and female characters was starting so quickly was because Su Yangfan had already had the science fiction novel "Wandering Earth" given to him by Principal Ding, adapted into a screenplay by his screenwriter friend.

Moreover, most of the team members from his previous film "Transdimensional Contact" were now in place.

He didn't expect them to be willing to leave their original companies to shoot a science fiction movie with Su Yangfan again.

Most importantly, the money was ready.

A day before, the CEO of Feiyue Group, which backs Mist City Arts and Science University, Ms. An Yujia, approached Su Yangfan stating that the funds from the Feiyue Group were in place, and they could contribute to the science fiction movie project "Wandering Earth".

With money, Su Yangfan could start this massive science fiction film project.

He estimated that the initial investment for this project would be at least a hundred million, as the special effects were indeed a significant expense.

As a director, Su Yangfan naturally knew which scenes to shoot that required expensive special effects. The story of "Wandering Earth", about global temperatures plummeting, disasters raining down, and humans having to propel Earth away from the solar system, required special effects throughout the entire tale.

Therefore, Su Yangfan estimated at least one hundred million at a minimum. It could possibly require even more, to create the grand and majestic scenes that Principal Ding had described during their last chat.

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is not answering. Please try again later!"

Su Yangfan got through but no one answered.

"Huh? Didn't Principal Ding take his phone?" Su Yangfan mumbled to himself, puzzled.

It shouldn't be; Principal Ding's number should always be reachable unless his mobile phone was not near him.

"Let me try calling Secretary Wen," Su Yangfan muttered, calling Wen Ruohan, Principal Ding's personal assistant.

Ding~ Ding~ Ding~

Ding~

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is not answering. Please try again later!"

It was the same prompt.

This made Su Yangfan feel strange. How could both Principal Ding and Secretary Wen be unreachable at the same time?

Could they be...

"Director Su, should we head over to the casting site now?" Assistant Xiao Chen asked Su Yangfan from the side.

Su Yangfan frowned, shook his head slightly and said, "No rush."

Principal Ding had taken great pains for the casting of the male and female leads for "Wandering Earth". He had said he would participate in the selection personally.

But now, the moment to start selecting the leads was near and Su Yangfan couldn't get hold of Principal Ding.

Ding~ Ding~ Ding~

Ding~ Ding~

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is not answering. Please try again later!"

Su Yangfan dialed Principal Ding's phone again, but still, no one answered.

At this moment.

In the advanced medical laboratory of the Medical College of Mist City Arts and Science University, Ding Yue was showing Professor Yang Kaining from the Swiss Zurich Federal Institute of Technology, along with five doctoral students of Professor Yang, around the laboratory to learn about the 3D biological printer and its related technology.

Since it was a high-end medical laboratory, everybody had to change into a dust-free, sterile suit before entering.

When Ding Yue was changing his clothes, he left his mobile phone outside in the changing room, and now it had two missed calls.

But Ding Yue didn't know.

"Principal Ding, your university's 3D biological printer is fantastic, this... it's unbelievable!"

Professor Yang Kaining was filled with excitement after seeing the 3D biological printer in the laboratory.

This was a level of excitement that he, at his age, should not have. Even when making research discoveries, Professor Yang Kaining had never been this thrilled.

In front of Professor Yang Kaining, a white 3D biological printer looked ordinary, as if no different from an ordinary printer from the outside.

However, this one was no ordinary printer. This was a 3D biological printer, and its internal structure was extremely complex.

A 3D biological printer is a precision mechanical device that assembles biological materials or cell units in a precise location under the direction of a digital three-dimensional model, following the principles of additive manufacturing, thus creating medical devices, tissue-engineered scaffolds, tissue organs, and other products.

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Ever since the advent of modern medicine, organ transplantation surgery has been able to save countless lives of patients whose organs were failing or damaged. However, this technology brought

about downsides such as organ sourcing difficulties and the unavoidable immune rejection response.

However, with the introduction of the 3D bio-printer, these issues now have a new technical solution. The 3D bio-printer first feeds in a three-dimensional model built or designed from medical imaging data, dissects the model into numerous layers, and the printer's nozzle layer-by-layer "prints" the "bio ink" composed of biological materials or cells, under the computer's control. This process is continuously repeated until the three-dimensional tissue precursor is printed. After this, the cells start to reorganize and fuse to form new vessels and other tissue structures.

Next to this machine, there was a computer linked to it. Standing in front of the computer was none other than the most famous computer genius at Mist City Arts and Science University, Xu Bin!

Besides Xu Bin, there was also a teacher from the medical school at Mist City Arts and Science University, who was specifically responsible for medical imaging.

"Professor Yang, I suppose now you're completely convinced that our Mist City Arts and Science University possesses a 3D bio-printer. What we lack now is the bio ink made of biological materials or cells," said Ding Yue, with a smile to Professor Yang Kaining.

Professor Yang Kaining nodded, his mind was still filled with immense excitement, "Once this technology can be applied to the medical field, it will be a great leap forward in biomedicine."

Though Professor Yang Kaining's words sounded a bit exaggerated, the mature application of 3D bio-printing indeed bore significant importance towards the medical field.

At least patients who had difficulty finding matching biological tissue organs, or incompatible organ transplant surgeries due to immune rejection, finally had a perfect alternative that could ensure the tissues needed are printed according to their requirements!

"This is absolutely amazing, I love this research project!"

"Tom, look, a 3D bio-printer."

"A lot of medical science and technology institutions in our country are researching 3D bio-printers. It's unbelievable that there's already such advanced machinery in Xia Country."

"I'm totally shocked, it has completely changed my impression of Mist City Arts and Science University."

"This medical lab is truly marvelous, many biological experiments could be done here."

After touring the medical lab at Mist City Arts and Science University and seeing the 3D bio-printer, the five doctoral students of Professor Yang Kaining were overwhelmed with admiration.

Their earlier contempt had all but vanished, only admiration and awe remained for what they were seeing.

This kind of lab might not even exist at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich.

"Dean Ding, I can't wait to start the biomedical project at your university." The words of Professor Yang Kaining echoed with great enthusiasm.

Upon hearing this, Xu Dongcheng standing nearby could not help but feel delighted.

Ding Yue immediately asked with a smile: "Then Professor Yang, how long do you think it will take to create the perfect bio ink by combining biological tissue cell technology with the 3D bio-printer?"

This is a crucial question.

This was also the question that Xu Dongcheng was most interested in knowing. Hearing Dean Ding ask this, his eyes unwittingly widened as he stared at Professor Yang Kaining.

"I will strive to achieve this integration within six months!" Professor Yang Kaining took a deep breath and said, almost like taking a military order.

Six months!

Xu Dongcheng was very satisfied with this timeline.

Because Xu Dongcheng had previously thought that if Mist City Arts and Science University was not able to invite Professor Yang Kaining, then under the worst-case scenario, he himself would need to research biological tissue cell technology, and the time required would be unknown. His beloved daughter, Xu Meijia, might not be able to wait until the day the 3D bio-printer could officially be used.

When Xu Dongcheng heard Professor Yang Kaining say it would take six months, he felt as happy as if it were New Year's.

At this point, Dean Ding gave a glance to Principal Xu Dongcheng, then looked back at Professor Yang Kaining, and said: "If that's the case, Professor Yang, that is really great."

If Professor Yang Kaining's biological tissue cell technology could perfectly merge with the 3D bio-printer at Mist City Arts and Science University within half a year, then followed by clinical trials and national approval applications, provided the process is efficient, should pose no problem within three months.

With all this taken into consideration.

A rough estimation would be that within less than a year's time, the 3D bio-printer at Mist City Arts and Science University could print out its first human organ — a liver.

And it will be a liver organ specifically tailored for Xu Meijia!

"So, when do we start, right now?" Professor Yang Kaining asked hopefully.

"No, no, no, Professor Yang, you came straight here after getting off the plane, and then to the lab, you haven't even rested yet. You'll be more effective after a good rest."

Ding Yue quickly shook his head.

Indeed, he had to arrange for Professor Yang and his five doctoral students to rest first. Working on research required a well-rested and well-fed body.

Thus.

Ding Yue left the laboratory with Professor Yang Kaining and others. When they returned to the changing room, he checked the time on his phone and noticed two missed calls from Su Yangfan.

"Hmm?"

Ding Yue, with a puzzled look on his face, called Su Yangfan back.

What would Su Yangfan be calling for?

Recently, Ding Yue was so busy that he might forget about other things when he was preoccupied.

He had spent much of his time recently focusing on his biomedical engineering work at Mist City Arts and Science University, even undertaking a special trip to Zurich Federal Institute of Technology in Europe, Switzerland.

"Principal Ding, Director Su called me, and also sent me a Whatsapp message asking about you...."

Wen Ruohan's voice came from beside him.

"I know, I'm calling Director Su back." Ding Yue nodded gently.

It seems that Su Yangfan really needed something urgently? Not only did he call him, but he also called Wen Ruohan and sent her a Whatsapp message.

"Hello, Director Su."

Once the call was connected, Ding Yue asked directly, "You wanted to see me?"

"Principal Ding, I finally got hold of you."

"I was in the lab with a professor from abroad and didn't have my phone on me." Ding Yue briefly explained.

"Oh, Principal Ding, here's the thing. The acting students from our Film and Television Academy who have signed up for the 'Wandering Earth' auditions are all ready. There will be a mass audition today. You said last time that you'd personally pick the male and female leads, so..."

"So that's what this is about. You see, I was so busy that I pushed it to the back of my mind. Yes, I'll personally oversee the casting of the male and female leads for 'Wandering Earth'!"

Ding Yue suddenly realized what Su Yangfan wanted.

This is indeed important. After all, the success of casting the perfect male and female leads would, to some extent, impact the success of 'Wandering Earth'.

The success of 'Wandering Earth' was crucial for Mist City Arts and Science University's ability to make money in the film and entertainment industry. This money would then be invested, just like the box office earnings from 'Super Combat Team', in the construction and development of Mist City Arts and Science University.

There are still many departments and majors at Mist City Arts and Science University that need funding to grow, and many outstanding students across different departments and majors still haven't had a chance to showcase their talents.

This is because Ding Yue is genuinely in need of funds.

The money had been spent where it was needed: campus expansion, investing in lithography machine projects, graphene battery projects, biomedical engineering projects, animation major investments, and other aspects of Feiyue Group. All these required funding.

"Principal Ding, it's okay, we haven't started yet. We're waiting for you."

"Okay, I'll be right there. Where should I go?"

"The gymnasium."

Chapter 673: What to Do if the Students are Too Excellent?

Mist City Arts and Science University Gymnasium.

More and more film students gathered in the gymnasium, eager to see the "Auditions for Actor Roles" being held today.

The students didn't know for which movie or TV series the auditions were for, but they knew it was being organized by the film school and Director Su Yangfan.

As Su Yangfan was a relatively well-known director nationwide and was also a lecturer in the Director specialty at Mist City Arts and Science University's Film School, the film students naturally wanted to see who Director Su would choose for the roles.

"Is it said that Director Su is preparing to shoot the next TV series?"

"Being able to take part in a TV drama directed by Director Su is a big deal."

"Unfortunately, I'm not majoring in acting."

"How wonderful is Director Su? He is selecting actors from our University."

"I heard that this film project by Director Su was funded by Principal Ding."

"Oh, no wonder. It turns out to be Principal Ding. Principal Ding is really rich, and he always has the best interests of us, the students of Mist City Arts and Science University, in mind."

"Of course, we have a close relationship with Principal Ding."

The students who came to watch were all discussing and finding seats in the gymnasium.

In the middle of the gymnasium, where basketball is usually played, the logistics department had helped the Film School set up the area.

The setup wasn't complex—several tables were placed on the left, leaving a large space in the middle for the enrolled students to show off their talent.

In the middle of the row of tables, a spot was left empty.

This spot was of course reserved by Su Yangfan for Principal Ding. Su Yangfan sat to the right of the empty seat, and on his left sat Director Zhu Youzhao of the Film School.

Zhu Youzhao was very keen to help arrange the audition event once he learned that it had been personally approved by Principal Ding.

"Director Su, when will Principal Ding arrive?"

Zhu Youzhao asked after seeing everything was ready.

"I just contacted Principal Ding, and he will arrive soon."

"Good."

The two chatted casually.

"By the way, Director Su, can you reveal what roles are being selected for the film project?"

Zhu Youzhao asked, unable to curb his curiosity.

Besides Su Yangfan and his team, no one else knew about the "Wandering Earth" project.

After all, the new movie project had just started, and it was still necessary to maintain some secrecy.

"Well, the project is only just beginning the casting phase, I hope you understand, Director Zhu," Su Yangfan replied somewhat awkwardly.

Even if he was the Dean of the Film School, Su Yangfan would not tell him what film project he was doing at this time.

"Of course, I understand." Zhu Youzhao nodded and smiled after hearing Su Yangfan's response.

Just then, Ding Yue came from behind, saw Zhu Youzhao and Su Yangfan chatting happily, and asked: "What are you two discussing?"

"Haha, we were just chatting, please take a seat, Principal Ding," Zhu Youzhao immediately stood up and gave Ding Yue room to sit, he even pulled a chair back for him.

When Ding Yue came to sit down, his secretary Wen Ruohan stood behind him.

When Ding Yue arrived at the gymnasium, the students cheered enthusiastically upon seeing him.

Seeing the students' enthusiasm, Ding Yue waved to everyone in greeting.

"Is everything ready?"

After greeting the students, Ding Yue turned to Su Yangfan next to him and asked.

"Yes," Su Yangfan nodded.

"Then, let's begin."

"Alright Principal Ding, Xiao Chen, go notify the registered students to prepare to go on stage in order," Director Su Yangfan promptly said to his assistant, Xiao Chen.

After receiving the instructions, Xiao Chen headed to the rest room of the enrolled students, and announced at the door: "Everyone, prepare according to your number, it's now time for student number 1 to prepare."

As Ding Yue and Su Yangfan chatted casually, student number 1 walked to the center of the basketball court, about three to five meters from Ding Yue and Su Yangfan.

This time, the auditions will be for the roles of Liu Qi and Han Duo Duo from "Wandering Earth."

The roles were suitable for actors in their teens or twenties, which perfectly matched the acting students at Mist City Arts and Science University's Film School.

"Hello Principal Ding, Director Zhu, teacher Su, I'm number 1, my name is Zhao Hao and I'm from the Film and Television Drama Department."

After Zhao Hao came on stage, he made a brief self-introduction first.

Ding Yue's eyes landed on Zhao Hao, and he thought this student was not bad at first glance.

He wasn't the typical young male star type; the hair was short and sharp, and he didn't have the fanciful look of young actors.

Ding Yue thought that Zhao Hao's overall appearance was quite suitable to play the character of Liu Qi in "Wandering Earth."

Of course, this was just his appearance. Even if Ding Yue was not an expert, he would not decide on him just based on this. He would definitely need to evaluate his acting skills.

Chapter 674: What to Do if the Students are Too Excellent?

After all, Liu Qi's character in "Wandering Earth" is quite challenging to portray well in terms of acting skills.

At least, Ding Yue felt the Liu Qi and Han Duo Duo in the original "Wandering Earth" movie on the old Earth missed something.

Especially Han Duo Duo, her performance was a bit stiff.

Su Yangfan was in charge of selecting students based on their acting abilities. After a brief introduction by the student Zhao Hao, Su Yangfan picked up a prepared booklet and turned his attention to Zhao Hao.

"Start with a performance of despair," Su Yangfan said to Zhao Hao, smiling.

In "Wandering Earth", the protagonist Liu Qi repeatedly faced desperate situations, so a performance of despair was particularly critical.

Su Yangfan wanted to use this opportunity to gauge Zhao Hao's acting skills since he was a performing arts student at the Mist City Arts and Science University.

Within a second, Zhao Hao instantly immersed himself in his performance.

His face and eyes exuded a deep sense of despair, and his breath began to falter with the intensity of his fraught emotions.

Ding Yue was pleasantly surprised by Zhao Hao's intensity.

This student, Zhao Hao, seemed quite good.

"Principal Ding, look at Zhao Hao. When he acts out despair, he fully commits his body to the performance. Beyond facial expressions, which are common, pay attention to the small details. Notice his hands, their restlessness is indicative of his profound despair," said Su Yangfan in a hushed tone, elaborating on Zhao Hao's performance to Ding Yue.

"Hmm, isn't he quite good?"

"More than 'quite good', he's excellent. I didn't expect the first student to surprise me this much," Su Yangfan said satisfactorily.

Indeed, Zhao Hao's portrayal of despair greatly satisfied Su Yangfan.

Zhao Hao's performance lasted 45 seconds — short, but long enough to show his strength, or at least a level of skill that pleased Su Yangfan.

"Great, very good, Zhao Hao. Next, give me a performance of a young man maturing and taking on significant responsibilities," Su Yangfan gave Zhao Hao another prompt.

Ding Yue quickly thought of Liu Qi's character in "Wandering Earth", who gradually matures and becomes responsible, stepping up to shoulder the burden in the rescue process. This aspect of the performance was indeed important.

After understanding Su Yangfan's point, Zhao Hao took about ten seconds to adjust himself.

After all, he had just been in a state of despair; a shift in emotion was certainly required.

A dozen seconds later, Zhao Hao was back in character and spoke a few improvised lines fitting the theme of 'young man maturing' suggested by Su Yangfan.

"Hmm, not bad," said Su Yangfan, still satisfied.

If no other student outperformed Zhao Hao later in the auditions, Su Yangfan even considered proposing to Principal Ding that they choose Zhao Hao as the male lead in "Wandering Earth".

In fact, Ding Yue was very satisfied with Zhao Hao's audition performance.

"Director Su, Zhao Hao did well, didn't he?" Ding Yue asked Su Yangfan.

With a slight nod, Su Yangfan responded, "Yes, Principal Ding, should we place Zhao Hao on the reserved list?"

"Sure."

The so-called reserved list meant that the student's performance had met the requirements of the lead role, but since he was the first, there would be many other students auditioning. If Ding Yue and Su Yangfan were satisfied with multiple students, they would all be placed on the list to select the best one in the end.

"That's it for you, Zhao Hao. Go back and wait for further notice," Su Yangfan formally instructed Zhao Hao.

"Didn't Su say whether he passed or not?"

"Who knows?"

"I think Zhao Hao's performance was pretty good."

"Yes, yes, Hao was really fantastic."

"There are so many students left, they wouldn't just choose Zhao Hao now. Surely, they will wait until everyone has auditioned before making a decision."

"Right, let's see how the other students perform."

The students in the gym began whispering amongst themselves.

After his audition, Zhao Hao saluted the audience and returned to the green room. The audition for student number 2 began.

The number 2 student gave off a lively vibe right off the bat.

Upon seeing this number 2 student, Ding Yue couldn't help but be struck, this student... didn't seem quite right for the role of the male lead, Liu Qi.

But!

There was still a role in "Wandering Earth" perfectly suited for him!

That's right!

It was the young punk that Liu Qi and his sister Han Duo Duo bumped into after they were caught.

"Hello Principal Ding, Director Zhu, and Teacher Su, I am student number 2, Zhou Shanchuan, majoring in Acting from the Film and Television Academy."

The student also gave a simple self-introduction.

"Director Su, don't you think this student's demeanor and appearance suits another role?"

Ding Yue smiled and asked Su Yangfan.

Upon hearing this, Su Yangfan immediately broke into a smile, "Principal Ding, are you referring to that punk, Tim?"

"Yes," Ding Yue confirmed with a nod.

After a moment's thought, Su Yangfan spoke, "Principal Ding, I think the role of Tim could serve as the comic relief throughout the movie."

"Indeed."

Once settled, Su Yangfan lifted his gaze towards Zhou Shanchuan and said, "Zhou Shanchuan, try to portray a character that brings about a comedic atmosphere, a cheerful role, one that can stay optimistic under the grave overarching theme."

Su Yangfan asked Zhou Shanchuan to act out the role of Tim in "Wandering Earth."

Upon hearing this, Zhou Shanchuan nodded, "Alright, Teacher Su, let me prepare."

Zhou Shanchuan began to immerse himself into the role, and about half a minute later, he started his audition performance amidst the silence of the room.

Ding Yue watched closely.

Although Zhou Shanchuan wasn't mixed-race, he had that certain look, and his ability to create a comedic atmosphere was surprisingly good.

"Well."

Ding Yue couldn't help but chuckle.

How could this be? Are all the students who signed up for the "Wandering Earth" character auditions so outstanding?

What... should they do if all the students were too outstanding?

Ding Yue was ecstatic inside.

Zhou Shanchuan's impromptu performance lasted for about two minutes. Afterward, he looked towards Principal Ding and Director Su Yangfan.

"Director Su, what do you think?" Ding Yue turned to ask Su Yangfan first.

"Quite good. Although his performance just now was a bit off, I believe once he joins the cast and under my guidance, he should be able to perform the role of Tim well."

Hearing Su Yangfan say this, Ding Yue pretty much understood.

Director Su Yangfan seems to be quite approving of Zhou Shanchuan.

"The choice for the role of Tim, being able to find such a fitting student, isn't easy. Why not just settle on him?"

Ding Yue suggested with a smile.

"Alright then."

Seeing that Principal Ding had said so, Su Yangfan nodded in agreement right away.

Then, Su Yangfan turned to Zhou Shanchuan, wearing a smile, and said, "Congratulations Zhou Shanchuan, you've secured a role. Wait for our further instructions!"

A burst of applause~

The observing students in the gym got excited upon hearing Director Su Yangfan's words and felt happy for Zhou Shanchuan.

"Wow, Zhou Shanchuan got a role, didn't Zhao Hao get one earlier?"

"Maybe they're different types of roles, didn't you see that Zhou Shanchuan is clearly not the same type as Zhao Hao?"

"Right right, that scene Zhou Shanchuan just performed was amazing."

"As expected of an acting Major, our classmates from Mist City Arts and Science University are not any worse than those professionally trained ones, hahaha."

Chapter 675: Education Services of a Dragon

What surprised Ding Yue was that the students who came to participate in the auditions today actually performed quite well.

Besides the student who was particularly suitable for the role of Tim, the roles for the male lead Liu Qi and the female lead Han Duo Duo had not been cast yet.

Among the potential choices for the role of Liu Qi, four students were quite suitable, and one of them was not even a major in acting.

There were two girls who were suitable for the role of Han Duo Duo; both were acting majors and looked sweet and innocent.

The auditions took a total of two and a half hours to complete.

"Principal Ding, all the students who have registered for the audition have finished. When will the lead roles be finalized?"

Su Yangfan looked at Principal Ding and asked.

Although he, as the director, has the final say in such matters, since Principal Ding was present and participated in the selection of the actors, he had to consult Principal Ding's advice.

"Based on the progress of your 'Wandering Earth' project, you should decide as soon as possible. Also, how is the search for other actors?"

Ding Yue paused for a moment, in his opinion, Su Yangfan should have some autonomy.

Even though he was the one who invested all the money in the 'Wandering Earth', Ding Yue was not a professional anyway. His role was merely to act as a "quality supervisor".

"Right then, Principal Ding, this is my plan. The performances of these six students are all pretty good. I would decide who is most suitable to perform based on the other roles we find later on, such as Liu Qi and Han Duo Duo's grandfather, Han Zi'ang, and Liu Qi's father, Liu Peiqiang."

Su Yangfan shared his thoughts.

"Not bad, that's a good idea. Let's proceed according to your thoughts." Ding Yue nodded approvingly upon hearing this.

"As for the task of finding other actors, I have delegated it to the assistant director. We strive to find actors with good skills, those second or third-tier familiar faces with good reputations, what do you think, Principal Ding?"

Su Yangfan asked again.

On reflection, Ding Yue remembered that in the original 'Wandering Earth', many supporting characters were familiar faces to varying degrees, which was a decent idea.

"Excellent!"

Seeing Principal Ding's affirmation, Su Yangfan felt relieved because he could now proceed without restraint.

"I am really fond of 'Wandering Earth' and have high hopes for it. Director Su, don't disappoint me."

Ding Yue stood up, patted Su Yangfan's shoulder lightly.

In an instant...

Su Yangfan felt a burden on his shoulders, but it was this sense of responsibility that gave him the motivation to move forward.

"Principal Ding, rest assured, I will go all out in filming. Once the project is completed, I will present it to you first. If it does not meet your satisfaction, I will continue to film until it does!"

Su Yangfan spoke resolutely to Ding Yue.

The shooting and production of the sci-fi film 'Wandering Earth' are not just about fulfilling Principal Ding's huge expectations but also his chance to make a name for himself in the industry and rise to the top-tier directors.

"That's good to hear, Secretary Wen, let's go back to the office."

Seeing Su Yangfan speaking with such resolution, Ding Yue nodded with satisfaction and left the sports hall with his Secretary Wen Ruohan.

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Three days later...

The biomedical engineering project of the Medical College of Mist City Arts and Science University was progressing smoothly. Professor Yang Kaining from the Swiss Zurich Federal Institute of Technology in Europe, along with his five doctoral students and the team from Mist City Arts and Science University, were collaborating on the fusion of 3D biological printers and biological tissue cell materials technology.

During these three days, Principal Xu Dongcheng from Westlight University stayed at Mist City Arts and Science University, closely following the progress of the biomedical engineering project.

However, such a project cannot be finished overnight. Professor Yang also stated that six months would be a milestone.

As a result...

After staying at Mist City Arts and Science University for three days, Principal Xu Dongcheng prepared to depart.

There were still many affairs waiting to be handled by Principal Xu Dongcheng at Westlight University.

On the morning of January 6th...

Ding Yue personally escorted Principal Xu Dongcheng to the entrance of Mist City Arts and Science University.

He didn't need to see him off to the airport, after all, it'd be a waste of time due to the distance. Since their relationship has improved significantly, there's no need for such formalities.

"Principal Xu, have a safe journey. As soon as there's any progress here, I'll inform you immediately," Ding Yue said warmly to Principal Xu Dongcheng during their farewell.

"There's no need to walk me further, Principal Ding. I am looking forward to hearing good news from Mist City Arts and Science University."

Xu Dongcheng was in unusually high spirits.

He had always been somewhat gloomy due to his daughter's incurable illness; no amount of money he possessed could help her.

But now it was different.

Xu Dongcheng had seen hope for his daughter Xu Meijia to survive. Everything depended on Mist City Arts and Science University now.

"Oh yes, Principal Ding, if the Biomedical Engineering research encounters a funding gap, feel free to let me know. I can afford to contribute a little cash as the head of a listed company."

Xu Dongcheng suddenly said generously to Ding Yue.

Wow!

His words are indeed domineering, money is really a good thing.

In fact, aside from fixed assets (schools), Ding Yue is not as rich as Xu Dongcheng.

After all, Xu Dongcheng's Westlight Education Group is a listed company, and its stock has always been pretty good.

If it is a private education enterprise, in Xia Country, Westlight Education is well-known.

From universities, to high schools, to middle schools, and elementary schools, the Westlight Education Group has a comprehensive system, and its training institutions are also well-known in the country, occupying a large market share.

For the president of such a company, one hundred million, two hundred million, etc., are indeed small change.

Although Ding Yue knows that he is not as wealthy as Principal Xu Dongcheng, he believes that with the rapid development of Mist City Arts and Science University, surpassing Xu Dongcheng should not be difficult.

However, Ding Yue believes that Westlight Education Group has some worth learning for his Feiyue Group.

Now it's not the best time to imitate it, but it would be a nice option after Mist City Arts and Science University develops a stronger social status and strength, and when Ding Yue has more money.

"Principal Xu, you have already invested a hundred million and asked for nothing in return. I can't take advantage of you any more. Plus, our biomedical engineering project should not lack funds, don't worry."

Ding Yue said to Xu Dongcheng somewhat embarrassed.

The secretary, Wen Ruohan, had already informed Ding Yue about the hundred million in these days, and it had been transferred to the account. The money sender was exactly Westlight Education Group under Principal Xu Dongcheng.

Ding Yue will not misuse this money, it all goes into the biomedical engineering project.

Although a lot of biomedical engineering project equipment comes from the advanced laboratory that Ding Yue obtains through the system, without spending its own money.

But the subsequent research is definitely a costly process.

Not to mention, Principal Xu Dongcheng's hundred million really does help in a time of crisis.

Ding Yue currently has about ten billion on hand, and he needs to plan carefully how to invest in the lithography machine experiment project, his sister Ding Xiaoyou's graphene battery technology project, and other major and minor projects in the computer and mechanical departments. They all require a lot of money.

As for Director Su Yangfan's "Wandering Earth" project, and Xu Jiuge's "Love, Death and Robots" anime series project from Feiyue Animation Studio, the funds have already been allocated.

That's why after the box office revenue of "Super Combat Team" was settled at over twelve billion, Ding Yue still had about ten billion left.

"Well then, if you need my help, Principal Ding, feel free to let me know!" Xu Dongcheng said generously.

After chatting with Principal Xu Dongcheng for a few more minutes, the car had already stopped up ahead.

"Get in the car, Principal Xu, see you next time."

"Next time!"

Watching the car carrying Principal Xu Dongcheng leave his sight, Ding Yue let out a long sigh: "I hope Principal Xu's daughter can be the first beneficiary of our 3D biological printer at Mist City Arts and Science University."

Secretary Wen Ruohan, who was standing nearby, heard Principal Ding's sentiment, and said with great confidence, "Principal Ding, I'm sure she can."

"Let's go back."

Ding Yue did not say that he was 100% confident about this matter, because what if something goes wrong in the middle or an insurmountable difficulty is encountered?

But hope is a good thing.

On his way back to the principal's office in the Administration Building, Ding Yue was once again reminded of Xu Dongcheng's generosity and then thought of Xu Dongcheng's Westlight Education Group.

In the few days that Principal Xu Dongcheng has been at Mist City Arts and Science University, in addition to the matter of biomedical engineering, he has also discussed many other topics with Ding Yue.

For example, the reform of Westlight University, and the success of Westlight Education Group.

The important reason why Westlight Education Group can succeed, becoming one of the top private education groups in the country, is that Westlight Education Group has created a system of private education chains.

That is, underneath Westlight University, there are the affiliated middle school of Westlight University, Westlight Middle School, Westlight Elementary School, and Westlight Educational Institutions, etc.

These have almost made Xu Dongcheng a brand.

Westlight Middle School can be found in all major cities across the country.

And it's also a prestigious private key middle school.

"Wen Ruohan, do you think when our Mist City Arts and Science University has developed in the future, can we establish a few affiliated middle schools?"

Ding Yue casually brought this up to his secretary, Wen Ruohan.

After all, Ding Yue didn't plan to do it now. At the current stage, Mist City Arts and Science University does not have the capabilities.

Before itself is fully developed, there is no mention of setting up affiliated schools.

"Oh, Principal Ding, you know, many universities do have affiliated middle schools." Wen Ruohan exclaimed after hearing this: "For example, Central University Attached Middle School in Xia Country, Yancheng Junior High School..."

Listening to Wen Ruohan, Ding Yue couldn't help but smile.

Indeed, even Yancheng University and Qinghua University, the top domestic institutions, have Yancheng University Attached Middle School and Qinghua Attached Middle School respectively.

Chapter 676: The Request of the Agriculture and Forestry Academy

Upon returning to the Administration Building, Ding Yue and his secretary, Wen Ruohan, chatted casually about the topic of full-cycle education services.

Ding Yue asked Wen Ruohan to organize and compile some data on the non-priority development departments of Mist City Arts and Science University for his perusal.

Ever since Ding Yue and Principal Xu Dongcheng jointly flew to Zurich, Switzerland, to invite Professor Yang Kaining, Ding Yue's interest in the aerospace department—an unappreciated department of his own Mist City Arts and Science University—grew.

Perhaps in the first few years, Ding Yue wouldn't be able to foster the development of these departments.

After all, his current focus is heavily on the departments of mechanics, computer science, medicine, film and television, and animation.

But the other departments should also be developed to some extent.

That's why Ding Yue asked Wen Ruohan to compile the data for him to review; he then planned to allocate more funds to these departments.

Before Wen Ruohan presented the organized data, Ding Yue couldn't help but ponder over the notion of full-cycle education services again.

He found it interesting to fantasize without spending any money, as he had nothing urgent to do at the moment anyway.

If he established an affiliated middle school, he could start cultivating potential students for his university from middle and high school.

Although Mist City Arts and Science University currently doesn't set any thresholds or minimum scores for admissions, as the university continues to develop, it might have to implement such measures eventually.

When that time comes, how can the university admit those students who wish to enroll at Mist City Arts and Sciences University, but have poor grades?

This is where the affiliated middle school could be an excellent option.

After paying the tuition to the affiliated middle school, students can directly advance to Mist City Arts and Science University to continue their undergraduate studies.

Furthermore, Ding Yue realized that the affiliated middle schools or junior and senior high schools under Mist City Arts and Science University could cultivate top-performing talents.

If these exceptional prospective students were to attend Mist City Arts and Science University, wouldn't that be akin to giving wings to a tiger, allowing it to soar?

Ding Yue felt a little excited at this thought.

"Principal Ding, here are the materials you requested on various departments," said Wen Ruohan, interrupting Ding Yue's thoughts on full-cycle education construction.

She has already printed the basic information of various departments at Mist City Arts and Science University, which she had collected over the past few days by liaising with department heads and then compiled it all together.

"Good job."

Ding Yue affirmed Wen Ruohan's efficiency, took the data from her, and began to review it carefully.

An hour passed unnoticed.

From the data compiled by Wen Ruohan, Ding Yue noticed that Mist City Arts and Science University invested heavily in the fields of computer science, mechanics, physics, architecture, and medicine.

These departments have also given adequate returns to Ding Yue, as he has witnessed the emergence of talented students within them.

Aside from these science and engineering departments, the fields of media and arts, specifically the academy of film and television, art department and animation major, are also developing quite satisfactorily at Mist City Arts and Science University.

Game design, a special major, has also received some investment from Ding Yue. However, whether this investment will yield results depends on whether the students of this major can develop the game engine Ding Yue is hoping for.

All the above-mentioned departments and majors are ones that Ding Yue has invested additional funds into for further development at Mist City Arts and Science University.

There are some others where Ding Yue has only provided basic educational funding and has not invested more.

For example, departments like aerospace, agriculture, economics, history, and other majors such as bioengineering, public administration, hydraulic and hydroelectric engineering, resources and environment, tourism management, textile and light industry.

After all, Mist City Arts and Sciences University has over a hundred majors, including some newly established ones. However, for the new majors, Ding Yue invests more than they do for traditional ones.

For example, the Institute of Traditional Chinese Studies, Culinary Arts School, eSports Academy, and others.

"I need to allocate some more funds to increase the educational spending for these remaining departments and majors. That way, we should be able to unearth more outstanding student talents," Ding Yue mused as he looked over the data.

While the Aerospace Institute is a department worth developing aggressively, given Mist City's current capabilities, it would likely be a challenge to foster its growth. Hence, Ding Yue marked the Aerospace Institute as a long-term development target.

In the short term, he would gradually increase funding. Once Mist City Arts and Science University grows stronger, the Aerospace Institute can begin to shine its light.

Perhaps in Ding Yue's lifetime, he might witness the birth of indigenous aircraft and spacecraft that his Mist City Arts and Science University helped research and develop!

Seeing Principal Ding so engrossed in his work, Wen Ruohan decided not to interrupt him.

She returned to her desk and continued her own work, arranging the subsequent itinerary for Principal Ding, and managing all information and documents. This way, she could easily retrieve them when Principal Ding needed them.

Chapter 677: The Request of the Agriculture and Forestry Academy

Ding, ding, ding!

Suddenly, Wen Ruohan's phone buzzed. There was a Whatsapp message.

As Wen Ruohan pulled out her phone and opened Whatsapp, she found that the message was from Director Jia Nong, the head of the Agricultural faculty at Mist City Arts and Science University.

Jia Nong: Secretary Wen, is Principal Ding in his office at the Administration Building?

After reading Director Jia Nong's message, Wen Ruohan immediately replied, "Yes, Director Jia. Principal Ding is in his office. Do you have something for him?"

Jia Nong: Um, yes, there's something.

"Okay, I will inform Principal Ding right now. You can come over, Director Jia." After replying to Director Jia Nong's message, Wen Ruohan gets up and walks towards Principal Ding's office desk.

"Principal Ding."

"Hmm?"

Ding Yue is absorbed in understanding the details of each department and major at Mist City Arts and Science University. Hearing Wen Ruohan's call, he looks up at her. "What happened?"

"Director Jia Nong just told me that he will be coming over to see you soon. Apparently, there's some matter," Wen Ruohan reported.

"Jia Nong..."

Ding Yue feels that the name sounds familiar. He seems to have seen it in some document, and it also faintly resonates.

In less than a second, Ding Yue recalled.

Isn't Jia Nong the head of the Agricultural and Forestry faculty at Mist City Arts and Science University?

To be precise, it's the Agricultural faculty. Yet everyone tends to call it the Agricultural and Forestry faculty.

This is because all majors related to agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and animal husbandry are grouped under this faculty.

"Okay, I got it," Ding Yue slightly nodded.

The Agricultural faculty!

Ding Yue nearly forgot about this major. Agriculture is the cornerstone of the country, and fields such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and animal husbandry are significant industries. They have always been an essential part of human life.

Agriculture, to this day, has already entered the modern agriculture stage.

Forestry, Xia Country's authorities once said, green mountains are gold mountains. Natural environments, trees, and forests are all intricately connected to forestry.

Not to mention fisheries and livestock industries, which are closely intertwined with people's lives.

Such a faculty does seem worth developing.

Developing modern agriculture and forestry, creating a modern ecological agriculture and forestry industry, and creating clear waters and blue skies seem to be missions bestowed upon us by this era.

After informing Principal Ding about Director Jia Nong's forthcoming visit, Wen Ruohan picked up her phone and messaged Director Jia Nong. "Director Jia, I have informed Principal Ding. When you arrive, just knock on the door."

Jia Nong: Ok Secretary Wen, thank you.

Even though Ding Yue doesn't know why Director Jia Nong from the Agricultural faculty is coming to see him, he starts paying attention to this faculty related to agriculture and nature from this moment.

Ding!

"Congratulations, host, for obtaining a new University Development Task - ongoing poverty alleviation through professional alignment!"

"Task: [Ongoing Poverty Alleviation Through Professional Alignment]."

"Content: Please, host, combine university course contents, carry out work to consolidate poverty alleviation results, and launch at least one poverty alleviation project."

"Task Reward: +50 reputation points, [Level 3 University Treasure Chest +1]."

Suddenly, at this moment, a system task notification sound echoed in Ding Yue's mind.

This University Development Task appeared while Ding Yue was thinking about the Agricultural faculty.

Ding Yue confirmed his previous idea once again.

That is, when he was thinking about issues related to the majors and faculties of Mist City Arts and Science University, it's possible that the system may trigger tasks related to it.

Take, for example, this University Development Task of [ongoing poverty alleviation through professional alignment]. It's quite clear that it pertains to agriculture and planting.

After all, areas that need poverty alleviation are mostly remote rural areas. Although Xia Country achieved comprehensive poverty relief in 2020, consolidating the results of the poverty alleviation is also a daunting task.

Ding Yue began to seriously consider this new university development task.

The reward for this task, a [Level 3 University Treasure Chest], was very enticing as Level 3 chests usually contain valuable items.

Given the task was [Major-Corresponding Poverty Alleviation in Progress], Ding Yue thought, the most suitable approach would be to assign it to the College of Agriculture, to provide agricultural technical support to areas needing to consolidate poverty relief results.

Such support could be treated as a project, and, upon completion, be counted as fulfilling this university development task, right?

But!

Once graduated, students of the College of Agriculture at Mist City Arts and Science University probably all want to pursue respectable jobs in modern agriculture. Who would be conscious enough to work in providing technical support in impoverished regions?

That's a problem.

However, for Ding Yue, this problem was not a difficult one to resolve. If he, as the Principal, were to propose, would there still be students who wouldn't respond?

If there were no students responding, then he, as the principal, could only be described as failing badly.

"It would be great timing for Director Jia Nong's imminent visit."

Ding Yue pondered that once Director Jia Nong came, he could directly discuss this issue with him.

Moreover, Ding Yue had even thought of a justification—using the pretext of internship opportunities for the students.

Knock, knock, knock!

Just as Ding Yue was considering the university development task, there was a knock on the office door.

Wen Ruohan hastily stood up from her workspace and opened the door, "Director Jia, you're here, please come in."

A middle-aged man in his forties with slightly dark skin stepped in from the doorway. He was Jia Nong, the department head of the College of Agriculture at Mist City Arts and Science University, and reputedly a graduate student from an agricultural college.

When Mist City Arts and Science University needed to recruit teachers for all its faculties, there weren't many applicants for the College of Agriculture, one of which was Jia Nong. With his specialized academic qualifications, there was hardly anyone better than him.

Therefore, not only did Jia Nong become a lecturer at the College of Agriculture of Mist City Arts and Science University, he also directly assumed the role of the department head.

"Director Jia has arrived, please, take a seat, take a seat."

Ding Yue gave a warm greeting to Jia Nong as soon as he entered the office.

Jia Nong felt a bit out of place as Principal Ding was so enthusiastic towards him upon his arrival. Although he had heard that Principal Ding was a young, capable, easygoing person, what left a deeper impression in his mind was the incident where Principal Ding had a flare-up at the Film and Television Academy.

"Ah, okay, thank you, Principal Ding." With a hint of nervousness, Jia Nong took a seat on the couch in Principal Ding's office.

Upon seeing this, Ding Yue rose from his office chair, walked towards Director Jia Nong, and smilingly asked, "Director Jia, did you come to see me for some matters? Or, is there any issue with the teaching work at the College of Agriculture?"

"No, no, no, not at all. There's no issue with teaching at the College of Agriculture. Although we don't have many students, the teaching activities are carried out smoothly and our students are all very good."

Upon hearing this, Director Jia hurriedly shook his head.

He wouldn't dare admit if there were any issues with the teaching work. If there were any problems, wouldn't that mean he had failed in his duties as the department head?

In fact, there were indeed no issues with the teaching work at the College of Agriculture.

"Well then?"

Ding Yue continued to ask with a smile.

"Principal Ding, the thing is that although our college has few students, they are very eager to learn. They all want to improve their knowledge through practical operations. Therefore, the students asked me if... if..."

Upon meeting Principal Ding's gaze, Jia Nong became somewhat nervous.

"Director Jia, take your time." Seeing that Director Jia seemed a bit flustered, Ding Yue told him to relax.

"The students primarily want a modern ecological agriculture garden for practical operations, only... our college has limited teaching funds each year, just enough for regular teaching activities. Therefore, the students asked me to propose to Principal Ding to see if we could create a modern

ecological agriculture garden for the College of Agriculture. Actually, it doesn't need to be that large, a small area will suffice."

Jia Nong finally managed to put forth his request.

In essence, he was asking Principal Ding for money.

As Principal Ding was in charge of the entire Mist City Arts and Science University, whether he would provide funding for the development of the College of Agriculture completely depended on his judgment.

Chapter 678: 10,000 Yuan Subsidy + Credits

After hearing what Director Jia Nong had to say, Ding Yue understood what he meant.

It seems that he's searching for another "call to arms".

Just like the film and television academy before, the students had seen the mechanical department, computer department, architecture academy and other departments of Mist City Arts and Science University receiving strong financial support from Ding Yue.

Thus, the film and television academy students also wanted such an opportunity, leading to Zhu Youzhao, the dean of the film and television academy, approaching Principal Ding about it.

At that time, Ding Yue gave an opportunity to the proactive film and television academy, investing several millions of yuan for them to make a documentary.

The students and teachers of the film and television academy managed to produce it despite several setbacks, and even won the Documentary Gold Medal at the NTS Gala last year, and also renewed the contract for the second season of "A Bite of Xia Country" with NTS.

The film and television academy could be considered a successful example of this "call to arms".

Now that Jia Nong has come to Ding Yue, he is also hoping for Ding Yue to provide the same opportunity to the agricultural college.

Ding Yue pondered over it and decided it wouldn't hurt.

He just happened to have received a mission from his system that was perfectly suited for the agricultural college to undertake, so Ding Yue decided to discuss it fully with Jia Nong.

"Director Jia, the matter you brought up does indeed require meaningful attention from the school. After all, the students of the agricultural college need more than theoretical knowledge from textbooks. They also need firsthand experience and practice,"

Ding Yue calmly said to Jia Nong.

Upon hearing this, Jia Nong was overjoyed, thinking that things seemed promising: "Yes, yes, yes, Principal Ding, you're absolutely right."

"However..."

Ding Yue suddenly changed the topic, causing Jia Nong to pause abruptly.

Ding Yue revealed an expression of helplessness and said to Jia Nong: "Director Jia, as you know, the school's current budget is a bit strained. We are carrying out a large-scale extension project which requires a considerable expenditure, and we also have several major projects that are quite costly."

Jia Nong of course knew of this. Although he didn't know what the major projects were, he was aware of their existence, projects that the mechanical department, medical college, computer department, and film and television academy were undertaking.

"Yes, indeed... well, I understand, Principal Ding." Upon hearing Principal Ding's words, Jia Nong did not dare to hope for more.

If Principal Ding can't spare any funds, even if he had made the request on behalf of the students of the agricultural college for an agricultural practice base, it would be useless.

"Director Jia, don't be so pessimistic." Ding Yue stretched out his hand, signalling for Jia Nong to stabilize his emotions, as he sounded quite discouraged.

Am I, the principal of a university, that disappointing?

"Huh?"

Jia Nong looked up, utterly confused by Principal Ding's words.

"Although the school's current funds are a bit tight, we could still consider allocating some money to establish a modern Ecological Agriculture Garden for the agricultural college." As Ding Yue said this, a hint of a smile appeared on his face.

Upon hearing this, Jia Nong was ecstatic: "Principal Ding, are you serious?"

"Ahem, Director Jia, has my word ever been unfulfilled?" Ding Yue gave a light cough, shooting a glance at Director Jia Nong.

"Of course, Principal Ding's words have always been unambiguous!" Jia Nong hastily nodded.

Jia Nong, who has held the position of director of the agricultural college at Mist City Arts and Science University for some time, was well aware that Principal Ding always kept his word. When it came to giving rewards, Principal Ding has always been generous.

"How much money will it need, roughly?"

Ding Yue turned his serious gaze towards Director Jia Nong, asking.

"The current size and teaching scale of our agricultural college are not very large, therefore our planned modern ecological agriculture garden - a base for our students to operate, does not need to be large either, in total it would be around 5 acres, and capital-wise it would require between 10 and 20 million yuan."

Jia Nong hastily briefed Principal Ding.

Since he was representing the students to request an operation base at the agricultural college from Principal Ding, he was certainly prepared.

"5 acres, more than 10 million, too small," Ding Yue laughed and shook his head.

"Huh?"

Jia Nong was stunned, completely puzzled by Principal Ding's words.

In reality, establishing an agricultural garden with 5 acres of land would already meet the needs of the agricultural college.

With a confident smile, Ding Yue confidently said to Jia Nong: "Director Jia, our Mist City Arts and Science University will have more and more students interested in the agriculture and forestry industry. Making strides in modern ecological agriculture and cultivation is also a long-term goal for our Xia Country. With this in mind, why not build a larger agricultural garden for our students to practice and operate?"

So that's what Principal Ding meant!

After hearing this, Jia Nong couldn't help but admire Principal Ding's vision for the future.

Jia Nong had realistically only considered the present situation, thinking a 5-acre modern ecological agricultural garden would be enough for the agricultural college, but he hadn't thought about the future at all.

"Principal Ding, you're exactly right, how large do you think we should build our modern ecological agriculture garden?" Jia Nong turned to stare at Principal Ding, asking in all seriousness.

Chapter 679: 10,000 Yuan Subsidy + Credits

"100 acres!" Ding Yue said cheerfully: "If the Agricultural College enrolls more students than expected in the future, then we can expand later. Moreover, constructing a 100-acre modern Ecological Agriculture Garden for teaching can also enhance the influence of our Mist City Arts and Science University's Agricultural College, don't you agree?"

"Yes, yes, yes!" Director Jia Nong hastily nodded in agreement.

Ding Yue's thought was as such — rather than constructing a smaller, 5-acre modern Ecological Agriculture Garden for the practical teaching work of the Agricultural College, why not create a larger one? At that time, this 100-acre modern Ecological Agriculture Garden could become a major focus for students wanting to study agricultural and related majors.

Ding Yue even thought that 100 acres were too small. If there was more land available, he even planned to establish a 1000-acre modern Ecological Agriculture Garden base for the teachers and students of the Agricultural College to carry out practical operations and related research.

Unfortunately, Mist City Arts and Science University did not have that much land now. Most of the 5000 acres had already been planned for other uses.

It was not easy to squeeze out this 100 acres. Later, Ding Yue would have the Architecture College reconsider the planning of the new sports center so that another 100 acres could be used for building the modern Ecological Agriculture Garden needed by the Agricultural College.

"Principal Ding, if we were to develop 100 acres, the necessary funds would be around 50 million to 80 million yuan." Director Jia Nong had calculated a rough estimate in his mind and then reminded Principal Ding.

After all, he had come to request the university to build a 5-acre modern Ecological Agriculture Garden on behalf of the teachers and students of the Agricultural College. This would only require more than 10 million yuan.

Although the area had expanded 20 times, the actual investment was not based on this proportion.

Because a large portion of the money budgeted for the 5-acre Agricultural Garden that Jia Nong had previously proposed was actually used to purchase equipment.

"No problem."

Ding Yue said to Director Jia Nong readily.

At this moment, how excited Director Jia was inside could not be put into words.

"But..." Ding Yue made the excited Director Jia tense up again.

"Principal Ding, what's the matter?" Director Jia asked anxiously.

"Our Agricultural College students should get some experience before the modern Ecological Agriculture Garden is established, don't you think?"

Ding Yue smiled and looked at Director Jia as he asked.

"Yes, yes!" Director Jia nodded: "The students of the class of 2020 have learned a lot of agricultural knowledge and skills, and it's indeed time for them to get some experience. However, according to the school's arrangement, internships are scheduled for the junior and senior years."

"We can definitely advance it. Isn't there a call for poverty alleviation and aid to farmers in our Xia Country now? Although the poverty alleviation results of our country are really good, consolidating these results is also a very important project. Although Mist City Arts and Science University is not a public university, participating in the work of consolidating poverty alleviation results will definitely enhance the reputation of our Agricultural College. Director Jia, don't you think I'm right?"

The reason why Ding Yue agreed so readily to build a 100-acre modern Ecological Agriculture Garden for the Agricultural College was to give Director Jia and the Agricultural College some sweet promises first.

And then talk about his own mission.

To complete the University Development Task previously generated by the system, the students of the Agricultural College must actively participate in rural poverty alleviation and guide the villagers in scientific and effective agricultural economy planting.

"Principal Ding is right. Having our Agricultural College students assist in poverty alleviation in the countryside and provide technical support and guidance for agricultural planting is indeed an opportunity to enhance social influence and reputation."

Director Jia was quite enlightened. He wholeheartedly agreed with Principal Ding's proposition.

Seeing that Director Jia had no objections, Ding Yue was relieved and calmly told him: "Then, Director Jia, after you go back, organize this matter. It's completely up to the students' willingness."

"Okay, willingly by the students?"

Director Jia nodded at first, but instantly hesitated.

If this matter entirely depended on the voluntary participation of the students, what if no students were willing to go to the countryside and provide the impoverished farmers with technical support for agriculture and crop planting?

"Yeah, of course, it has to be entirely up to the students. For this sort of thing, it's not appropriate for us to insist on it at our university."

Ding Yue said with a smile.

"But if we fully depend on the students' willingness, I'm afraid..." Director Jia's voice faded as he trailed off mid-sentence.

"Let me finish." Ding Yue knew exactly what Director Jia Nong wanted to say, but he hadn't finished his sentence yet.

"Alright." Jia Nong looked at Principal Ding, ready to hear what he would say next.

"Each student who willingly participates in this rural poverty alleviation project organized by the school will receive a subsidy of 10,000 yuan from the university!"

Ding Yue knew that there would likely be few students who would be willing to volunteer to go to the countryside to provide farmers in poverty-stricken areas with agricultural and crop-planting technological support if it were merely a simple proposition.

But a subsidy would make it different.

Moreover, Ding Yue had another trump card to play. He continued, "Furthermore, all students who participate in this rural poverty alleviation project organized by the school can earn corresponding study credits."

Study credits plus a subsidy - to the students of the agricultural college at Mist City Arts and Science University, this was highly attractive.

"I see. Alright, Principal Ding. Should I go organize it now?" After hearing this, Jia Nong finally felt relieved.

As long as the students were given study credits and subsidies as Principal Ding had proposed, he wasn't worried about them being unwilling to participate anymore.

After all, once they earn these study credits they would essentially be able to graduate smoothly without needing to undergo strenuous internships in their junior or senior years. After weighing the pros and cons, many students would likely make the choice they desire.

The reason Ding Yue was willing to offer these benefits was to make sure this task was completed as quickly as possible.

Otherwise, it would be a little awkward if nobody responded when Director Jia Nong went back to organize the students of the agricultural college to participate in the rural poverty alleviation project.

"Alright. After you go back, quickly confirm the list of participants, then after spring festival, in the early spring season next year, we can start implementing our plans."

"Goodbye, Principal Ding."

After Director Jia Nong left, Ding Yue immediately gave his secretary, Wen Ruohan, a new work task.

"Xiao Wen, contact the Education Office. Have them bridge us to see which areas need our agricultural college's professional knowledge and technological support."

Although Ding Yue had already asked Jia Nong to go back and prepare,

Where exactly they should go to provide aid would still require communication with the relevant departments.

Getting the Education Office involved in the communication should be the most efficient way.

After all, many areas are in need of professional college students to voluntarily provide knowledge and technological support in the field of agriculture and farming.

"Wait a moment."

Ding Yue suddenly thought of something else and called Wen Ruohan to stop.

"Huh? Principal Ding? What's wrong?" Wen Ruohan was about to call the Education Office Director's office, but then she heard Principal Ding asking her to wait.

"You don't need to make the call, I'll call Director Xiao Wenxing myself." Ding Yue took out his phone and murmured, "And see if we can apply for more land."

That's right!

Ding Yue still wanted more land.

After all, the geographical location of Mist City Arts and Science University, whether to the west or the north, is all barren land. Applying for it should be more advantageous. Since these lands are completely useless and idle, if Mist City Arts and Science University applied for them for educational use, they could be a bit useful. Presumably, both the Education Office and related planning departments would be rather pleased.

Although the current campus of Mist City Arts and Science University is being built on 5000 acres of educational land, Ding Yue has just thought of something.

If the agricultural college were to develop significantly, then certain specialties within agricultural sciences, particularly agriculture and forestry, would indeed require a large amount of land to build specialized farms and forestries for teaching purposes.

The top-ranking agricultural universities in the country, most of them having tens of thousands of acres, are due to having their own farms and forestries.

With this in mind, Ding Yue decided to call Director Xiao Wenxing personally to discuss these two matters.

Chapter 680: Secretary: How Big Will That Be?

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is not available at the moment, please call back later."

"Sowieeee..."

Ding Yue tried to make a call to Director Xiao Wenxing of the Education Bureau, but no one answered.

"Is he in a meeting?"

Ding Yue guessed that if his call to Director Xiao was unanswered, it was very likely because Director Xiao was in a meeting with his phone on silent.

After all, as the Director of the Education Bureau, his daily work involves lots and lots of meetings.

To confirm, Ding Yue called Director Xiao Wenxing's office line.

The call went through this time, and it was answered.

"Hello, this is the office of the Director of the Mist City Education Bureau."

"Hello, this is Ding Yue, the principal of Mist City Arts and Science University. I was hoping to speak with Director Xiao; is he in a meeting?"

Ding Yue asked the Director's assistant who picked up the line.

"Yes, Director Xiao is currently holding an important meeting at the Mist City Education Bureau. Principal Ding, please wait a moment. I will inform Director Xiao for you after the meeting."

"Alright, thank you."

After hanging up, Ding Yue could only wait for Director Xiao Wenxing to finish his meeting and call back.

He should call back, right?

"Xiao Wen, could you bring over our university's map?"

As he waited for Director Xiao Wenxing's call, Ding Yue decided to use this time to take another good look at his Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Alright."

Ruohan promptly brought over a tube, which contained a map of Mist City Arts and Science University drawn by the School of Architecture.

Mist City Arts and Science University currently has three main sections.

The first section is the original campus of Mist City Siyuan University, which consists of some old buildings, and currently serves as the teaching area for Mist City Arts and Science University.

The second section is the first phase of the expansion completed last year, including the Book Ship Library, new dormitory buildings, and other areas.

The third section is the current construction site for the ongoing expansion. This will be the largest section. Once completed, it will connect with the first and second sections to form a massive Mist City Arts and Science University, covering 7500 acres!

However, the 7500 acres only accounts for teaching, research, living, sports and other educational venues. As Ding Yue was pondering earlier, he needs another parcel of land for the College of Agriculture.

Thus, Ding Yue set his sights on the vast barren lands to the north of Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Here you go, Principal Ding, the map."

Ruohan unfolded the paper map from the tube and handed it to Principal Ding.

As Ding Yue took it, Ruohan quickly cleared a spot on the large office desk.

Afterwards, Ding Yue unfolded the map and used special tools to hold down its corners.

The full image of Mist City Arts and Science University was laid out in front of Ding Yue.

In addition to the campus of Mist City Arts and Science University, the map also includes some surrounding areas.

For instance, to the south, stands the Mist City Fine Arts College, directly opposite to Mist City Arts and Science University. This is marked on the map.

The University Town is located in the east of Mist City Arts and Science University.

Large barren lands lay unexplored to the west and north of Mist City Arts and Science University. These lands are left undeveloped and most likely will remain so, as although the scale of the University Town is continuously expanding, the overall expansion is primarily towards the northeast.

There is a mountain range to the west of Mist City Arts and Science University.

As Mist City Arts and Science University is already at the easternmost border of the University Town, further urban planning is unlikely to extend to this area.

However, Ding Yue saw potential in the barren lands to the west and north of Mist City Arts and Science University.

If Mist City Arts and Science University were to expand, the west and north directions would be ideal.

"Principal Ding, why are you looking at the map?"

Ruohan noticed Principal Ding gazing at the map with a "silly smile" and asked curiously.

"Looking at a map?"

Ding Yue gave a light smile and shook his head saying, "No, no, no, I'm not just looking at a map."

"Huh? Not a map?"

Ruohan was dumbfounded. Principal Ding's words were rather odd. If this was not a map, then what was it?

"Right, what I'm looking at is not merely a map, but the blueprint of Mist City Arts and Science University!" A confident smile crept onto Ding Yue's face.

Ruohan seemed to understand the Principal's meaning.

"Look, here and here are the directions in which our Mist City Arts and Science University can expand." With a grand flourish of his hand, Ding Yue gestured from the west to the north of the map.

The entire area that his palm swept across would be the direction of Mist City Arts and Science University's future expansion.

"But Principal Ding, our Mist City Arts and Science University already has 7500 acres of land, it's very large, it takes an hour just to walk around!"

Ruohan could hardly imagine the expansion of territory that Principal Ding was talking about.

An initial 2500 acres seemed very big to Ruohan. Many ordinary universities only cover an area of a few thousand acres, two or three thousand, or four or five thousand acre universities are already considered quite large.

However, in addition to the initial 2500 acres, Principal Ding is also constructing another 5000 acres, adding up to a total of 7500 acres. Ruohan heard of very few schools exceeding this size.

"You call 7500 acres 'very large'?" Ding Yue chuckled coldly, they haven't seen anything yet.