



Comparison of Advantages and Weaknesses Among Three Major Urban Agglomerations in China

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Abstract

Several urban agglomerations have formed in China in different size recently, with China's population and economic activities shifting to big cities at large scale, becoming important driving force of economic development. Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta and Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan Area in terms of high speed of economic development and economic contribution rate are called China's three major urban agglomerations. This article aims to illustrate construction of three major agglomerations and in particular the main advantages and weaknesses.

Keywords: Urban agglomeration, Advantages, Weaknesses

1. The construction of three major urban agglomerations

Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta and Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan Area are three areas with economic development at fast speed. Yangtze River Delta includes Shanghai, Nanjing, Hangzhou,

Ningpo, Wuxi, Suzhou, and Zhenjiang, among which Shanghai is the core city and play the most important role. Pearl River Delta is composed of Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Fuoshan, etc. Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan Area comprises Beijing, Tianjin, Tangshan and the middle region of Liaoning, Hebei, Shandong, Inner Mongolia provinces.

2. Advantages of three major urban agglomerations

Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta and Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan Area, with its competitive position, achieve impressive economic aggregates comparing to other regions, especially in the field of industrial production, foreign direct investment, volume of importation and exportation, and total number of retail of consumer goods.

2.1 Common advantages of major three major urban agglomerations

2.1.1 Advanced infrastructure and traffic network

In Yangtze River Delta, Many high speed roads which connect Shanghai and Ningpo, Shanghai and Hangzhou, Ningpo and Hangzhou have been established and been used. Besides, Yangtze River Delta is closed with some international shipping deepwater ports of East Ocean, Yellow Ocean and Yangtze River, together with other ordinary ports nearby, forming a developed distribution and transportation system with fast speed and professional coordination. At the same time, better strategy for infrastructure construction in Pearl River Delta has been formulated. That is the establishment of high speed road network centered by Guangzhou. Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan Area is featured with more than forty ports with different scale. All of its ports have made up of a port agglomeration with sound function, cargo throughput of which account for 40% of the total aggregate in China.

2.1.2 Skillful talent and high technology

A great number of outstanding universities and high technological institutions make sufficient professional and skillful experts available. They have succeeded in many essential researchs and brought with high qualified technical productions, particularly, they pioneer in the areas of microelectronic system, optical fibre, bio-engineering and new material. Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan Area is also an important region of science and technology research, providing favorable conditions for developing technological industry on the basis of the first-class science and technology institution, the largest number of books and documentation and the technological information center.

2.1.3 Industrial groundwork

All of the urban agglomerations who have taken the core position of national and regional strategies own developed agriculture and industry, possess sound industrial technology equipment and comprehensive competence, so that become the most developed regions in China.

2.2 Different advantages among three major urban agglomerations

2.2.1 Advantages of Yangtze River Delta

Shanghai as the core city of Yangtze River Delta take the internationalization step forward, Spreading to nearby regions and pushing the economic growth by its huge economic foundation and world-class technology. The reason why Shanghai become the key city is that it own unique location advantage which enable many multinational enterprises to set their headquarters in Shanghai. Moreover, the economic integration is under way. At present, sixteen cities are taking positive measures, including forum on economic progress in Shanghai, Suzhou and Hangzhou, and travel integration system, to realize economic integration.

2.2.2 Advantages of Pearl River Delta

Pearl River Delta push industrialization and modernization by making full use of foreign investment. In terms of attracting foreign investment, Pearl River Delta have its own advantages. Besides, the professional towns and countries, with high operation efficiency and reasonable utilization of resources, develop characteristic industries featured by small firm, big industry, small product, big market.

2.2.3 Advantages of Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan Area

Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan Area own richful mineral resources and marine resources, especially being rich in coal, iron and petroleum. Furthermore, Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan Area as a comprehensive port city have different function and characters. Tianjin is an important port which connect trades between China and foreign countries. Dalian, Qingdao and Yantai also have sound ports. Another huge port with its deepwater and professional skills will be built in Tangshan.

3. Weaknesses of three major urban agglomerations

Although three major urban agglomerations have made great contribution to China's economic progress, they still exist many problems and stand in the way of China's further development.

3.1 Common weaknesses of three major urban agglomerations

3.1.1 Low efficiency of government coordination

Inefficient government coordination lead to pursuit cities' own interests and exorbitant competition among cities, industries which destroy the sustaining development.

3.1.2 Limited capacity as core cities

Apart from Shanghai, other core cities can not exert its influence, and can not push regional economic progress as a guidance.

3.1.3 Lack of division and cooperation

Different cities in one urban agglomeration have the same industrial construction. For example, many cities in Yangtze River Delta select automobile parts manufacture, communications as their main industries. Tianjin and Beijing take steel, electricity and new material as key industries.

3.1.4 Serious environmental issues

Development at fast pace also cause some environmental issues such as worsening quality of water, soil and climate which take adverse affection to social production and daily life.

3.2 Different weaknesses of three major urban agglomerations

3.2.1 Weaknesses of Yangtze River Delta

With the rapid industrialization, large cropland have been destroyed and been used for construction. Contradiction between the limited land resources and coordinated growth of towns and cities impair the further development. Furthermore, Major products depend on cheap labour and favourable policies due to unsound creation mechanism.

3.2.2 Weaknesses of Pearl River Delta

Excessive dependance on foreign investment vulnerable to sudden risks also make economy easily influenced by international economy changes. Enterprises which mainly use foreign investment aims to pursuit low cost and high profit, not to conduct industrial construction reajustment and achieve industrialization.

3.2.3 Weaknesses of Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan Area

Imbalance between oversize cities and backward rural areas is obvious. Although there are many large cities such as Beijing, Tianjin, Dalian and Qingdao, it is short of cities of middle size. Moreover, State-owned economy develop so quickly with private sectors falling behind. Government's too much interference in resources and cooperations slow down the speed of progress of private sectors, and make it difficult to promote economic construction.

4. Resolution of weaknesses of three major major urban agglomerations

In order to eliminate the weaknesses and improve sound growth of urban agglomerations, China should establish a set of mechanism including the following points: (1)Government should identify the general target and objectives at different stages to assist all cities to exert their comparative strengths and to regulate activities of local and central government. (2) It is of importance to set up unified, transparent,opened,and regulated market.Government must make great efforts to promote market system at all levels,guarantee the fundamental function of market mechanism.(3)Unified laws and regulations have to be formulated to restrict behaviors caused by protecting its own interests which produce unfavorable influence to others.(4) An arbitration committee,organized by governemt and private sectors together ,should be built to deal with economic problems ,and research and set up the development plans.

Refernces

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