A Brief Introduction on Beijing & Its Urban Planning

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Structure of Lecture

• What Does “Beijing” Mean Territorially And How Does It Evolve Historically?

2. How Is Urban Development Managed In Beijing?
1. What Does “Beijing” Mean Territorially And How Does It Evolve Historically?

- Administrative perspective: Municipality of Beijing
- Historic perspective: Old City of Beijing
- Urban perspective: City Proper of Beijing
- Regional perspective: Greater Beijing
Municipality of Beijing & Its Generality
Geographic Location

- East of China
- Neighboring Hebei Province and Tianjin Municipality
- Less than 200 km away from the Bohai Bay to the southeast
Territorial Status

- Capital City of P. R. China
- One of the 34 local collectivities of provincial level
- One of the 4 municipalities directly under the Central Government
Topographic Situation

- Part of North China Plain
- Covering an area of about 16,410 km²
- 60% hilly area and 40% plain area
- Hilly in north and west, while plain in south and east
Administrative Division

- 4 urban districts
- 4 inner-suburban districts
- 10 outer-suburban districts
Economic Development

- Sustained rapid growth since the 1980s
- GDP of 900.6 billion RMB and GDP per capita of 7370 US$
- High tertiary in Industrial composition
Demographic Development

- Sustained slow growth since the 1980s
- Slight decrease of natural growth but rapid increase of migration
- Total population of 16.3 million at the end of 2007
Demographic Distribution

- More concentrated in the southeast
- Denser in the center
Territorial Structure

- Typical circular structure
- High concentration to the center

<table>
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<th>Territory</th>
<th>Area (km²)</th>
<th>Proportion (%)</th>
<th>Population (million)</th>
<th>Proportion (%)</th>
<th>Density (person/km²)</th>
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<td>100.0</td>
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<td>100.0</td>
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Old City of Beijing & Its Historic Evolution
History as City

- Firstly established as Yan City by Yan Kingdom during the period of West Zhou (about 10th century BC) near Yongding River
- Moved to Ji City in 8th century BC after Yan defeated Ji in 8th century BC
History as Capital City

- Becoming one of the political centers of China in the Liao Dynasty (10th – 12th century)
- Becoming the Capital City of China in the Jin Dynasty (12th – 14th century)
- Being the Capital City of China during the Yuan (13th-14th century), Ming (14th -17th century) and Tsing (17th -20th century) Dynasties
- With its location being shifted and the city form being transformed
City Layout

- In the Inner City
  Forbidden City at center
  Court in front
  Market behind
  Temple of Ancestors to left
  Temple of State to right
City Layout

- In the Outer City
  Temple of Heaven in south
  Temple of Earth in north
  Temple of Sun in east
  Temple of Moon in west
- Outside the City
  Landscaped gardens
Road Structure

• Laid out in rectangular grid
• Classified into three categories:
  avenue (25m)
  street (12m)
  Hutong (6-7m)
Spatial Hierarchy

- City – Block - Sub-block – Courtyard – Building - Room
City Silhouette

- Central axis
- City Wall
- City Gate
- Grand avenue
City Image
City Proper of Beijing & Its Urban Development
Urban Areas of Beijing

- City Proper (Central City): agglomeration of urban development
- Satellite Towns (New Cities): isolated urban agglomeration
- Towns: isolated small-scale urban development
- Villages: rural construction
City Proper

- Area: 1100 km² covering the 4 urban districts and part of the 4 inner suburban districts
- Population: about 8 million
- Structure: 1 Central Urban Area and 10 Scattered Urban Clusters separated from each other by a green belt
Urban Development Driven By Industrialization

- Mono-centered urban expansion
Urban Development within City Proper

- Over-concentration of urban population and urban functions
Urban Development within City Proper

- Spatial pattern of concentric radiation, centering on the Old City of Beijing
Urban Problems Faced by City Proper

- Destruction of the Old City of Beijing
Urban Problems Faced by City Proper

- Destruction of the Old City of Beijing
Urban Problems Faced by City Proper

- Aggregation of urban transportation
Urban Problems Faced by City Proper

• Disordered sprawl at the urban periphery of the City Proper, resulting in the rapid decrease of farmlands and green fields
Urban Problems Faced by City Proper

- Stagnation of urban development in the outer-suburban area, resulting in the increasing disparity between the center and the periphery
Urban Problems Faced by City Proper

- Increase of social cost including resources and environment
Greater Beijing & Its Regional Development
**Greater Beijing**

- Capital Region composed of Beijing, Tianjin and Northern Hebei Province
- Inspired by the traditional Capital Region
Regional Development of Greater Beijing

- Firstly proposed in the 1980s for economic considerations
- Further developed since the late 1990s for ecological considerations and coordinated spatial development
2. How Is Urban Development Managed in Beijing?

- Practice of urban planning since the 1950s
- Institutional management of urban development
- New Master Plan of Beijing
Practice of Urban Planning Since the 1950s
Urban Planning Around 1949

- Draft City Plan of Beiping in 1947
- Dual-City Plan of LIANG and CHEN in 1949
Urban Planning Before 1980s

- Draft Plan in 1954
- Draft Plan in 1958, setting up the principle of Scattered Clusters
- Draft Plan in 1973
Urban Planning After 1980s

• City Master Plan in 1982
• City Master Plan in 1991
Experiments of Urban Renovation

- Residential neighborhood: Xiao-hou-cang in the 1980s
Experiments of Urban Renovation

- Residential neighborhood: JU-er Hutong in the early 1990s
Experiments of Urban Renovation

- Residential Neighborhood: Nan-chi-zi in the late 1990s
Experiments of Urban Renovation

- Commercial Street: Yan-dai-xie-jie in the late 1990s
Experiments of Urban Renovation

- Commercial Street: Da-shi-lan in the early 21st century
Institutional Management of Urban Development
Interference on Urban Construction in China

- Urban Planning Administration: planning authorization
  Planning Position Paper on Project Location
  Planning Permit of Construction Land
  Planning Permit of Construction

- Land Administration: land use authorization
  Certificate of State-Owned Land Utilization

- Construction Administration: construction authorization
  Construction Permit
Urban Planning System in China

- Strategic planning: Master Plan (at both municipal and district levels)
- Regulatory planning: Detailed Control Plan
- Operational Planning: Detailed Operation Plan
Urban Planning Organizations

• Administration: Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning (http://www.bjghw.gov.cn) and its branch at each district
  Organizing the compilation of urban plans
  Authorizing the urban construction projects

• Planning & Design: Beijing Institute of Urban Planning & Design, and others
  Compilation of urban plans
  Planning and design of certain urban construction projects
New Master Plan of Beijing
New Master Plan for The 21\textsuperscript{st} Century

• Regional development from the perspective of Greater Beijing Region
New Master Plan for The 21st Century

- Structure of regional city: two corridors, two axes, and multiple centers
New Master Plan for The 21st Century

• Hierarchical urban system
• Central Area
• Peripheral Clusters
• Key New Cities
• Ordinary New Cities
• Key Towns
• Ordinary Towns
New Master Plan for The 21st Century

- Reasonable functional division
New Master Plan for The 21st Century

- Multi-centered agglomeration
New Master Plan for The 21\textsuperscript{st} Century

- Preservation of historical and cultural heritages
New Master Plan for The 21st Century

- Ecological considerations
New Master Plan for The 21st Century

- Green space preservation
New Master Plan for The 21st Century

- Road network
New Master Plan for The 21st Century

- Rail transport