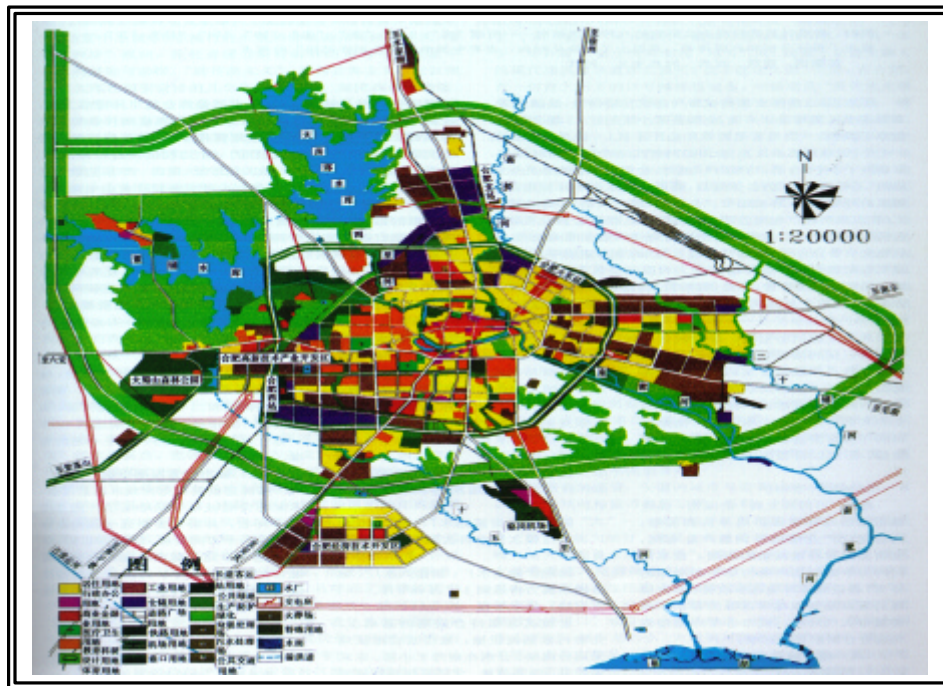


China's Comprehensive Planning Practice, its Evolution, and Prospects

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(Abstract)

This paper describes the evolution of Chinese comprehensive planning and proposes a number of recommendations related to the country's economic development and political reform, based on analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of the current approaches to comprehensive planning.

Chinese urban planning has a long history. Its origin can be traced back to 5,000 years ago. The urban planning approaches advanced along with the development of Chinese cities. During the long history, Chinese people formulated a unique way of urban planning.

The different urban planning approaches have specifically identifiable features in different historic periods. Particularly, with the establishment of the socialist regime in China in 1949, complete and systematic urban planning approaches were created.

Today, when the country is proceeding with economic and political reforms, the reform of comprehensive planning approaches has also been undertaken in a significant way. The author poses a number of viewpoints for the potential transformation of the approaches in China, with particular emphasis on the change of planning mechanism (including planning process and implementation) and citizen participation.

To Zheng Song

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Cover Picture: Comprehensive Planning of Hefei, 1995-2010

Preface

Chinese urban planning has a long history. The origin of Chinese urban planning can be traced back to 5,000 years ago in aboriginal settlement siting and land use arrangements. With the development of productivity, early settlements evolved into cities. When Chinese cities developed, Chinese urban planning approaches also developed. People in China formulated a unique way for urban planning, following the pace of the development of the country's culture, society, and technology. Urban planning is thus a reflection of China's civilization, telling how Chinese people understand nature, human's activities, and economic and social systems.

The Chinese urban planning approaches have specific features in different historic periods. As China experienced the slavery era, the feudal era, the colonial era, and the socialist era, the urban planning approaches varied in these different epochs. The varieties of planning approaches are implied in the spatial patterns of Chinese cities in each era.

Particularly, in the late 19th century, western urban planning ideologies were spread to China that significantly influenced Chinese urban planning approaches. A number of new urban planning concepts were introduced, e.g., comprehensive planning, planning implementation mechanisms, garden city, zoning, etc. With the establishment of the socialist regime in China in 1949, complete and systematic urban planning approaches were created with both Soviet and western influences.

Today, when the country is proceeding with economic and political reforms, the reform of urban planning approaches has also been undertaken. Currently, many Chinese urban planners are exploring the planning mechanisms suitable to the market economy in light of the transitional economic and political structures in the country. Comprehensive planning is one of the popular sectors in their explorations. This atmosphere seriously impacts me. Given a chance to write this major paper, I selected comprehensive planning as a subject in an attempt to explore the country's overall planning approaches from this starting point.

Since comprehensive planning approaches in China cannot be addressed divorced from the evolution of planning approaches in the country, the paper addresses this issue by the way of "looking back" to the very beginning of Chinese cities. I believe this

retrospective approach will not only address clearly the evolution of Chinese urban planning as well as comprehensive planning, but also help people to have a deeper understanding of the constructive aspects of traditional Chinese planning ideologies on present and future comprehensive planning, as related to the country's economic and political reforms. Based on my review, with analysis of the current approaches' advantages and disadvantages, I will propose a number of recommendations deriving from my special focus on the change of planning mechanism (including planning process and implementation) and citizen participation.

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