

Character Roles



These characters are **real** and are involved in this project.

Lu Fang - a farmer on the banks of the Yangtse River

You are a fourth-generation farmer who lives in a small village on the lower banks of the Yangtse River. You have been told by the government that your farm will be flooded and covered by a reservoir when the Three Gorges dam is built. The government has promised your family a new house, a cheap supply of electricity, and a sum of money, if you relocate. The farming area to which you will be moving has steeper land and the climate is less suitable for the growth of your orange crop. As a village leader and local Communist Party Secretary you feel that you should move for the common good, but you are afraid that your way of life and traditions will be destroyed.

Fuying Liu - Director of the Bureau of Resettlement

As the government official in charge of resettlement you concede that relocating the inhabitants has been a challenging task, but you feel that it will benefit the people in the long term. The old villages had houses without windows, running water, or electricity. The new settlements have modern buildings with affordable electricity and wide roads. By creating better ports and a power supply, the new dam will provide future jobs and increased prosperity in a depressed area.

Patricia Adams - Toronto-based environmentalist with Probe International

As an environmentalist, you are concerned about the impact the dam will have on a unique ecosystem of plants and animals. It has been estimated that two thirds of the present land will be destroyed. The pollution in the Yangtse River will be increased as toxic chemicals leach out of drowned factories and human and industrial waste is dumped into a static lake rather than being washed away by the river. You are also concerned about the silt build up in the dam that will hit the fisheries and agriculture downstream and could make the dam useless within 12 years. The weight of the lake on a fault line may trigger earthquakes causing the dam to collapse. You propose that the megadam be replaced by a series of small dams built on tributaries.

Lu You Mei - Deputy Chief of the Three Gorges Planning Office

You sincerely believe that this project will provide a major impetus for the Chinese economy. The hydroelectricity produced will provide a clean energy alternative that will reduce China's dependence on coal as fuel and reduce global warming. The dam will provide irrigation and help prevent flooding and loss of lives. The controlled river will have better and safer navigation and the beautiful lake and dam created will be major tourist attractions.

Nelly Ng - Toronto doctor who chairs the Canadian Foundation for the Preservation of Chinese Cultural and Historical Treasures.

When the Yangtse rises, historic and tourist sites all along the river will be flooded, including whole villages with their ancient temples, monuments, and burial grounds, which have great significance for the local people. A priceless archaeological heritage which includes Precious Stone Fortress, the Zhang Fei Temple as the well as the Moyo Cliff carvings (over 100 years old) will be lost forever. Surveys have identified more than 1000 relics that merit protection in the area of the planned reservoir.

Shiela Campelli - Senior for Advisor Acres International (Canadian Engineering and Consulting Firm involved in the project)

You appreciate the technical challenge of this project and have earned substantial amounts of money by helping design and construct the dam. A Canadian feasibility study of the dam in the 1980s came out strongly in favour of the construction of the dam and resettlement of the population. This led the way to lucrative export contracts many of which went to Canadian companies. Large amounts of capital have been invested by Canadian industry and thousands of Canadian jobs depend on the construction of the many generators, turbines, and super computers required in this project.