

SPS 2-1 Redefining Urbanization and Regional Integrated Development



Chinese Team Leader:

Mr. ZHANG Yongsheng, Special Advisor of CCICED; Deputy Director General, Department of Development Strategy and Regional Economy of Development Research Center of the State Council

Int'l Team Leader:

Ms. Zheng Siqi, Samuel Tak Lee Associate Professor at Department of Urban Studies and Planning and Faculty Director of MIT China Future City Lab, Professor of Tsinghua University

Background

China's existing urbanization model, largely a product of the traditional industrial era, is no longer suited to the needs of the new era of digital, energy-saving and people-friendly era of green development. Also, with the countryside now open to new opportunities through high-speed transportation, green technologies, advanced agriculture, plus the need for ecological protection, there is a need for integrated and green regional development, where cities are innovation drivers and the countryside the source of essential ecological services as well as new economic opportunities. There is a need for systemic analysis of underlying mechanisms that determine the content and mode of green urbanization. This analysis can help to define new pathways and strategy for both green cities and coordinated regional development. It is likely the strategy will allow for less concentration of people within ever expanding cities, and more people finding higher income and quality of living in the countryside and towns. The study will rely on theoretical and econometric models, big data analysis and case studies. Three major components are included.

Tasks

1. Reshaping green urbanization. Subtopics: overall strategy of green urbanization; changes in determining factors; reshaping China's urban pattern and structure; supporting systems; typical models; transition challenges, roadmap and policy needs;
2. Revitalizing the countryside through green transformation. Subtopics: five case studies on environmental, cultural and social consequences of traditional development on rural areas; redefined rural green restoration case studies; green education and rural revitalization case studies; cultural education and rural revitalization;
3. Green transition, urban-rural and regional relationships. Case studies to build understanding of how different development content and approaches can affect urban-rural relationships. Case studies on regional relationships involving the consequences of changes in development advantages.