

THE STATE OF CHINA'S CITIES 2010/2011

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Better City, Better Life



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**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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# THE STATE OF CHINA'S CITIES 2010/2011

Better City, Better Life



**国际欧亚科学院中国科学中心**  
The China Science Center of International Eurasian Academy of Sciences



**中国市长协会**  
China Association of Mayors

**UN HABITAT**  
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**Jiang Zhenghua**

**Chairman of the China Science Center of International Eurasian Academy of Sciences**

**Academician of the International Eurasian Academy of Sciences**

**Former Vice - Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China**

**U**nder the careful organization of the China Science Center of International Eurasian Academy of Sciences and the China Association of Mayors, and with the strong support of the UN-Habitat, *The State of China's Cities (2010/2011)* meets with readers.

While UN-Habitat has compiled and published five editions of *State of the World's Cities* so far, we have prepared *The State of China's Cities (2010/2011)* for the first time to introduce the urban development in China to the world in English. The theme of the report accords with the theme of the Shanghai World Expo 2010 and the World Habitat Day, i.e. "Better City, Better Life". Since it is our first report on the state of cities in China, there is need not only to present the latest development, but also recall

the achievements of urban development in last six decades since the founding of New China. This report will serve as a platform to describe the urban development of China for the information of other countries around the world. The various data and analysis contained in the report aims at sharing the experiences and lessons in urban development and promoting our knowledge and understanding about the construction of livable cities so as to seek a better and more harmonious future of China.

Therefore, I would like to strongly recommend *The State of China's Cities (2010/2011)* to readers around the world, to the decision-makers and mayors of cities, to various mass organizations and to all friends concerning the development of China.

**September, 2010**



**Jiang Weixin**

**Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, China  
Executive President of China Association of Mayors**

China is a populous developing country. The urbanization has provided a unique historical opportunity for rapid and sustained development of the Chinese economy and played a positive role in structure adjustment, employment promotion and coordination of the regional development and the development between urban and rural areas. At the same time, it has brought great challenges for the protection of resources and environment. Promoting the urbanization with Chinese characteristics and the healthy development of cities will not only contribute to the sustainable development and modernization of China, but also to the peace, stability and development of the world. The Chinese government, with its consistent and unremitting efforts, is committed to promote the urbanization and guide the healthy urban development on an active yet prudent basis.

Shanghai World Expo 2010, with a theme of “Better City, Better Life”, has successfully demonstrated the multi-culture integration of modern cities and enormous opportunities brought by the economic prosperity and development of science and technology. The Expo has also enabled our

friends from the world to learn about the rapid development of the Chinese cities and the consequent dramatic change of life of the Chinese people.

On the occasion of the World Habitat Day to be held Shanghai and at the Expo, China Association of Mayors, China Science Center of International Eurasian Academy of Science and UN-HABITAT will jointly launch the English version of *the State of Chinese Cities (2010/2011)* with the very theme of the Expo 2010. This Report, through review of the urbanization of China in the last 60 years, gives a brief but comprehensive introduction to such areas as urban housing, environment and infrastructures, social development and urban service, and urban planning and management. I sincerely hope that the Report will serve as a window, through which the outside world will understand more about the cities in China. I also hope that it will facilitate the communication, cooperation, and experience sharing between the city administrators, urban planners and specialists and scholars in China and other countries of the world.

**September 6, 2010**



**Anna Tibaijuka**

**UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

**C**ities are the greatest legacy of humanity and the greatest achievement of our civilization. Around the world and through the centuries cities have endured and survived wars, famine, natural disasters, epidemics, crumbling empires, and the disappearance of the gods, kings and queens for whom they were built.

The sustainability of Cities is therefore a challenge we must meet. We have to keep improving our cities, and doing that means making our cities better for those who live in them and for those yet to be born in a world whose future is predominantly urban. Today half of humanity lives in towns and cities, and the trends show that this figure will increase to two-thirds within the next two generations. We are an urban species, and there is no prospect for reversal of this reality.

This is why the theme chosen for World Habitat Day 2010, Better city, better life is as visionary as it is important for all of us to realize. To that end, I would add the term smarter city, for it is only a smart city that can provide its citizens with a better life in our planet's new urban era, into which we are entering with many unknowns, compounded by the global impact of climate change. We are forced to adjust not only by being smart ourselves but also by nurturing and growing smarter cities through five strategic steps, including:

*1. Improve the quality of life*, especially for the estimated 1 billion people living in slums and other sub-standard housing around the world. Improved access to safe and healthy shelter, secure tenure, basic services and social amenities such as health and education are essential to a better life for every individual.

*2. Invest in human capital*. This is a condition for socio-economic development and a more equitable distribution of the urban advantage in a sustainable and peaceful manner. An enlightened and educated urban population will also enable cities and regions to implement policies more effectively and to ensure that they are properly adjusted to local needs.

*3. Foster sustained economic opportunities*. Cities can stimulate sustained economic growth for the poor through labour-intensive projects. These include primarily public works

and the construction industry. Cities in the developing world are starting to provide social security to give better access to economic opportunities for those traditionally excluded. Through economic empowerment, the newly arrived migrant and the urban poor become a resource and an asset to draw upon, rather than a burden.

*4. Enhance political inclusion*. Today, more and more municipal and national authorities share the same basic philosophy: bringing government within the reach of ordinary people through enhanced mutual engagement. This means engaging people and their neighbourhoods in dialogue and participation in decision-making as a fundamental aspect of local democracy. A harmonious city is one where all feel included, part of the team, playing their part for the betterment of everyone.

*5. Promote cultural inclusion*. Culture has historically been left out of the conventional international development agenda. More and more local development policies take into account the cultural dimensions of urban life, such as social capital, tradition, symbols, a sense of belonging and pride of place. This helps integrate ethnic minorities, preserve regional values, safeguard linguistic and religious diversity, resolve conflicts and protect the heritage. Cultural dialogues enhance social stability and understanding, contributing invaluable to sustainable development.

On the basis of the foregoing principles, I am very pleased to introduce the first State of China's Cities, a joint effort between UN-HABITAT, China Science Center of International Eurasian Academy of Sciences and China Association of Mayors. This report, covering all these five areas of strategic importance, aims to make easy access of international readers to the information about policies and practices that have engendered smart urbanization of China in the past 60 years. It also provides the experiences, lessons and challenges faced by China in sustaining its urban development in the context of rapid industrialization and urbanization within a globalizing world.

**August, 2010**



**Wang Guangtao**

**Executive Vice Chairman of the China Science Center of International Eurasian Academy of Sciences**

**Academician of International Eurasian Academy of Sciences**

**Member of the Standing Committee and Chairman of the Environment**

**Protection and Resources Conservation Committee of National People's Congress**

**Former Minister of the Ministry of Construction, China**

The China Science Center of International Eurasian Academy of Sciences and the China Association of Mayors have cooperated, compiled and published *Annual Report on Urban Development of China* for five consecutive years since 2005. The Report is a comprehensive Chinese literature systematically reflects the trend of urban development and the policy orientation in China, and has had widespread and important impact in China. Coincidentally, UN-Habitat has also compiled and published five editions of *State of the World's Cities* so far.

At present, China is facing many opportunities and challenges in its process of rapid urbanization, which has become a focus of world intension. Therefore, China needs to strengthen the exchange and cooperation with the international community. With the strong support of

UN-HABITAT, we jointly compiled and published *The State of China's Cities (2010/2011)*, which for the first time systematically introduces the state of China's cities to foreign countries, disseminates the urban culture of China, helps the international community to understand China more objectively and comprehensively. This Report will have a far-reaching and important meaning for promoting the harmonious development of the world.

Here, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Anna K. Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, who has made special contributions to this report, as well to the human settlements development in China.

**September 2010**



**Wu Liangyong**  
**Professor of Tsinghua University**  
**Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences**  
**Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering**

China's urbanization takes less than one hundred years to pass a road which is completed by industrial countries for two or three hundred years. But it is also facing all kinds of common problems existed in the urban and rural environment worldwide. The economic and social changes of China in the past 30 years are remarkable, including the transformation of planned economy to socialist market economy, great migration of rural population to cities and towns, and profound change of the mechanism for urban and rural development. In the process of accelerated urbanization, there are various problems that have occurred along with development.

Wise men with great insight have recognized that unlimited industrial development is inappropriate, and that

there it is imperative to promote a conservation culture. Human being shall evolve and coexist with the earth. The concept of "People-oriented" and "living and working in peace and security" is the precious tradition of China, which is the core principle for urban development and the basic standpoint for the science of human settlements.

Compared with the western society, the urbanization in China is rapid in speed and massive in scale, while the understanding of urban challenges and technical research is lagging behind. Therefore, we should explore alternative paths for the development of Chinese cities on the basis of the experiences and lessons of the West.

**September 2010**

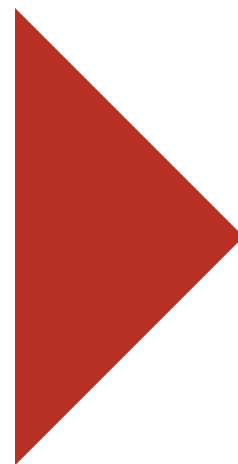




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