

A long Way to Go: the coordinative Development in the capital Region of China?

Introduction

From the analysis of ofgren (2000) we know that many efforts have been concentrated on large metropolitan regions in the Western sphere in a globalized world or giant cities of the developing world (Knox and Taylor, 1995; Sassen, 1991). The main focus has been on competitiveness, as responses to globalization, and urban governance, as a result of this pressure to become more competitive (Gwyndaf, 1999). The routine urban governance has been forced to change from day-to-day managerialism to entrepreneurialism and “boosterism” (Boyle and Hughes, 1994).

Lever puts forward five questions to this concern. “Do cities compete? If so, for what do they compete? How do they compete? What are the consequences of competition? And, how do we measure and explain their competitive success?” (ofgren, 2000) To the first question, he identifies two opposing views. One is that cities indeed compete. They compete for mobile investment, population, public funds and large events as such sports and high level meetings. Cities are competing in the ability to create assets that make their local economy thrive. The other is that cities may try to develop favourable conditions for firms, but they are not as such involved in any competition with other cities. It is de facto capital that competes. It is the capital that needs corporate headquarters, financial institutions and markets as well as specialized services, and it is the capital invested in real estate, industrial undertakings, retailing and service. Thus in this perspective, cities only act in order to secure whatever income they can generate from competing capital. But if we accept that competition is about resources that can make cities better equipped to deal with the consequences of globalization, it is possible to understand the regional development trend better.

The resources include infrastructure, institutional thickness, social and cultural amenities, physical structure and landscape and the civility of people. However, the ubiquitization is challenging us nowadays, as more and more of these resources are easy to imitate. Thus competition has to be about the images of difference as well as any differences in themselves. Many cities have put effort into place marketing and “boosterism”, and gained meaningful return (Xu and Zhai, 2004). In this relation, competitiveness and regionalism have been seen as opposed to one another.

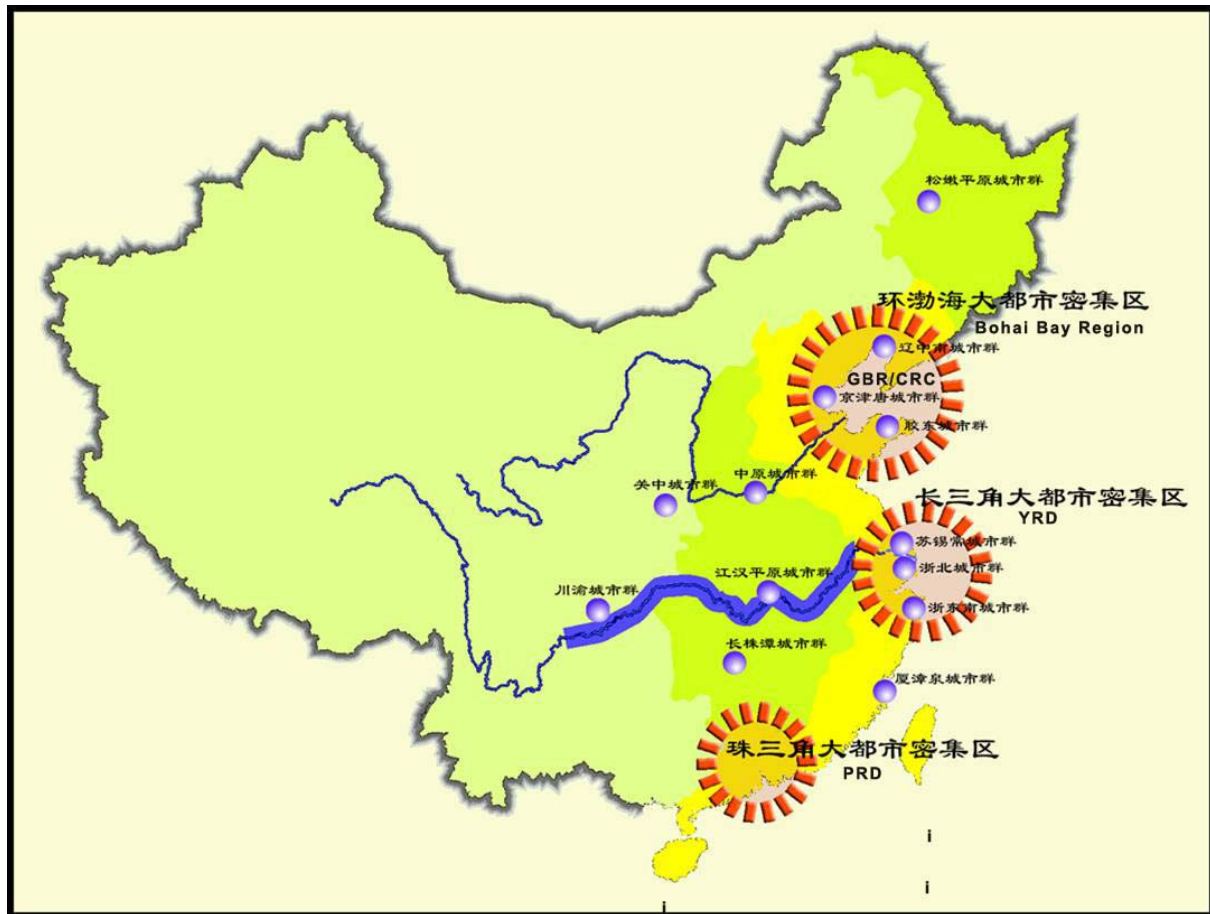


Fig.1, Three urban regions in China. Source: Development of three urban regions, presentation on the City Development Forum over Mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau of China, Wu Liangyong (2002)

Nonetheless, some regional coordination is evident to consolidate the competitiveness as a whole with the EU as an eminent example. Regionalism for coordinative development to some extent is a positive response to globalization. City regions like Great London, Boston Area are the primary choices for theorizing about urban regions facing the challenges stemming from increasing globalization. Some studies were viewed in literature on the Pearl River Delta (PRD) ([Zhao et al., 2004](#)), however, little findings is evident on the Great Beijing Region (GBR) or Capital Region of China (CRC) ([Fig.1](#)).

Overall development and economic growth momentum of China have witnessed stable in the last decade. The yearly increase of GDP has achieved 7% or higher since 1996, during which the Yangtze River Delta (YRD) and the PRD stand out stunning examples of fast developing urban regions. Nonetheless, the well pronounced CRC) or GBR went ups and downs in the last 25 years. In fact, large coverage of past findings published on regional development of the capital area (for examples, [Dong and Wei, 1994](#); [Xu, 1994](#); [Mu, 1994](#); [Ye, 1995](#); [Zhao, 1996](#); [Yang, 1998](#); [Chang, 1998](#)).



Fig. 2 Location of CRC. Source: Key Lab of System Ecology, RCEES, CAS

Lots of efforts have been devoted to foster boosting of this region with involvement of central governmental agents, research institutions either by governmental planning projects or research programs. Non-governmental organizations played key role to bring the provincial level officials to sit together and plan the future of the region. However, all the efforts turned out as failures repetitively. This paper recalls of the process of involvement of different agents and groups in last 25 years and identifies some main points rendering to the failures and for others to draw lessons from.

This paper articulates five sections to give details of the capital region and activities involving related bodies. Firstly, the overall description of the capital region and short elaboration of satellite towns of the capital are recorded. Secondly, SWOT analysis of the region.

Thirdly, the governmental involvement and oscillating attitude to the regional planning of the capital area reviewed. Fourthly, academics' efforts to boom the region, and finally non-governmental organizations and its sub-centers' perseverance is detailed.

Description of the area

CAC includes Beijing, Tianjin and their surrounding cities of Hebei Province as such Langfang, Baoding, Zhangjiakou, Chengde, Tangshan, Qinhuangdao and Cangzhou. Although the name of the region called by different bodies and the coverage of the area respectively differs from each other in the evolution of the regional studies, the main theme is similar, i.e., to boom development as a whole in coordinative way with Beijing and Tianjin as dual cores. The geographic attribute of this region is a huge plain that faces the Bohai Bay to the east with total coastal line reaching 640 km and backed up with wandering Taihang Mountain to the west ([Fig. 2](#)).

Beijing is the capital of People's Republic of China (PRC) and one of the four "central administrated municipalities" (CAMs) under direct jurisdiction of the central government. Located at 39°38'-41°05'N in the temperate climatic zone and northwest Bohai Bay about 150km from the coastline, Beijing has well-defined seasons with mean annual temperature at 12° C. The average annual precipitation of Beijing is 595mm with a declining trend last decade ([MOC and MCA, 1994](#)). The precipitation of

Beijing in 2002 is only 345 millimeters, which decreased 30 percent compared with the average of regular years and caused the capital's water table reduced 0.6 meter this year (Wu, 2003). The total area within Beijing's jurisdiction is 16807.8 km², in which 62% is mountainous consisting of Mount Jundu, ranging from north to east, and Mount Yan, stretching from north to southwest, 38% plains, facing southeast, configures a varied topography. The vertex is 2303 m above sea level (Yellow Sea China) in the west and the undermost 10m in the east where wetlands ever existed. Agricultural and forested lands account nearly half of the Beijing plain, whereas grass and trees cover the mountainous area. Beijing has more than 200 rivers of different length and most of them are seasonal rivers depending upon precipitation. Almost all main rivers start from outside the jurisdiction to the northwest going through the capital southeast bound to join Bohai bay in Tianjin except for Beiyun River, which originates from within the Beijing area.

The rapidly added ring roads, now up to 6th, and the pattern of urban sprawl well depict the trend. The above mentioned loop road on the city wall is the second ring road, with probably that surrounding the Forbidden City the first ring, and beyond are the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th like a concentric. Before 1949, Beijing's development was confined within the city wall. After that, random development witnessed within and outside the wall and following the Reform-and-Open-Door policy in the 1980s, the momentum of rapid urbanization and further encroachment into the surrounding countryside does not brake down. The city is administratively divided into 8 districts, with a total population of 9 million in 2003, in central area and 10 satellite towns. Besides, a strong administrative agent is established to regulate the routine work in Zhongguancun High-tech Development Zone, which namely consists of Haidian Park, Changping Park, Fengtai Park, Beijing Electronic Town and Beijing Economic Technological Development Area. The real pressure comes from the growth, 14.20 million people, more than 2 million vehicles and at least two digit increasing of Gross Domestic Products (GDP) achieve here motivated by promotion of local officials.

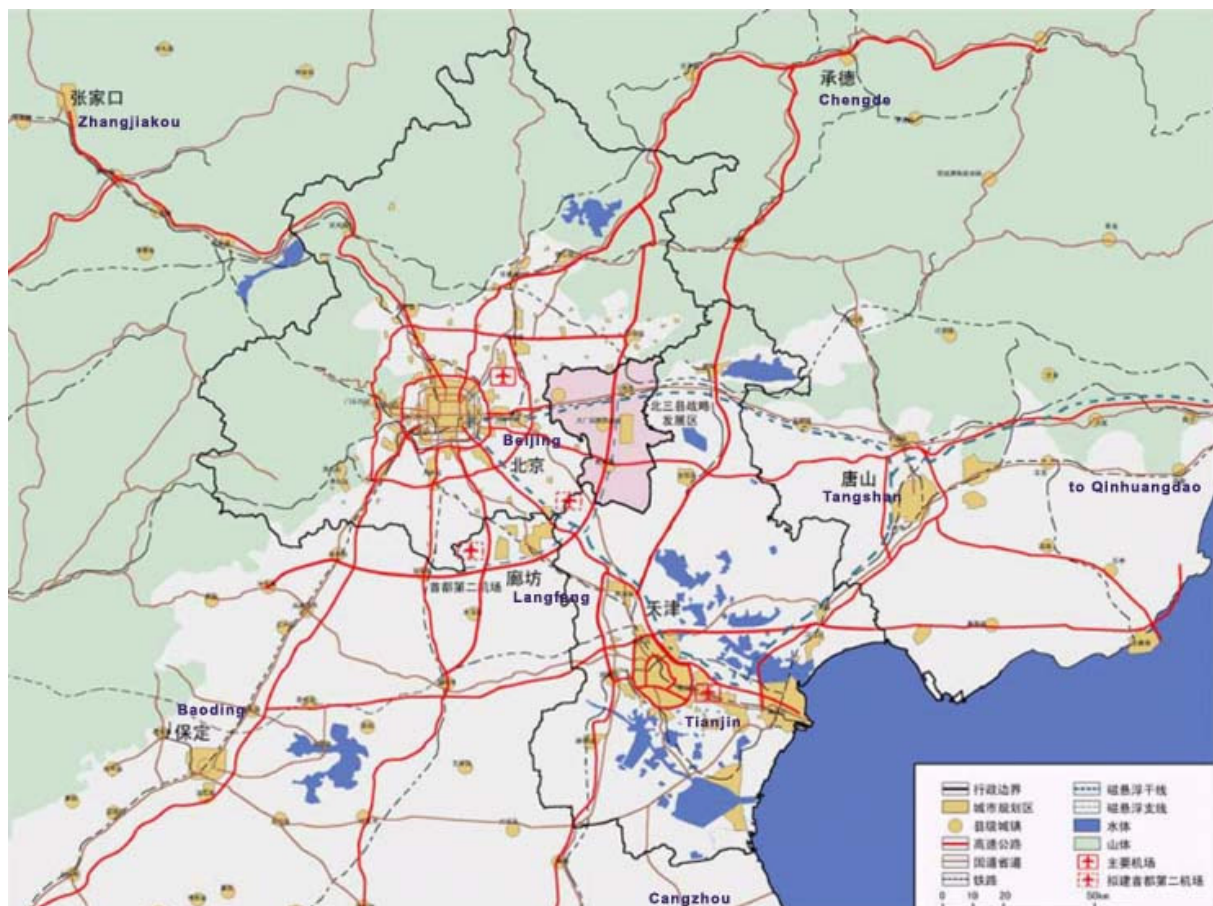


Fig. 3 The location of cities in CRC: Development of three urban regions, presentation on the City Development Forum over Mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau of China, Wu Lingyong (2002).

As shown in [Fig. 3](#), Tianjin is located in the northeast of the North China Plain, and is 130 km southeast of Beijing. Total land area of Tianjin is 11,920 km² with 94% plain along Bohai Bay to the southeast and 6% mountainous or hilly area to northwest. The vertex is 1052 m above sea level in the northwest and the undermost 0 in the east where the Dagu River joins the sea. For a long time it was one of the three CAMs in China (Chongqing became the fourth CAM in 1997) and it enjoys provincial-level administrative authority in decision-making. In terms of population it is the smallest of the four CAMs. Tianjin historically served as the gate to Beijing and was the most important industrial center in northern China ([Chang et al., 1992](#)). In the mid-twelfth century and into the Yuan dynasty (1280–1368), Tianjin functioned as a military post to protect Beijing due to its strategic location and superior port conditions. It also served as a transport center for shipping grain and salt to Beijing from the south via the Grand Canal and the sea route. It gradually became one of the most important centers of commerce, finance, and salt distribution in northern China. Modern industries such as machinery, chemical, metallurgy, textiles, and food processing industries were also built in Tianjin since 19th century. In the early twentieth century, Tianjin was the second largest city of China in terms of population, industrial production, banking, and port shipment, behind only Shanghai. Tianjin's urban space was segregated by the establishment of nine foreign concessions (British, American, German, Japanese, French, Russian, Belgian, Italian, and Austrian), with a land area of 15.5 km², eight times greater than the old built-up area ([Xie, 1996](#)). At the start of Mao's era, with the founding of PRC in 1949, Tianjin held a prominent position in industrial production, exports, and state revenue of China and, however, eroded later heavily influenced by changing national policies and circumstances.

Langfang, just locates in the middle between Beijing and Tianjin, attracted some institutions, braches of universities and oil transportation agents. It boomed by blocking the immigration of Beijing and Tianjin.

Baoding, perceived cultural capital added to southwest Beijing, is 150 km² away in Hebei Province. It is a national cultural and historic city and a heavy industrial city as well.

Zhangjiakou, a traditional northwest military post to Beijing, is an industrial base of food and fur and leather processing, 214 km² away from the capital.

Chengde, lies 256 km² to the northeast of Beijing, is a tourist resort renowned with its cooling climate and historic inheritance.

Tangshan, an industrial city based on coal mining and destroyed by catastrophic earthquake in 1976, consists of three parts including built-up area, mining area and new development area. As a heavy industrial city, its coal and iron ore mining are very important to the national economy.

Cangzhou, a coastal city along Bohai bay in Hebei Province of North China, is notorious in the history of China for its very location and natural condition an ideal place for life sentenced criminals. It was a salted land at the rim of Bohai without reaching of human life. You are sure to have heard Cangzhou a place of exile if you have ever studied the struggle history of China. Even in the first decade soon after the foundation of PRC, there were only one building and one road in the area with less than 40,000 population. Local people described the city as a whole consisting of only a building along a road where a police standing in the middle to look after both ends and a zoo with merely a monkey.

Qinhuangdao is a coastal city along Bohai Bay consisting of three districts, sea harbor area, Beidaihe and Shanhai Gate. In the sea harbor area, industrial factories were set up taking advantage of the harbor. Beidaihe is a resort for government officials and some important national decision were made there. Whereas Shanhai Gate is a historic heritage dated back to years.

SWOT analysis

The strength

Geographically, the CRC is a sound settlement based on *Fengshui*, the Chinese traditional location theory. According to *Fengshui*, the best settlement is sitting in an armchair and facing water and backing with mountains. CRC is sitting on a vast plain, facing Bahai Sea and backing up with Taihang Mountain. The Hai River links the huge plain into one watershed catchments. As Fig. 1 shown, it is an ideal place to live and rule the nation.

Economically, CRC has giant iron and steel plants, located in Shijingshan in the west of Beijing, car manufacturing located in the east in Beijing as well as in Tianjin. The iron and coal mining and processing in Tangshan and Zhangjiakou are main local industries. Beijing acts as a financial center and Tianjin commercial center of north China. Tianjin possesses the largest harbour of north China whereas Beijing has the largest international airport in Mainland China. Railways linking northeast to south, southwest and southeast weave and cross in CRC and made it a hub for transporting both freight and passengers.

Culturally, half of the CRC members are national historic and cultural cities with abundant cultural relics. Beijing has the world reputation symbolized by the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and Temple of Heaven reminding of the more than 3000 years old history. It has a very different architectural style, emphasizing the central structure to show respect to emperors, from that of the west. City planning in Ming and Qing Dynasty harnessed the waterways wandering in Beijing into a recreation corridor connecting the Summer Palace with the Forbidden City as well as the city moat just outside the city wall. Although the city wall has been demolished and replaced with loop line roads on the surface and tube underneath, the remains of city walls from Yuan Dynasty and still standing tower from Qing allow people feeling the past. Tianjin in Chinese means “the harbor of the emperor”. It refers the function of the city in the past and still denotes same meaning at present. Some buildings and structures preserved still tell the story of the harbor and the stay of the emperor. Baoding is regarded the south gate of Beijing ([MOC and MCA, 1992](#)) and cultural hub of the CRC with the Lianchi Academy of Arts in Qing Dynasty as the token. Chengde was the resort of past emperors in Qing Dynasty in summer time and still are leisure destination today. The buildings and its surroundings still carries power, wealth, and amenity and relax.

CRC has more than 100 universities and colleges and nearly 800 research institutions which attracted renowned scientists and researchers to work and live here. And, furthermore, large inflow of students forms the rigorous life of the GBR. It is the solid basis of sciences research, technology innovation and incubation, afterwards, application in practice.

The weakness

The CRC is over populated with more than 14 million in Beijing, 9 million over in Tianjin and the total up to 40 million. The fragile ecological basis hardly supports such heavy load population. A recent research released that the carrying capacity of Beijing is up to the extremity ([He, 2003](#)).

Water resource is the key indicator to limit the carrying capacity of the region. Beijing's annual rainfall is 595mm or 9.996 billion m³ (within the area of 16,800 km²), producing local water resource output at 4.047 billion m³ per year on average ([Liu and Chen, 2001](#)), omitting the recalculation of the surface and ground water, i.e. less than 300 m³ per capita per year, which is 1/8 of the average in China, and 1/30 in the world, dramatically below the definition of water shortage at 1000 m³ per capita internationally (Zhai, 2004). Tianjin's average precipitation is 600mm and yearly amount of water resources at 3 billion m³.

What is more than that is industrial consumption of water per unit output in CRC is more than 5 times higher than that in developed countries. Agricultural water efficiency is dirty lower than that in USA and Europe ([Wang and Zhai, 2004](#)). Another threaten condition is that almost all the surface water body in this area is either polluted or dried up. So people in CRC bet on the diverting project from Yangtze River for survive in the near future. The circumstances even caused conflicts between jurisdictions along Juma River in the western part of this region.

Evolved from the tradition of Beijing locality, people at present in the capital inevitably take it for granted to receive help from other parts of China. Enhanced with the high ranking of the local officials and convenient coordination with ministries, capital government shows less incline to negotiate with surroundings on development. As a response, Tianjin government expresses reluctance to initiate coordination with Beijing. This has resulted in similar structure of economy and self reliance of industry. The extremity is that the Capital International Airport of Beijing is over congested while the airport of Tianjin stays quietly along the seashore. Tianjin's harbor is facing the challenge of declining of freight; Beijing has built up a new one in Tangshan as its own harbor. At the same time, Hebei built another in Huanghua, which is a part of Cangzhou in southeast of CRC.

Beijing asks Hebei Province to help protecting water resources in up reaches, well, at the same time, it pollute almost all rivers flowing to Tianjin and other down reaches. Although some efforts made to dispose waste, the equitability is never evident between the three parts.

Threats and opportunities

As shown in Table 1, CRC is lagged far behind YRD and PRD. Comparativeness and imbalance are always impetuses to cooperation and rethinking of strategies when consciousness regains. Important events are key triggers to the consciousness. In 2008, Beijing will host the 29th Olympic Games and has promised the best green Olympic ever since. It requests the government to formulate new idea and strategy as well as ways to implement them. From the experiences of fast development in YRD and PRD, city region as a whole has shown strength for better function in both social and economic development. However, less coordination within PRD witnessed reinforcing the inner competitiveness and degrading the environment in the whole region. As a response to it, Pan-PRD (Pearl River Delta embracing Hong Kong, Macau, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guangxi, Fujian, Hainan, Sichuan, Yunan and Guizhou) regional development strategy is formulated in late 2003. Drawn from lessen and

achievements of YRD and PRD, the CRC could form better strategy to cope with combined competitiveness.

Items	CRC	YRD	PRD
Increase of GDP to the total national 1996-2001 (%)	1.88	3.45	1.79
Increase of FDI to the total national 1997-2001 (%)	-2.66	7.25	4.82
Increase of industrial added value to the total national 1996-2001 (%)	0	1.64	0.44
Increase of professionals to the total national 1997-2001 (%)	-1.4	2.35	3.02
Increase of R & D investment to the total national 1997-2001 (%)	-1.45	0.6	3.77
Increase of patent awards to the total national 1996-2001 (%)	-3.45	3.38	5.12
The average ratio of patent grants to the total application (%)	59.98	61.55	69.09

Table 1 Comparisons of development in three urban regions in China. Sources: Research team of regional development, China Science & Technology Research Center, Economic Review, 19 June 2003.

Some implication can be drawn on coordinative needs from self comparison too. Under the perceived wars and the Soviet model of industrialization, China's industrialization program emphasized establishing new industrial centers in the interior or remote provinces and recovering traditional industrial bases in the coastal region, with an emphasis on Shanghai (the largest city of China) and Liaoning (with rich raw materials and strong heavy industry), for the consideration of equity, national defense, and economic pragmatism. Meanwhile, with Chinese policy to transform capitalist consumer cities into socialist, independent, industrial cities, and the emphasis on the construction of Beijing as the national capital, massive investment went to the latter, which quickly strengthened its industrial base (Hook, 1998). Tianjin, however, was not strategically as important as Shanghai, Beijing or Liaoning in geographical basis and resource allocation. It was de-emphasized in industrial allocation, and state investment declined, although Tianjin remained the major industrial center in northern China. With the rise of Beijing and the faltering status of Tianjin, in 1958, the latter was demoted from a CAM status to a local city led by Hebei Province. Soon after that, Tianjin was hit hard by the failure of the Great Leap Forward and the great famine in the early 1960s.

Beijing has been taking bold steps to elevate itself to global city status: successful bidding for the 2008 Olympic Games, the claim of Zhongguangcun as China's "Silicon Valley", the construction of a new financial center, massive infrastructural investment, and efforts to build a world-class central business district (CBD). However, careful studies show that it could not shape well at absence of support from the surroundings (He, 2003). Beijing relies on Zhangjiko for water resources and green barrage from dust storm. It needs Baoding to meet the demand of vegetable beside Shandong Province where several vegetable bases have been built. It gets popular for Beijingers to spend weekends in surrounding countryside and resort places. Any one of the surrounding cities faces difficulty will be sure to impact the development of each other and in the whole lowers the competitiveness of this region.

Inspired by (CEPA) and the efficiency of YRD, SDRC held a conference on the theme of urban regions recently (Qin, 2004) in preparing for the 11th Five-Year-Plan. It is said that two urban regions will be selected as test and demonstration sites to formulate regional planning and facilitate rational distribution of resources with GBR one of them. This is an opportunity for Beijing to re-examine way of thinking and planning and makes full use of enthusiasm of the proximal cities.

Government efforts fostering coordination

The framework of administration on urban affairs

From the names of the ministries in China, no one is responsible for urban affairs. However, at least three major departments declared to hold responsibility to city planning. The State Development & Reform Committee (SDRC), formerly known as State Planning Committee (SPC), is in charging of long term arrangements of city development. It functions by approving key projects undertaken in cities as well as other parts of mainland China. The Ministry of Construction (MOC), formerly State Construction Committee (SCC), and later on Ministry of Urban and Rural Construction and Environment Protection, whereas, regulate urban development mainly by formulating policies on infrastructure and housing provision and approving master planning of individual cities and regional planning on cities and town system. So the State Council perceives that it is the MOC to carry on the responsibility to inspect the development of cities and towns overall. Nonetheless, the Ministry of Land & Resources (MLR) is also having a hand in land use planning represented by land use physical planning.

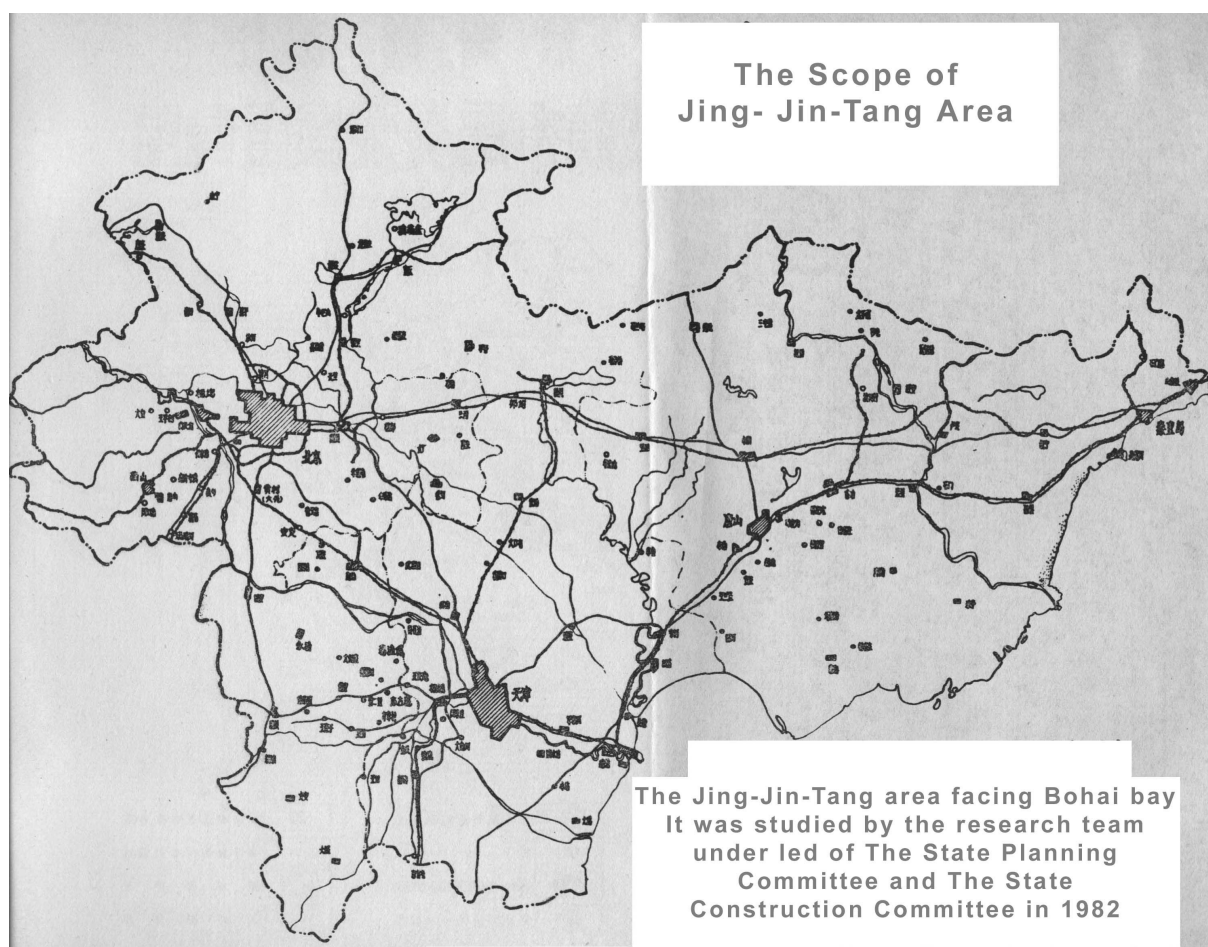


Fig. 4 The Jing-Jin-Tang area when SPC and SCC initiated the regional planning schema in 1982. Sources: Schema of regional planning of Jing-Jin-Tang area, Beijing: China Academy of Urban Planning and Design (1984)

But once the land is encircled into the master planning approved by MOC the land use is under the regulation of city planning.

Involvements of coordination

In 1982, SPC and SCC co-coined a program (documented as file No.140 in SCC) on regional planning schema of the Jing-jin-tang area ([Fig. 4](#)), with 27 million people and 52,000 km² area ([State Statistical Bureau, 1982](#)). It consists of 9 sub-themes and finished by the end of 1984 ([China Academy of Urban Planning & Design, 1984](#)). It identified that Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan area is over populated, whereas the surrounding counties lagged far behind except those where national projects set up. Water shortage is the limiting factor for further development of this area although mineral resources, human resources are abundant with convenient transport and updated technology. Unbalanced distribution of road system between central cities and their hinterlands affected the economic development as a whole. Agglomerated heavy industries in central city caused serious pollution of the indigenous area and the proximity as well. It needed roughly 12 billion RMB Yuan to compensate environmental lost for Beijing and Tianjin only as the research team calculated.

The causes of the problem mentioned above were summed to uncoordinated economic development and vague identification of functions between the dual cores. Segregation development strategy and administration performance in the region discouraged the harmonious efforts. Project oriented development was the main elements leading to emphasizing production and neglecting living environment.

The regional planning schema suggested that functions of each city be clearly defined not only based on indigenous background but also the condition in regional scale. Cooperation between cities was advocated and incentives designed to foster harmonious development. It detailed the relationships between cities in the final outcome.

Academic efforts

Besides the governmental involvements, research programs were set up in 1999 led by Wu Liangyong, a professor in Tsinghua University and academician of China Academies of Sciences and Engineering. It strengthened the development of traditional cultural axis as well as the horizontal one along Changan Avenue, the longest street in the world. One belt along east part of Beijing focuses on industry, while the other concentrating on culturing ecological assets along mountainous roots. The development itself is unsustainable if it is not based on support from hinterlands including one triangle area to Baoding and the other to Tangshan ([Liu, 2001](#)). The response to this finding had not been identified until the revision of master planning initiated late 2003. However, only small part of it is absorbed into the revision of the master planning. Making planning in the scope of regional scale and coordinative efforts between the three provincial level governments are hardly seeing till now, in the latter phase of the revision.

Non-governmental efforts for coordination

If we turn our eyes to non-governmental efforts, they confronted with failures even at narrow success. As a non-governmental organization, CSUS established its sub-centers in GBR (for short CSUSGBR) and YRD (CSUSYRD) based on its local branches in cities of the respective region to promote coordination for development in regional scale. CSUSGBR initiated the first meeting on Coordinative City Development of Jing-jin-ji hosted in Tianjin and announced the official setup of the secretariat of CSUSGBR. Presenters are delegates of local branches and academics. There were 34 papers submitted to the meeting on coordinative view from the local respective. Suggestions were made on macro-adjustment from state level to guide proper development ([CSUS, 1994](#)).

The second meeting of CSUSGBR held in Baoding with specific theme selected to enhance the course of cooperation. An initiative on supporting the setup and approving the railway project linking Baoding and Bazhou, a city between Baoding and Tianjin and where rail artery going through, was focused. It is deemed an important linkage of three arteries from north to south China. Besides it would alleviate the pressure of central Beijing as an intercross of railway by linking them at the outer parts when not necessary. Officials in Ministry of Railway, Ministry of Transport, Bureau of Civil Aviation, as well as SPC and MOC presented at the meeting. Deputy Governor of Hebei Province addressed his speech on the meeting and raised the level of it ([CSUS, 1994](#)).

The third meeting was hosted in Beijing, in the case of approval of the master planning of Beijing. It concentrated in planning and development which attracted more people to attend, including members of Bohai Bay Society of Economy, a NGO in larger scope. Deputy Mayor of Beijing presented and addressed the meeting and, furthermore, upgraded the level of attendance ([CSUS, 1994](#)).

It is the fifth meeting the attendance reached highest level, in which the Governor and Deputy Governor of Hebei Province, Deputy Mayor of Beijing Municipality and Mayor of Tianjin Municipality all presented the event held in Tianjin although it was a CSUSGBR meeting. It was in this meeting a proposal came out to do regional planning of GBR in the frame of globalization and urbanization. Based on this a special report drawn out was sent to Zhu Rongji, then Premier Minister, and was signed and gone to SPC with a copy to MOC. However, no action witnessed following ever since. What coincided, the Deputy Mayor of Beijing Municipality ever presented in the meeting died of heart stroke in work. This not only announced the end of the meetings, but also the CSUSGBR and its secretariat in 1996.

However, experiences around YRD tell another story. The CSUSYRD is carrying on annual meetings for more than 15 years since its inception and draws attention of officials at all levels within the region as well as elsewhere. This mirrored the proper development of the YRD.

Another group co-worked with some National Political Party Committee of China (NPPCC) members examined the course in the respect of water resources recently. It is still a limiting factor for development of GBR.

Discussion and suggestion

From the very beginning of 1980s, the earlier regional planning schema as government action led by SPC and SCC turned to be a shelf book, while the later suggestion on new one by CSUS coordination group lies still in the files of SDRC, even though it was signed by former premier. This, nonetheless, not only declared the end of the group, but also the quit of the course to integration. Although a research project headed by Wu Liangyong put forth the concept of GBR, little response gotten from Beijing Municipality despite of much from around. It is implying that the traditional way of thinking is still rooted in administration despite of globalization and mercerization at both local level and state level as well. Despite liberalization and globalization, governments in China are still taking active roles in initiating policies to deal with growth and globalization, and remain an important agent of urban and

regional change. The intensified competition between localities of China results from decentralization and the pro-growth policies of the central government on one hand, and globalization and the accelerated circulation of capital, people, and commodities across the global economic space on the other. The design and successful implementation of local development policies are embedded in location, geographical differentiation, and the transcendence of geographical scales ([Yehua Dennis Wei and Yanjie Jia, 2003](#)). So, local protection seems live longer than expected in GBR. This will cause conflicts with the promise to host a green Olympic Games in 2008.

It is clear that non-governmental involvement in policy formulating is just on the junior stage: survive if the local governments are open-minded, or die out from indifference. At the eminent moment, urgent needs of coordinating planning and institutional arrangements towards sustainability are crying out. A national special committee arose from the indigenous condition of GBR and the status of state level administration. The only difference from the previous establishment should be bearing in mind that the committee be a temporary agent and will be emerged to local governments once the targets meet. In this area, Perth has abundant experiences worth learning from.

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