

WT42 – Urban design and urban governance

Session 1

The Chinese vision

- Main feature: central government control
- Construction and urban centres are essential to present Chinese economic growth and decisive to world economy in 21st century.
- Construction absorbs migrant Chinese labour.
- This urbanisation is causing marked disparities among regions – the Eastern Seaboard being dense with cities, the West having few large cities.
- Main challenges: development, participation, migration, preserving heritage and culture, and environment.
- Macro control and coordination over metropolitan regions is key to managing the challenges of scale and globalisation.
- Chinese land policy is controlled by the central government.
- Globalisation is not exclusively led by the USA; China has won and lost from globalisation.
- Chinese cities are adopting global culture, but they should protect their own traditions.
- Smaller cities must stand on their own, and not be subordinate to larger ones.
- New Chinese policies seek to coordinate industry and agriculture, city and countryside in a sustainable way in order to maintain rural populations in situ.
- Scientific methods are needed for planning land use, services and resources for urban and rural areas.
- Public-private interaction is fostered.
- The Chinese government is emphasising tertiary sector growth and fostering clean industries.
- Fostering market economy (within limits).
- The basic principle of Chinese city management is scientific.



- These new norms focused on protection and restoration, with the aim of preserving the cities' specificity.
- Tourism appeal has been greatly reinforced .

WT42 – La conception des villes et la gouvernance urbaine

Session 2

The European vision

- The traditional European city was compact with defined limits, and separate from the countryside.
- Then demographic shifts of the industrial revolution and the later arrival of individual transport and communication technology have pulled the European city from its compact nature, as well as instigating new tools of planning and governance.
- There is thus a consensus on the need to return to a more compact, hence sustainable, model.
- Local governments are key when it comes to urbanisation, yet all viable policies need to be concerted among stakeholders.
- What is needed is a larger scale coordination
- There is no clear link between urbanisation and growth (which causes which?)
- Metropolitan regions have strengths (DP, productivity, value added work and the skills base)
- Competitiveness and city promotion is often carried out through hosting large events.
- There needs to be have a strategic document at local level in which all levels are involved.
- Central states and the EU bring in the 'macro' perspective.
- Urban planning needs to be coordinated among the different scales (local, regional, national, geocultural region, global).
- Time scale needs to be separated, short-term emergencies are not solved in the way long-term structural problems are.
- Challenges for sustainability: Social inequality, exclusion, marginality, limits of the ecosystem, North-South inequality.

- Needs for sustainable policies: Citizen participation, Property and transport policies not leading to segregation , Inclusive public services for all & social housing, Local production and employment with protection of the environment, International cooperation and solidarity, Local taxation & redistribution
- Governance is not an end in itself; the improvement of life for citizens.
- Metropolitan governments often fail in: synchronising their work, planning within time frames, foreseeing changes and trends, analysing before acting
- Recommendations for the future: Metropolitan level strategic vision, Synchronise fragmented agencies, tools, systems and administrations, develop citizen participation and greater democracy

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Session 3

Similarities

- Agreement on going towards compact cities.
- Emergence of big metropolitan areas.
- Existence of fierce competition between cities in global economy.
- Pressure on local customs because of globalisation
- Even though facing different problems, same goals: balanced development and equilibrium (urban-rural, social-economic, person-nature).
- The main goal of local governments is managing complexity.

Differences

- Scale: China's population is much bigger.
- Different kinds of migration (rural areas vs. poor countries).
- Role of local government in Europe, while centralization in China.
- Europa had less constrictions when modernising economy; currently, China has more limitations (i.e. environment)
- Different levels of public participation, but China is creating some participation channels.
- There are 2 main models of urban governance: administrative decentralization of the state (cities as a mere administrative level), State-city vision (each city acting like an independent state)

WT42 – Urban design and urban governance Session 4

How to enhance the dialogue between China and Europe ?

- Right balance between city-territory and compact city models.
- Conflicts of interest between builders-developers-promoters.
- Avoid creation of ghettos.
- Migration flows are a challenge to both regions
- Need to maintain own culture and traditions.
- Elaborate a city model articulated with the territory
- Guarantee the aforementioned balanced development.
- Foster education as a means to improve urban governance.
- Take into account the rights of future generations
- Good governance needs confidence in all stakeholders.
- Further participation without losing macro urban planning capacity.