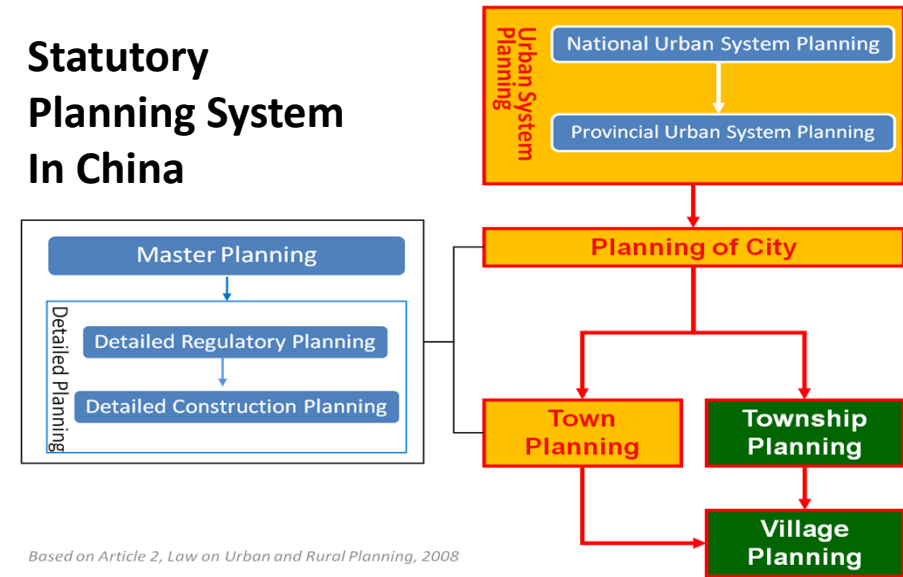


# Absorbing 50 Years of ISOCARP City and Regional Planning in China

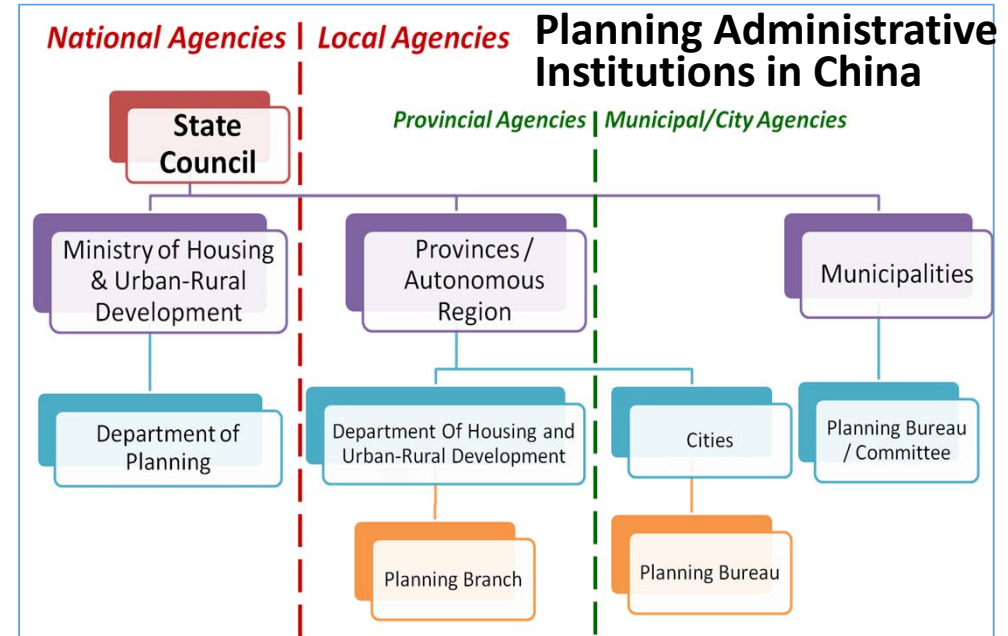
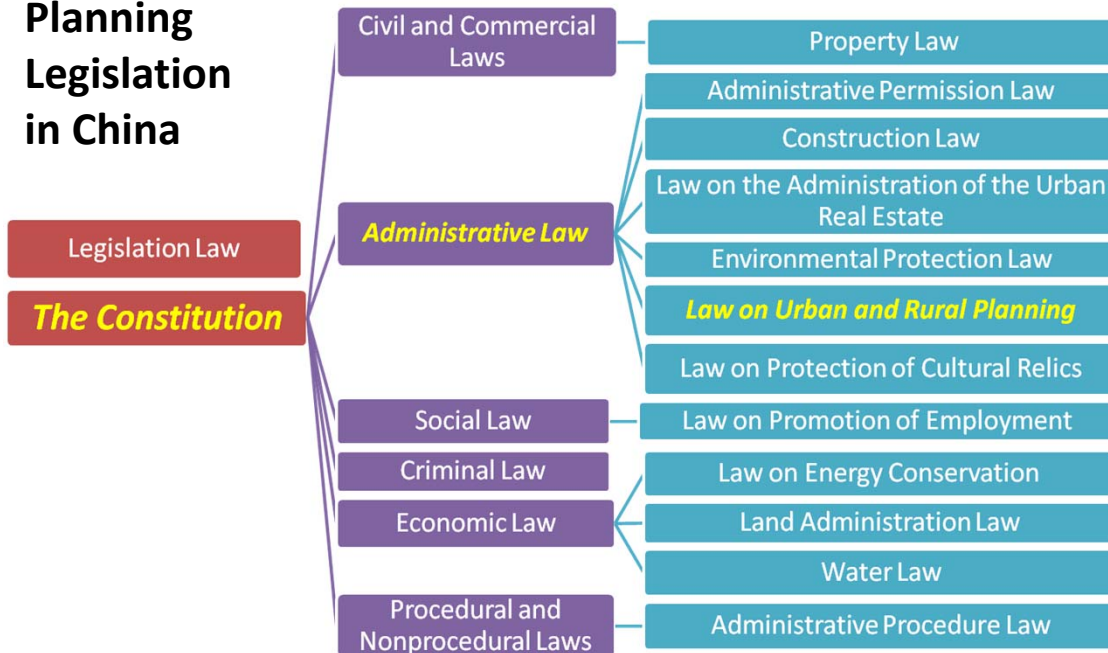
By Dr. SHI Nan, SG, UPSC; VP, ISOCARP  
 Prof. Hongyang WANG, Nanjing University

## Statutory Planning System In China



Based on Article 2, Law on Urban and Rural Planning, 2008

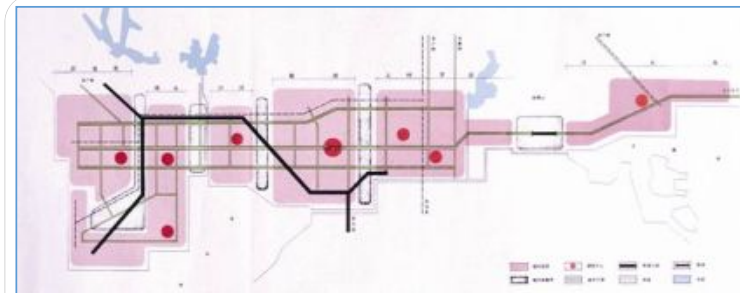
## Planning Legislation in China



# Shenzhen City 深圳市

Strategic, resilient, collaborative and innovative **CITY PLANNING** helps to stimulate, guide and accommodate **BETTER GROWTH** in China

Across a river to Hong Kong, Shenzhen, a former fishing village when China's open-door policy adopted in 1979, is now a modern mega-city with 10 million inhabitants. This pioneer city is one of the best samples to demonstrate how Chinese urban planning helped to foresee, stimulate, guide and accommodate better growth in last three decades.



Shenzhen Master Plan (1986-2000)  
Spatial Structure



Land Use Plan

- Designated as a city in 1979 & one of the 4 Special Economic Zones in China in 1980.
- The Shenzhen master plan, first formulated in 1980, reviewed and revised in 1982, 1986, 1989, 1996 and 2010, has proved the importance of planning to a fast growing economy.
- **A Strategic & Resilient** SHENZHEN MASTER PLAN, 1982 has successfully foresees a 0.6-1 million inhabitants city in 20 years. It defined a belt-city spatial structure, supported by transportation and green corridor and function clusters along the belt. This poly-centric structure proved well adaptable and resilient in the following decades of growth.

# Shenzhen City 深圳市

Strategic, resilient, collaborative and innovative **CITY PLANNING** helps to stimulate, guide and accommodate **BETTER GROWTH** in China

- **Collaborative & Integrative** in regions and sectors. The *SHENZHEN MUNICIPAL LAND UTILIZATION PLAN, 1988* integrates the master planning and China's unique land utilization policy with emphasis on preservation of ecological areas. The *MASTER PLAN, 1996* is the first territorial plan beyond built-up areas covering the administrative boundaries. As part of the urban growing context, regional coordination of infrastructures, public services, development priorities, ecological interests are carefully evaluated for the bigger region of Pearl River Delta where Shenzhen situated.



- **Innovative & Sustainable.** Challenged by fast demographic growth and the ecological constrains, following the national policy of *Saving Energy and Reducing Emissions*, sustainable urban development has always been the top agenda for Shenzhen decision makers. The *SHENZHEN MASTER PLAN, 2010* is the first one in China featured with *Growth Without Spatial Expansion*. It proposes economic restructuring, social transformation, as well as urban regeneration with a vision of *A City of Harmony, Vitality, Livability and Accessibility*. The poly-centric structure is enhanced further in the whole municipal territory. A cross border regional collaboration plan with Hong Kong has been proposed and a *SHENZHEN PERSPECTIVE 2040* is under study.

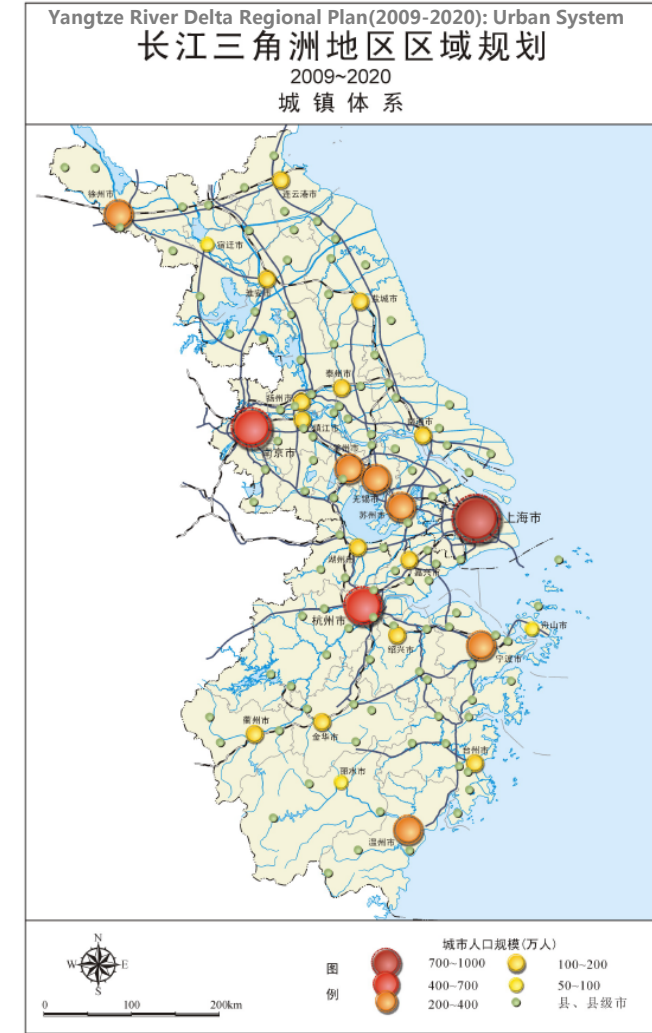
# Yangtze River Delta (YRD) 长三角区域



Increasing plural and active stakeholders, free market competition, growing environmental concerns make macro scale cross-boundary regional collaboration more and more challenging. Facing such issues, Yangtze River Delta, China's frontier of Open-door policy and richest region, consists of 3 provincial level territories (Shanghai Municipality, Jiangsu Province, and Zhejiang Province), with totally 210 thousand km<sup>2</sup> area and 160 million inhabitants, leads regional planning innovation in the last decades. Incremental reform and regional governance have been advocated. Cross boundary integration of economy and infrastructures have been great help for local authorities to tackle with these challenges.

Large scale cross-boundary **REGIONAL PLANNING** advocates collaboration for poly-centric **INTEGRATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

- **A Long Tradition** of top-down regional regulation and coordination had to be reformed to integrate with market logic and new development context. During the first three decades (1949-1978) of People's Republic of China, the regional planning was deeply influenced by the former Soviet Union model, mainly aimed at national equilibrium by productivity allocation. Major investments and decisions were made by the central government while the local development potential was underestimated.
- **Shanghai Economic Region (SER)**, inaugurated in 1982 by the central government, includes Shanghai Municipality and 9 neighboring Cities from Jiangsu and Zhejiang Province. Provincial Governors and Municipal Mayors were brought to roundtables. SER Planning Office, first such regional planning agency in the country, was authorized. in 1986, an **SER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OUTLINE** was launched, which opens a new page of YRD regional coordination and planning. SER was expanded to include 14 Cities and an Economic Collaborative Committee was created in 1992. 4 years later another 2 cities were accepted to YRD.
- **Official YRD Regional Plan** formulation started in 2004. As a result, **YRD REGIONAL PLAN (2009-2020)** is approved in 2010 by the central government.



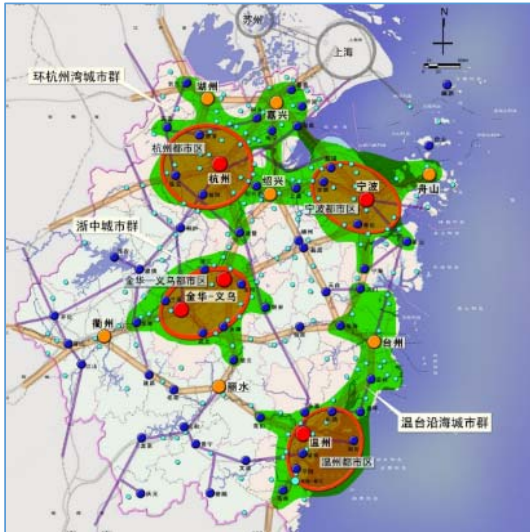
# Yangtze River Delta (YRD) 长三角区域

Large scale cross-boundary **REGIONAL PLANNING** advocates collaboration for poly-centric **INTEGRATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

The **YRD Integration Concept** had become well accepted by local planning authorities and planners. It became a primary principle in local planning practices, particularly the master planning for Municipality and Cities in YRD. This also promoted the regional planning within the Provinces and Municipality. The *ZHEJIANG PROVINCIAL URBAN SYSTEM PLAN (1996-2010)*, latterly replaced by a new version for 2011-2020, is the first provincial urban system plan approved by central government of China. Meanwhile the regional plans for city administration areas have served as a strong supplement to promote and implement this regional integration idea in YRD.



*Jiangsu Provincial Urban System Plan (2001-2020)*



*Urban System Spatial Structure Plan*



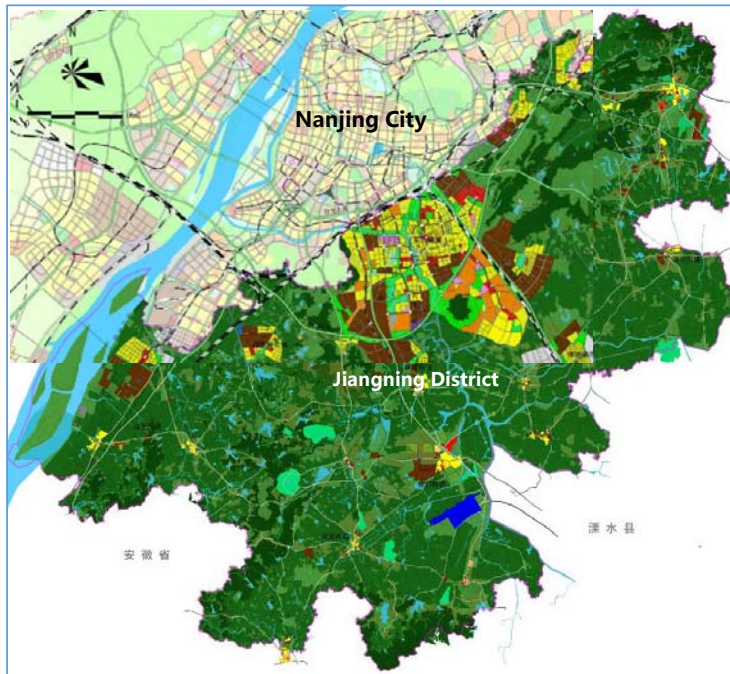
*Ecological Preservation & Growth Boundary Plan*

*Zhejiang Provincial Urban System Plan (2011-2020)*

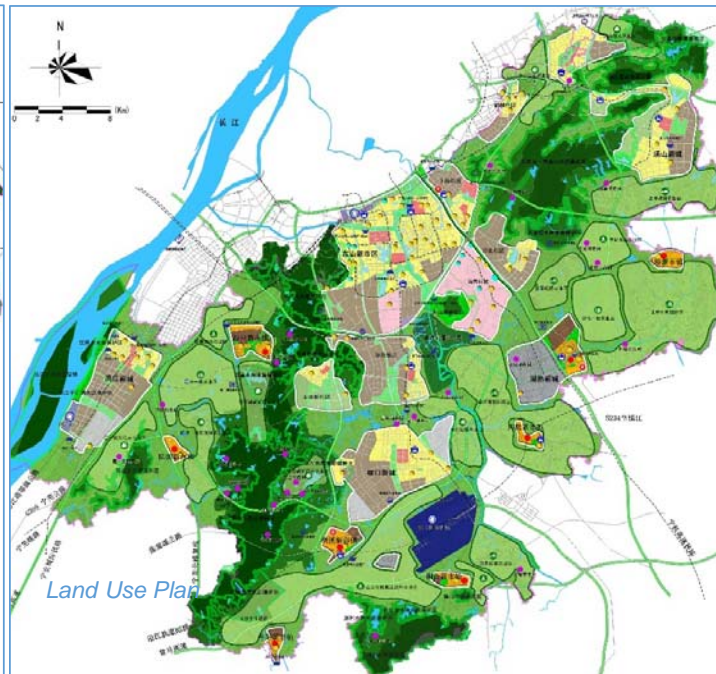
The incremental regional planning and **Collaboration Process** has collaborated many large infrastructure projects, vocation divisions and environmental issues. Today in YRD, the time distances among core cities are just around one hour by high speed train. Major cities are accessible within one hour by most localities. The poly-centric structure with strong, diversified and resilient urban functions has supported this region as the economic engine for the whole country. The disparity among cities has been significantly mitigated. In 1978, the GDP per capita for Shanghai was 5.8 and 7.8 times as much as that of Jiangsu and Zhejiang. In 2013, these dropped to 1.2 and 1.3, whilst the GDP share of YRD in China had risen from 18% of 1978 to 21% with the population share remaining some 11%. The region is much more integrative not just as a natural geographical region but a joint economic, cultural and living circle.

# Jiangning District, Nanjing 江宁区

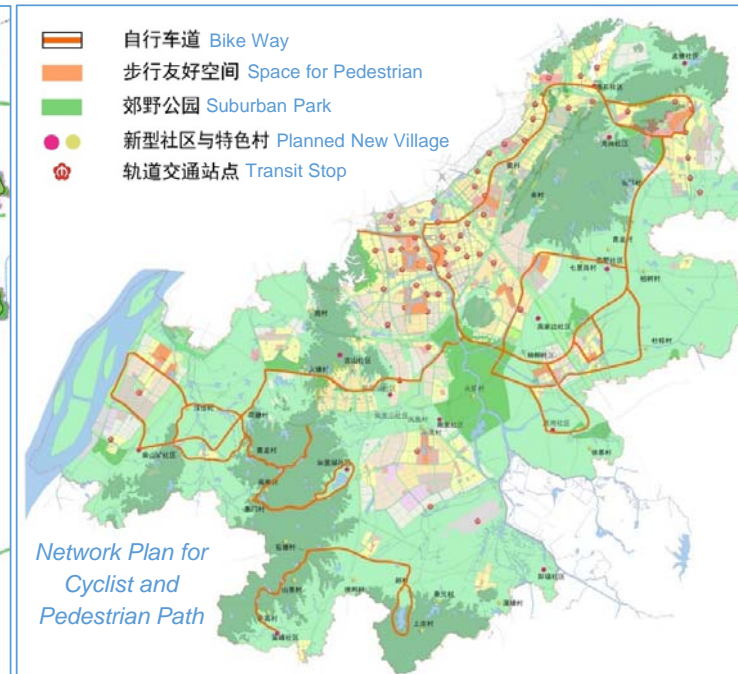
Recovering, rediscovering, and reinventing *GLAMOUR OF VILLAGES* by promotion of *URBAN-RURAL INTEGRATION PLANNING*



*Status quo of Jiangning, Nanjing*



*Jiangning Urban-rural Integration Plan (2008-2020)*



For most time in the last 3 decades, China's rural area has been under the shadow of the urban and regional growth. Every year, millions of rural migrants move to cities and towns for a better life, which has been a major driving force for **Rapid Urbanization** in China. To compare with the prosperous urban centers, the countryside has witnessed a losing population, declining economy, deteriorating ecology and diminishing tradition and culture. **Retrieving the Rural Viability** of the villages has been the top priority for the central government. Ambitious plan and enormous fiscal transfer have been in place to foster urban-rural integration. Villages in metropolitan area have been the most benefited and favorite places to attract investments and urban dwellers. With a balanced distribution of public services supported by governments, more inhabitants find their new life in these New Villages. Jiangning District of Nanjing is among such successes in its **Urban-rural Integration Planning** and implementation.

# Jiangning District, Nanjing 江宁区

Recovering, rediscovering, and reinventing *GLAMOUR OF VILLAGES* by promotion of *URBAN-RURAL INTEGRATION PLANNING*

## 3 Tiers of Rural Renewal

Physical improvements: public and private investments	Few selected villages
Economy revitalization: policy incentives, market forces,	Conditional cases
Social rehabilitation: nature friendly and culture oriented approaches, self-organizing community building	Wide adaptable option



## Infrastructure System to Support Rural Renewal

- EI:** Ecological Infrastructure
- RI:** Recreation Infrastructure
- AI:** Agricultural Infrastructure
- MI:** Municipal Infrastructure
- II:** Image Identity Infrastructure



# Inspirations on 50 years of city and regional planning in China

- Planning system in China is a combination/result of domestic tradition and global experiences, economic decentralization and legislative reform. It has been a great success in **guiding and safeguarding** the massive urbanization and fast economy growth.
- There are national and local legislations govern the planning practices and planning authorities coordinate such practices, while the scientific and **technological innovations** are always the most proactive factor in last decades.
- Planning is basically a local affair. But the central government is very important in policies regarding urbanization, infrastructures and public services. Sophisticated **institutional definition of planning** is needed according to the legal and governmental context in a transitional economy.
- Planning is vital to preserve such vulnerable resources as natural habitats, cultural heritage, city identities, etc, which represent the **public interests** in the process of urban growth.