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URBAN WISDOM ADVANCING WITH CHINA

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全球竞争中的亚洲城市比较

COMPARATIVE URBAN STUDY OF ASIA IN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION

全球竞争中的 亚洲城市比较

Comparative Urban Study of Asia In Global Development Competition

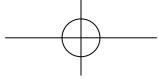
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“亚洲世代”中的中国城市设计发展思考

URBAN DESIGN OF CHINA IN 'ASIAN ERA'

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Text / KUANG Xiaoming[Chief Editor of Urban China]



在全球经济发展中,各地区经济互相依赖和融合而形成全球经济有机共同体,或者说全球经济命运共同体。以中国为代表的亚洲城市,在后经济危机中表现出中流砥柱的作用。据统计,到2050年,亚洲人口将达到世界总人口的2/3,占据世界上约60%的城市。亚洲将成为城市人口最集中的区域。研究亚洲的意义更加重要,不仅是经济发展迅速崛起的一个区域,更是城市化快速发展的区域,亚洲的城市化将是21世纪世界发展的主要动力,人口是其主要的动力因素。未来全球经济将呈现亚欧美三大板块,从“亚元”、“欧元”、“美元”的“YES”来看,亚洲将承担重要的经济一极。三大区域经济中,亚洲将成为增长速度最快的版块。亚洲经济在过去三十年的发展得益于城市化,主要在于人口由农村走向城市,同时得益于全球经济一体化背后庞大的资本推动,两化叠加,造就了亚洲城市发展的总背景,呈现出中国式造城的现象。

中国的区域一体化特性

CHARACTERISTICS OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN CHINA

中国倡导的“一带一路”正是全球经济一体化在新阶段的重要表现,同时这也说明中国在全球经济中越来越重要的地位和担当。中国区域的特殊之处主要来自于体制的优势,即在充分的市场经济发展的前提下,发挥了政府的调控作用,避免了市场的失灵,同时也预见到了发展的陷阱。中国政府比较重视国土空间规划,确立了以城市群作为主体形态的城镇化发展思路,未来中国将形成近20个城市群,其中以钻石型城市群为骨干,珠三角、长三角、京津冀、长江中游、成渝等大钻石型城市群,每个城市群的发展必然需要一个强有力的发动机,也就是国家级中心城市和区域中心城市来引动各城市群的发展。

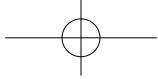
中心城市的作用不仅是发动机,也是桥头堡,更是创新源。就目前而言,区域中心城市的特殊之处在于它的集聚与辐射带动效应,在城市化过程当中发挥它的政治、经济、文化、创新的引领作用,尤其是

中心城市的创新动力将直接关系到城市群的可持续发展。区域中心城市尤其是已经颁布的八个国家级中心城市,其核心作用就是辐射带动引领城市群的发展,是城市群的领头羊和发动机,其作用首先在于区域交通中心,比如郑州,建构米字型高铁,实际上就是为了打通中心城与中原城市群的交通联系。二是区域的经济中心,具有强大的金融、商贸和产业集聚能力。三是区域的文化中心,为整个城市群提供高水平的文化产品。四是区域的科创中心,为区域的发展提供源源不断地智慧动能,同时又能够建立区域协作体系,形成区域协调机制,在区域中能够整合资源,促进城市群各城市的产业分工,形成错位发展良性互动,有机共生的经济共同体。

城市设计的重点转移

SHIFTING URBAN DESIGN FOCUS

伴随着后工业时期和生态文明阶段的到来,城市设计关注的重



点呈现出三个方面的变化。一是关注生态，强调城市与自然的和谐共生。“十九大”报告提出的人与自然生命共同体的思想，很好地表达了生态文明时期人与自然共生共创的新理念。笔者曾在2015年提出生态城市设计概念，以及关注生态低碳的城市设计方法。其重点在于强调组团式发展，将低碳作为衡量城市效率的重要指标。二是强调人文。随着增量城市化的放缓，老城的更新和再生受到越来越多的重视，城市设计更加重视中华文化的传承和文化自信，将保护和活化历史文化资源作为重点，一方面要保护好千年的历史文化资源，另一方面也要利用好这些文化资源，打造富有文化魅力的城市空间，弘扬中华优秀传统文化和地域文化，避免千城一面，突显城市独特魅力。三是关注智能。随着互联网时期的到来和大数据的发展，智慧城市的建设将极大地影响城市规划，城市设计要充分地利用大数据手段，使人与自然的协调更加具有科学性、高效性和实用性。近来的城市规划设计已经超越了计算机辅助设计，更多的是通过大数据分析关注人的动态、人的需求，从而更加贴近于人、富有动态属性和智能化。在此背景下，城市规划的理念也更加强调回归本源，关注全球生态，体现命运共同体的思维。在具体的实践中进一步强调整体性与有机性、城市与城市、城市与生态的整体关联性，强调城市与自然、人与自然的有机联动性，同时越来越强调以人为本，回归人的尺度。吴志强院士也特别提到城市规划不是鸟瞰而是人看，其内涵就是要强调人的体验。城市设计已不再简单地强调“高大上”，而是要注重“小就是美”的城市体验，强调紧凑的城市尺度、高密度空间、活力街道空间。对弱势群体的关怀是城市文明的重要标志。未来，城市设计将会更加重视人民城市、生态城市、创新城市的概念，强调人与自然的和谐、永续创新和可持续发展，以及城市空间的公平与正义。

在城市更新背景下，城市设计的作用主要体现在以下四方面：一是传承人文，保护好悠久灿烂的历史文化；二是创造活力，为城市复兴注入持续动能；三是强调整体，整合城市各类功能，组合城市各类空间要素，发挥城市整体效能；四是促进联动，将老城区原有的相互割裂的功能板块串联成有机整体，加强各功能联动，强调空间的流动性和驻留性之间的结合。

存量背景下的新城规划思路 NEW METHODOLOGY

“中国式造城”之后的新城发展，重要的是改变以地生财的粗放型资金滚动模式，以及对“高大上”的追求，走出一条可持续的以人为本的增量增长道路，并且要与老城更新在高位层面上进行整合与互动。通过新城的建设来疏解老城的非核心功能，缓解老城的空间压

力，促进新城与老城的平衡发展，综合解决城市病的诸多问题，同时有效地带动新城的发展。在此战略背景下的新城发展更加强调产城融合、宜居宜业。进入存量时代，笔者参加了北京通州城市副中心、雄安新区的规划，完成了天府新区、赣江新区、郑东新区等多个新区的规划设计，深刻地感受到“创新、协调、绿色、开放、共享”五大发展理念的重要性。这些新区的建设从不同层面总结了以往新区建设的经验和教训，主要有以下几点：

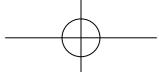
第一是均衡。新区并非孤立发展，而是要强调新老城区的平衡发展，城乡平衡发展，城市与自然平衡发展。在增量发展的同时，要突出老城的更新。比如针对天府新区，成都市委书记提出“东进、南拓、西控、北改、中优”，促进城市可持续发展，将“南拓”和“中优”结合起来，同时解决城市发展不平衡、不充分的问题。

第二是疏解。新城的建设不能单打一，需要将老城的更新结合起来，有序疏解部分已经不适合在老城区集聚的功能。北京通州城市副中心的建设就是为了疏解非首都职能，主要是政府行政办公职能；雄安新区的建设也将疏解部分非首都职能，主要是一些大型的企业、科教等职能。因此，新区的规划要充分地考虑如何落实这些非核心功能。

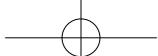
第三是引领。新区最重要的职能就是能够引领新时代的发展，突出打造引力空间，以新城的魅力吸引创新要素的集聚，在缓解老城压力的同时，打造新的创新增长极，为区域的发展提供持续的创新动能。例如，天府新区的重要建设项目——成都科学城，将生态要素作为城市发展重要的诱导因素，围绕着鹿溪河和兴隆湖布置创新企业的集聚空间，在实现低碳环保的同时，强调人才的集聚和创新的发展。

第四是示范。这些新区都是国家级新区，既是“五位一体”发展的承载区，也是“五大理念”发展的示范区。其重要职能就是全面贯彻新发展理念，将重点示范人才集聚、城乡统筹、绿色发展、区域一体和全民共享等五项主要内容，使新区建设真正成为创新的城市、生态的城市和人民的城市，同时也贯彻了城市规划的一些新思路，比如，组团布局、开放街区、低碳出行、活力街巷及人文城市等诸方面的实践。这一批国家级新区将广泛汇集人民和专家的智慧，落实公众参与。

规划师已经不再是传说中创造城市空间的英雄，而是城市规划工作中汇集多方智慧、整合资源的协调者。在承担天府新区总规划师职责的过程中，笔者深刻体会到规划不是简单地描绘城市未来的图景，而是一个动态的过程。城市规划的管理模式和工作模式都需要创新，城市规划师不仅要协调好城市发展的各种要素，更要关注城市的公众利益和公共利益。新阶段的新城新区规划，需要坚持一张蓝图绘到底理念和体制机制创新的支撑。建设美丽中国需要搭准时代的脉搏，运用先进的技术，联合各方的力量，实现“我们的城市”复兴。■



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COMPARATIVE URBAN STUDY IN GLOBAL COMPETITION

Text/ KUANG Xiaoming[Chief Editor of Urban China]+ZHAO Min

This topic started from a course of 'Asian City Comparison' faced to the American undergraduates. The methodology can be found in our former issue 'UHI: Urban Humanities', however we questioned the starting point of labeling random 22 metropolitans. Mumbai=Slum, Shanghai=Media, Singapore=Identity, why and how? Starting research from a brainless labeling, and disneyland-ing a continent which is knocked together by medieval and earlier European geographic view, isn't it a shame for a world-famous university in urban studies? Moreover, UCRC researchers in China and editorial had read all articles that course had suggested - 'why Asian cities are so big', 'why Asian cities are so crowded', 'why a government controls'. Some articles even give a short-term final pessimistic result of Asian city development, however there is neither 'Lotus Revolution' nor 'East Asian Spring' so far, and it seems the less populated, smaller cities with urban sprawl - the Mediterranean African cities are more fragment. Every topic leads to the background of this course - This is not research, this is knowledge populization to young Americans.

A Misoriented 'Anti Orientalism'

A more reasonable way is to compare those SO-CALLED CITIES from another view of angle, transforming a too-interesting-to-do outsider's view to an insider's vision. According to Edward Said, orientalism may occur once the voice-dominant 'West' meets developing bottleneck and needs a mirror to overcome. In that case, UCRC and editorial tried to backward reason an outline of 'American Orientalism'. Urban sprawl? Rust Belt? The loss of competitiveness of some cities / metropolitans?

The basic back-reasoning research forms some components of the poster. UCRC and editorial compared 50+ mega cities (ended by Ho Chi Minh City so that all 'famous Asian cities' can be included) by means of population density, the scale of covered labors etc. Finally we found Asian cities - no matter 'which Asian' except South Asia subcontinent - is not 'weird' at all, oppositely, THE REAL EXCEPTION IN GLOBAL LEVEL IS NORTHERN AMERICAN CITIES in physical

comparison.

Some economic-geographic methods then helped us clearing a top-down vision of dividing Asia into different regions of 'flow'. Being aware that the scale of Asian countries is commonly bigger than European, particularly two territorial giants, the top-down scaling is no longer 'global- continental regional- national- local regional/ local- local/city', but roughly:

1. Global - the same as common definition;
2. Regional - China is too big to bear simply one region, and the most evident one is international;
3. National - in Southeast Asia it IS national level but in inland China it is provincial union level (such as Yangtze River Delta) and in India it is state or state union level (such as Gujarat - Maharashtra and Jharkand - Bihar - West Bengal - Bangladesh)
4. Local regional - each Asian mega city with its outskirt rural; and for some places of China, prefecture-level city.
5. Local - county-level in China, division level in India, provincial/ prefecture level in other countries.

In that case, the most evident regions in Asia are:

1. Coastal China+ Japan+ two Koreans, in centers of Beijing, Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo, without a typical financial center in British-American system;
2. Southeast, in center of Singapore as the typical financial center;
3. South Asia, lack of real financial and mass production central city but has one giant country as the engine;
4. West Asia and the middle east, transport centers are not mega cities whereas mega cities are located near the Red Sea; unsure that the border to South Asia is in Iran or Pakistan due trade flows between Pakistan and India are too weak comparing with Pakistan to West Asia in general;
5. Inner Asia, which is lack of leading center; unsure that Mongolia belongs to Inner Asia or the first region due to it is physically relying on Beijing and Tokyo but politically opposite, while the trade flows are too weak to track.

And there are two sub regions within China:

1. Pearl River Delta including Hong Kong and Macau. While Hong Kong is also responsible for financing the first region mentioned before;

2. The growing Southwest China, in centers of Chengdu and Chongqing, due to geographical isolation, also needs HK's financing.

Thus the research starting point turned to global city network in Asia, a history from colonization to westernization, and to globalization, finally to glocalization. This is the typical insider's collective recognition about how Asia develops as a part of the globe.

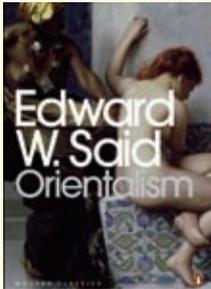
At the same time, Professor SU Ning of Shanghai Academy of Social Science suggested us paying attention of the annual unchanging cities in top GaWC list. The competitive position of those cities is unaffected, and one factor of annual slight seat changing is cultural industry and living environment. It reminds us the UCLA vision that criticized before. UCRC and editorial stared from 'anti orientalism', but it is not the case of orientalism. An outsider judges Asian cities by such a list that showing cultural and identity competition only, it is not a fault, but ignorant of a dominant factor beyond too many types of letters, too many linguistic families, and too many individual cultures.

Having understood the reason of 'American orientalism', and back to 'westernization' the so-called orientalism vision, UCRC and editorial highlights the importance of reading 'Five-Year Plan' of different countries. It is the common understanding of how 50 years of national-level unequal development creates high population density of some capital cities, the slum of city outskirts, unequal basic infrastructure construction, 'Asian miracle' and all 'Asian problems' that everyone talks about.

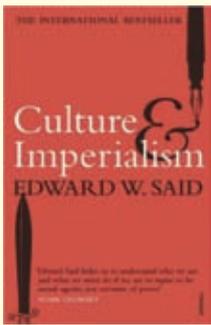
Comparison is NOT for 'Being Another City'

To current situation, Jenifer Robinson's 'comparative urban studies' provides us another vision to track the development path of individual cities. There is no 'rich' or 'poor', 'Asian' or 'African', 'developed' or 'undeveloped' cities, however, though this methodology corrects a historic planning aim of Asian cities - learning from XXX and being the 'little XXX', without thinking of regional difference, it is very easy to be misused as 'no cities can be compared because they have nothing in common'.

Thus UCRC and editorial define several aspects



Orientalism
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 Publishing House: Vintage
 Publishing Year: 1994
 RMB 97

Comparative Urban Studies
 Editor: Hilary Silver
 Publishing House: Routledge
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that can compare and point out on which condition those cities are unable to be compared. First of all, all cities in comparison must be mega cities, as they are regional centers or sub centers in global city network, with some common identities not only in scale and population density, but also in financial, knowledge, labor and trade flows. And then, one possible idea is to compare interaction between mega cities in two regions, in order to stress on regional identity shaped by history and culture, special roles of certain mega cities in this unique system, and providing a perspective of regional development. The first story is about new-coming Delhi-Mumbai Economic Corridor, which is said to salute to Beijing-Shanghai High-speed Rail and Tokyo-Osaka metropolitan chain. However the huge scale cannot compare with the intensive Honshu Island, and the urbanization as well as industrialization limited by basic infrastructure cannot be solved by neither high-speed rail nor spatial expansion of industrial area. But this comparison is meaningful still, because it is easy for us understanding the real needs of India – the founding of local market while developing export-oriented textile manufacture.

Scaling down from regional level, Tokyo and Bangkok are the national centers. How globalization conflicts with localization in national branding? What can Chinese provincial union centers such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou etc. learn to lead industrial transformation and keeping competitive position in global competition? And to local level, the sharp conflict between ‘westernization’ ambition and local living transformation happens not only in Tokyo, but also within Chinese mega cities and the vast rural or local small cities. Can it be solved, and how?

Another common issue in local regional level is peri-urbanization in every city, no matter rich or poor, big or small. Busan kicks ass of Chinese cities trying to develop sight-seeing type cultural-industrial park, and Malaysia also smack in the face of cities trying to develop tourism to revitalize local communities. We ordered several cities by different national GDP, trying to find out some interesting trend.

In conclusion, UCRC and editorial think that these

comparisons are possible: mega city interaction in different economic regions; regional centers in different regions; different centers or sub-centers within an international region (to get rid of national strategic inequality in huge countries); relationship of city and ‘hinterland’ between different mega cities. Impossible comparison happens mostly when economic-geographical level differs, such as between a regional center and a sub-center of another region, like Ahmedabad can never be another Seoul, nor Bangkok can be ‘little Hong Kong’, and Bangladesh cannot run out of the shade of Kolkata in short-term. Multi-level comparison is not for ‘being another city/ region’, but to help realizing regional identities, clarifying their own positions and roles in a certain region, and thinking a more local way to solve some unique problems and find particular chances.

Understanding ‘the Others’, and then OBOR

Normally, every comparison in China will lead to two cynical questions: ‘what’s the function of the comparison (Beijing/ Shanghai/ Guangzhou is big enough to be my regional center)’, and ‘why we compare with that city (as the comparison object is not a developed region that we cannot learn directly)’. To the first question that always raising from hinterland, the answer is – center-hinterland relationship is not merely spatial attachment, but concerning flows, and a hinterland is not simply related to one certain regional center, but may have more complicated relationship to other regional centers. The latter one is the essence of global city network system. To the second question that always raising in mega cities, the answer is – comparing with developed regions is a heritage of colonization, but finally every region has to face to its unique problem that the others have never experienced. Moreover, the upward of your hometown depends on economic spatial expanding, and in this process we have to meet the others, to interact, to collaboration, and to compete.

Thus, from a cynical point of view, we hope that this issue could help explaining OBOR strategy – it may not be neo-colonization of an economic giant, but may a rebuilding of global city network once a great power has retreated.



Comparison of Asian Regions and Cities in Global Competition

Interview with SU Ning, Shanghai Academic Social Sciences

Interview+Edit/DING Xinyi[UCRC] + ZHAO Min

From the question 'how to access a local market' in colonial era, modern globalization has raised the research about global city (network). Hub city, world city, global city, till now global city network, the focus has changed from an outsider's vision to a more insider's approach, thinking more about the path of urban growth and localization in such a globalized period. Huge Asian cities ask more tracking on financial and business flows, industrial transmission and transformation, as well as product distribution and consumption. Do they – always an imperial center or harbor in former colonization – have some aspects of development in common other than the ambition of 'westernization'? What is the meaning of the comparison results to the further development strategy (such as One Belt One Road) of China?

The Evolution of Global City Theory

Q: How the concept of Global City has changed?

A: Global City is generated from the concept World City. Geddes raised the later concept in 1915 when the colonizing era had not finished. At that time the global production – distribution – consumption network is under construction, and mainly contributed by the United Kingdom. The colonizers needed to get market monopoly in a certain place via a gate, mostly a harbor city. At this time, the world cities may not be dominated by a single country. They were also responsible to the benefit distribution of different colonizers, such as Shanghai to British, French and Americans. The concept and research of World City highlighted the controlling force to their hinterland. After the WWII, international corporations replaced the traditional colonial empires. Global cities became the agent and managing regional mass production. Sassen's theory emphasized the accumulation of the third-tier industry, including finance, insurance, accounting, supervision etc. Peter J. Taylor then raised a new concept 'World City Network' in 2000, concerning more about financial, labour, production-consumption, and industrial transferring flows in between of cities in different globalized level. It can be viewed as the starting point of investigating the interaction of Asian cities in Asia. At that time, many mass-productive cities in Asia has no longer been hinterland of an only city. Take Suzhou as an example, it is the globalized mass-productive base that never 'less globalized' than Shanghai, Singapore and

Taipei which are the distribution center in the whole network.

In 2004, a new theory of 'Global City-Region' came out. Originally we thought that global cities had fewer interactions with its home country, 'New York is another country'. However the later phenomena show that a global city is able to benefit its surrounding area in much industrial field. It bears certain relationships among a region that formed by a group of cities with different scale, development trend and industrial collaboration – even not a group of cities, rural areas are also included. Particularly in the trend that second industry is moving back to the developed countries or regions, the importance of city-region in global productive- distribution-consumption network is strengthened.

Is it the end of the theory of global city? Nowadays a new concept 'globalization of cultural capital' is raised. The former ones emphasis and value the second industry but the newly coming one shifts the vision to the third tier industry particularly cultural industry. More and more cities appear in the list of GaWC list, however people only remember the top 20+ with their cultural branding. Cultural industry becomes an expression of creativity and living quality.

Identity of Asia...or East Asia?

Q: Do Asian cities having similarities apart from colonization and while we define the sub-continent, 'the East' and the maritime continent, half of the Arabic world and the Eurasian steppe together as one continent?

A: There are two major similarities within Asian cities and diverse from European cities. First of all it is governmental ability. One origin of 'Western cities' is the late medieval 'free city-states', trade-based but not political-cultural center. Asian cities are growing bottom-up with agricultural and other industries but highly depending on the position of higher-level political center. After the colonizing era, the logic of Asian development is planning-directed, that giving priority to develop capital cities and old-colonial trade hubs. It is not free market based thus always being criticized by westerners, but they always ignore the existing city hierarchy in the world which is also mentioned in earlier world city theories - the most 'westernized' (western cities), the second 'westernized' (Asian political and trade centers), and the most 'unwesternized' local cities. The basic conflict of city hierarchy cannot be solved by free market and democracy. This IS the

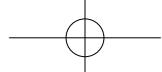
common recognition by all Asian governments.

Thus the developing spirit of Asian cities is 'to develop'. This is the second similarity among Asian cities. City becomes a progress machine that market vitality and cultural creativity is an aspect of the whole progress but not the progress itself. Many westerners cannot understand why local city planning must following the strategic plan of the central governments, and why Asian countries have so many plans in different political levels. It cannot be simply viewed as 'top-down' or centralization. However multi-level planning system is more common in East Asia. We cannot say it is a fundamental reason of the development success of Chinese, Japanese and Korean cities, but we are sure that it successfully reduces intra-region cutthroat competition, reduces economic tsunami caused by market failure, and causes eastward movement of global trade gravity.

Q: Ironically, originally we thought that 'Five-year Plan' is the characteristics of East Asian cities and regions, but factually the subcontinent is more widely on adopting five-year plan system. Only Maldives and Sri Lanka are the exception. But they ARE viewed as successful free market and famous in democracy. What are the characteristics of South Asian cities in development?

A: India has been fully colonized and totally been the producing base of British Empire, while the so-called 'half feudal half colonial' China has some reflection on medieval European 'free city-state plus centralized kingdom/empire' from. This is the fundamental difference. Under the first form, all states are vertically governed by British raj, and between states there was a lack of modern producing – distribution – consumption interaction. In other words, there is lack of city network no matter by productive corporation or local large-scale governmental system in India.

After WWII, India applied a mixed system. Nehru learnt Soviet strategic planning system, but the 60 years experience shows that the combination is not effective as people expected, especially in the field of basic infrastructure construction and investment. One reason is that India is still the hinterland of global cities and capital giants. IT industry is a quick way to join in the 'more western' productive network, however what about the non-educated farmers? Though the national elites bear language and labor cost strengths, those industries haven't



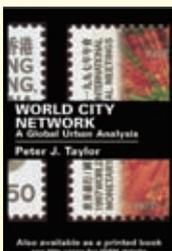
Cities in Evolution: An introduction to the Town Planning Movement and to the Study of Civics

Author: Patrick Geddes (UK)
Translator: LI Hao, WU Junlian, YE Dongqing, MA Keni
Publishing House: China Architecture and Building Press
Publishing Year: 2012
RMB 50.00



Global City: New York, London, Tokyo (2001 Version)

Author: Saskia Sassen (USA)
Translator: ZHOU Zhenhua
Publishing House: Shanghai Academy of Social Science
Publishing Year: 2001
RMB 48.00



World City Network: A Global Urban Analysis

Author: Peter J. Taylor (USA)
Internet Version: <http://www.doc88.com/p-9743614208749.html>



The Policentric Metropolis: Learning from Megacity Regions in Europe

Author: Peter Hall, Kathy Pain (UK)
Translator: LUO Zhendong etc
Publishing House: China Architecture and Building Press
Publishing Year: 2010
RMB 98.00

been able to influence the whole industrial system. Some southern cities soar in this industrial shifting, but the other fields of industry are not able to get the same benefit. It is structural inequality. It is still export-oriented. The further developing step is to encourage local consumption and more local-oriented.

Q: Southeast Asian countries are relatively small. It helps to develop multi-centric regional market. The globalization level of each capital is not as high as East Asian hub cities, but the economic complexity is enough.

A: The developing path of Southeast Asian cities is urbanization before industrialization. Taking maritime Southeast Asia as an example, harbors develop first with immigrants. From maritime industry, services develop fast, but what about the other industries particularly light industry? Peri-urban sprawling because of the peasants in rural area try to find working opportunity in the urban area, and finally low-level service becomes the urbanization engine. It is not sustainable.

Thus we can see the advantage of Thailand and Malaysian five year plan – industrialization oriented, and industrial export-oriented. The second industry is a key to generate the middle income group. Those middle incomes bear ability of consuming certain higher quality products, thus then cause a steady development of cultural and creative industry.

Opportunities of East-forward Economic Center
Q: As to East Asian cities, how should we use the characteristic, or the advantage of effective governance in this certain period?

A: Fewer people, less social complexity are easier to get collective benefit, but we are historically populated countries with high population density in urban areas with high-diverse social groups. Forceful governance brings more ability in distribution. Forceful government may not the factor of inequality but free market has caused global inequality and the gap between global metropolitan core and the surrounding shrinking, according to Neo-Marxist economic geography. Be aware that forceful does not equal to ‘top-down’. A successful government needs to find a balance between a more top-down strategic decision making and a more bottom-up creativity and market vitality.

We can see many global metropolitan regions in EU and USA changed to be a more forceful and ambi-

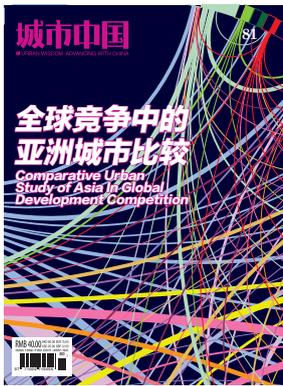
tions strategic plan. This is because the urban transformation has already happened. More metropolitan regions began to compete, and more governance and management wisdom need to be researched.

Q: How can we promote more and more global cities in Asia in global competition?

A: The general industry including third-tier industry and basic infrastructure is more and more developed in Asian countries, but the global cities in top level is difficult to be reached. Financial expanding relates to the economic gravity shifting, and we are happy to see this shifting is eastward. This is because we haven’t finished the transformation from scale expansion to industrial upgrading, and more over, we don’t have an Asian style financial regulation.

Our weakness is cultural attractiveness and ability of high-end service. Local traditional product retailing is not cultural industry. When we mention ‘culture’, it is the ability of spiritual mass production and popularization. It needs the creativity of young people living in metropolitans or with strong knowledge flow link to the metropolitans.

According to the concept of global city network, each local city is able to attach the whole production-distribution network. Originally those cities are hinterlands of global cities, gaining industries transferred out, but now every city in a certain region is unique and contributes to the competition of the region. Thus there are two aspects of growth. One is to collaborate with other cities in the region to raise the regional competitive position, and the other one is providing feedback of the core cities’ needs. Taking local traditional product retailing as an example again, when it happen in a town in a certain region, it bears those two aspects – it bears its own identity in this region and may collaborate with other cities in exhibition, tourism and some industries, but may not be creative industry. Meanwhile, artists in the core cities may find opportunities of spiritual production from those local products and help the skill, the aesthetics upgrading, and then generates more universal and more individual modern cultural productions, and providing the core city an identity to compete in global scale. In conclusion, under current situation, all regions are competing to themselves, and the competing aspects are collaboration, creativity and keeping the existing identity and strengths. There is no common path of a successful city region.



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