



The Role of Urban Planning and Governance in the Economic Development of the People's Republic of China (PRC)

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The “urban agenda” in the PRC was adopted in 1979 with the launching of economic reforms and opening up to the outside world.



The PRC's national urban development strategy includes:

- (a) Development of small towns to absorb rural-urban migrants and energize rural areas**
- (b) Integrated planning of small and medium-sized cities**
- (c) Comprehensive planning and governance of large cities and mega-urban regions**
- (d) Concentrated urban development in special economic zones (SEZs)**



COUNTRY COMPARISON

INDIA

PRC

1. Population (millions)	1.123	1.320
2. Annual pop. growth rate	1.4%	0.6%
3. Density, persons/sq km	378	142
4. GDP-PPP per capita	2,740	5,370
5. GDP growth rate (2006-2007)	7.7%	11.2%
6. Life expectancy at birth (males)	63	70
7. Life expectancy at birth (females)	66	74
8. Adult literacy rate (15 +)	61%	91%
9. Carbon dioxide emissions (M.T.)	1.2	3.9

Source: World Bank, World Development Report, 2009, p. 352.

The Special Economic Zones of China



A photograph of a cityscape under a cloudy sky. In the foreground, there is a utility pole and some greenery. The city buildings are visible in the middle ground, and the sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds.

**PRC city-region planning:
some key issues**

- (a) Inner city redevelopment**
- (b) Controlling urban sprawl**
- (c) Investing in infrastructure & services – emphasis on “global city” and “futuristic” standards**
- (d) Investing in “human capital” development**
- (e) Controlling population size and distribution**



Types of urban governance approaches:

- (a) Decentralization at the village level**
- (b) Central-local financial relations**
- (c) Private sector participation in financing and management of urban infrastructure**
- (d) Reliance on external capital to finance urban infrastructure and services**
- (e) Unified regional governance**

Mega-urban region planning: The Pearl River Delta region




In the PRC, the central government and provincial governments have the paramount authority for urban governance and infrastructure finance.



The background of the slide is a photograph of a tropical landscape. In the center, there is a traditional multi-tiered pagoda with a dark roof, situated on a hillside. To the right, a tall palm tree stands prominently. The foreground is filled with lush green foliage, including banana leaves. In the distance, a body of water is visible under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

PRC Concept of Inclusive Development:

- (a) Integrated development of rural and urban areas**
- (b) All levels of government**
- (c) All segments of society especially the poor**
- (d) The private sector**
- (e) Urban infrastructure and services**
- (f) Civil society**



Environmental pollution is one of the most serious problems caused by rapid urban development in the PRC

The other serious problem is the widening gap between coastal cities and the interior, urban and rural citizens, and the rich and the poor

