

F. University 871

Chapter 871: The Olive Branch of Huawei Technology Group

Since Mist City Arts and Science University had achieved outcomes in the field of graphene and 3D bioprinting technology over the past year,

the official stance of Mist City towards Mist City Arts and Science University became one of immense support.

This was apparent in how easily Mist City Arts and Science University applied for factory land and various other procedures.

Therefore,

it would not be difficult for Feiyue Group to handle the various procedures needed to get into the cinema business.

The relevant departments would probably greenlight Feiyue Group at every turn because Feiyue becoming bigger would also be a boon for Mist City.

It could contribute to GDP, employment, and tax revenue!

So,

after consulting with Principal Ding, An Yujia was ready to get to work.

She planned to contact those major brand merchants again to explain this year's enrollment situation at Mist City Arts and Science University, as well as the future on-campus student population data.

She believed that those major brand merchants would definitely gain a new understanding.

And once many major brand merchants began to settle into the campus shopping mall of Mist City Arts and Science University, countless businesses of all sizes would surely follow suit.

"Alright, Miss An, go ahead with your work. If there's any deal made with major brand merchants, remember to inform me immediately,"

Ding Yue said to An Yujia with a smile.

"Alright, Principal Ding."

After speaking, An Yujia stood up, ready to leave the principal's office.

And just at that moment,

her phone rang.

Seeing this, An Yujia quickly walked out of the principal's office and then answered the call, "Hello."

"Miss An, someone from Huawei Technology Group just called the office looking for you," the voice of An Yujia's office assistant said on the phone.

"Huawei Technology Group?"

An Yujia was momentarily stunned when she heard this.

In Xia Country, Huawei Technology Group was a highly renowned company, with its business extending to domestic chips, domestic mobile phones, domestic internet systems, domestic electronic smart devices, etc.

"Yes, it's President Xiong from Huawei Technology Group,"

the assistant answered.

"Did President Xiong mention what he wanted to see me for?"

An Yujia continued to inquire.

"He didn't specify on the office phone, just said he was looking for you and asked for your work mobile number. I said I would need to ask you, Miss An."

"Alright, I got it. Send me President Xiong's number,"

An Yujia said, having an idea why President Xiong from Huawei Technology Group would be contacting her.

After all, no one visits the temple without a cause.

An Yujia had never dealt directly with Huawei Technology Group before, and Feiyue Group's previous business had nothing to do with Huawei Technology Group.

But things were different now.

Feiyue Group had a graphene industrial system.

The graphene material could well be related to Huawei Technology Group.

To be precise, domestic electronic device manufacturers, new energy vehicle manufacturers, and others could not bypass Feiyue Group's graphene industrial system.

Ding Dong!

A message from the assistant with President Xiong Tianqi's phone number arrived.

An Yujia thought for a moment,

and immediately turned around to return to the principal's office.

This matter, pertaining to Feiyue Group's most precious graphene industrial system, naturally required immediate reporting to Principal Ding, and major decisions regarding such events actually needed Principal Ding's input.

After all, she was merely an employee.

"Principal Ding!"

Upon returning to the principal's office, An Yujia went straight to Principal Ding.

"Miss An? What's the matter? Did you forget to mention something just now?"

Ding Yue asked, surprised to see An Yujia come back.

"No, just now, my office assistant said President Xiong Tianqi from Huawei Technology Group called my office. I think I should tell you about this, Principal Ding,"

An Yujia shook her head, explaining.

"Huawei Technology Group!"

Although Ding Yue was surprised, he did not find it inconceivable.

He had some guesses in his mind.

Once the graphene industrial system of Mist City Arts and Science University was established and ready for mass production of graphene materials, it would inevitably be a big draw.

The domestic companies that needed graphene materials and had a keen sense would surely contact Feiyue Group sooner or later.

What Ding Yue had not anticipated

was that Huawei Technology Group would be the first to contact Feiyue Group.

In the field of electronic products, apart from needing chips, graphene was a critical material for Huawei Technology Group to break into the future market.

Moreover, if graphene batteries were to be used in mobile phones, they would completely overturn the current battery life capabilities, opening up a brand new market dynamic for smartphones.

If Ding Yue was not mistaken,

now that Huawei Technology Group had started reaching out to his Feiyue Group,

other domestic mobile phone manufacturers would likely come flooding in soon.

"Yes, Principal Ding, I now have President Xiong Tianqi's phone number from Huawei Technology Group. Should I find out what his intention is?"

An Yujia looked towards Principal Ding, asking.

"Certainly,"

Ding Yue nodded his head.

Starting negotiations on graphene smartphone batteries was not premature,

especially since Feiyue Group's graphene production area had been established and, once mass production of graphene began, the technology of graphene smartphone batteries was bound to mature within Feiyue Group.

Chapter 872: Huawei Technology Group's Olive Branch

Therefore, the innovation and upgrade of smartphone batteries may start as early as next year.

Of course.

The premise is that Ding Yue can negotiate a good price with those smartphone manufacturers; if not, he might not authorize them to use the technology.

After all, the power lies in Ding Yue's hands.

An Yujia nodded, then picked up the phone and called Xiong Tianqi, the Huawei Technology Group executive, President Xiong.

"Hello?"

Over the phone, the voice of a middle-aged man came through.

"President Xiong, this is An Yujia from Feiyue Group," said An Yujia. "I was out of the office today and missed a call from you. May I ask the reason for your call?"

"Ah, Miss An, I've finally reached you!"

The mood of the person on the other end of the line became excited upon hearing it was An Yujia.

"President Xiong, please go ahead and tell me what it is," An Yujia said calmly.

"Miss An, it's like this. Your Feiyue Group and Mist City Arts and Science University have had an important breakthrough in the field of graphene, haven't you? We've heard that the graphene achievements from Mist City Arts and Science University have been nominated for the National Science and Technology Award. The achievements in the field of graphene would definitely be valuable to Huawei Technology Group. I wonder if Miss An would be interested in a collaboration with us?" President Xiong asked seriously over the phone.

Previously, Mist City Arts and Science University had released news about its research findings on graphene batteries.

At the time, domestic smartphone manufacturers acknowledged the technology's potential for smart phone applications and recognized it as a revolutionary breakthrough for smartphone batteries.

However, everyone understood that the application of graphene batteries hinged on the ability to mass-produce graphene.

It was widely believed that mass production of graphene was a distant prospect, so at the time no smartphone manufacturer paid much attention to this area, nor did anyone attempt to contact Feiyue Group.

But now things were different.

Feiyue Group had established a graphene factory area in Mist City.

The significant graphene achievements at Mist City Arts and Science University had been nominated for the National Science and Technology Award.

This important news indicated that it wasn't just about the technology for graphene batteries!

Considering this, Huawei Technology Group decided it was time to approach Feiyue Group for a possible partnership.

"Regarding this matter, I need to consult with Principal Ding," An Yujia said and, covering the phone, turned to Principal Ding to whisper, "Huawei Technology Group wants to collaborate with us on graphene."

Tell him to come and talk to me in person.

Ding Yue was quite interested in Huawei Technology Group's proposal to collaborate with his Feiyue Group on graphene materials.

And this was no small matter.

If negotiations were to happen, Ding Yue would prefer to speak directly with Huawei Technology Group, since after all, he called the shots at Feiyue Group.

"President Xiong, Principal Ding says that if you really wish to collaborate, then you might as well come to Mist City Arts and Science University so we can discuss it in person," An Yujia said with a smile to President Xiong on the phone.

"Well... okay, I will fly to Mist City tomorrow!" President Xiong said, not expecting that Principal Ding, the elusive figure behind Feiyue Group and Mist City Arts and Science University, would be so "demanding."

I, the president of Huawei Technology Group, am reaching out for a partnership, and you're making me fly out for a discussion. Shouldn't you be glad to have this opportunity?

And yet he was being asked to go to Mist City Arts and Science University to talk.

But then Xiong Tianqi reconsidered; if Feiyue Group truly had significant technological expertise in graphene materials, then they did indeed have some leverage.

Therefore,

President Xiong decided to fly to Mist City the following day to meet with the legendary Principal Ding, who, despite his young age, had created numerous miracles, to discuss potential collaboration.

After hanging up the phone,

An Yujia sat back down in front of Principal Ding's desk and said, "Principal Ding, Huawei Technology Group has proactively extended an olive branch to us. I think it won't be long before other smartphone manufacturers also get in touch with us. Regarding the graphene smartphone batteries, should we choose exclusive authorization or non-exclusive authorization?"

Hearing this, Ding Yue shrugged and replied, "Why should we authorize at all? Wouldn't it be better for us to directly manufacture the graphene smartphone batteries?"

By controlling the mass production of graphene materials, it was equivalent to controlling the upstream of the supply chain. With that in mind, Feiyue Group could produce the graphene smartphone batteries themselves.

Because Ding Xiaoyou's graphene battery technology was already mature enough.

There were absolutely no problems with making graphene smartphone batteries.

Now.

The biggest problem for Ding Yue was his production line.

Production lines required advanced equipment, as well as skilled technical workers.

Of course, technical workers could be trained, but advanced equipment had to be manufactured one by one.

"But Principal Ding, looking at the current situation, our graphene product production lines are probably still too few, whether it's for making graphene batteries or whatever,"

An Yujia frowned and said.

Indeed, controlling graphene smartphone batteries would grant them a significant upper hand.

But as An Yujia had said, Feiyue Group's graphene plant scale was still a bit small.

The smartphone market was simply too vast.

"The application of technology is step by step, we can start by producing graphene smartphone batteries that are 10 times better than regular ones, and then cycle through upgrades, buying us more time."

Ding Yue thought of the strategy smartphone manufacturers loved to employ.

That is, releasing a new product every year with a bit of new technology, gradually updating and upgrading.

Your smartphone could do this.

Why couldn't my exclusively held graphene smartphone battery do the same?

Graphene batteries that are 10 times better than regular smartphone batteries and not much more expensive would have a tremendous appeal to consumers.

Upon hearing this, An Yujia nodded thoughtfully, agreeing that the approach Principal Ding mentioned was indeed feasible.

Who would have thought.

Principal Ding indeed had a certain business acumen.

"The mass production of graphene material is a technology that Mist City Arts and Science University has worked hard to develop and break through. Naturally, it should bring in more profits and then give back to Mist City Arts and Science University."

Ding Yue expressed his true intentions.

Although granting licenses and supplying graphene material could indeed make a lot of money from major smartphone manufacturers,

the development and construction of Mist City Arts and Science University could not be satisfied with just tens or hundreds of billions.

To build Mist City Arts and Science University into one of the world's top universities, a continuous flow of investment was needed.

Now that Mist City Arts and Science University had luckily mastered graphene technology, they had to earn its value themselves and then invest all the money earned into the construction and development of the university.

This fit very well with Ding Yue's strategy of cyclical development.

"That's exactly the point, so Principal Ding, if we want to control the upstream port for graphene smartphone batteries, then we must continue to expand the scale of our graphene plant,"

An Yujia said seriously.

The current scale of the graphene plant area was, by no means, enough to support the nationwide and eventually global demand for graphene smartphone batteries.

"We'll have to turn to Mist City officials for that,"

Ding Yue considered that for this, Mist City officials must continue to provide strong support, allowing Feiyue Group to acquire more land for building additional factories.

With that thought,

Ding Yue couldn't help but lift his head and look at the map of Mist City hanging on the wall.

To the south of University Town, there was a large plot of land.

Using that area as Mist City Arts and Science University's base for various tech industries in the future might be a good choice?

In the future, Mist City Arts and Science University would certainly see more and more cutting-edge tech products emerge.

For example, the photolithography machine still in development.

If these were established in Mist City, they could potentially support the high-tech industry there.

And an idea had just flashed through Ding Yue's mind.

That was to turn the area he had his eye on into a future tech city.

Of course, this would require strong support from Mist City officials.

Chapter 873: Sorry, No Authorization

The next day.

At the base of the Administration Building of Mist City Arts and Science University.

CEO An Yujia, accompanied by a middle-aged man in a suit and leather shoes, was walking towards the Administration Building.

"President Xiong, we are very pleased that you could come in person to discuss business with Principal Ding,"

An Yujia said to Xiong Tianqi with a smile.

"Miss An, aren't you the CEO of Feiyue Group? Why aren't you discussing business matters with us instead of Principal Ding?"

Xiong Tianqi asked curiously.

Originally, Xiong Tianqi had planned to talk business directly with CEO An Yujia of Feiyue Group about the deal for graphene smartphone batteries.

It seemed as though An Yujia did not hold much sway at Feiyue Group.

Was everything decided by that Principal Ding Yue of Mist City Arts and Science University?

"President Xiong, I am just a... using the popular internet term, I am just a worker. The company's decisions are all made by Principal Ding,"

An Yujia explained.

"I see, so Principal Ding has to decide on the company's development and also manage the entire Mist City Arts and Science University. He must be quite busy,"

Xiong Tianqi said with a smile.

"Principal Ding is indeed quite busy, but he will be here shortly, so you won't have to wait long, President Xiong."

"Good!"

An Yujia led Xiong Tianqi into Principal Ding's office.

But at this moment, Principal Ding was not in his office.

After waiting for about five minutes, Ding Yue finally arrived.

"Are you President Xiong? Hello, hello."

As soon as Ding Yue entered his office, he came over and warmly shook hands with Xiong Tianqi.

After all, the visitor was a high-level executive from Huawei Technology Group, and the appropriate courtesies were due.

Just now, Ding Yue had to deal with some matters, which is why he hadn't gone to the school entrance to meet President Xiong.

"Principal Ding, hello. I've long heard of the young and exceptional Principal Ding of Mist City Arts and Science University. Now that I see you, you truly look the part!"

Xiong Tianqi said to Ding Yue with a smile.

"President Xiong flatters me too much."

Ding Yue walked over to his office chair, sat down, and then got ready to start discussing business with President Xiong.

"Principal Ding, I heard that your university has made significant technological breakthroughs in the field of graphene and has even been nominated for the National Science and Technology Award. Is this true?"

Before Ding Yue had a chance to talk about business, Xiong Tianqi started with this question.

"Since you've already received the news, President Xiong, why bother asking me?"

Ding Yue replied with a faint smile.

These matters were indeed true, and Huawei Technology Group had come knocking so quickly because they knew about these achievements.

In that case,

why bother asking about it?

"Well, given that, I'm sure you, Principal Ding, are aware that our Huawei Technology Group has a mobile phone business. The current cycle for updating mobile phones is almost one generation per year. Aside from the chip, another important technology for mobile phones is the battery."

Xiong Tianqi began speaking seriously to Ding Yue: "Battery issues have always been a challenge in the mobile phone industry, and your Mist City Arts and Science University and Feiyue Group are leaders in graphene technology both domestically and globally. Therefore, Huawei Technology Group would like to discuss potential graphene battery collaboration with you."

"How would you like to talk?"

Ding Yue asked directly.

"It depends on what kind of graphene technology your Feiyue Group can provide. We can buy exclusive authorization!"

Xiong Tianqi said confidently.

Huawei Technology Group was not short on funds; they could afford even the highly-priced exclusive authorizations. If they could secure the exclusive authorization for Feiyue Group's graphene technology, then the vast market for graphene mobile phone batteries would be theirs.

"We're just starting to talk. How can we possibly tell you what technology we have?" Ding Yue shook his head and said, "Don't you agree, President Xiong?"

"That's true."

Xiong Tianqi nodded.

At this point, Huawei Technology Group was only interested in cooperation. How could Ding Yue possibly reveal his trump card so soon?

They still did not know about Feiyue Technology's mass production capabilities of graphene, which was actually kept quite confidential from the outside world.

Before the National Science and Technology Award was announced, no one knew what the significant breakthrough of Mist City Arts and Science University in the field of graphene actually was.

"Moreover, President Xiong, our Feiyue Technology does not offer authorizations,"

Ding Yue said calmly to Xiong Tianqi.

"Oh?"

At this, Xiong Tianqi's expression suddenly became tense: "No authorizations?"

In Xiong Tianqi's view, Mist City Arts and Science University had remarkable research capabilities, and Feiyue Technology had some key graphene technologies.

But if one has this technology and does not authorize it, how will money be earned?

Technology in hand is after all just technology, not money.

Now that a company needs this technology and is willing to spend a lot of money to buy the authorization, wouldn't refusing to authorize it be like sitting on a golden egg?

"Yes, no authorizations."

Ding Yue nodded, affirming with certainty.

"Principal Ding... if you don't license out the technology you've developed, what's the point of holding onto it? In the future, once other tech companies make breakthroughs in graphene technology, the technology you hold won't be as valuable anymore."

Chapter 874: Sorry, No Authorization

Xiong Tianqi, with a businessman's perspective, said to Ding Yue.

"President Xiong, this is the situation, we can supply Huawei Technology Group with the products you need, but we do not provide technology authorization."

At that moment, An Yujia, beside them, spoke up succinctly.

"What we need is a large quantity of graphene phone batteries, can you supply them?"

Xiong Tianqi only felt that this conversation was bordering on unreasonable.

I came to you to discuss the matter of technology authorization, and you tell me there's no authorization but instead offer to sell me products.

However, I need graphene phone batteries as a product, and the demand is huge, since every phone requires one graphene phone battery.

In Xiong Tianqi's view, it was utterly impossible for Feiyue Group to accomplish this.

"Sure."

Ding Yue couldn't help but reveal a hint of a smile and nodded with composure.

Sure?

Xiong Tianqi was stunned.

"By large demand, I mean millions of phone batteries a year....."

Xiong Tianqi thought he had misheard and emphasized again.

Huawei Technology Group indeed wanted graphene phone batteries.

Once Huawei Mobile replaced their batteries with graphene ones, there would be a revolutionary change in battery life, and Huawei would then become the leader in the future mobile market.

Therefore, Huawei Technology Group sought the graphene technology from Feiyue Technology; with it, Huawei Technology Group could manufacture smartphones with superior battery life.

Yet Principal Ding refused to authorize the graphene technology.

Moreover, he informed Xiong Tianqi that they could supply the graphene phone batteries!

Instead of providing technology authorization, this situation turned into a supply agreement!

This completely baffled Xiong Tianqi.

After all, for technology purposes, the most convenient way was technology authorization.

If a big company didn't have the technology, and another developed it, the usual approach was to buy it at a high price.

Even if they couldn't buy it outright, they could purchase exclusive authorization!

For those in technical research, selling technology indeed seemed to be the quickest way to earn a substantial amount of money.

But, in reality, selling technology was just the most basic approach.

Feiyue Technology wouldn't just sell technology.

Feiyue Technology could mass-produce graphene, manufacture graphene phone batteries, all of which were uniquely available globally.

If I can sell the graphene phone battery as a product, why should I sell the underlying technology?

For Huawei Technology Group, acquiring the graphene technology package would be extremely profitable; from then on, within the period of the agreement, they'd hardly face restrictions from Feiyue Technology.

But if Feiyue Technology were just supplying graphene phone batteries, then the power would be entirely in the hands of Feiyue Technology.

"Principal Ding, this....."

Xiong Tianqi was suddenly caught in a dilemma.

If things were like this, he alone could not make a decision.

"President Xiong, why not go back and consider it carefully?"

Ding Yue asked with a smile.

"Mm-hmm."

Xiong Tianqi quickly nodded: "Given the situation, I indeed can't make a decision on this alone, we'll need to discuss it at a board meeting."

"No problem, after you've discussed it and have a clear decision, we can talk about cooperation."

Ding Yue was not in a hurry at all.

Because the mass production of graphene, in the hands of other global technology companies, was technology that wouldn't easily be developed soon.

"Then okay, Principal Ding, I shall rush back to call a board meeting!"

After speaking, Xiong Tianqi stood up, preparing to leave.

"President Xiong, you've just arrived, are you preparing to go back already?" Ding Yue wanted to invite Xiong Tianqi for a meal.

After all, considering he came all this way to Mist City, the business talk had not been settled, and not even half a day had passed, yet he was about to leave.

"Yes, isn't that how business negotiations are? Time is very important."

Xiong Tianqi pointed to his wristwatch and said with a smile, "Principal Ding, just wait for the good news from our side at Huawei Technology Group."

"Okay."

Ding Yue nodded, "Then I'll see President Xiong off."

Since he hadn't received President Xiong, it was definitely necessary to see him off.

However, Ding Yue only escorted President Xiong to the lobby. Once Xiong Tianqi got into the car, the driver immediately left Mist City Arts and Science University and headed towards Mist City Airport.

For business executives like Xiong Tianqi, once they got busy, they truly would fly here in the morning and there in the afternoon.

Fortunately, Ding Yue was only responsible for overseeing Mist City Arts and Science University. All the specific business affairs of Feiyue Group were handled by An Yujia, otherwise, Ding Yue might have become someone like Xiong Tianqi.

"Principal Ding, do you think Huawei Technology Group will accept this form of collaboration?"

An Yujia stood beside Principal Ding, watching President Xiong's car leave, she asked curiously.

"What do you think?"

Ding Yue countered.

"As long as there's a bit of pressure, I think they'll make a decision quickly," An Yujia said with a light smile, "Following this, phone manufacturers such as Dami Group are likely to come knocking."

"No matter who comes knocking, just like today with Huawei Technology Group, tell them we don't do technology licensing, only provide graphene phone batteries."

Ding Yue instructed An Yujia.

For the upcoming business negotiations, Ding Yue didn't want to participate and left them all to An Yujia.

After all, Ding Yue had already demonstrated to An Yujia how the negotiations should be handled.

If one held the initiative in their hands, they had to have confidence.

After saying this, Ding Yue turned and walked towards the Administration Building.

"Then, Principal Ding, what if Nine Stars Mobile and Fruit Phone come to negotiate?"

An Yujia hurriedly followed and quickly asked.

"Foreign phone brands?"

Ding Yue laughed and said, "Do you think with our current production capacity, supplying the domestic market alone is already hanging by a thread for the next one or two years, can we also satisfy foreign phone manufacturers?"

Ding Yue's idea was simple.

Feiyue Group's graphene factory area was limited for now, so he'd first supply domestic phone manufacturers.

As for foreign brands like Nine Stars or Fruit, they could step aside.

"Alright, Principal Ding."

An Yujia understood Principal Ding's meaning and immediately nodded in agreement.

If graphene batteries were applied in phones, even if the battery life were only increased tenfold, it would be a huge attraction for consumers.

Because current phone battery life is just too poor.

So.

Phones using graphene batteries would certainly become popular and best-selling models, and may even seize the new mobile market earlier as a result.

If at this juncture, we also provided graphene phone batteries to foreign brands like Nine Stars or Fruit, wouldn't that be aiding and abetting the enemy?

Ding Yue expressed.

He would rather support domestic products.

To advance the battery life of domestic phones with a qualitative leap ahead of others would be his contribution to supporting domestic industry.

After returning to his office,

As expected.

Several domestic phone manufacturers started to contact Feiyue Group one after another for partnership discussions.

All these phone manufacturers were to be dealt with by An Yujia.

Ding Yue now had a new goal which he hoped to achieve smoothly.

"Xiao Wen, have you prepared the materials I asked you to?"

Ding Yue looked at his secretary Wen Ruohan and asked.

"Yes, Principal Ding, I've organized them."

"Then let's go!"

After saying this, Ding Yue stood up, ready to set off for the government offices in Mist City.

If he wanted to successfully supply the major phone manufacturers with the graphene phone batteries they would need in the future, Feiyue Group's graphene factory area had to continually expand.

So.

Ding Yue was preparing to go to the Mist City government offices to ask for land and policies from the Mist City officials.

But before heading to the Mist City government offices,

Ding Yue planned to make a trip to the Mist City Education Bureau first.

Chapter 875: Director Xiao Is Overjoyed

Mist City Education Department.

Ding Yue was now a celebrity within the education sector of Mist City. Almost no one in the entire Mist City Education Department didn't know of this young principal.

Speaking of which.

Ding Yue's fame had risen sharply over the past year, thanks to the achievements Mist City Arts and Science University had made in graphene and 3D bioprinting technologies.

"Isn't that Principal Ding?"

An employee of the Mist City Education Department greeted Ding Yue upon seeing him.

"Hello, hello."

Ding Yue had not expected to be so famous within the Mist City Education Department.

Well, well.

One after another, upon seeing him, called him Principal Ding. It almost made Ding Yue feel as if he were the head of the Education Department himself.

"Principal Ding."

At that moment, a young man approached Ding Yue.

This young man was the assistant to Director Xiao Wenxing.

Before coming, Ding Yue had already called Director Xiao Wenxing in advance.

If he didn't call, what if he arrived to find Director Xiao Wenxing not in? Wouldn't that be a wasted trip?

"Principal Ding, Director Xiao is waiting for you in his office; this way, please."

Director Xiao's secretary led Ding Yue toward the director's office.

Knock, knock, knock!

Upon reaching the director's office door, the assistant knocked and then said, "Director Xiao, Principal Ding is here."

"Come in, come in, come right in."

Hearing the knock, Xiao Wenxing, who was reviewing documents, immediately put down his work and looked up at Ding Yue.

Ding Yue and Director Xiao Wenxing were old friends. Once in his office, Ding Yue didn't stand on ceremony and walked straight in, followed by his secretary Wen Ruohan.

"Principal Ding, your university must be busy with new student enrollments these days, right? How did you find the time to come here?"

Xiao Wenxing asked with a smile.

"Hahaha, I certainly wouldn't come without a good reason," Ding Yue replied frankly.

"Of course."

Xiao Wenxing nodded, then asked curiously, "How's the enrollment going at Mist City Arts and Science University these days? I heard that, in the entire University Town, your university is the liveliest."

Although Xiao Wenxing hadn't visited Mist City Arts and Science University in recent days,

he had heard from others about the bustling enrollment at the university.

In the whole University Town, even the public key universities only enrolled a few thousand or hovered around ten thousand students.

Those private universities with average capabilities would consider it quite good if they could recruit a few thousand students.

But it was different for Ding Yue's Mist City Arts and Science University—they reportedly had at least 20,000 new students on the first day alone.

"Indeed, we do have quite a number of new students. We expect to enroll 50,000 new students this year," Ding Yue answered with a smile.

"With so many people, you must make sure campus safety management is in place, you know that, right?" Xiao Wenxing immediately reminded him.

He didn't need to say much about the academic side of things, as Director Xiao had some confidence in the capabilities of Mist City Arts and Science University.

But as the director of the Education Department, campus safety was something he took very seriously.

"Yes, we at Mist City Arts and Science University have always paid close attention to that aspect. We can guarantee the safety of students on campus, and to reduce conflicts among students to the greatest extent possible, we've implemented a system of free dormitory allocation," Ding Yue stated with confidence.

Mist City Arts and Science University allowed each student to find roommates with similar interests, and once the dormitories were allocated, there was a possibility for subsequent adjustments.

The annual dormitory adjustment was a significant undertaking for the university's housing management department, as well as being a matter of great importance.

After all, Principal Ding had made that promise to the students.

"Good to hear that. Now tell me, what brings you to see me this time?" Director Xiao asked about the real issue at hand.

Inquiring about the Mist City Arts and Science University's enrollment situation was just a way of expressing his concern for the university.

"I would like Director Xiao to accompany me to the City Government building," Ding Yue said with a smile.

"You want me to go to the City Government building with you? What for?" Xiao Wenxing asked with interest.

"It's like this... Xiao Wen, the documents," Ding Yue said, looking at his secretary Wen Ruohan.

Wen Ruohan quickly produced a set of documents and handed them to Principal Ding.

After receiving the documents, Ding Yue then handed them to Director Xiao Wenxing and explained, "It's like this. Our graphene endeavor has already established its system. Now, we have well-known domestic smartphone manufacturers, including Huawei Technology Group and Dami Technology Group, coming to us."

"They need graphene smartphone batteries, right?" Xiao Wenxing asked.

While Xiao Wenxing did not fully understand the specifics of graphene technology, the association of graphene with smartphone manufacturers undoubtedly pointed to their interest in graphene batteries for phones.

Graphene batteries could significantly extend the battery life of modern smartphones, which was an extremely important consideration for any smartphone manufacturer.

"Right," Ding Yue nodded and continued seriously, "They want the technology licensing package from Mist City Arts and Science University. But obviously, we cannot just give away the licensing package. This technology has the potential to win the National Science and Technology Award and has a vast market for future applications. We certainly need to keep it in our own hands."

Chapter 876: Director Xiao Overjoyed

"Right, that's the concept."

Xiao Wenxing, though not engaged in commercial operations, understood the reasoning.

Technology held in one's hands is always the best.

"So, we plan to expand our production scale and directly produce graphene batteries for mobile phones. We aim to transform our graphene factory base into a new emblem of Mist City and to become the center for the supply of graphene materials and products nationwide, and even globally!"

When Ding Yue reached this point, his tone became somewhat impassioned.

It was, after all, a very bold idea.

"Are you saying, your Feiyue Group is preparing to expand the graphene industry right here in Mist City?"

Upon hearing this, Xiao Wenxing had a rough idea.

He even understood why Ding Yue had come to join him on a visit to the City Government.

"Exactly!"

Seeing Director Xiao Wenxing's interested demeanor, Ding Yue knew he had made the right decision coming to him first today.

"Then I understand why you've come to get me for a visit to the City Government. Let's go, we can head there now."

After saying this, Xiao Wenxing stood up and said to his assistant, "Get the car."

"Yes, Director."

The assistant hurriedly went to prepare the vehicle for Director Xiao.

Xiao Wenxing then left the office with Ding Yue and walked towards the exit of the Education Department building.

"Principal Ding, if you can build a massive graphene industry system in Mist City, not only would I support it, I believe Governor Li would definitely lend significant support as well. You know, one of the factors limiting the development of Mist City is that we currently lack cutting-edge technological industries."

As they walked out of the building, Director Xiao Wenxing said to Ding Yue.

"Our Mist City mainly focuses on manufacturing and tourism. It's true that we don't have as many high-tech industries as neighboring Shu City, but rest assured, Director Xiao. Just give Mist City Arts and Science University some time, and I believe Mist City will also have its high-tech industries in the future."

Ding Yue was very confident.

In just a few years, they had already achieved results with graphene.

In another few years, the graphene industry would be able to mature in Mist City. Then, this industry known as the 'material of the future' will take root in Mist City and become a new emblem of Mist City.

And that's not all.

Mist City Arts and Science University will continue to develop one cutting-edge technology after another. In the future, Mist City will certainly become known to the world for its frontier science and technology industries.

"Hahaha, that would be more than wonderful. Of course, we hope that the talents from our universities in Mist City stay and develop here, but we have a relatively small industry base in Mist City. If the Feiyue Group's industries can be set up in Mist City, it would bring tremendous benefits to our talent attraction here."

Xiao Wenxing was very excited to know that Ding Yue was preparing to expand the industry related to the scientific achievements developed by Mist City Arts and Science University.

This kind of development was a good thing for Mist City no matter how one looked at it.

Yancheng, Haicheng, Guangcheng, Shencheng, each major first-tier city, had various large company groups converging there.

For Mist City to develop better, it naturally needed large companies to establish themselves too.

Although Feiyue Group was not considered a large company at the moment, Xiao Wenxing believed that with a university like Mist City Arts and Science University, Feiyue Group would one day become a large company both nationally and internationally.

"Director Xiao, your understanding and support mean a lot. When we get to the City Government and find Governor Li, you'll have to speak highly of Mist City Arts and Science University for us."

Ding Yue said to Director Xiao Wenxing with a smile.

"Naturally."

Xiao Wenxing had no personal agenda. From the perspective of Mist City's development, speaking in favor of Mist City Arts and Science University and Feiyue Group was the right thing to do.

Moreover, Xiao Wenxing believed that Governor Li would definitely see the benefits of this for the development of Mist City.

The two quickly exited the Education Department building.

"Principal Ding, come with me in my car. We can have a good chat inside."

Xiao Wenxing ushered Ding Yue into his official Education Department car.

Seeing this, Ding Yue felt it would be rude to refuse and allowed his secretary, Wen Ruohan, to follow in his own car.

As Principal Ding's secretary, Wen Ruohan had long since obtained his driver's license.

However, Principal Ding always preferred to drive himself when going out, hence Wen Ruohan rarely had the opportunity to drive for him.

This time she had her chance.

Director Xiao Wenxing directly took Principal Ding with him in his car. Wen Ruohan certainly couldn't also get in the same car, so she followed in Ding Yue's Audi, trailing behind Director Xiao Wenxing's official car.

The two cars left the Department of Education and headed towards the City Government in the center of Mist City.

At this moment, at Mist City Arts and Science University.

The registration of new students at Mist City Arts and Science University was still underway.

However, there were far fewer people today, probably only around two or three thousand; compared to the first and second days, there was indeed a significant decline.

After most of the new students finished registration, they began to familiarize themselves with the campus where they would be living and studying for the next four years.

Some students might even spend more than four years here, considering the possibility of graduate studies, right?

Plus, med school students usually have a five-year program to start with.

New students started to get to know the campus.

The 7500-acre campus amazed every new student by its sheer size.

Some students even tried walking around the campus's broadest road, which took almost forty minutes!

The campus had pretty much every kind of facility you could think of.

There were several sports fields, not to mention those.

But they even had a shopping mall inside the school?

And it wasn't just any mall. It was the sort of large-scale mall that could compete with the likes of Wan Da Plaza outside.

"Holy cow, they really have a campus mall just like they promised. They weren't lying!"

"I thought the recruitment brochure was just exaggerating, but it really exists?"

"Look, many businesses have started moving into the mall."

"Awesome, there's Delicious Duck Necks, my favorite."

"Tea Yan Yue Color, too? Isn't that only in Changsha City? It opened in our school?"

"Wow, HEILAN HOME, that's going to make clothes shopping so convenient for me."

"Bro, you shop at HEILAN HOME too?"

"I prefer Armani, Versace, Burberry; they probably don't have those, right?"

"Dude, how wealthy is your family?"

Near the campus mall, students who saw the not-yet-open mall couldn't help but talk excitedly amongst themselves.

Upperclassmen had heard rumors about the opening of the campus mall this year, so many had come to check it out.

In a short time, more and more students gathered around the campus mall.

Quite a few students even took out their phones to snap photos and record videos, then posted them on Twitter, TikTok, and other platforms to show off the amenities of their school.

And sure enough.

If they had just shared ordinary campus scenery, it might not have garnered much attention.

But showing off a large mall and saying it's inside the school attracted quite a few netizens' attention right away.

"Whoa! What kind of school has such a huge mall?"

"Look at that, you don't even need to leave campus to go shopping or to the movies, huh?"

"This is way too cool."

"Can someone please tell me what school this is?"

"Mist City Arts and Science University? It's Mist City Arts and Science University again?"

"Geez, you guys at Mist City Arts and Science University are really loaded, huh? Putting a mall right inside the school, that's fantastic."

"Your principal is really talented, no offense, I mean it—he's really talented!"

"Sob, I'm envious. The campus amenities at Mist City Arts and Science University are simply to die for."

"I heard Mist City Arts and Science University covers 7500 acres, with several sports fields and gyms. No wonder your university frequently makes the trending list these past few years; you really do have something special."

"My little brother just started at Mist City Arts and Science University this year. He said his first impression when he arrived at the school was fantastic!"

"I must visit Mist City Arts and Science University one of these days; I heard there are several popular spots for photo ops!"

Mist City Arts and Science University was once again a hot topic on social media because of the pedestrian mall inside the campus, attracting even more envious glances...

Chapter 877: Foreign Students? We Don't Want Them!

Mist City Government Building.

The waiting room beside the Mayor's Office.

"Director Xiao, Principal Ding, please wait here for a moment. Help yourselves to some tea. Governor Li is currently in an important meeting."

An assistant from the Mayor's Office made tea for Ding Yue and Director Xiao Wenxing.

These two were, after all, the principal of Mist City's hottest private high school and the city's director of education, so the assistant dared not neglect them.

"Okay, thank you."

Ding Yue nodded his head and then sat down on the sofa with Director Xiao Wenxing.

This was, in fact, Ding Yue's first visit to the city government building.

Mist City, being a well-known domestic city with a relatively high level of administrative status, had an imposing government building.

Governor Li's office was also quite impressive.

The position of Governor Li was equivalent to that of a provincial governor, and for Ding Yue to come and meet Governor Li was quite an event. To be honest, if he hadn't brought Director Xiao with him, he might not have been able to meet with him at all.

After all, a person like Governor Li was indeed very busy.

Once the assistant in the Mayor's Office had poured the tea, they left to attend to other duties.

Suddenly feeling sentimental, Director Xiao Wenxing remarked, "Principal Ding, do you know the last time I visited the Mayor's Office was?"

Since there was nothing else to do while waiting for Governor Li to finish the meeting, Director Xiao Wenxing started casual conversation with Ding Yue.

"Oh?"

Ding Yue immediately shook his head, smiling as he said, "How would I know that?"

"It was when I first took the position of education director in Mist City," said Xiao Wenxing with a smile. "So many years have passed and I basically haven't been back to the Mayor's Office since my initial appointment."

"I came here today with you, and I hope this visit proves worthwhile."

"It definitely will be,"

said Ding Yue confidently. "I believe that after I describe to Governor Li the future development of Mist City Arts and Science University and Feiyue Group, he will definitely be very interested."

"I think so too,"

Director Xiao Wenxing nodded slightly and said, "So Xiao Ding, you must work hard. Make sure both Mist City Arts and Science University and Feiyue Group thrive. You have graphene technology, and exclusive technology at that. There's also your 3D biological printing technology; these are your advantages."

"I understand."

Ding Yue had a lot on his mind.

If Governor Li approved of his idea to root the graphene industry in Mist City, and was even willing to help construct a high-tech industrial park or something similar, then Ding Yue's Feiyue Group could significantly increase its production scale.

Of course, this process would be very costly.

But despite the expense, the prospect was very lucrative given how crystal clear the market was.

Whether it was Huawei Technology Group, Dami Technology Group, or Penguin Group's Penguin New Energy Electric Vehicles, they all desperately needed Ding Yue's graphene batteries!

And the sole company capable of producing graphene batteries on a large scale in the world today was Feiyue Technology!

Only the current scale of the industry was not large, and the production volume was relatively small.

But there was Ding Yue, already in the Mist City Government Building.

If he got the land and policy support he needed, and with the strong backing of the Mist City Government, Ding Yue could then confidently and boldly start a massive graphene industry in Mist City.

The graphene factory area previously built would seem like child's play in comparison to this new scale.

Originally, Ding Yue had prepared to let this process ferment over the course of one or two years.

But unexpectedly,

Huawei Technology Group made a move to do business with Feiyue Group so soon.

Dami Technology, Penguin New Energy, and other domestic giants also made their approaches. Given the urgent market demand for graphene batteries, if not now, then when should he put the pedal to the metal and accelerate?

"Of course, we will definitely make good use of these advantages,"

Ding Yue said to Director Xiao Wenxing with a smile.

"Principal Ding, do you think, now that you made this breakthrough in graphene technology, will those foreign tech companies catch up soon? Can we maintain a leading position in this technology?"

Director Xiao Wenxing asked curiously.

He wasn't familiar with the technology for mechanically exfoliating graphene, but he had his concerns.

That concern was that foreign technology is definitely advanced as well. Now that Mist City Arts and Science University has made progress, wouldn't the foreign companies catch up soon?

At that point, the competition would suddenly intensify.

However,

Ding Yue confidently replied with a smile, "Director Xiao, it would be quite difficult for foreign tech companies to develop the mechanical exfoliation technology for graphene in the next two or three years, not to mention the vast amounts of capital they would have to invest."

Ding Yue was very confident about this.

After all, the technology Ding Yue had was obtained from the system, and it was ahead of the global standard—not just an empty boast.

Just like at that very moment, across the ocean in America, Ike Technology Group,

Despite the increasing investment in research and development,

Ike Technology Group was still making no progress in the mass production technology for graphene.

This frustrated Ike Technology Group immensely.

They even started to entertain some devious thoughts, preparing to send a group of students to Xia Country, specifically targeting Mist City Arts and Science University.

The purpose of sending this group of students was not simply for studying.

Der Eckx and Christopher Brown's real intention was to have these excellent students quickly infiltrate Mist City Arts and Science University after their arrival, and to gather significant breakthrough information from the university's graphene field.

Chapter 878: Foreign Exchange Students? We Don't Want Them!

Thus,

the group of exchange students secretly sent over by Ike Technology Group were all exceptionally talented students specializing in mechanical engineering, materials science, physics, and other fields.

...

At the office of the Academic Affairs Department of Mist City Arts and Science University.

"I'm sorry Mr. Smith, you mean to say... you want us to exchange a group of students with each other?"

At this moment, Qi Chunsheng was speaking with a middle-aged man from the United States.

"Yes, Director Qi."

Smith nodded and said with a smile, "In this exchange of students, we can provide you with some slots including those at top international universities like Harvard, MIT, which your students could be sent to study at."

This exchange didn't seem to put Mist City Arts and Science University at a disadvantage.

If it had been any other university, they probably would have agreed immediately.

But Qi Chunsheng dared not make this decision.

Even though Principal Ding had given him full authority over academic affairs, and this student exchange was part of academic work, since it was the first time for Mist City Arts and Science University,

Qi Chunsheng could not simply agree to it then and there.

"I'm sorry Mr. Smith, although this opportunity for a student exchange is quite good, I think I still need some time to consider it, and I also need to consult Principal Ding's opinion,"

Qi Chunsheng said earnestly.

"OK, OK, of course,"

Smith nodded in agreement.

Then, Qi Chunsheng took out his mobile phone and made a call to Principal Ding.

On the other end, Ding Yue was having a lively chat with Director Xiao Wenxing.

His phone began to vibrate.

As soon as he had entered the Mist City Government building, Ding Yue had already set his phone to vibrate.

After all, it was the City Government building; it would be inappropriate for a phone to ring all of a sudden.

But unexpectedly, a call did come in.

Ding Yue took out his mobile phone and saw that the call was from Director Qi Chunsheng of the Academic Affairs Department.

If he was calling, it was likely something at the university required Ding Yue's decision.

"It's university business; I'll take this call."

Ding Yue informed Director Xiao Wenxing, then stood up and went over to the window to answer the call, "Hello, Director Qi, what's happening?"

"Principal Ding, are you convenient to talk right now?"

Qi Chunsheng knew that Principal Ding had gone out, so he first asked if Principal Ding was available to talk.

"Yes, go ahead."

"It's like this, Principal Ding, today I was approached by Mr. Smith, the head of a university alliance from the United States, who expressed a desire to engage in a student exchange with us."

Qi Chunsheng quickly explained the situation to Principal Ding.

"Student exchange? Continue,"

upon hearing this, Ding Yue was a bit puzzled and thus encouraged Director Qi Chunsheng to continue.

Because at Mist City Arts and Science University under the leadership of Ding Yue, there was no such thing as a study abroad program.

The students of Mist City Arts and Science University could only gain the BUFF for learning when they were at the school, so there was absolutely no need to study abroad at overseas universities.

Even Ding Yue did not wish for his students to aim for graduate studies at other universities after graduating; it would naturally be better if they could stay at Mist City Arts and Science University.

Therefore, Ding Yue was utterly baffled by this student exchange program proposed by some university alliance from America.

"Specifically, it is said that we from Mist City Arts and Science University can select a group of students to go to the United States as exchange students, including slots at Harvard, MIT, and other universities. I'm not sure about this, so it would be better for you, Principal Ding, to decide,"

Qi Chunsheng said.

"Harvard... MIT, they really are willing to spend generously, aren't they? Director Qi, didn't you ever wonder why the slots at these top international universities might be falling into our laps at Mist City Arts and Science University?"

After thinking for a moment, Ding Yue felt that there must be a catch.

Why would the United States suddenly think of engaging in a student exchange with his Mist City Arts and Science University?

And it concerned slots at places like Harvard and MIT, no less.

"As the saying goes, when something is off, there's usually a demon at work," Ding Yue felt that something seemed amiss, but couldn't quite put his finger on what it was.

The most important thing actually was.

Ding Yue believed that the students from Mist City Arts and Science University absolutely had no need, and in fact, it was impossible for them to become exchange students abroad.

Because the students of Mist City Arts and Science University, by staying at the university, were able to enjoy the benefits of a learning "BUFF," which allowed them to become one excellent talent after another.

Once they went abroad to study, they would lose the learning "BUFF" from Mist City Arts and Science University.

In that case, wouldn't the students who went abroad to study be ruined?

"So, Principal Ding, our stance is that we're against the exchange program?" Qi Chunsheng asked.

In fact, Qi Chunsheng admitted that he somewhat couldn't understand.

If they could really select a group of students to go to Harvard or MIT for an exchange, that would certainly be a great thing.

"Correct! We don't need exchange students!"

Ding Yue said decisively.

"Uh... alright then, Principal Ding, I understand. I will convey this to Mr. Smith," Qi Chunsheng answered.

"Director Qi, what do you think about this matter?"

Ding Yue seemed to catch a hint of regret in Qi Chunsheng's tone as he spoke.

On further thought.

It did appear to be so. To ordinary people, the opportunity to be an exchange student at world-class universities like Harvard or MIT was indeed a tremendous opportunity.

Director Qi Chunsheng must be thinking the same thing.

It was just that they didn't understand why Mist City Arts and Science University had achieved its current status.

The students only had their stage to showcase themselves at Mist City Arts and Science University—in another place, they would truly become mediocre.

"Principal Ding, to be honest, I think this is a pretty good opportunity. Our Mist City Arts and Science University has no lack of excellent students, and if they could go to Harvard or MIT to further their studies, who knows, they might achieve even greater accomplishments in the future,"

Qi Chunsheng candidly shared his thoughts.

Ding Yue wasn't surprised at all by Director Qi Chunsheng's thoughts.

After all, it's generally the normal thought process to believe that going to Harvard or MIT would definitely mean climbing another rung on the ladder.

"It seems so on the surface, but have you ever thought about it, Director Qi, why our students become excellent? It's because of our education methods, our school's learning atmosphere and environment. In a different place, things might change dramatically."

After Ding Yue finished speaking, his tone grew firmer: "That's the decision then Director Qi. As for exchange students, we at Mist City Arts and Science University do not need them. Our great Xia Country lacks no individuals!"

"Alright then, Principal Ding, I understand."

Although Qi Chunsheng didn't quite agree with Principal Ding's approach, since Principal Ding had said so, as an employee, he could only follow the instructions.

After all, Mist City Arts and Science University was wholly Principal Ding's to decide.

Therefore,

After making a phone call, Qi Chunsheng explained to Smith the stance of Mist City Arts and Science University regarding the exchange student program.

"What?"

When Smith heard Qi Chunsheng's explanation, he was completely flabbergasted.

What was Mist City Arts and Science University thinking? They were actually refusing such an incredible opportunity?

"Director Qi, I don't quite understand, why is your Mist City Arts and Science University refusing such an opportunity? In your own words from Xia Country, are you choosing to 'reinvent the wheel'?"

Smith, with his hands spread wide, spoke in utter surprise.

"Perhaps."

With a helpless shake of his head, Qi Chunsheng said, "It's Principal Ding's decision."

"Oh my god, that's just unreasonable!"

After speaking, Smith stood up and turned to leave.

He had to report back to his boss urgently.

Because from the start, nobody had anticipated this outcome. Everyone had thought that the student exchange would go smoothly, to place a group of students from The United States into Mist City Arts and Science University, yet it had been rejected,

"Mr. Smith, safe travels."

After speaking, Qi Chunsheng also let out a sigh.

Chapter 879: Nothing Is More Important Than GDP

"Principal Ding, I heard from your phone call just now that you were talking about some international student matters?"

After Ding Yue hung up the phone, Xiao Wenxing asked curiously.

"Mm-hmm."

Ding Yue nodded and said with a smile, "The Academic Affairs Office reported that there's a consortium of colleges from The United States that's organizing an exchange student program with Xia Country and said that our Mist City Arts and Science University might get a spot."

"Oh? Is that so?"

After hearing this, Xiao Wenxing immediately frowned and said, "Then how come we at the Mist City Education Bureau didn't know about this?"

"What?"

Ding Yue looked bewildered.

That shouldn't be the case!

Surely, such an exchange program between The United States and Xia Country wouldn't just be between Mist City Arts and Science University and the American colleges consortium. The Mist City Education Bureau would definitely be in the know.

But there was Director Xiao Wenxing of the Mist City Education Bureau right in front of Ding Yue.

And yet, he said he had no clue about it.

"Generally speaking, if there are foreign colleges that want to run exchange programs with our domestic universities through official channels, the Mist City Education Bureau would

be the first to know. You just mentioned that someone approached your Mist City Arts and Science University... We had no prior knowledge."

Director Xiao Wenxing stated with certainty.

Because as the head of the Mist City Education Bureau, he would naturally be familiar with all of its affairs—it's part of the job, after all.

"So, Director Xiao, are you saying that the party that approached our Mist City Arts and Science University for the exchange program is not legitimate?"

Ding Yue asked, puzzled.

"Not necessarily."

Director Xiao Wenxing shook his head and explained, "It's just that going through official channels and involving our Mist City Education Bureau would guarantee security. However, it doesn't rule out direct arrangements between institutions, especially in the case of private ones like yours."

"Oh, I see, but..."

Ding Yue seemed to realize something was amiss.

"Director Xiao, are you saying that private institutions often have such under-the-table arrangements for exchange students? What about top world-class universities like Harvard and MIT in The United States? Could that be a possibility?"

Ding Yue immediately asked Director Xiao Wenxing again.

"Harvard and MIT, these are basically impossible to arrange privately. World-famous universities like them would definitely go through official channels. In the past, Mist City University also had exchange student programs with several renowned schools in America, which were facilitated by the Mist City Education Bureau," Director Xiao Wenxing explained.

After hearing what Director Xiao Wenxing said, Ding Yue immediately realized that something was fishy.

During the previous phone call, Director Qi Chunsheng had mentioned more than once that someone named Smith said there were spots available at world-renowned universities like Harvard and MIT for Mist City Arts and Science University.

That's why Director Qi Chunsheng thought it was a rare opportunity.

Even because of this, Director Qi Chunsheng's opinion might clash with Ding Yue's decision.

But Director Xiao Wenxing had clearly stated.

Top world-class universities like Harvard and MIT would almost certainly not have private exchanges with domestic private institutions.

There had to be a catch!

But Ding Yue couldn't quite grasp what the catch might be at the moment.

"Principal Ding, what's wrong?"

Seeing Ding Yue's expression, Director Xiao asked.

"Director Xiao, as you just said, it's almost impossible for world-class universities like Harvard and MIT to have private arrangements with us. Then there's something off about what the school just told me... Where could the problem be?"

Ding Yue murmured.

Understanding the concern, Director Xiao Wenxing also furrowed his brow and said, "It couldn't be scammers, could it? You should definitely be careful about this, Principal Ding.

If it becomes necessary, report it to our Education Bureau, or you could also consider notifying the police!"

"That won't be necessary, I've already declined it!"

Ding Yue shook his head.

Scammers were unlikely, for if someone dared to defraud so blatantly, they would be easily exposed.

Because all Ding Yue needed to do was use his connections to inquire in America if there really was a university consortium interested in an exchange program with Mist City Arts and Science University. The truth would then be clear.

This matter.

Indeed, required further inquiry.

Ding Yue pondered it, not because he was worried about being duped by scammers.

What Ding Yue wanted to know was, what exactly was the catch?

If it were true, why would top world-class universities like Harvard and MIT have exchange spots available for his Mist City Arts and Science University?

Could it be because Mist City Arts and Science University had performed exceptionally well over the past year?

But that seemed unlikely.

Even if it had performed exceptionally well, it was still at best considered a top private university domestically, still some distance away from the leading national universities.

Why then were Harvard and MIT so favorably disposed toward Mist City Arts and Science University concerning exchange students?

From the beginning to the end, Ding Yue felt there was a problem.

"Director Xiao, could the Mist City Education Bureau somehow confirm with the American side whether there really is an American colleges consortium planning an exchange student program with our Mist City Arts and Science University?"

Ding Yue looked at Director Xiao Wenxing, hoping to get his help with this.

"That shouldn't be a problem, I'll have the bureau inquire right away," said Director Xiao Wenxing as he nodded and then took out his phone to call someone at the bureau.

Chapter 880: Nothing is More Important than GDP

After a while, Director Xiao Wenxing finished his phone call.

"Principal Ding, you might have to wait for a little while, it takes some time to communicate with the embassy in The United States, and it takes time for them to confirm this matter,"

said Director Xiao Wenxing to Ding Yue.

"Hmm-hmm."

Ding Yue wasn't in a hurry in this moment.

After all, he had already refused.

"Director Xiao, do you think it could be the Americans trying to infiltrate Mist City Arts and Science University?"

Having nothing else to do at the moment, Ding Yue couldn't help but engage in a bit of conspiracy theorizing.

Although this sounded rather far-fetched.

But considering the unease he had just felt, Ding Yue thought it might indeed be a possibility!

"You mean to say... someone in The United States has specifically sent over a group of exchange students to probe into the scientific research and technology at Mist City Arts and Science University?"

Upon hearing this, Director Xiao Wenxing became very interested and asked.

"I'm just guessing,"

said Ding Yue with a shrug.

"Principal Ding, your guess is quite creative, but come to think of it, it's not entirely impossible. Your Mist City Arts and Science University's graphene technology is a global leader, as is your 3D bioprinting technology,"

If Mist City Arts and Science University didn't have any notable strengths, then Director Xiao Wenxing might have thought that Ding Yue was suffering from persecution paranoia.

But the fact was

Mist City Arts and Science University was indeed strong in the fields of graphene and 3D bioprinting technology.

These two technologies, in the coming years, were going to involve and affect so many things.

The tech companies abroad could hardly be expected not to use some unconventional methods in response.

But all of these were just speculations by Ding Yue and Director Xiao Wenxing.

Without any evidence to support them.

"Let's wait to confirm if The United States really has a university alliance looking to do an exchange program with our Mist City Arts and Science University first,"

Ding Yue had just hypothesized.

If there was no such thing, then they were probably dealing with scammers.

If there was,

Ding Yue would have to carefully consider why a university in The United States would be willing to do an exchange program with Mist City Arts and Science University.

It definitely wasn't that simple.

Thinking this, Ding Yue took out his phone, opened Whatsapp, and sent a message to his buddy Xu Bin: "Bin, can you help me check on someone named Smith, to see which universities or companies he is associated with in The United States?"

Soon, Xu Bin replied.

Xu Bin: Sure, what's up with this person?

"Just check for now, I'm at City Hall right now, I'll tell you about it in detail when I get back and have some time,"

replied Ding Yue.

Xu Bin: Ok!

Just after Ding Yue finished sending the message to Xu Bin, the office assistant came over.

"Director Xiao, Principal Ding, Governor Li has finished his meeting. Please follow me,"

"Alright."

Director Xiao Wenxing nodded.

Then he and Ding Yue stood up and walked out, following the assistant towards the Mayor's Office.

"Mayor, Director Xiao and Principal Ding are here."

"Please come in, have a seat, have a seat,"

Mayor Li greeted warmly.

This was not the first time Ding Yue had seen Mayor Li.

Ding Yue had met Mayor Li at the groundbreaking ceremony of his graphene factory, and they had a good chat.

As the leader of Mist City, it was quite difficult to get an audience with him.

"Principal Ding, coming to see me with Director Xiao, it must be something important, right?"

Mayor Li asked with a smile.

"Mmm-hmm,"

Ding Yue nodded immediately.

Now that he had met with Governor Li, Ding Yue decided not to beat around the bush and get straight to the point.

"Governor Li, here's the situation. Mist City Arts and Science University needs to develop and requires more capital. Where will the capital come from? Feiyue Group. Currently, Feiyue Group has an excellent opportunity. Once the graphene industry is established, the market potential will be vast in the future. So, I want to speed up the process!"

Ding Yue explained the situation with clear logic.

The cause and effect were also clearly laid out.

Upon hearing this, Governor Li immediately asked, "Principal Ding, are you looking for a loan from Mist City?"

"No, no, no."

Ding Yue shook his head and said, "Governor Li, let me be frank: money isn't an issue. What Feiyue Group needs is policy support from Mist City. We require more land to create a graphene industrial park."

"Governor Li, Principal Ding is planning to turn graphene and related technological products into one of the pillar industries in Mist City!"

Director Xiao Wenxing stated the core of the matter at this point.

After hearing this, Governor Li suddenly understood.

"Technology industry is something every city wants to develop," acknowledged Governor Li with a nod. He then asked, "But can the graphene industry be successfully developed in Mist City?"

"Governor Li, are you aware that the graphene mechanical exfoliation fabrication technology of Mist City Arts and Science University has been nominated for the National Science and Technology Award?"

inquired Ding Yue.

"Yes, I'm aware of that."

Governor Li nodded his acknowledgment.

"In the next few years, it will be very difficult for global technology companies to overcome this challenge. During this time, if we establish a mature graphene technology system, then even if foreign technology companies develop their own graphene mechanical exfoliation fabricators or other graphene production methods, they will not be able to shake the standing of Mist City's graphene technology industry," Ding Yue said earnestly. "Additionally, Governor Li, just the field of graphene alone could create hundreds of billions or even more in GDP for Mist City in the future."

Upon hearing the words "GDP," Governor Li's eyes lit up.

For a city's governor, there's nothing more important than GDP.

"An industry scale of hundreds of billions is quite substantial. Can your Feiyue Group sustain such a large scale of industry?" Governor Li asked seriously.

After all, Mist City's annual GDP is only a little over 20,000 yuan. If the graphene technology system Ding Yue mentioned is established, it could not only increase Mist City's GDP but also transform it into a city with a high-tech industry.

It seemed beneficial in every way.

However, Governor Li couldn't be certain that Ding Yue could pull it off.

It wasn't that the graphene technology market wasn't that large.

It was whether Ding Yue's Feiyue Group could handle such a massive industry.

"Governor Li, as long as we have various support from Mist City, I am confident!"

Ding Yue spoke with a resolute gaze.

With core technology in hand, no global competitors, and a market with great demand and urgency, he considered.

Think about it.

Which mobile phone users wouldn't want a phone with lasting battery life after a single charge?

Unfortunately, major mobile manufacturers' battery technology has been unable to make a breakthrough.

Graphene batteries, on the other hand, are the key to breaking through the limitations of mobile phone battery life.

Beyond mobile devices, computers, electric vehicles—any electronic device that requires batteries—is about to face a revolutionary change thanks to graphene batteries.

"Principal Ding, your confidence alone is not enough. The City Government needs to see Feiyue Group's planning and capabilities," stated Governor Li gravely.

"There's no problem with that!"

Ding Yue didn't expect to finalize this matter with just this one visit.

After all, such an enormous undertaking could not possibly be settled in one go, and Governor Li would not be able to make a decision on his own. The City Government would surely have to hold a meeting to come to a resolution.

"After I return, I will start preparing the plans and detailed information. In fact, Huawei Technology Group, Dami Technology Group, Penguin Group, and other new energy vehicle manufacturers have already begun negotiations with us," Ding Yue disclosed this information to Governor Li.

Mainly, he wanted to reinforce Governor Li's confidence.

"Oh?"

Governor Li, hearing this, nodded with satisfaction, "These are major domestic companies. If you can secure orders from them, it indicates Feiyue Group's graphene plant really needs to expand. Additionally, Principal Ding, let me share some news with you. Just now in the meeting I was in..."