

Comparative Study of the Research in the Topic of Urban Quality between China and Italy

——Take the study of Urban Quality's connotation、 evaluating method , evaluating indicators and the enhancing method as example

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Chapter1 Exordium

1.1 Topic selection background

China and Italy, as a country with a long history of civilization and urbanization, had both built glorious cities in ancient times. They are also similar in terms of urban development in modern times, as they were both enormously destructed in WWII and thereby suffered a slow and even stagnant period of urban development; they both enjoyed a rapid growth of urban development thanks to the post-war economic boom.

Since the beginning of the new century, as more than half of the global population live in cities, the competition of countries is the competition of cities in the future. The urban issue becomes the world-recognized priority, while urban quality is the key of the urban competitiveness.

Therefore, Italy and China have both paid a great attention to the urban quality problem of their own country. The scholars and other groups of both country have done a great deal of researches on this issue and made many achievements. However these achievements have not been well classified and analyzed, they are dispersive and immethodical. Also, the researches done by both countries from either perspective have never be compared by each other. However there are plenty of resemblances and differences to compare with in both country's researches.

This paper utilizes Italy and China's academic communication platform of urban planning, comparing the urban researches of China and Italy

with each other, trying to find out something we can use for reference. Such topic has a great guiding significance and reference significance for the healthy development of the cities and towns in our country.

1.2 Research Object and Distinction of Concept

Firstly, the research object of this paper is: the urban researches of Italy and China.

It should be noticed that there is very few researches on the urban quality, most of them are mixed in the urbanization quality researches. Therefore, in this paper the urban quality researches of our country is extracted from the researches of urbanization quality, majorly from the part of urban quality researches.

We should be clear of the difference between “urban quality” and “urbanization quality”.

“Urban quality” reflects the quality of cities and towns. It refers to that in a certain time, a certain city, the quality of the content elements such as regional economy, people’s living standard, infrastructural instruction, social culture development etc. The urban quality represents the capacity for a city to meet the people’s demand of production, living, ecological environment etc..

“Urbanization quality” is the relative to the quantification of urbanization; it is a comprehensive concept that represents the level of urbanization. It reflects the quality of cities apart from the quantitative

attribute (such as urbanization rate, urbanization speed etc). It includes the development quality, coordination degree, propulsive efficiency of each element. “Urbanization quality” reflects the development of urbanization and the changing demand of production, life and ecology of people. Its connotation includes the quality of urban development, the propulsive efficiency of urbanization and the coordination between city and countryside.

1.3 Research Significance

The significance in comparing the researches on Quality of Cities and Towns between Italy and China, can be viewed either in a theoretical way or in a practical way: The theoretical significance is, that most of the studies on the Urbanization in our country have been concentrating on the urbanization of U.S. and U.K. or the Latin America and quite neglected countries like Italy on the European Continent. Because of the limited academic communication and cooperation in the discipline of Urbanization, especially the subjects of the Quality of Urbanization and the Quality of Cities and Towns, studies about Italy in this field is nearly blank, though, our country and Italy had gone through a similar process in modern urbanization development. Zhejiang Province and Milan Province are very similar in terms of the history of urbanization, the momentum of urbanization and the leading position of the urbanization in

their own country. Moreover, the problems that the Milan Province are facing, are what ought to be faced in the mature stage of Urbanization where Italy has already arrived. The problems that the Milan Province even the whole country are facing, are arguably reflecting what China will encounter in future days. Therefore, the analysis of the Quality of Cities and Towns would be very enlightening. This paper, based on the research platform in College of Architecture and Urban Planning in Politecnico Di Milano, has solved the problems of sources for information and the barriers between languages, and thereby, could be seen as a supplement to studies on this particular field in our country.

In the practical way, as the urbanization has been an explosive growth in China, the unhealthy pattern of urban development will certainly impedes the healthy growth of it. Statistics suggest that half of GDP, 70% of industrial value and 80% of industrial profits and taxes are attributed to Urban Areas. Moreover, the high-tech supports and educational resources, as well as various high-tech industries (i.e. communication, transport, finance, trade, information management etc.) are basically allocated to the cities. It is an undeniable fact that the city is now a political, economic, cultural, scientific and international center in a country. According to a report from National Health and Family Planning Commission, with the further development of urbanization, another 300,000,000 of rural people are about to shift towards cities in the next 20 years. Zhejiang province,

as a relatively urbanized region in our country, is going to improve the quality of urbanization in the next stage. The rate of urbanization for Zhejiang had reached 64.2% in 2012, and what is waiting for Zhejiang is a strategic transition into the new urbanization.

Currently, the study of Urbanization as well as Quality of Urbanization is one of the priorities in our country. However, the assessment approach to the quality of cities and towns has not exactly been found yet. In this respect, there are quite a few novelty value in Italian assessment methods, which is also helpful in ironing out some difficulties (e.g. index weight standard) in the studies of this area. In the study of improving quality for cities and towns, Italian scholars have a variety of achievements in terms of the insight, the process, the participants and the measures, which are quite different from ours. Such differences would brought us a great deal of profound enlightenments which means a lot to Zhejiang and even the whole country in the healthy growth of urbanization. As for Italy, there is not a perfect study on the quality of cities and towns in Italy and such studies in China will certainly be beneficial to them. Moreover, problems exist in the management system of city planning --- the weak control in the implementation of the planning, about which China had a lot successful experiences that could possibly bring Italy some enlightenments.

1.3 Study Scope and Date Sources

This paper takes the research methods in Italy and China in the study on Quality of Cities and Towns as the research object. The reason for this is that it is rather difficult to compare the quality of cities between two countries in a direct way due to the enormous differences varying from history, scale, form and the stage of development, and the outcome would not be accurate. However, a comparison of Chinese and Italian research methods in this study area, would bring both new methods and angles in future study.

Due to the fact that though it is a comparison of study methods, it should be based on real cities and towns. Therefore, this paper choose Zhejiang Province in China and Milan Province (including Milan city) in Italy as study area.

Date Sources: statistical yearbook of Zhejiang province, China's sixth census data, Italy State Statistical Bureau website

1.5 Research Contents and Technical Route

1.5.1 Research Contents

(1) Literature Review: interpreting the urban and urban quality researches of our country, of Italy, and of other countries, summarizing the Italy part in our researches. Finding out the weak part in the research and make it the research priority of this paper.

(2) Research Background: this part makes an overview of the background of the urban development of Italy and China, analyzing the

differences and resemblances, through which we can make sure the research is objective and scientific.

(3) The comparison of the urban quality's connotation of two countries: analyzing the connotation of urban quality of two countries.

(4) The comparison of the urban quality evaluation system of two countries: comparing the differences and resemblances in the quality evaluation systems

(5) The comparison of the urban quality assessment method of two countries: Comparing the assessment methodology of Italy and China

(6) The comparison of the urban quality promotion strategy of two countries: comparing the urban quality promotion strategy of Milan Italy and of Zhejiang China, in terms of the content, perspective, methods etc.

(7) The cause of the differences and the enlightenment they bring: making conclusion to the above mentioned four part of differences and resemblances between two countries, analyzing the causes and the enlightenments.

1.5.2 Technical Route

The technical route of this paper is: First of all, reviewing the existing literatures and representing the existing researches that are related to the topic of this paper. The second part, making an overview of the urban development background of two countries and analyzing the

differences and the resemblances between them. Then we enter the core of the paper -- the main body of the comparison. This paper chooses four major points of the urban quality researches to make comparison between two countries: i.e. the connotation of the urban quality, the selection of the urban quality evaluation indicators, the methodology of the urban quality evaluation, the promotion strategy of the urban quality. Analyzing specifically at the differences and resemblances in these four aspects. At the conclusion, I try to figure out the cause of these differences and resemblances and the enlightenment that is brought to us.

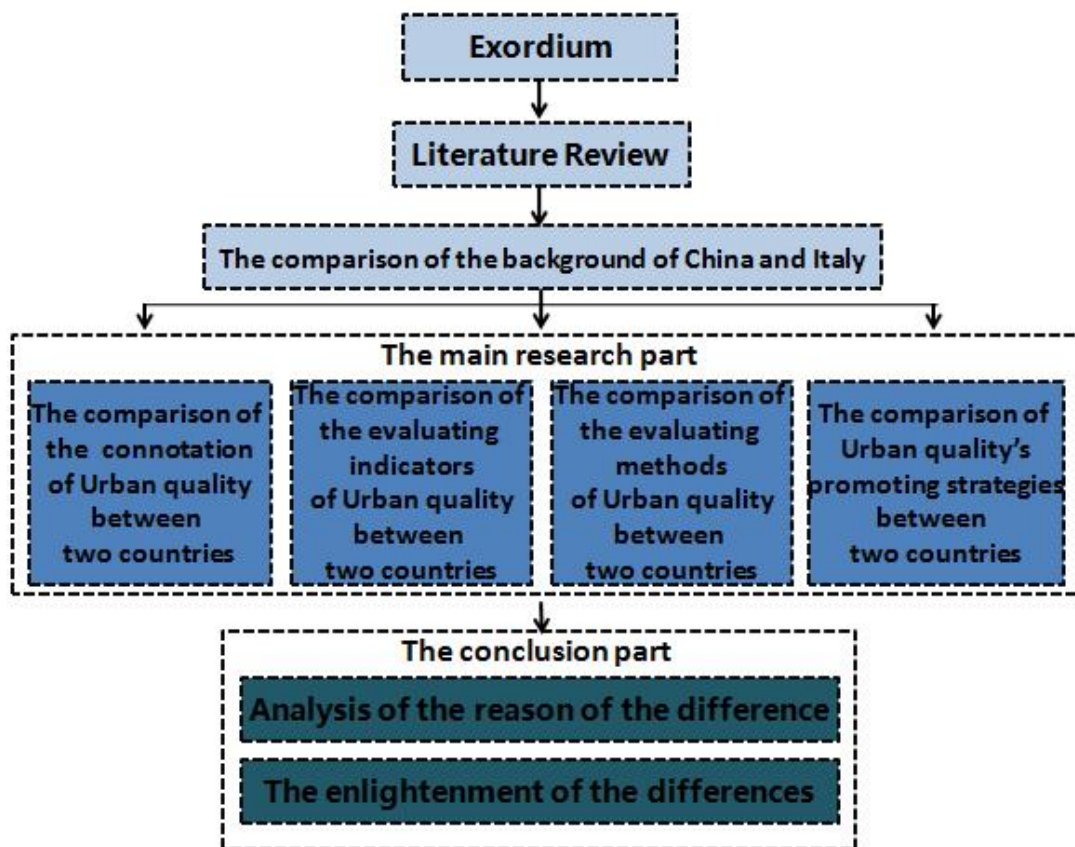


Figure 1-1: Technical Route

Chapter 2 Literature Review

2.1 The concept of “urban”

The word “Chengzhen” has multiple meanings in China. Firstly, According to the *Rules on the division of urban and rural in the statistics (Trial)* by the State Statistics Bureau of China, “Chengzhen” stands for the cities and towns that are divided by the regulation based on the town system and administrative region. It includes both cities and towns. This is a generalized concept of “Chengzhen”. Secondly, “Chengzhen” is viewed as the same level as the countryside, including country towns and organics town. And this is a narrow concept of “Chengzhen”. However, the word “Chengzhen” in “Chengzhenhua (urbanization)” should be understood in a generalized sense..

There is no equivalent of “Chengzhen” in English. People usually use “city” to refer to “Chengshi”, while use “town” to refer to “Zhen” and the word “rural” stands for “Xiangcun”. The word that has the closest meaning with “Chengzhen” should be “urban”.

The word “urban” in this paper should be understood generalized, referring to both cities and towns.

2.2 The concept of “urbanization”

The urban quality research in this paper could not be separated from the background of urbanization. Therefore, the concept of “urbanization” should be analyzed.

2.2.1 Domestic research in the field

The concept of "ChengzhenHua" (pronunciation of "urbanization" in Mandarin) did not exist in China, until scholars coined this word, and it was much later than the advent of "ChengshiHua" (another version of that in Mandarin). The words "ChengzhenHua" and "ChengshiHua" were both made from the English word "urbanization", though after, with many Chinese scholars' suggestion, "ChengzhenHua" had substituted for "ChengshiHua". The study on the subject of urbanization in our country is relatively later than that in other country. It was not until 1979 that professor Youren Wu had advanced the concept of "ChengzhenHua" in his paper Urbanization Issues in Socialistic China, which also predicted the trend of development of urbanization in China.

(1) Demology

In 1980s, China Academy of Urban Planning had explained the nature of Urbanization in their research topic of "The Way to the Urbanization for Some Economically Developed Areas and the Technologic and Economic Policies for Developing Little Towns". Research indicates: urbanization, as a global social phenomenon, is a historical period that a country (or region) will have to face after it's economy and society get to a certain level of development. Influenced by this theory, focusing on the population in urbanization became the main feature of the earlier stage of the research on urbanization in our country. Dejin Ling (1988) considered

"urbanization" as a process of population shifting toward cities or areas around cities. Shengzu Gu (1991) developed the concept of urbanization suggesting that the urbanization is dynamic rather than static in its meaning and is a category of history. Yahui Chen and Xiaopin Liu (1996) put forth that urbanization is a trend in which the proportion of urban population keeps expanding. Shuzong Li (2002), professor of Finance and Economics University of Jiangxi, defined urbanization as a process of rural people turning into urban people, in another word, the historical period of population concentrating in cities. The first usage of the term "urbanization" by our government in official documents, was "Suggestion for Making the Domestically Economic and Social Development Plan for the Tenth Five Years", on the fifteenth plenary session of Communist Party in China. There are more than twenty definitions of urbanization in China, of which the most authoritative one is the one made in "The Basic Standards for Technical Terms in Urban Planning". It is: Urbanization is a historical period, in which the way of producing and living of human being turned from rural pattern to urban, representing a process that rural population becomes urban population and the cities keep developing and being perfected.

(2) Economics

Huilin Rao (1999), professor of Dongbei University of Finance and Economics, viewing from an economic perspective, defined urbanization

as a historical period of developing modern production of commodities and concentration of population, with a stronger connection between the city and its geographic position and with a more powerful social momentum behind it. The way Chongguang Yang and Weixin Liu understood urbanization can be divided into three parts: Firstly, see the urbanization as a historical period; secondly, urbanization can be seen as a period of rural population concentrating toward cities, or in another word, in the perspective of settlement, population concentrating toward urban area; thirdly, in the respect of economy, define the urbanization as a shift of economy. Huiyu Liu (2001), on the other hand, illustrates urbanization mainly in the perspective of the connection between population, urbanization, industrialization and modernization: urbanization is a historical period of focusing. This focusing period includes the concentration of population and of second and third industry. Urbanization would affect the industrialization and modernization in a positive way as much as they had done to it. It is this period (i.e. urbanization) that attributed to the urban development. The modernization in our country, has the same nature with urbanization. Therefore, to realize the modernization is to realize the urbanization.

(3) Sociology

Apart from the perspectives of Demology and Economics, domestic scholars had also tried to see the nature of urbanization from the angle of

Sociology. Yong Liu (1999), a D Econ of Renmin University, had defined urbanization from the perspective of transformation of people's way of life. He suggested, the nature of the urbanization, is nothing but the life style and production pattern of people being transformed from the rural version into the urban one, with the development of economy. Meanwhile, he viewed the city life as a special commodity form on the basis of market demand and supply, and the urbanization is just the universalization of this special form of commodity. The CPPCC member of Hunan Yongqing Jiang (2005) had given definitions while considering the connections between social practice, economic operation and urbanization. In his opinion, urbanization is a process, which was attributed to the development of productivity and the changes of way of life and production, of modern industries and population concentrating in urban area and is also a period when the material and spiritual civilization of urban area are spreading. Professor of Nanjing University Gonghao Cui and some other scholars, had expained urbanization from the angles like population and geography, pointing out the three processes in urbanization. Those are the transitions between rural population and urban population, rural area and urban area, agricultural production and non-agricultural production. He had also emphasized the meaning of urbanization in Sociology, that with the transition of population and non-agricultural production pattern, the geographical expansion of urban

production pattern, urban life mode, urban values would also take place. Professor Xiaolin Yuan from Xi'an Jiaotong University agreed that, the nature of urbanization is the measurement of material civilization, spiritual civilization and ecological civilization.

2.2.2 Foreign Research in the Field

The term "Urbanization" was firstly coined in 18th century during the industrial revolution and a great number of cities were born that time. Spanish scholar A.Serda (1867) had pushed forward the concept "urbanization" in his book "the principals of urbanization" that had distinguished "urbanization" from "ruralization".

Speaking of the urbanization, various scholars view it in various ways.

(1) Demology

The most common understanding about urbanization is of Demology: Hongjun and Ningyuemin (1983) had quoted American scholar Hope Tisdale Eldridge's idea in the book "the introduction of urban geography" as the nature of the urbanization is the concentration of population. The scholar also pointed out that urbanization consists three stages, i.e. the sprawl stage, the consolidation stage and the population concentration stage; Mengxing (2003) had quoted another American scholar C.C.Clark's view. He viewed the urbanization on the aspect of integration of industry and population, seeing the urbanization as a process of constantly reducing of agriculture industry population, and consistently

increasing of industry population and service industry population; Nobel Economics Prize winner Simon Smith Kuznets (1989) defined the urbanization as the stage of changing in the distribution of rural and urban population.

(2) Economics

There are scholars in the world who define the urbanization in the aspect of Economics. Werner Hershey (1983) in the book "urban economics" defined urbanization in the aspect of economics: Urbanization is the transition from rural economy, which features an even distribution of population, scattered individuals, massive labour, to the urban economics, which owns the opposite features; Japanese scholar Yamada Hiroyuki (1991) pointed out in the same book, that urbanizations includes two aspects: one is the economic aspect, the urbanization of economic base, and the other is the social aspect, the urbanization of superstructure (i.e. society, culture, tradition etc.) .

(3) Geography

American scholar J Friedman divides the urbanization process into two stages, i.e. urbanization one and urbanization two. Within it: the urbanization one includes the concentration of the non-agricultural population and production activities to the variously urban area, and the transition from rural scenery to urban scenery. Friedman's concept of "urbanization one" is a visionary and concrete process of urbanization,

which is the explanation of urbanization from the aspect of geography.

(4) Sociology

The theory of Japanese scholar Yamada Hiroyuki (1991) , whom we have mentioned above, had explained urbanization from social aspect, i.e. The urbanization phenomenon of superstructure aspect like urban society, culture, tradition etc. . Another Japanese scholar Gongcun, who is a sociologist, had divided the urbanization into three aspects, containing the sociology matters: and that is the dynamic urbanization, the urbanization of the social structure and the urbanization of the citizens' thoughts and feelings. The second stage of the urbanization in J.Friedman' s theory is illustrated from the aspect of sociology, in terms of the urban values in the rural area and the sprawl of the cultural taste and life style. Not alike the first stage, the second stage emphasize on the spiritual and abstract level of the urbanization. One of the representatives of the Chicago School Louis Wirth (1938) argued in his paper that the nature of “ urbanism” is different from that of “urbanization” . He thought that urbanization is a complete process of transition and development that people' s life style changes from the rural one to the urban one. Within this theory, urban life style refers to daily life style, habits and customs of people as well as other structural matters, e.g. methods, systems and designs etc..

Based on the above, the definition of the urbanization in the global

academics, could be concluded as the following table:

Table 2-1: The definition of Urbanization in different subject

Subject	Characteristic	Driving Power	Results
Demology	The transformation from rural population to urban population	Mechanical & Organic transformation of population	urban population increased, the urban scale expanded
Economics	The rapid development of urban economy, the proportion of non-agricultural industries increased	Industrial upgraded, non-agricultural industries concentrated in cities	Accumulation of production factors
Geography	The transformation from rural area to urban area	The transformation of the spatial distribution of productive forces	The weaken of two structure in urban and rural areas
Sociology	The transformation from rural life to urban life	The transformation of social structure	Civil society

source: Jiangling Luo. Review on the research of Urbanization, The characteristics and future modernization

2.2.3 Italian research in this field

Italy's research on this topic, was based on researches done by U.S. and U.K. (especially U.S.), combined with Italian urban development history (after national unity and after war in particular), and ended up with an Italian version of urbanization theory. To the definition of city, Italian academics tend to adopt the American scholar Tisdale Eldridge's version: city is a spot where people gathers; though the Italian scholars realized that city has different forms in different countries: Cities in Denmark would accomodate 250 people, while in Canada 1000, France 2000, Italy 10000, more than 20000 in Holland, and over 30000 in Japan. Aldo Rossi (1966), a famous Milan architect pointed out, in his book "L'architettura della citta", Urbanization is a period of population concentrating and proportion of urban population soaring. There are two aspects precisely,

concentration and proliferation, i.e., the expansion of settlement of scale (concentration) and the increase of settlement of quantity (proliferation). Italian scholar Stefania Vergati added that, the expansion of settlement scale (concentration) has been happening along the history: from the ancient Egypt, to Mesopotamia to Romans. The high-density and irreversible urban sprawl took place after the industrialization. The development of industry and business had bolstered the urbanization acceleration, notably in European countries like British, Germany, and soon American as well as other Western countries. Metropolitan population has been keep growing since the Age of Industry:

Only 2.4% of the world's population in 1800 lived in settlements that contain over 20,000 citizens, whereas by 1950, the percentage had been raised to 20.9. At the same time, the population of those settlements, accommodating more than 100,000, was 1.7% of the overall.

2.3 Correlational Research of Urbanization

The urban quality research could also be argued as the urbanization research, if we view it generally. Therefore, we are going to review the existing urbanization researches.

2.3.1 Domestic Research Review

Although the urbanization is a long historic process, our research on it is not until 1979. Before that, no scholar had ever mentioned the word “urbanization” (“Chengzhenhua” or “Chengshihua” in Chinese). The

subsequent researches have a lot to do with China's development in economy and society. Most scholars agree to divide the urbanization process of China into three phases: 1949 -- 1957 steady growth stage, 1958 -- 1977 stagnation stage, and 1978 till now, the fast growth stage.

However the researches on the urbanization did not start until 1979. The scholars had also divided the study history of urbanization into four phases: the first period is from 1979 to the beginning of 1980s, the starting period of urbanization research, at that time the priority was the relationship between economy and the urbanization; and the second period is from the beginning of the 1980s to the end of the 1980s, which was the time of experience reference and theory making of urbanization research, at that time a great deal of original points of views and theories related to China's national condition were put forward. For example, the "*Small towns, big issues*" by Xiaotong Zhou in 1984 etc.. It is at the same time the quantitative analysis on urbanization had started; the third period is from the end of the 1980s to the beginning of the 1990s, which is the localization period of urbanization research, due to the reform and opening up policy and the reformation of land system in 1988, scholars started to summarize the achievements and think about the future development; the fourth period is the end of the 1990s, due to the fact that the government paid increasingly attention to urbanization, the research had entered the government driving phase. The twelfth five-year plan had

included the urbanization clearly and the sixteenth national congress of the communist party of China had emphasized the importance of the implementation of urbanization strategy. Even recently, *the new urbanization plan of state plan* by the central government and state department, again, emphasized the important position for urbanization in the China's development. From the beginning of the concept of urbanization, every urbanization phase has its own emphasis, including both heritage and innovation.

2.3.2 Italian Research Review

(1) The process of urbanization

The same as most of the scholars in the world, Italian scholars acknowledge that concentration of population began between 700~800 in British. Many things lead to the acceleration of the urbanization. In the late fifties of 7th century, population grew to meet the demand for production; on the other hand, villages offered considerable labor force, with the productivity modernization and rural land centralization. It can be viewed as the outcome of the industrialization that urbanization stands beside population explosion. The cornerstone of the British urbanization is the fundamental change of productivity: Factory as the basic unit of production, replaced conventional family mode of production instantaneously. With the technology innovation, urbanization kept developing in European countries in 19th century. Throughout the period,

the development of urbanization as well as modernization accelerated and peaked during 1850~1900 in many western countries.

Italian academic circle has divided the urbanization process into three phases: the urbanization before industrial revolution, the fast urbanization that motivated by the industrial revolution and the rapid urbanization that led by the big industrial development after 19th century. In the book "*Urbanization: concept, question, process*" of 1982, the author Stefania Vergati had already noticed the mismatching between the urbanization and the population urbanization. In the book, he pointed out that: we can find from many industrialized countries that the city convention and the urban society had not reached an agreement with urban population, (which leads to the decline of the urban quality), the urbanization had developed from a concentric one to an eccentric one.

(2) Italian Metropolitanization research

Italy's metropolitanization research is one of the great features of Italian urbanization research. In the mid of last century, due to the fact of over crowd and environmental problem, Italy's population became to move out from the centers. Those cities around the center cities started to develop, especially those cities at the important traffic position. In Italy, at that time, the field of life had been beyond the the city geographically. Italy's metropolitanization process was later than the cities of other countries in Europe, which is due to the low degree of industrialization in Italy, the

slow development of tertiary industry, and the backward private and public traffic.

It is due to the different standards that the statistics of metropolis was vague. For example, Ardigo estimated there were 26 metropolises which Cafiero and Busca thought was 32. After some complex analyses, by 1961 researchers came to believe there were 20 metropolises, of which 9 had a core sprawling city (i.e. Venice, Bologna, Balermo etc.), of which 6 had a core sprawling city with its peripheral areas had also grown into big cities (i.e. Milan, Rome, Naples etc.), of which were urban agglomerations (made up by some major boroughs) , i.e. Palma, Genoa, Livorno-Pisa-Florence etc.. In 1970, Cafiero and Busca had given a multi-dimension definition to urban area: 1. a certain level of population; 2. absolute amount and relative proportion of non-agricultural industry (second and third industry) ; 3. the density of non-agricultural event.

(3) Other countries' metropolitan research

Italian scholar had also made a few researches on other countries' urbanization, notably the U.K., because it is one the earliest countries that entered the process of urbanization and many earlier Italian urban researches were based on the U.K.. Italian scholars had also made researches on Japan and U.S., they named the U.S.'s urbanization "the urbanization that without traditions" and the Japan's urbanization "the

urbanization that developed from the the feudal cities”. Furthermore, the social level research of Italy is based on the Chicago School of the U.S..

Apart from the above mentioned countries, there are also developing countries in Italy’s research. Italian scholars thought urbanization is a complex concept, because it involves two dimensions, i.e. the urbanization of rural population and the natural growth of urban population. Around 18th century and 19th century, these two took place in different regions. The former is mainly in those western industrial countries, while latter is in those developing countries with less advanced industry. Obviously, these two processes are both connected with society and economy, even with cultural system. Third world countries starting their urbanization after the WWII depends mostly on industry and other related industries. They are much faster than western countries who depend on service industry. Urbanization in developing countries, which is resulted from the urbanization in European countries and to a large degree relied on it, fused together with other progresses such as science, technology, culture and the growth of population as well.

2.4 Overview of urban quality research

2.4.1 Overview of China’s urban quality research

After searching at the “Zhiwang” (the biggest academic searching system in China), I found that the number of paper that includes “urban quality” is only three, of which were all concerning about small cities,

and the “urban quality” was still urbanization quality in fact (Jianfang Shen, 2003; Shouli Hou et al., 2003). There is no clear connotation of urban quality, no scholar had ever done research in this field before or assessed cities in terms of the quality of them.

There is very few specific research concerning the urban quality in our country. The urban quality research is always involved in the urbanization research. Therefore, I am going to make an over view on this issue here:

Currently, China’s population urbanization rate is already 52.6%, becoming a primary urban society. However the mismatching in urbanization level and urbanization quality level still remains. It is Yumin Ye (2001) who first launched the urbanization quality research in China and he thought the core content of urbanization quality is the city modernization and the ultimate goal is the urban-rural integration. Since then more scholars started to pay attention to the urbanization quality and try to assess urbanization quality comprehensively by quantitative method.

According to the available literature, there are two types of urbanization quality research in our country: one is the theoretical research, the priority is the connotation of urbanization quality and the establishment of evaluation system; the other one is empirical research, the priority is to assess the specific city’s quality. The theoretical research includes the demarcation of the urbanization connotation. Currently a

great number of scholars have discussed the connotation of urbanization from various perspectives, across disciplines (Huasheng Tong, 2005; Sudong Liu, 2006; Hongxiang Zhu, 2007; Houkai Wei, 2013). By contrary, most empirical researches adopt such research thought: making clear the connotation of urbanization quality, establishing urbanization quality evaluation system, and assessing specific regions, making corresponding policies and actions according to the results of the assessment (Huayong He, 2011; Aihua Mao et al., 2012; Jingyu Liu et al., 2013).

China's urbanization research is mostly aiming for China's situation, while the international urbanization research is insufficient. There is a blank in this field of research in our country.

2.4.2 Overview of foreign countries' urban quality research

Foreign countries have an early start of urban quality research and their researches are more delicate and specific, including urban life quality, urban environment quality, urban traffic quality etc.. Especially those developed countries, due to the high level of urbanization and that they have entered a comparative stable urban development process, their researches are aiming for the urban life quality, emphasizing the human and the environment in which human live in (Appleyard D&Lintell M, 1972; Rosen S, 1979; Sufian A J M, 1993; Lo C P, 1997; Tuan Seik F, 2000; Hagerty M R, 2001; McMahon S K, 2002; Bonaiuto Met al, 2003;

Hollander J B, 2011; Park M et al, 2013).

2.5 China's comparison in Italy's existing urban researches

Although Italy is the major countries of Europe, China had lacked the Italian urban researches in a long time. Most of the Italian urban researches are from the architecture and urban planning academic circles, and are concentrating on the following aspects: (1) Italy's experiences of conservation and restoration of historic buildings and cultural relics (Pietro, Weijie Lan and MinHu, 2010; HongyanDu, 2012). (2) The use of reference of urban spacial planning method. The success of Italy's urban spacial planning method is the urban culture heritage, and the role of small and medium-sized cities in urban system, and the overall protection of historical heritage in the urban spacial planning (Klaus Kunzmann et al., 2010). (3) Italy's "scattered urbanization" development patterns research. Since 1970s, Italy's urbanization rate has been maintained below 70%, lower than same advance countries, such as Spain, England, Netherland etc., half of the urban population live in small cities (Li Hou, 2012). This has a great implication on the use of reference for China's big, medium and small-sized cities' coordinated development and coordinated development of regions.

2.6 Summary

It is obvious from the literature review, that we lack the specific urban quality researches, which are all included in the urbanization quality

research. There is no system of literature that researches on the concept of the quality, the connotation, and other related issues of cities and towns, It is also not hard to find that comparing with the abundant literatures researching on U.K. and U.S. urban issues, there is hardly any about Italy's. The research in this field could supplement the blank in this field.

Chapter 3 Research background: Comparison in the backgrounds of urban development between two countries

The research of the quality of two countries' cities and towns is closely related to the backgrounds of urban development in two countries. Therefore, it is necessary to make a comparison between the urban development history, the urban management system and the division methodology of urban and rural area.

3.1 An introduction to the modern history of urban development in two countries

3.1.1 China

From the beginning of the People's Republic of China, China's urban development has experienced four stages. The government's policy is the main factor that affects the urban development in China, especially the turn over from the planned economy to market economy which is a catalyst for helping our country's urban development pattern become "from bottom to top" from "from top to bottom". The economic prosperity of Zhejiang province is a very good example of this:

1949-1957: normal period of urban development in our country. The industrialization started to develop in the planned economy and meanwhile became the main power of urban development. The level of urbanization increased from 10.6% to 15.4%.

1958-1978: stagnant period of urban development in our country.

Economic development did not coordinate the urban development thus the level of urbanization was wandering around 17.0%

1978-2000: with the rapidly economic development, the level of urbanization in our country had increased steadily, so this period is a steady growth period. The figure had increased by 0.6% per year.

2000 till now: rapid growth period. The reform of state-owned enterprises has nearly done, the rapidly development of informatization, the rapidly development of heavy development and the unprecedented prosperity in third industries had all contributed to the rapid growth of urbanization whose level increased 1.7% per year.

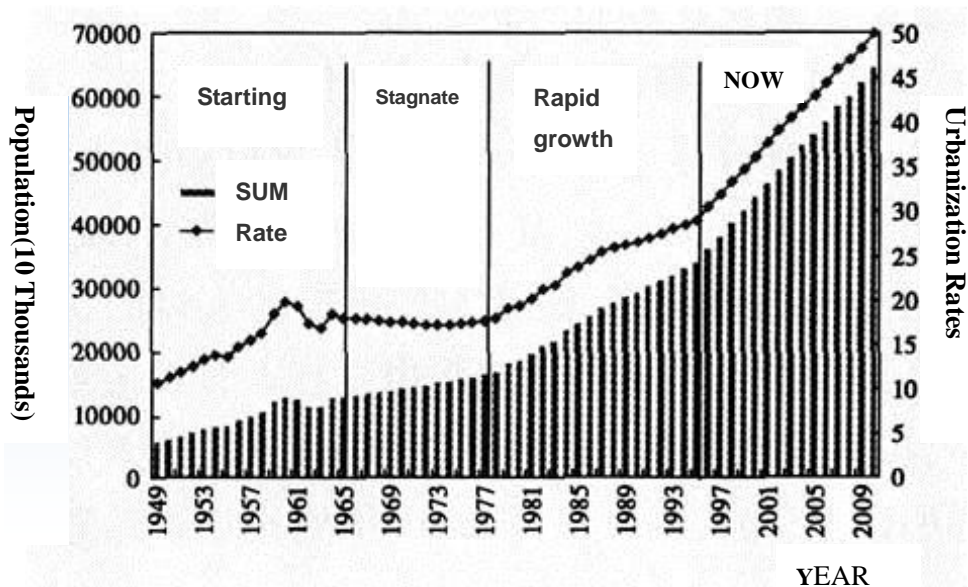


Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。 -1 Changes in the course of China's Urbanization rate between 1949 and 2009

source: Chinese change pattern of urbanization and population reasonable analysis

3.1.2 Italy

The modern development of urbanization in Italy could be divided into three stages. There are many factors that impact on the urbanization

process in Italy, mainly including history, industrialization and economic development etc. :

First stage, the slow development period after the national unity of Italy. It was a long time before the first city that economy develops concentratively had appeared after the unity of Italy (around 1871). Not until 1930 Rome had become the first city that had a population of more than a million (whereas London's population had achieved such scale in the early 1800s). Not alike other industrialized country in Europe, the urban development in Italy was before the industrialization process, and it had a profound impact on the subsequent development pattern of economy and society in Italy. Economic development activities in Italy had a great impact on urban development and vice versa. Centuries of city conventions and multicenter city pattern had all contributed to the special city phenomenon in Italy since the pre-industrialized-era. According to the census in 1861 (meanwhile Italy had just finished the unity) , one in four of the Italy's population lived in cities, and only 20% lived in metropolitan that had a population of more than 20 thousand. Meanwhile, other European countries already had cities that had a population of over 100 thousand.

Second stage, 1950-1970, Italy's rapidly urban development period. After the WWII, Italy as a defeated country, domestic economy had all stopped and even went backwards because of the despotism and the war.

Nevertheless, during the cold war, Italy was greatly benefited from America's marshall plan and became one of the countries that gained most from this plan. During 1951-1973, Italy's economy had increased rapidly by over 5%. At the same time, Italy had accomplished the mission of transforming from an agricultural country to an industrial country. Since the 1950s, Italy had experienced a 20-year period of population movement. There are two trends in this movement: from countryside to city and from south to north. During this period, Milan's population had increased from 1274154 in 1961 to 1732000 in 1971, the rate of growth was nearly 36%. This period is similar to current stage in our country in which a great rural population shifts into urban population and mid-west-area population moved towards south-east coastal area. During 1950-1970, with the development of industrialization, modernization and economy, the level of urbanization in Italy had developed rapidly. In this stage, a great scale of urbanization had taken place in Italy in which the population shifted from countryside to city. In 20 years, the level of urbanization in Italy had increased by more than 10 percent to 64% total.

The third stage is from 1970 till now, a stable period of urban development in Italy. From 1970 to 2010, Italy's urbanization had come to a later stable development period, during which the urbanization rate had only raised by 4%. Since 1970, with the overdevelopment of metropolitan area and the imbalance of regional development, many

center cities' population and employment started to fan out. During this period, the growth of population focused on the traffic corridor that had a strong relation with the near metropolitan, and cities and towns or villages that had a good quality of public service. Meanwhile, the population of Milan city started to decline whereas some cities with good condition in Milan province had grown considerably (Milan city's population peaked at 1743427 in 1973 and since then has been declining. The figure for 2013 was 1316497). Also in this period, Italy's towns and cities met the new problem of stable period of urban development..

3.1.3 Similarities and differences between two countries

Two countries shared similar stages in urban development: Both countries had a long history of urban development and glorious ancient cities and city conventions; the important period of urban development of two countries is after the state's establishment (, the establishment of PRC and the unity of Italy); they had both suffered a slow period of urban development (that of China from 1958 to the implement of reform and opening up policy and that of Italy from the national unity to the end of WWII and the implement of "Marshall Plan"); Also, both the two countries had enjoyed a remarkable rapid growth period of urbanization (that of China was after the reform and opening up policy especially since 2000 the annual growth rate of urbanization reached 1.7% while that of Italy was after the WWII, the urbanization rate increased by 10% from

1950 to 1970).

The difference is mainly due to the factor that affects the urban development in two countries is different: the main factor that had an impact on urban development in our country is government's policy whereas in Italy it is history factor, the level of industrialization and the economic development.

3.2 A summary of the present situation of urban development in two countries

3.2.1 China

Chinese city status report 2012-2013 indicates that by the end of 2011, China had cities of various scales in which there are 13 cities that consist of a population of more than 10 million. There were as many as 180 cities that had a population of over 3 million. Various cities covered 5216000 square kilometers (this scale of area has surpassed most of the countries' territory area in the world), represents 54.3% of the total area of our country. The numbers of towns is 19683. The urban population achieved 690790000 people, accounting for 51.27% of the total population. In 2011, the employment population was 764200000 people, of which the urban employment population was 3689140000 people. The ratio of urban income per capita to rural income per capita was 3.13:1. According to the statistics result of the *2012 China new urbanization report*, by the year 2011 the urbanization rate of inland China had exceeded 50% for the

first time, reached 51.3%. This level had surpassed the average urbanization level in the world (50%). The report of State Statistic Bureau in the 2014 indicates that, by 2013 the rate had exceeded 2011 by 2.43%, to 53.73%, which increased by 1.16% compared to 2012. In terms of the rate of the urbanization, our country has reached the level of middle income countries.

3.2.2 Italy

Currently, there are 150 cities in Italy, of which three had a population of over 3 million people: Capital City Rome has a population of 4 million people, of which downtown population is 2.7 million. Economical gateway Milan has a population of 3.9 million people, of which downtown population is 1.3 million. South well-known city Naples has a population of 3 million people, of which downtown population is about 0.96 million; There are 12 middle scale cities that have a population between 0.2 million to 1 million, including famous industrial city Turin, coastal city Genoa, famous cultural city Florence, tourist city Venice and industrial city Bologna etc. ; There are 132 small cities distributed across the country that have a population of less than 0.2 million people. The distribution of Italian cities is more even than other European cities, especially giant ones like the UK's and France's. More than half of the urban population are living in small cities, one in four of the population are living in the three major cities and the remainder are living in the

middle cities. According to the report by Italy State Statistical Bureau, by the year 2012 the urbanization rate of Italy was 68.4%.

3.2.3 Differences

The quantities of cities in our country are much larger than in Italy. There are 657 cities and 19000 towns in our country whereas Italy has only 150 cities in total. Due to the difference in population base, the urban population in our country is much bigger than in Italy while our urbanization rate is lesser than Italy's.

The scales of cities and towns in our country are much larger than in Italy. In our country, there are 180 cities that have a population of over 3 million people while there are only three cities, Milan, Rome and Naples, in Italy can reach this scale. The city has most population in Italy is the capital, Rome, which has a population of 4 million people, whereas in our country there are 180 cities over 10 million.

Furthermore, China and Italy are in totally different stage of urbanization. The urbanization rate of our country had increased by 17.51% in 13 year-period since 2000 till 2013. Meanwhile, the rate in Italy had only increased by 1.36% from 2000 to 2012. According to the classic S-type theory for urbanization rate by American urban geography scholar Ray M. Northam, China is currently in the mid-term rapid growth stage (, the urbanization rate is 30%-60% or 70% and the country is in an industrial society; the second industry develops steadily and the

proportion of the first industry falls further while the third industry proportion increases dramatically; the leading industry turns to the third industry from the second industry), whereas Italy is about in the later-term steady growth period (, the urbanization rate reaches or exceeds 70%; the country becomes a modern society; the leading industry becomes the third industry and the proportion of first and second industry drop to a certain degree. Post-urbanization problems emerge).

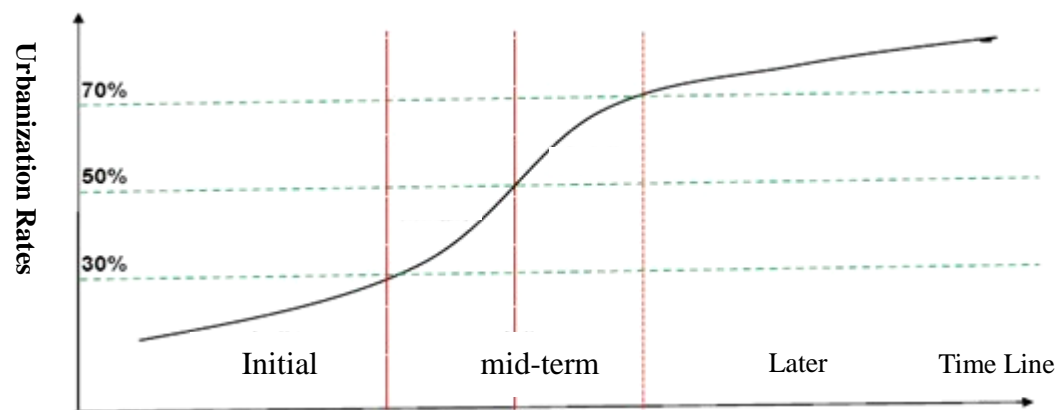


Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。-2 The “S” type curves of Urbanization
source: National Geographic

It is these differences between Italy and China in terms of quantities of cities, scales of cities, and period of development, that make two countries encounter different problems, thus make the research on urban quality problems by academies and relevant governmental departments in two countries different in terms of research priorities, research perspectives and research methodologies. It can be said that these differences are the basis of the research on urban quality research differences in two countries.

3.3 The contrasts in management system of cities and towns in two countries

3.3.1 China

The urban management in our country is based on our country's administrative setup, which ranks as guo, bu, si, chu, ke. Specifically, there are five units of urban management, i.e. national level, province level, municipal level, county level and township level. In the point of competence, the urban management in our country is a typical "from top to bottom" type. Every level of management unit is constrained to and responsible for the upper level of management unit.

3.3.2 Italy

There are three levels of local government below the center government, region, province and comune. In 1948, right after the establishment of the Republic of Italy, the power and authority are limited in the center government. The region system was born in 1970s and was one of the most important policies of power distribution reform in Italy. Currently, there are 20 regions in Italy, of which the most famous ones are the Lombardy region and Abruzzi region etc.. The 22 regions are divided into 110 provinces. Unlike the provinces in our country, the scale of provinces in Italy is similar to the prefecture cities and counties in our country (for instance, the scale of Milan province is similar to Hangzhou city of our country). The 110 provinces are further divided into 8100

comunes that are similar to our villages and towns in terms of scale and the population varies from thousands to dozens of thousand.

3.3.3 Similarity and difference

Italy also adopts the strategy that centocitta manages hinterland. This is similar to our old system “towns follow cities”. Every province has a city as the center, and the city could be a small city or a big city like Rome or Milan. It is noteworthy that when the city’s population is over 50 thousand, the city is called Provincial Capital.

Unlike the “from top to bottom” system in our country, the department has most authority in Italy is municipal government. For instance, the management affairs of overall development is vacant in metropolitan area, and the provincial level urban development management is also very weak. This is because the Italian government system was formed by regione, province and comune (, take Milan province as an example, Milan province is one of the 11 provinces in Lombardy and the Milan city that has a population of 1.3 million is its capital). Currently there are 20 regiones in Italy, divided into 110 provinces, and further divided into more than 8000 comunes. It’s province matches our prefecture city in terms of scale, and adopted the management pattern that centocitta manages hinterland. Every province has a city as the center, and the city could be a small city or a big city like Rome or Milan. It is noteworthy that when the city’s population is over 50 thousand, the city is called

Provincial Capital. Its comune scale is similar to our villages and towns. In fact, three levels of government all have the authority to use the land and design the space. However, having a detailed look at this, every comune government is in charge of the most important issues like the usage of land and the regione government have the power of making regulations and laws whereas the provincial government only has the power of planning and coordinating of provincial territories which is less powerful compared to the provincial government in our country. Furthermore, not only the power of provincial governments' power is disperse, the affairs they are in charge of are also disperse. The Milan province is even worse because of its poor status between Lombardy regione and Milan city: so the Milan province will have to share its power with other institutions in many public activities, meanwhile it will also accept the leading authority that comes from the upper government and lower government. Thus, the authority of Milan provincial government becomes even weaker and its ability to make decision is very limited.

3.4 The different standards in distribution of urban and rural areas in two countries

3.4.1 China

Urban area: the State Council made some official adjustments to the urban and rural areas in our country in 2008 *statistical regulation of*

distribution of urban and rural area. The regulation indicates that, the statistical standards of urban and rural areas are as follows: urban area includes city (city refers to: within the municipal area and those cities don't set districts, district government or the real construction area of the location of city government) and town (town: beyond the city and downtown, the town government location area and other towns. Moreover, some independent regions that do not have a connection with the real construction area of the government, however the population live on it is more than 3000 people, such as ore district, high-tech development district, science research department district, educational institutions like universities and colleges, and other special districts or locations of administrative office of farms. Such districts can all be counted for the area of towns) these two regions.

Urban population: According to the standard of the sixth census of our country in 2010, urban resident population includes following five types of people: First, those who live in their registered county, town or community; Second, those who live in the county, town, or community for more than half a year but did not register; Third, those who have not lived in the county, town or community for more than half a year but have left their registered settlement for more than half a year; Fourth, those who live in their own county, town or community but have not settled their hukou problems; Fifth, those who went abroad for study or work

however lived in the county, town or community before they went abroad. Furthermore, those who have left their home county, town or community for more than half a year with their hukou remained, cannot be counted as the resident population but simply registered as a figure.

3.4.2 Italy

Comparing with the standard of China's distribution of urban areas, Italy's is more completed. According to the ISTAT, the methodology of urban and rural distribution can be listed as follows:

- (1) population density
- (2) Employment rate above fourteen-years old
- (3) The proportion of men and women who take agricultural occupations
- (4) The proportion of women who take non-agricultural occupations above fourteen-years old among the working population
- (5) The proportion of people who have a degree or diploma among the population above eighteen-years old.
- (6) The proportion of those who have a working site beyond the town or city
- (7) The proportion of "insiders" beyond fourteen years old
- (8) The proportion of population beyond fourteen years old who serve in services industry
- (9) Household population
- (10) The proportion of residents who have residential property right

(11) The proportion of housing that have water supply and drainage service

(12) The popularity of household telephone

(13) The popularity of business telephone

According to the above thirteen standards, the Italy State Statistical Bureau has categorized the 8000 comunes in Italy as four types: urban area, partly urban area, rural area and partly rural area.

Speaking of the definition of urban population, Italy holds that all the people live in urban area should be counted as urban population and there should be difference in no census register.

In the *United Nation Report for the Urbanization Tendency (2011 edition)*, the urbanization rate of Italy is 68.4%, and it was counted according to the above statistical methodology.

Apart from above mentioned methods, there are also distribution methods from the perspective of rural area:

Italy's urbanization rate has surpassed 60% since 1970 and the growth of it has become relatively stable. Therefore, the academic circles have turned their research priority from urban research to the rural research. They set their research perspective on the rural area in Italy.

To see the whole picture of the statistical methodologies for rural area in various provinces of Italy and thus reach a unified standard, the PSN's statistical methods are as follows:

Step one: select those provincial capitals whose population density is above 150 person/squared kilometer. These cities represent major urban regions, where most urban activities, urban phenomena (non-agricultural activities), while the agricultural activities are the less part of remainder. This group of cities are defined as “strict urban area” on the country level that are completely excluded from the rural areas so that they will not be overcounted.

Step two: After ruling out the "urban areas in the strict sense", the remainders could be dealt with the OECD method. We could class the remaining municipalities in following categories: urban leading type (in which the rural population accounts for less than 15% of the overall population), rural significant type (in which the rural population accounts for 15%~50% of the overall population), rural leading type (in which the rural population accounts for over 50% of the overall population). Nevertheless, this statistical result was based on each municipality rather than each province, in case the population of the hilly and mountain areas were accounted the rural population.

Step three: Further classification of the urban leading areas: This group is split, as some of it were like provincial capitals (many of which are the major cities in Italy, though not the provincial capitals), whereas others had a high density of population yet a great number of agricultural

activities as well (for instance, some the low-lying areas in the North). To distinguish these two types of area, Italy had worked out a further definition on the basis of the proportion of the density of population (150people/square km) and agricultural land to the overall land. In this way, many of these common regions, that usually had a high density of population and high proportion of agricultural lands, can be defined as the "urbanized rural area". At last, they made a further classification to such regions, defining one type as the rural significant type, of which the population accounts for over 15% of the overall, and the other as the rural leading type, of which the rural population exceeds 50%.

Step four: Applying above procedures, we can end up with 36 regions , with 3 altitudinal zones and 3 national regions (South, Middle and North) , and they are as follows: 1. urban polar regions, including provincial capitals with an over 150 person/square km population density and all those well urbanized regions. 2. rural areas with professionally intensive agricultural activities, including rural significant areas of plain areas 3. secondary rural areas, including rural leading areas of north and middle mountain areas as well as some of the rural significant areas in mountain areas and hilly ground. 4. problem rural areas, including rural leading areas in mountain areas as well as rural leading areas of south mountain areas and middle hilly grounds.

Finally, Italian territory is divided as the following graph, in which the foreshadowing part stands for the urban polar regions, green stands for the rural areas that have professionally intensive agricultural activities, khaki stands for the secondary rural areas, and the blue stands for the problem rural areas.

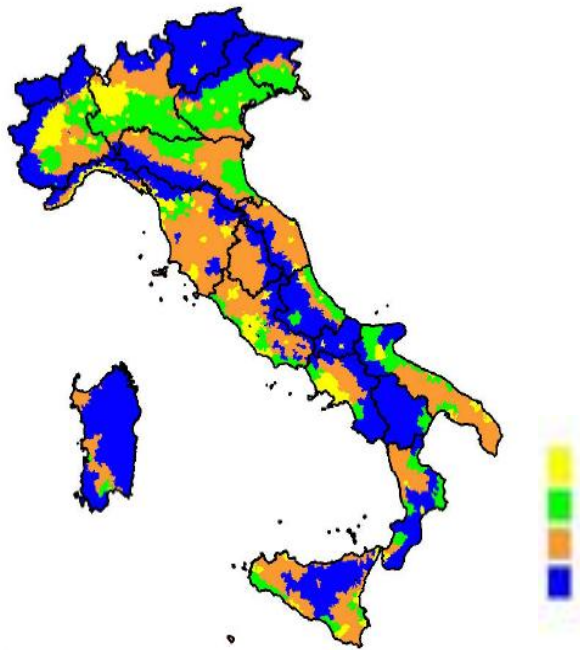


Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。 -2 The classify standard of Italian rural area

source: Piano Strategico Nazionale per lo Sviluppo Rurale

3.4.3 Differences

Firstly, the criteria for the classification of the urban area in both countries are different. Our country's criteria has a lot to do with administrative system in our country. Every level of government has a great impact on the standard of the classification method. By the contrary, Italy's criteria is more scientific, concerning more about the differences in lifestyle and production style between rural areas and urban areas.

Moreover, the method that classify from the perspective of the villages, seeing the rural areas as the research subject is what we lack in our country.

On the point of urban demographics, the statistical work in our country is much more difficult than Italy's due to the household registration system. Furthermore, according to many statistics a large number of urban population have not enjoyed the advantages of the urban society (the *city blue paper* by China Academy of Social Sciences points out that the real complete urbanization rate in our country is only 42.2%. There is still a large gap between a part of rural migration and urban citizens in terms of political rights, public service level, cultural quality and cultural tastes, etc.): By the contrary, a large part of rural population in Italy is doing non-agricultural jobs. Although they live in the rural area, the treatments they get such as the occupations, social securities, and infrastructures are not a little inferior to those in the urban area. Their living standard is better than the urban population's since the living environment in rural area is superior to that in urban area.

In addition, I want to note one phenomenon: currently the statistical method of urbanization varies across the world. In fact, measuring the urbanization rate by the urban resident population has some certain problems: Firstly, the classification of urban area varies across countries;

secondly, the statistical method for urban resident population varies across countries too. Therefore, such report like *United Nation urbanization prospects* that study on the statistics of the global urbanization, is contentious by its competitiveness and scientific nature because they are based on different statistical methods over different countries.

Chapter 4 The comparison of the connotation of quality of cities and towns between two countries

4.1 The connotation of the quality of cities and towns in China

4.1.1 The connotation definition method

The researches of quality of cities and towns are always included in the researches of urbanization quality, so the method to define the connotation of quality of cities and towns in our country is: First draw the research of the quality of cities and towns out of the research of the urbanization quality, then define it.

4.1.2 Connotation of the quality of cities and towns in *China Urbanization Report*

The *China Urbanization Report* published by the urban development and environment research institute of China Social Science Academy in 2013, described the urbanization quality connotations in three dimensions: the quality of urban development, the efficiency of the urbanization, the level of the coordination of the city and countryside during the urbanization. This is a relatively authoritative definition to the urbanization quality in our country.

Among the three dimensions, the quality of urban development is exactly the quality of cities and towns. It includes urban economic attribute, urban social attribute and urban spatial attribute.

Among them, economic attribute indicates the quality of the urban economic development, using various urban economic indicators as the major content; social attribute reflects the quality of the urban society, including the infrastructures, educational system, social equality etc. in the urban area; urban spatial attribute reflects the space quality, including the productive space quality, living space quality and ecological space quality in cities.

4.1.3 Connotation of the quality of cities and towns in *China Urban Development Report*

In the four basic points of connotation definition of urbanization by urban socio-economic research group of State Statistical Bureau and urban statistical committee research group of the Institute of China for Statistics, the first two points are about the quality of cities and towns:

First, the quality of surviving condition and the quality of the living condition. This part of definition should cover these four points of view: clothing, eating, living and outing; that is to say, the quality of cities and towns should include the life quality, residence quality, traffic quality and so forth.

Second, the quality of economic development, which is the main driver that pushes forward the urban development.

For the specific connotation of the quality of cities and towns, this essay has defined the part of the quality of cities and towns in the *China*

Urban development Report (2003-2004) and it is as follows:

The basic ability of a city, the sources of a city, the economic aggregate of a city, the developing ability of a city, the industrial level of a city, the competitive ability of a city, the learning ability of a city, the innovative ability of a city, the intensive ability of a city, the level of globalization, the level of informatization, the safety level, the equality level, the social security level, management ability, efficient ability, city management, the ability of giving impetus, sustainable ability, ecological level, environmental quality, coordinative ability, the ability of affecting.

4.1.4 The connotation definition of the quality of cities and towns in the *China New-type Urbanization Report*

China Science Academy's sustainable development strategy research group has discussed about three features of urbanization in the *2012 China New-type Urbanization Report*: driver, equality and quality. The quality feature in the report is exactly the same thing of quality of cities and towns, i.e., it comprehensively measures the material control and productive support of the cities and towns and the level of supply of spiritual civilization and cultural enjoyment.

4.2 The connotation of quality of cities and towns in Italy

The academic circle in Italy has always paid attention to the quality of cities and towns which includes urban life quality, urban environmental quality, urban living quality, urban traffic quality etc.. There are many

researches about the various aspects of quality of cities and towns in Italy, which are undertaken by different scholars or research teams with various professional backgrounds and they only focus on the quality of cities and towns issue of their own profession. Nevertheless, there are only two complete quality of cities and towns research and they are as follows:

4.2.1 The connotation definition of quality of cities and towns in *City of City*

The most complete description of quality of cities and towns among the Italian academic circles is in *Citta Di Citta* published by DiAP in 2007. The research programme illustrated the quality of cities and towns comprehensively instead of studying the multiple aspects of this issue separately. The research group pushed forward the concept of “Habitability”. Not alike the concept in our country, “habitability” is actually an elaboration of quality of cities and towns. Just as what the book argued: The term “habitability” is different with its meaning in the traditional context. What it represents is a more diverse and more general quality of cities and towns. (*La Citta di cittaun progetto strategicper la regione urbana milanese 2006*). The research illustrated the various aspects and their impacts of modern quality of cities and towns of cities and towns from the point of view of inhabitants, enterprises and other city users. That includes the development needs, life quality, social equity, urban culture, environment and inhabitant quality, regional

competitiveness, attraction to skilled people and inclusiveness etc..

To conclude, the research concluded the connotation of quality of cities and towns as the following four points:

First, the environmental quality and the life quality of a city or a town. This assessment should be based on the perspective of various cities and towns users. Precisely, there are three types of them: urban inhabitants (includes a great number of migrations), city transient population, enterprise employee. “Habitability” requires a good quality of every aspects of cities and towns including ecology, economy, society etc., and they should be sustainable.

Second, the public service and resources of a city or a town (e.g. traffic, air quality, gree space, cultural activities, educational resources etc.). “Habitability” not only includes the quality level of the service and resources but also concerns about the sustainability of it.

Third, the infrastructure of a city or a town. Similarly, there are also quality and sustainability two aspects of view in the assessment of the infrastructure. “Habitability” requires every single piece of infrastructures, public services and resources are “friendly”. Such “friendly” atmosphere could promote the melange of different flock of people and thus improve the freedom level and the safety level of the society.

Fourth, the space of a city or a town. “Habitability” requires a town or a city provide its citizens with living spaces, public services and other

urban spaces, which should be designed in the thought of different living experiences, practices, and tastes of different people.

4.2.2 The connotation definition of quality of cities and towns in *the strategic planning of the modern urban regions*

In 2010, a research team of Architecture School of Politecnico di Milano wrote a book called *the strategic planning of the modern urban regions*, which made a more profound description of connotation of the quality of towns and cities, including following six aspects:

(1) Supporting Housing

The housing problems are very complicated in the urban area. They involve different people's different demands and they vary through time. It is a great subject to solve the housing problems under the consideration of different kinds of demands. There are a lot of problems remain to be solved: for example, how to meet the increasing demand of the affordable housing; how to provide those house seekers with a flexible solution; how to relate the housing policies to the various fields development projects.

(2) Moving and Breathing

Italian scholars mix the transport issues with the environment issues. They think transport and environment have impact on each others. There are two fronts in precise: 1, The accessibility of the transport, that is the traffic issue in a traditional sense: how to solve the congestion problem

to make those city users move to the destination with any means at any time without any problem. 2, The feeling of the transport users, that is the concern of the traffic environment which includes the air pollution, how smooth is the traffic, the comfort degree of the public transport and etc..

(3) Sharing Spaces

One of the very important connotations of the quality of towns and cities in contemporary is public space: such as the connection space, quiet space, slow space, diverse communication space and the green space and natural space which are widely distributed in the city. These spaces should be available to the citizens without any barrier. That means it required to rebuild the current public spaces and create new ones to generate the opportunities for inhabitants to communicate and to engage in social activities. On the one hand the citizens should be encouraged to use the public spaces, on the other hand their daily practices should be taken into consideration in the designing process of the public spaces.

(4) Producing and enjoying culture

One of the key factors of the quality of towns and cities is the cultural construction of the city or the town. That includes the capacity to create culture and how much the inhabitants enjoy the culture. The city should offer various educational and training opportunities to generate diverse entertainments. A livable city should be able to create a more diverse

culture and provide opportunities to those who want to set independent cultural undertaking in terms of offering them spaces, holding diverse activities etc.

(5) Promoting a new local welfare

A high-quality city should fundamentally reconsider its welfare strategy. The new strategy pushed forward by Italian scholar is to improve the quality of the social services and public benefit activities offered by the private sectors (e.g. the financial support by the family for the young generation is also considered as a part of social securities, i.e., the support of the private sector). The research team of Politecnico di Milano made a new explanation for the diverse local welfares and security actions of the city using these activities to tackle the poverty problems among the certain class of the society thus offering a better welfare to the individuals and the families.

(6) Strengthening innovation and business

This part emphasizes on the relationship of the local development, innovation capacity and the overall quality of the towns and cities. The research points out that only be livable and suitable for development to enterprises and their employees can a city be sustainable, can it promote the relationship between the enterprise and the local society, can it offer various visible and invisible services, can it push forward the globalization strategy.

Through the above six parts of interpretation, the connotation of Italy's quality of towns and cities could be concluded as the following: housing issues, transport issues, public space issues, cultural construction issues, social security issues and the economic development issues.

At last of the research, researchers had also mentioned about the importance of the quality of cities and towns to the modern cities:

The research indicates that, to all the urban areas across the world that depend on knowledge as the driver of the development of the city, the quality of the cities and towns is a very important external factor to the local enterprises. It promotes the development of these enterprises, and is also one of the important factors that attract scientific and technical personnel. The quality of cities and towns is the core-competitiveness of the world's modern urban regions. It is because it directly affect the innovation and development system of the economy and there is a direct correlation between it and the creativity capacity of the region. Italian scholars believe that the quality of cities and towns is closely associated with the social cohesion which has to do with the competitive power of the town or the city. So from this point of view, it is also a competitive factor. Broadly speaking, the quality of a city or a town refers to the ability of a city or a town to offer a high quality life, a good ecological environment, an attracting social atmosphere, a relaxed development environment within the enterprise etc.. These connotations of quality of

cities and towns are becoming crucial to the tendency of the regional development.

However, not alike our country, the research emphasizes on the second dimension of the meaning of quality of cities and towns. The research believes the complex urban area is after all a net knitted by the inhabitants and their daily behaviour. It is a territory for surviving and living. Therefore, the quality of cities and towns should include not only the regional development and competitiveness but also the daily life of the individuals.

4.3 The similarities and differences of the quality of cities and towns between two countries

Firstly, the level of attention that has been paid on the the connotation quality of cities and towns by Italy and China is different. Italy has done a great deal of researches on this issue while China only did this incidentally with the research of connotation of urbanization. There is no independent research on the connotation of quality of cities and towns yet in our country whereas in Italy there has been a complete and independent system of it.

Secondly, the research perspective of the connotation of the quality of cities and towns is different. The priority in our country is the competitiveness and the capacity of development of a city, more related to the issues of macro policy level such as the economic attributes and

developmental attributes. In contrary, Italy has put more emphasis on the individuals. Even when come across to the same aspect of research there is a certain level of difference between two countries such as the concept of “accessibility” that runs through the research of the connotation of quality of cities and towns by Italy. It reflects the feeling of the inhabitants more clearly than the indicator used in our country.

Thirdly, the classification method of Italy in the field of quality of cities and towns emphasize more on the interrelationship of the concepts whereas our country tend to do the research separately. For example, the transport issue and environment issue in the issue of quality of cities and towns are considered simultaneously by Italian scholars. It is because they have a interrelationship within each other and take it into consideration could make us see the whole picture of the connotation of quality of cities and towns.

Table 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。 -1 The different research of the meaning of Urban quality in China and in Italy

The connotation of Urban quality	Chinese emphasis	Italian emphasis
Economic development	Macro economy development data, economic growth, Ect	Urban innovation capability, enterprise workers livability, area of the enterprise to attract ability, economic sustainable development, Ect
Citizens' Living quality	Housing ownership, traffic accessibility, the income of residents, all kinds of social infrastructure and services total, Ect	Differnet group of people's living quality, changing in living demand , affordable housing, Citizens' leisure time, culture, traffic comfort, affordable public facilities and social service
Social quality	Social fairness, social stability, various types of social security,	Immigration , The contradiction between City users and citizens , new type public

	Ect	welfare , Local social service , families' welfare
Environment quality	Air, water, contamination,Ect	The quality of the ecological environment, the quality of public space,Ect

Source: The author made

Chapter 5 The comparison of evaluation criterion of quality of cities and towns between two countries

5.1 The current indicator system of quality of cities and towns in the world

There are many indicator systems of quality of cities and towns across the countries, however they all focus on a certain aspect in this case to assess and rank the cities

The CDI by UNHABITAT is composed of five parts: City Product index, Infrastructure index, Waste index, Education index, Health index, including 12 indicators.

Productive capacity: \log City Product

Infrastructures: Water connections, Sewerage, Electricity, telephone

Waste disposal: Wastewater treated, Formal solid waste disposal

Health level: Life expectancy, Child mortality

Educational level: literacy, Combined enrollment

Other evaluation systems emphasize on the degree of globalization. Among them, the global city index is a relative authority in terms of the evaluation system. The index uses indicators such as culture, society, and politics in order to see a more clear picture of a city's status across the world. The particular evaluation criterion includes global influence, human resources, cultural diversity and innovation ability etc.. Further detail and the proportion of it is as follows:

Business activities (30%): the value of the city capital market, the quantity of the headquarters of the top-500 enterprises, the quantity of the international conferences, the throughput of the airport and the harbour;

Human resources (30%): birth rate of the foreign population, high-level universities, international schools, international students, the proportion of the population that have a university degree;

Information communication (15%): quantity of the international media, the opening of the news blackout, the coverage rate of the global news, the popularity rate of the broadband;

Cultural experience (15%): significant sport event, quantity of museums, quantity of the theaters, international flavor restaurants;

Political influence (15%): embassies, consulates, think tanks, international organizations and local organizations that have a global impact, political conference

There are some other evaluation system that are made by the life quality of the cities across the world: In order to help transnational corporations and other organizations to make a reasonable allowance for their employees, the Mercer has ranked the cities across the world after made an investigation of the life quality of them. The investigation valued more than 460 cities across the world in terms of the life quality. The valuation system divided the valuation indicators into ten major parts, 39 items in total;

Political and social environment: political stability, crime rate, law enforcement ability;

Economical environment: the standardization of the currency exchange, banking services;

Cultural environment: censorship, the limitation of personal freedom;

Health care: medical supplies and services, epidemics, swage disposal, garbage disposal, air pollution etc.;

School and education: normalization and accessibility of international schools;

Public service and transport: electricity supply, water supply, public transport, traffic congestion etc.;

Entertainment: restaurants, theatre, movie theatre, sport and cultural entertainment etc.;

Consumer goods: food supply, daily consumption, private car etc.;

Housing: rental housing, household electrical appliances, furnitures, maintenance service;

Natural environment: climate, natural disaster

Economist Intelligence Unit published *best city ranking report* in 2012. The organization organized a competition for “best city” evaluation systems, and the winner is Filippo Lovato whose system became the spatially adjusted liveability index. This evaluation system intend to fulfill the current EIU’s level of livability. He cut down the proportion of

the existing five evaluation indicators (social stability, health care, culture and environment, education and infrastructure) to about 75%, and set the remaining 25% for the additional seven city spacious features of indicators:

Green space: the system researched on three aspects of green space: the distribution of the metropolitan, area of local green space, area of city level green space. Every city was marked according to these three aspects and would get a final mark in accordance of the average of the three.

City sprawl: city sprawl assess the relationship of the city sprawl and the population growth, the cohesion of the metropolitan, city low density sprawl (fields-waste type) three types

Natural resources: the natural resources can be viewed from two aspects. The first is for 100 kilometers around, the accessibility of the natural resources (coastal, river, lakes, mountains higher than 500 meters). Second is for the 75 kilometers around, the quantity of the natural reserves

Cultural resources: within and around city area amount of world cultural heritage, whose level of importance is also a criterion.

Communication: it is decided by two indicators. First is how many direct flight does this city connect and second is the throughout capacity

Isolation: decided by two indicators: big cities (population bigger than 750000) 200 kilometers around and the overall population of those

cities

City pollution: decided by the statistics of WHO and the proportion of PM10 in the air by world bank's database

5.2 China's evaluation indicators of quality of cities and towns

5.2.1 Selecting method of this research on our country's evaluation indicators of quality of cities and towns

So far, there are no particular evaluation indicators for quality of cities and towns. They are all included in the evaluation of the quality of urbanization. Since the research object of this chapter is evaluation indicators of quality of cities and towns, the selecting method for it is as follows: Draw the part of quality of cities and towns from the quality of urbanization from the evaluation indicators research of our country, to summarize it.

5.2.2 Common evaluation system of quality of cities and towns in our country

Yumin Ye's urbanization quality research is one of the evaluation criterion that has a highest citation rate. He assess the quality of urbanization from the indicator of urban modernization and the indicator of urban integration, which the latter is closely related to the evaluation of quality of cities and towns. There are three major types in the evaluation of urban modernization: economic modernization, infrastructure

modernization, individual modernization. And below the three indicators there are twelve specific indexes: gross national product per capita, service industry employment proportion, local financial revenue per capita, resident income per capita, doctor per ten thousand residents, telephone per hundred residents (including mobile phones), paved street per capita, librarian books per hundred residents, green coverage in the built-up area, living space per capita, number of college students in ten thousand people, carbon emission per squared kilometer. These twelve indexes describe the quality of cities and towns.

National city research corps and city research team of Fujian province divided indicator for quality of cities and towns into six points, economic development quality, life quality, social development quality, infrastructure quality, ecological environment quality, urban and rural coordination and regional coordination. Except the last two points, the remaining points are all about the indicator for quality of cities and towns. The specific indexes include: urbanization rate (%), increase value of third industry in the GDP (%), gross national product per capita (RMB/person), living space per capita (squared meter), average life expectancy, Engel coefficient, the actual unemployment rate(%), private car ownership per capita, coverage of social security (%), doctor per thousand people, crime case per ten thousand people, R&D account for the GDP (%), college or above in the overall population (%), road

network coverage, buses per thousand people, water supply capability per ten thousand people, telephone ownership per hundred people, internet user per ten thousand people, comprehensive index for air quality(%), green area coverage (whole city), noise control rate (%), treatment rate of industrial effluents(%), energy consumption per ten thousand RMB of GDP (kilowatt-hour/ten thousand RMB), living garbage harmless treatment rate(%).

Recent years, in order to improve the quality of cities and towns and maintain the urbanization on the health path, levels of governments published their evaluation criterion for urbanization, some of which are actually the evaluation for quality of cities and towns. For example, in 2008, Linjin city of Shandong province pushed forward four levels of evaluation criterion to compose the comprehensive urban development evaluation criterion. In terms of the contents, this system of criterion is actually a criterion for quality of cities and towns. It includes five basic aspects: employment, economic development, urban construction, social development, life quality of residents, ecological environment. And there are 32 specific fourth level evaluation index below the five aspects as branches, and they can be concluded as the evaluation criterion of Linjin City for quality of cities and towns; In 2006, department of construction of Guangdong province published the *Evaluation report for Guangdong porvince's urbanization*, divided the urban development into

six major parts, of which four are about the quality of cities and towns: the flow of urban factors, the development level of urban culture, the service quality of urban life, the constructive quality of urban environment;

The evaluation system made by Hunan province includes five parts, of which three all about the quality of cities and towns: life convenient: street area per capita, public transport per capita, popularity of water supply, gas supply, living space per capita, doctor per thousand people, commodity network per capita, Engel coefficient; Environment: public green area per capita, per capita green area coverage in built-area, sewage disposal rate, domestic garbage harmlessly disposal rate, air quality rate; social secure: coverage of social security

5.2.3 Conclusion for the common evaluation criterion in China of quality of cities and towns

According to the above mentioned evaluation indicators, in conclusion there are five important aspects in the criterion for quality of cities and towns in our country: Population development, economic development, infrastructure construction, social development, environment protection. The detailed indicator allocations are as following table. This table has covered the major evaluation systems for quality of cities and towns in China academies.

Table 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。 -2 The summarized table of evaluating indicator of Urban quality in China

Category	Index
Population	The urban population, The proportion of urban population (the proportion of non-agricultural population), The urban population proportion of the population of the district, The proportion of the third industry working population, Population aggregation degree, The proportion of urban employment population, Urban population density, The population average years of Education(admission rate etc)
Economy	GDP Growth, Have/per capita GDP, Import and export share of GDP, (per capita) third industry GDP, productivity of labour, R&D expenditure accounts for the proportion of GDP, The per capita living electricity, The per capita actual use of foreign capital amount, Per capita exports
Infrastructure construction	The area of paved roads/ capita, Road network density, Millions of people have phone / mobile phone, Water supply, drainage channels density, Million people in public transportation quantity, the Internet development, Electricity safeguard rate, city gasification rate
Social	The per capita housing area, medical insurance (million doctors, the number of beds), The collection of millions of people the number of public library, the Engel coefficient, Number of community service facilities, The unemployment rates,The number of college students, professional technical/Total number of science and technology talents, average future life, social security cover rate, The criminal case/million people, Traffic accidents/million people, vehicles/million people, computers/million people, theatres/million people, Post offices, The annual patent authorization number
Environment	The comprehensive air quality index, afforestation of city, The standard rate of environmental noise, Every ten thousand yuan GDP comprehensive energy consumption, The rate of industrial wastewater treatment,Urban water quality,Living garbage harmless treatment rate, Comprehensive utilization rate of industrial solid waste, Investment in environmental protection index, Environmental sanitation machinery equipments

Source: Author made

5.3 Evaluation system of Italy for quality of cities and towns

5.4.1 Common evaluation systems

In Italy, the most common acknowledged evaluation system for quality of cities and towns is the one that published at the beginning of every year by IL sole 24 ORE). For the recent 24 years, the newspaper has been

assessing the quality of cities and towns in Italy. And the ranks vary during the 24 year period.

In 2013, the evaluation criterion ranked 107 cities in Italy from six aspects using 36 indicators:

Life quality front: per capita assets increase value (Euro), per capita bank deposit, pensions per month, assumption per capita, rate of inflation, housing price per square meter

Service&environment front: The statistics by Tagliacarne, infrastructure index, environmental protection index(Legambiente), climate index, health care: proportion of hospitals for immigrants, the ration of the nursery schools to the customers, judicature: cases disposal rate;

Business&Jobs: the numbers of enterprises out of 100 registered residents, deposit amount, bankrupt rate in 1000 registered enterprises, export proportion in the GNP, women employment, number of entrepreneur in ten thousand young people;

Public order: number of robberies in 10 thousand residents, theft cases amount, indoor theft case in ten thousand residents, car theft case, blackmail rate in ten thousand residents, 2008-2012 registered crime increases

Population front: resident number per square kilometer, migration rate, divorce rate, disease rate among the youngs, foreigner rate in a

thousand residents, college graduates number within province, the proportion of young people between 25-30

Entertainment front: number of Libraries, number of volunteers, number of movie theaters, coverage of broadband, sportsmanship index, restaurants and bars amount

Apart from the reports mentioned, imet Italian ministry of environment and territory made a report called Italian cities environmental assessment, associated majorly with ISPRA and the state environmental protection agency. The 2013 edition is the ninth edition of this report, apart from the above mentioned research results are used, they also adopt other external resources, such as ISTAT, Italy political Consultative Conference etc.. This report is one of the authorities that reflect the urban environmental quality in Italy, but more are about the environmental quality in the quality of cities and towns. The report divided the city's environmental quality into following twelve major parts:

Population: legal residents ratio, city population density, population changing tendency between 2001-2011

Soil and land: usage of lands, urbanization pattern and the form of settlement, the renewal solution of cities, the geographical allocation of major cities in Italy, city adjacent areas, activities within the city area, the change of usage and the reason from the satellite map of Rome and Palermo

Natural conditions: green area, the method for setting green area, ecological connection of the city: from the ecological net to the infrastructural plants

Urban garbage: municipal wastes, special wastes

Water environment: daily consumption of water and the wastage of the piles, sewage purified system and the sewage collection system, monitor of the water for bath: bath season 2011-2012;

Exhaust emission and the air quality: emission, air quality, air quality planning, citizens that are exposed to the polluted air, the dust in the air, building blackening, the erosion of the cultural heritage by the air

Climate change: mayor pledges for the new energy resources policy, mayor contract and energy conservation movement, altitude energy, climate change data, life changes to adapt to the climate change;

Transportation: analysis on the downtown cars, sustainable urban traffic, demand for transport and movement, the port area of the ocean in the Italy

Electromagnetic pollution, sound pollution, indoor pollution: electromagnetic pollution, noise pollution, the simplicity of noise measurement, the indoor pollution in major Italian cities, the implication of plants in air pollution fixing

Urban tourism: tourism in the urban regions, EU eco-label in the local tourism, cruise ship tourism;

EMAS, local sustainability: eco-management and auditing scheme, local plan;

Gelso database: outstanding practice of local sustainable development, smart city: distance, aim and excellent practice:

Communication and information: information facilities that fit the networking system

Through the above mentioned twelve aspects, this edition of *Italian city quality evaluation* by the ministry of land and marine environment made a decent assessment about the city environmental quality, although it is an evaluation related to the environmental quality, there are lot of contents are about the quality of cities and towns, so it is also meaningful in this area.

5.3.2 A summary of Italy's common evaluation criterion for quality of cities and towns

According to the above information, I made the table below to summary it:

Table 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。 -3 The summarized table of evaluating indicator of Urban quality in Italy

Living quality/ Business & Job	Per capita assets increase in value (Euro) per capita, bank deposits, the average monthly pension, the per capita consumption, inflation rate, per square meter of residential housing prices; The number of enterprises in every 100 residents, business bankruptcies per 1000 registered enterprises, exports accounted for the proportion of GDP, the number of women's employment, entrepreneurship per million young people in the;
Infrastructure	(Tagliacarne) The infrastructure index , The loss of city pipe water system, communication and information, the state of emergency response of the street;

Service / public security /public entertainment	Medical care hospital: immigration hospital, available nursery and the proportion of potential users, judicial service: each of the 100 has occurred or is applying case processing quantity; Quantity per one hundred thousand residents of robbery, theft, burglary cases per one hundred thousand residents, one hundred thousand residents per vehicle theft cases per one hundred thousand residents, blackmail and impose exactions on cases per one hundred thousand residents, fraud and network bilk case, report number changes of 2008-2012 years; the number of millions of residents of the library, the number of volunteer thousands of residents, one hundred thousand residents have movie theaters, broadband coverage, physical activity index, millions of residents with restaurant and bar number;
Environment	Environmental protection index (Legambiente), Climate index, Soil and land use, Natural conditions, city waste, city renewal, City adjacent to the region, ecological network, city greening, Garden city construction, the protection of wild animals, in urban waste disposal, urban water, electromagnetic pollution, noise pollution, indoor pollution;
Soil and land	Land use (urban area land consumption proportion) urbanization mode and residential point forms, methods of urban renewal, the geographical distribution of Italy major urban area, urban areas adjacent to the urban area, the occurrence of activities in the change situation of urban land utilization;

Source: Author made

5.4 The differences and similarities between two countries’ evaluation criterion for quality of cities and towns

Because of the huge difference in the stage, pattern, scale of the urban development between Italy and China, there is a certain degree of difference in the requirement of the quality of cities and towns between two countries which leads to the difference of the object of the evaluation criterion.

The detailed differences analysis are as follows:

Population front: the attention to the population amount, population density, population education level is the same or similar between two countries. What is different is that Italy’s concerns are more related to the

real life of the residents, such as the migration rate, the divorce rate. Meanwhile, Italy vitally concerns the proportion of the young people which is because the population aging problem in Italy for the recent years. Thirdly, the most biggest difference between Italy and our country is the level of globalization and immigration. The attention to amount of foreigners and the legal citizens' proportion is a huge difference compared to our country. However, it also brings a certain enlightenment to the issue of migrant workers in our country. Finally, the statistics of migration rate in Italy affords us lessons in terms of the flowing population.

Economic development front: the attention of our country to the urban economic development is mostly focused on the macro-economic statistics, more related to the national economy as a whole. As for Italy, they focus on the life quality of individuals and the employment issues. Italy's criterion not only similar to our country's in they way it focuses on the per capita assets increase in value (Euro), per capita bank deposit, per month average pension, per capita assumption, rate of inflation, but also the housing price that closely related to the life quality of residents. In the assessment, the bankrupt enterprises number out of 1000 can effectively reflect the local enterprise development level while the entrepreneur number out of 10000 young people reflect the local potential of development.

Infrastructural front: Since our cities are mainly built after the establishment of the People's Republic of China, we still paid more attention to the infrastructure construction rather than maintenance like in Italy.

Social development front: basically, two countries are similar in this point of view, however Italy has paid more attention to the demand and supply of the social service rather than the absolute quantity of it. For example, the nursery schools and the potential consumers, the applied cases and solved cases. Furthermore, Chinese people and European people's traditional way of life has also been reflected in the evaluation criterion, such as sports index, restaurants and bars amount, volunteers amount, movie theater amount. Finally, the criterion of Italy pays attention to the variation trend such as the variation trend of the criminal rate, thus it can reflect the development direction.

Chapter 6 Comparison of the evaluation methodologies of quality of cities and towns of two countries

6.1 Research on the evaluation methodologies adopted internationally

The evaluation method of the CDI made by UNHABITAT is as follows:

Infrastructure index:

$25 \times \text{Water connections} + 25 \times \text{Sewerage} + 25 \times \text{Electricity} + 25 \times \text{Telephone}$)

Waste disposal index:

$\text{Wastewater treated} \times 50 + \text{Formal solid waste disposal} \times 50$

Health index:

$((\text{Life expectancy} - 25) \times 50/60 + (32 - \text{Child mortality}) \times 50/31.92)$

Education index:

$(\text{Literacy} \times 25 + \text{Combined enrollment} \times 25)$

Productive ability index:

$((\text{Log City Product} - 4.61) \times 100/5.99)$

City development index is determined by all the five indexes:

$(\text{Infrastructure index} + \text{Waste index} + \text{Education index} + \text{Health index} + \text{City Product index})/5$

The global city index made by A.T.Kearney considers the five evaluation systems with the ratio of 30%:30% 15%:15%:10%, and then mark every index separately in detail, thus the final result comes out.

The Economist Intelligence Unit has published the *best city ranking* in 2012. Above mentioned five old evaluation indexes represent 15% respectively and 75% in total in the index and the new indexes of quality of cities and towns, namely, the green space, urban sprawl, natural resources, cultural resources, foreign relation and isolation, urban

pollution represent 25% in total. Then they mark every index according to its proportion and have the final result.

6.2 The research of China's evaluation methodology of quality of cities and towns

6.2.1 The summary of China's evaluation methodology of quality of cities and towns

Currently, the most commonly adopted method is the linearity weighted aggregation assessment model and other commonly used methods include gravity model, dimensional sphere model, etc.. (Ming Chen, 2012).

Because of the different dimensions of data collected, different forms and different measurements of data cannot be compared directly. Therefore before the calculation, the normalization is required to do. Currently, the commonly used normalization methods include index method, rank method, extremum method and so on.

After fixing the evaluation system and model construction methods, the most important task following is to attach weights for each of the indicators. Currently, the widely used weighting methods in China include subjective weighting method and objective weighting method. Subjective weighting method relies on the subjective judgment of the researcher, such as the AHP, Delphi etc.. In contrary, the objective weighting method concerns more about the correlations of the factors in

the data. The common methods in China include PCA, correlation coefficient, entropy method etc.. Most researchers choose the relatively suitable one for their research and thus do the weighting as there are both advantages and disadvantages among these methods (Hongxiang Zhu, 2007; Xiaolin Yuan et al, 2008; Aihua Mao et al, 2012; Chunmei Zhang et al, 2012; Fuxi Wang et al, 2013).

After fixing the weight of every index through scientific methods, we can have the mark of every index according to the calculation method of each index and thus have the comprehensive mark of the quality of cities and towns.

Nowadays , the research information in China is largely come from the statistical yearbooks of each region and each city, the environmental statistical yearbook, China city statistical yearbook and so forth other statistical materials and report files published by the official.

6.2.2 The governmental use of the evaluation result of the quality of cities and towns of China

Currently, the study background of most researches of the evaluation method of cities and towns is the government policy of urban development while the study object is a certain city or region and the researches are always followed by a scientific research project or a government decision-making project. The final report offers a full picture of the current issues or problems of the city or the region, and thus

provide the government with a scientific basis and some relevant advices. The participation of the commons is lacked throughout the whole process, therefore the result that comes out is not commonly acknowledged by the people. The major function of it is in the service of government.

6.3 The research of Italy's evaluation methodology of quality of cities and towns

6.3.1 Italy's methodology of quality of cities and towns in the individual perspective

In Italy's quality evaluation system, the method of the *life quality of Italian cities* published by Il Sole 24 ORE has a great use for reference to us.

In chapter 5 we have mentioned that the system includes 6 major aspects: life quality, service&environment, public order, population, entertainment, 36 city life quality indexes in total. The evaluation system firstly carries out the statistical analysis of the 36 indexes. The sources of the statistics include: The first is the direct data, from the latest statistical data of the ISTAT, such as the added value of assets, per capita bank deposits, inflation rate etc; the second is professional statistical institution's result. As for some indexes that are professional and cannot be reflected directly, the system cited some research results by a few Italy's institutions with authority in this field, such as infrastructure index by Tagliacarne, Legambiente, sportsman index (carried by Il sole 24 ORE,

majorly reflect the regional sporting activities) etc..

Due to the fact that each index cannot be compared single by single, the index system also adopt rally point system. After calculating the statistics of each index, the system grade each index according to the statistics of 107 cities that participate. For example, for the positive index (i.e. The index whose grade can considered as the higher the better, such as per capita assets increase in value), the criterion is the city with highest grade scores 1, otherwise score as follows:

City A scores= (City A's data value: the highest city's data value) x 1

As for the negative index (the lower the better), the criterion is the city that with the lowest data scores 1, others score as follows:

City A scores= 1000- City A's value x negative correlation coefficient

The correlation in the formular varies in different indexes, the specific one is gained from the research result of the institution.

As for the moderate index (i.e., the middle item is the best) first fix the optimum value. The city with the optimum value scores 1, others score according to the gap between itself and the optimum value. Other cities score:

City A scores= 1000- | City A's data - optimum value | x negative correlation coefficient

The negative correlation coefficient and the optimum value vary in different indexes, the specific one is gained from the certain research result of institutions.

After such grading process, sum all the scores up, then we can get the

official version of the ranking for quality of cities and towns. In this rankings, the weight for the life quality, service&environment, public order, population, entertainment is the same.

The most valuable part of this evaluation system is that it creatively solved the weight problem of different aspects and pushed forward a new perspective of weighing method: weighing from the perspective of the individuals that are the users of the city.

The detailed means are:

The final mark is made up of the above six indexes, citizens, organizations, enterprises and other city users can weigh the six evaluation items according to their own wish through the Internet. The original weight was 50 for each index, the users could adjust it from 0 to 100. The operation is quite simple, as long as you know how to use the web.

After the weighing process, the comprehensive mark would be altered, and the website users could choose the city they want to live according to the new mark.

For example, a young entrepreneur could reasonably raise the option of “business & job”, say, 100. As for other less important factors, the weight could be relatively lower (for example, the population index could be set to 50 or lower). Thus, the business attribute of the potential elected city would be prominent.

Such method has solved the long existing problems of scientificity and objectivity when evaluate the weighing process. This ranking system is based on the practice of individuals or citizens and benefits to the balance of the cities (according to the outcome people could choose their best cities in their private custom, rather than a single valued best city).

Moreover, the outcome could be displayed visually by using a scatter diagram to represent cities and towns and the size of the dots to represent the value of the mark. Those green dots could mean a level above the average and the red dots below. Thereby it can convey the message to the users both briefly and clearly.

The following graph, Graph 1 is the original weighing sate (i.e., the official outcome), ranking the cities by life quality, business & job, service & environment, population, public order and entertainment with a same weight each. Graph 2 is after raising the index of public order and reduced the life quality, business & job and population.

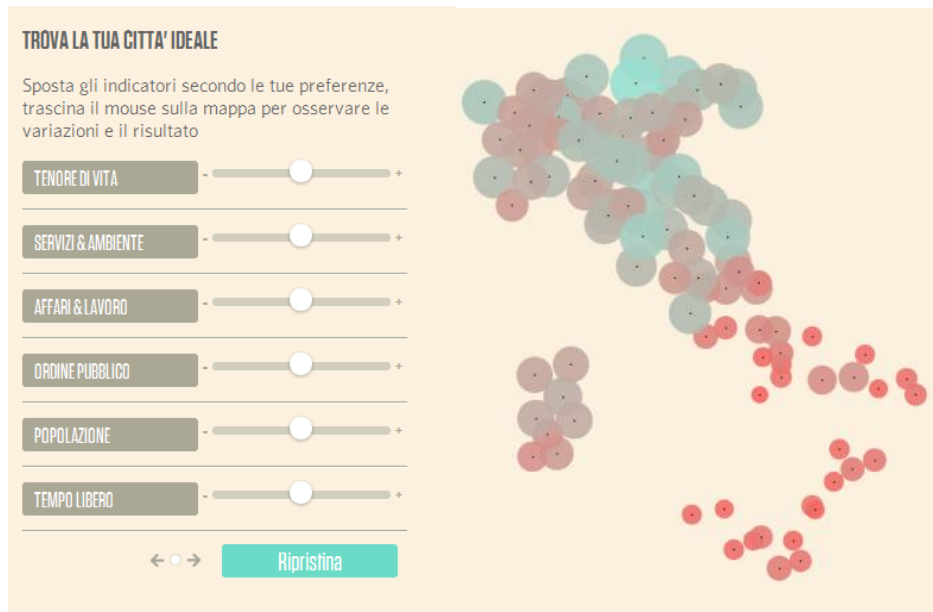


Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。-3 The results of the Cities' quality when the Empowerment is equilibrium

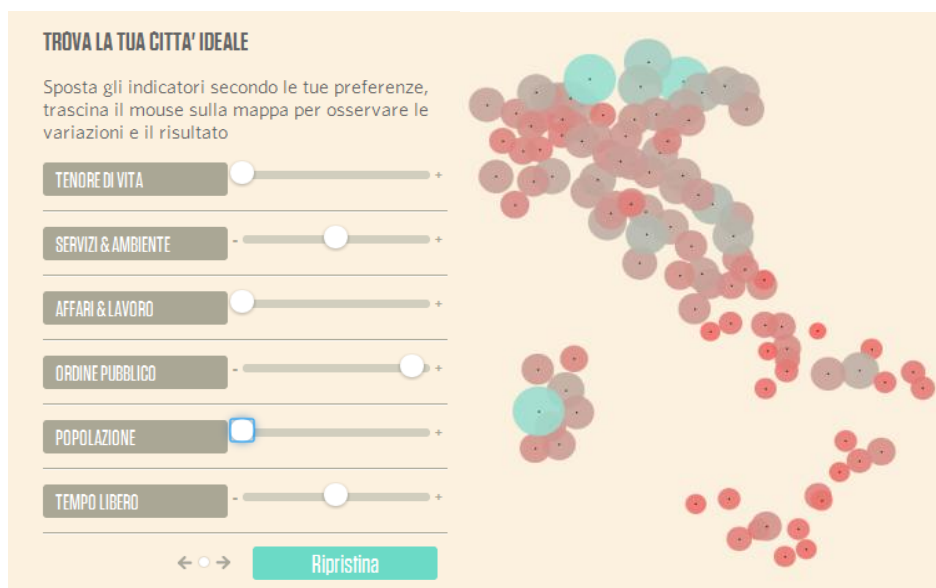


Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。-4 The results of the Cities' quality when the Empowerment is changed

source: 24ORE

Furthermore, in the final outcome of the websites, each city has a visualized diagram of its own. Every aspect of the cities could be known by every users with various education backgrounds thus increasing the public participation considerably.

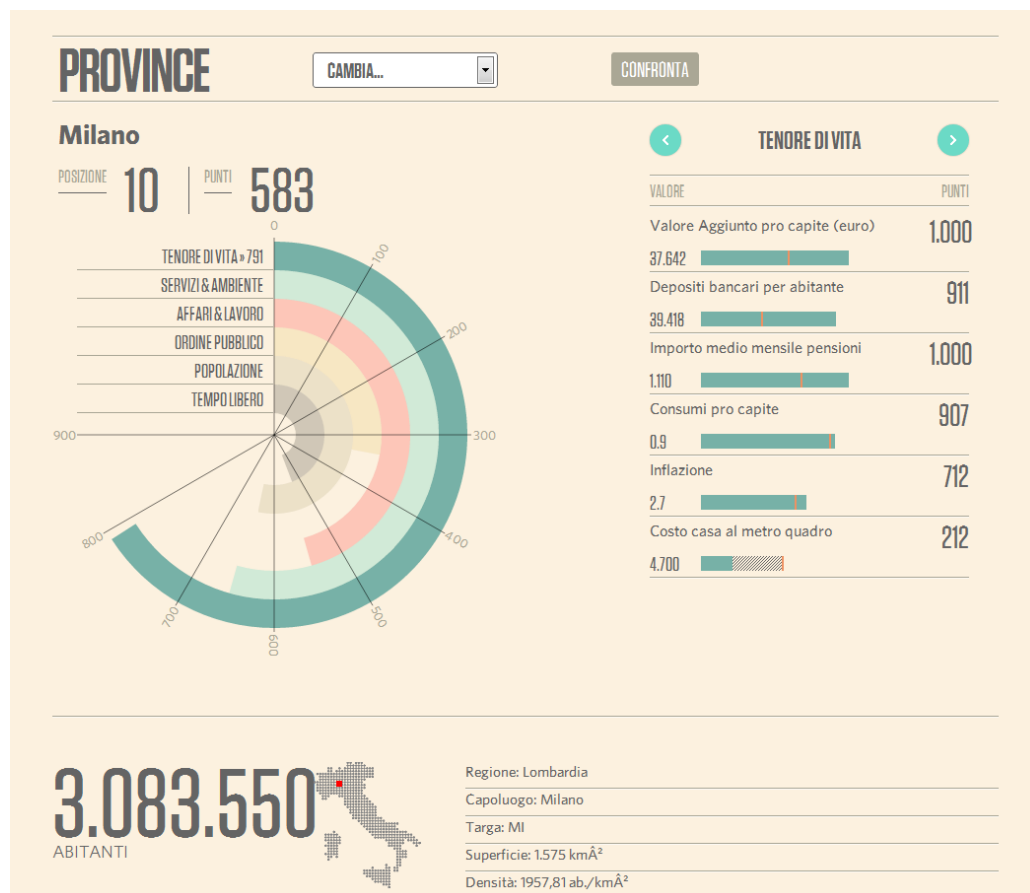


Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。 -5 The results of a city' s assessment
 source: 24ORE

6.3.2 The civil use of Italy's evaluation outcome

Unlike that the outcomes are mostly used as a reference for government to make policies in our country, Italy's are more open. The outcomes are displayed in various ways (newspaper, magazines, websites, news etc.). Also, all the users could customize their own evaluation index. This outcome could be used as a tool for various city users (citizens, migrations, firms, organizations, students, new employment populations) to know whether the city meets their demand, which city is most suitable for them to live and which city is most suitable them to develop. As it

were comparing with our country's, the Italy's evaluation system is more of civil use and more practical for the public.

6.4 The differences between the Italy's and China's evaluation method of qualities and towns

6.4.1 The angle differences

Comparing with Italy, our research on evaluation of quality of cities and towns focuses more on the governmental level. The indexes of it have more to do with governmental behaviour in the macro level. In the classification of the indexes of our country, there are a lot of macro options like "economic modernization, infrastructural modernization, people modernization". Also, it involves a lot macro policies that have no direct relation with individuals life. Generally speaking, the evaluation of quality of cities and towns of our country is based on the governmental management demand.

In contrary, the evaluation in Italy is more keen on the resident life (In Italy, the proportion of city life quality research is bigger than the proportion of city quality research). The distinction could be seen from each of the index: The per capita gross national product index corresponds to Italy's per capita assets which is more functional at reflecting the real fortune of the residents. The ration of available nursery schools to the potential customs and the disposed cases in every 100 cases all concern more about the services that are available to people, rather

than the absolute quantity. “The restaurants and bars having in every hundred residents” concerns the level of residents’ entertainment. And the tendency also can be perceived from the weighing process.

In summary, the valuation of quality of cities and towns is a “from top to bottom” pattern while Italy’s is on the basis of individuals.

6.4.2 The difference between the development stage of evaluation system of two countries

The urban development of two country is at an utterly different stage. Italy is in a mature stage and the growth has been slower and even stagnant. Therefore the evaluation of urban quality is majorly concerning the inner service, inner environment; While China is at a middle fast growth stage of development, there is a lot of spaces in the urban development, new construction can be seen everyday. Therefore, the evaluation of our country is still concerning about the urban development quality, for example the infrastructure coverage, the absolute quantity of urban social service etc..

6.4.3 The difference of weighing process for evaluation of two countries

It has always been a key technical problem for our country to weigh each index. The commonly used weighing methods in our country include subjective weighing methods like expert determining weights, citizens interviews, surveys etc. and also the objective weighing methods

like entropy method, factor analysis, multiple correlation coefficient etc.. However how to reach a balance between subjective methods and objective methods hence reaching a most scientific weighing method remains a problem.

Comparing with our country, the advantage of Italy's weighing method which is based on the individuals is: First of all, it can evaluate the city according to every individual's demand avoiding making the evaluation process single standard and misleading. Secondly, the evaluation outcome always remained at the governmental level and is not available to the citizens whereas Italy makes them published and available at websites or newspapers offering a lot information to those who want to decide which city to life and which city to develop. Thirdly, due to the original purpose of the evaluation process in our country, the outcome is very professional and hard to understand for non-professional citizens. In contrary the Italy's outcomes are made into scatter plot which is friendly to use and easily to understand. Fourthly, the private custom choice of city helps to tackle the problem of population of big city growing blindly.

Chapter 7 The comparison of the two countries' promoting strategies of quality of cities and towns ---take Milan province and ZheJiang province as examples

7.1 selecting basis of the research regions

The urban quality promoting strategies of two countries are all made for specific cities. Therefore the comparison of the two countries' promoting strategies should be based on a certain city or a certain region. The paper selects the ZheJiang province of our country and Italy's Milan province to compare their promoting strategies and the bases are as follows:

7.1.1 The similarities between Zhejiang province and Milan province

(1) Both provinces are the most developed area of each country in terms of economic development and urban development

Both provinces are economically developed provinces of each country (the development of Italy and China represent a severe geographical difference between two countries. The economically developed regions of our country concentrate on the South-East coastal areas whereas Italy's majorly lies in the North), both provinces are the high-urbanization-rate region of each country, therefore they both show a sensitivity to the level of urban quality.

Zhejiang province is one of the most developed provinces in our country. According to the relevant statistics, by the year 2012 the urbanization rate of Zhejiang reached 63.2%, which is 11 percent higher than the average level. From the economic point of view, by the end of the eleventh five-year plan, which is in 2010, the per capita GNP of Zhejiang province was more than 8000\$, which is twice the average. The added value of tertiary industry accounts for 43% of the total, which is nearly the same with the average level. Meanwhile, the higher education population rate of Zhejiang is 45%, higher than the average level of China. The registered unemployment rate of Zhejiang is lower than the average, only 3.2%. In the health and security point of view, every a thousand residents of Zhejiang have 5.18 medical workers. People who participate in social insurance account for 86.09% of the working population. In 2012, the Gini coefficient of Zhejiang province was 0.325, at a very low level in China. In the environmental protection view of point, by the end of the eleventh five-year plan, the sewage disposal rate in Zhejiang reached 82.74%, the garbage disposal rate reached 93.6%. In addition, in 2012, the per capita green area in park increased to 12.57 squared meter. The infrastructural development of Zhejiang is also in the leading status, the per capita road area reached 16.70 squared kilometers, the total length of drain-pipe reached 26367 kilometers. 898.4 out of 1000 people in Zhejiang use the Internet.

Similarly, Milan is also one of the most developed provinces in Italy. Milan province is one of the twelve provinces of Lombardy and the second-level regional administration whose capital is Milan city with other 133 municipalities. Milan province is the biggest urban region in Italy and it is also one of the most densely populated area in Europe. The land area of Milan province is about 1500 square km on which lived 3 million population, which represent 32% of the total population in Lombardy. Milan could be argued as the innovative industry capital of Italy as its advantage in tertiary industry is very prominent. There are, in addition, a bunch of high-tech industries and innovation industries. In recent years, the health care industry is also developing very well in Milan province. Thanks to the strong support by the biochemical industry clusters, Milan province could provide its citizens with various medical services and products. More than half of the land area of Milan are used as agricultural area or forestry planting area. It is also essential to Italy's economic development and trade transport, providing the whole country with opportunities, however with challenges for the municipal government as well. From the ancient time, Milan area is the engine or driver of Italy, especially in the post-war industrialization process. By the end of 20th century, Milan became a new economic center on the basis of the tertiary industry and instructional function: It keeps expanding its boundary. Meanwhile great changes are taking places in the metropolitan

areas, unlike the South of Italy, it's economy is still developing prosperously. According to the report by Unioncamere, Milan's per capita GDP in 2009 reach up to 36500 euro, 10000 euro higher than the average that time. Milan's GDP represent about 10% of the total GDP of Italy. Consumption per person per year is 14500 euro, a third higher than the average of the whole country. 6.5% enterprises, about 370 thousand, of Italy concentrate in Milan which are the main drive of Italy's development. The export and import of Milan represent 14% and 17% respectively of Italy's total export and import. It could be argued that Milan plays a very important role in Italy.

Milan has a unique industrial strength: Milan's industrial structure is very balanced. The industries in Milan's metropolitan area are both professional and diverse. Because of this, they could utilize the advantage of its own and do well in tackling the industry crisis. In Milan, there are a multitude of professional and complementary small company nets, they are skilled in the relevant coordinating industries, such as light industry nets. Meanwhile, in the central area of Milan there are plenty of knowledge concentrated industries, such as information telecommunication industries, biological industries etc., which are all high-profit industries. The peripheral of Milan's metropolitan area is still relying on the well developed industry while Milan as a whole is becoming to a platform that serves the North Italy. Milan's traditional

technical advantages and predominant geological location support Italy to become a core city in South Europe and mediterranean region. It could offer the south Europe and mediterranean region top service and new technology. Milan at the same time is also the realm of design and fashion.

(2) The economic development patterns of two provinces are similar

“Zhejiang pattern” is always argued as sharing a lot similarities with “Third Italy pattern” (which involves Milan) : Both provinces are economically powerful, playing a very important role in its own country; both provinces’ economic take-off started at the beginning of the private economy, existing highly specific enterprises clusters, such as furniture industry, garment processing industry etc; a great number of small and medium-sized enterprises concentrate in Zhejiang and Milan, generating a highly flexible production collaboration network; the enterprises that locate in both provinces are also similar. Most of them are small and medium businesses, of which a lot are family business; products are mainly export processing and both provinces’ core industry is light manufacturing. At the same time, Milan province has Milan city as an exhibition platform for its regional products while Zhejiang also have increasingly a bit of international implications and it has the renowned Yiwu small commodity market, Haining leather market, so on and so forth.

(3) Both provinces are facing similar external challenges

Although both provinces are the most developed region in each own country, they are facing external and internal challenges, of which the external challenges for both are similar.

In the further implementation of the reform and open-up policy and the impact of the economic globalization, the external challenges are increasingly serious: First of all, the development pattern of capturing the new global markets with a low cost is facing challenges. In recent years, the products of Zhejiang are facing increasing technical barriers and trade barriers even boycott from developed countries, such as the incineration of Wenzhou leather shoes in Spain etc. Secondly, industry upgrade, development transformation of Zhejiang's enterprises are facing resistance and exclusion by foreign mature enterprises. These international companies set base in Zhejiang, aiming for the Chinese market. Meanwhile to reduce the cost in producing, they build their own fitting bases. Therefore enterprises in Zhejiang are no longer available to the core technology and thus met huge difficulty in industry promoting. Also, the OEM of these industries is also at risk. For a industrial district that does not for its own brand, it would be a fatal strike if those foreign famous brand enterprises change their partners.

Even within China, the basis of Zhejiang's low-cost strategy is also challenged by other regions in China. The firms of Zhejiang are in a

highly competitive situation where the ultimated demand market like the earlier period of urbanization is no longer exist. Secondly, Zhejiang's experiences like private enterprises, shareholding system are learned by other places in China. "Zhejiang" pattern is being rapidly replicated and developed in East and Middle China. Zhejiang is facing increasingly serious challenge. Thirdly, labor concentrated industries in Zhejiang are seeking to diversify partly or as a whole away from Zhejiang. The labor cost and land cost in Zhejiang province are becoming increasing high and some of the regions in our country are seducing labor concentrated industries in Zhejiang with its attracting policies and lower labor cost. Not to mention the advent of the wanjiang industrial development belt which is clearly challenge Zhejiang for its leading industry position. Fourth, the development of enterprises in Zhejiang are constrained by themselves (primarily the factor supply ability), due to the fact that our country has a very short industrial history and a weak industrial basis. Therefore in terms of the reginal development factors such as highly-competent people, high and new technology, innovation ability etc., there is a lot for Zhejiang province to improve. Furthermore, because of the fact of our country, there is some artificial restrictions such as the system, policy and so forth. Especially in the marketing environment, financing environment, innovation, production service and trade support points of view. Similar with the small enterprise development pattern in

Milan province, Zhejiang's development is majorly depending on the small firms. There is another phenomenon that as long as the enterprise reached to a certain scale it will diversify to other region (say, An hui). And there are a lot of reasons can explain, that are the hysteresis of factor supply ability, lack of service to support the further development of the industries.

Similar to Zhejiang, Milan is also confronting the external challenges: More and more cities across the world are challenging Milan as a traditional leading city in Europe. Such competition requires Milan to strengthen and create more of its advantages. Such challenge is due to the decreasing labor price in the global labor market and the increasing innovation ability of enterprises across the world. In this point of view, constrained by the Milan province and the Milan metropolitan region, Milan city lacks a good structure of regional innovation policy. Meanwhile, the small scale of the enterprises in Milan leads to the insufficient investment in R&D. Moreover, others cities within Italy are also trying to replace Milan.

7.1.2 The differences between Milan province and Zhejiang province

(1) The difference in the scale of the cities and the pattern of the development

Due to the various differences in the overall popularity, popularity

density, history and pattern of urban development, the distribution of cities and towns, the living style of people, culture and habits etc., there is a big gap between the cities in China and the cities in Italy in terms of the scale and the land area. Coupled with the different local administrative structure, the provinces in China are very different with the provinces in Italy. In the popularity point of view, the provinces of Italy are equivalent to the cities in our country. The Milan province of Italy is the same with Hangzhou city in our country in terms of the scale.

The scale differences between Zhejiang and Milan can also reflect this. For the details please check the appendix table 1 and appendix table 2, city level administrative units in Milan and Zhejiang and their population, land scale and other data.

According to the statistics on the websites of administrative division of Zhejiang , by the end of the 2013, the total land area of Zhejiang province is 101.8 thousand squared km and there are 90 county level administrative units, 11 prefectural-level cities, 34 municipal districts, 21 county-level cities, 34 counties, one autonomous county. There are more than 1300 township administrative units in the province, among which there are 421 streets, 639 towns, 250 villages, 40 ethnic towns. The capital of Zhejiang province is Hangzhou city. (The population and land area of Zhejiang province please check the appendix table 1)



Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。-6The map of Zhejiang Province

Source: Zhejiang government

According to the statistics by the ISTAT, Milan, as a regional governmental agency, rules the biggest metropolitan region in Italy which is also the most populous area in Europe (the popularity density of it reaches 2000/squared km, 10 times of the average popularity density in Italy), and below it there are 134 various levels of towns and villages. (The population area of the cities in Milan province please check appendix 2)



Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。 -7The map of Milan Province

Source: Wiki

Similar to the scale difference between Milan and Zhejiang, the 134 municipalities in Milan are smaller than those in Zhejiang in terms of both land area and population. However the scale level in Milan varies a lot. There are tiny communes like Dresano, which covered 3 squared km and has a population of 2992 people; there are small cities (population 50 thousand to 200 thousand) like RHO that has a population of 50686 people and a land area of 22.23 squared km; there are also big metropolitans like like Milan which has a population of more than 1200 thousand people and covered 180 squared km lands.

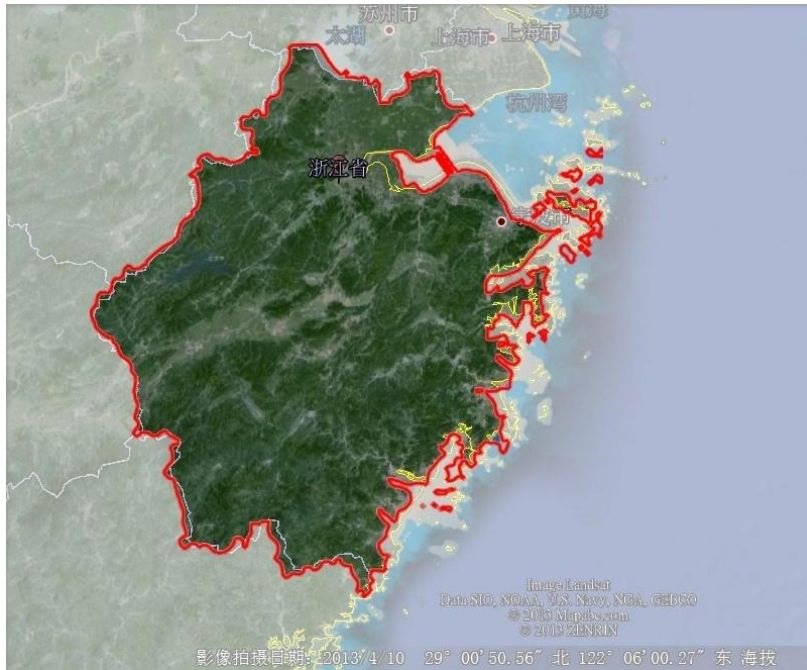


Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。 -8Provincial Satellite Map of Zhejiang Province

Source: Google

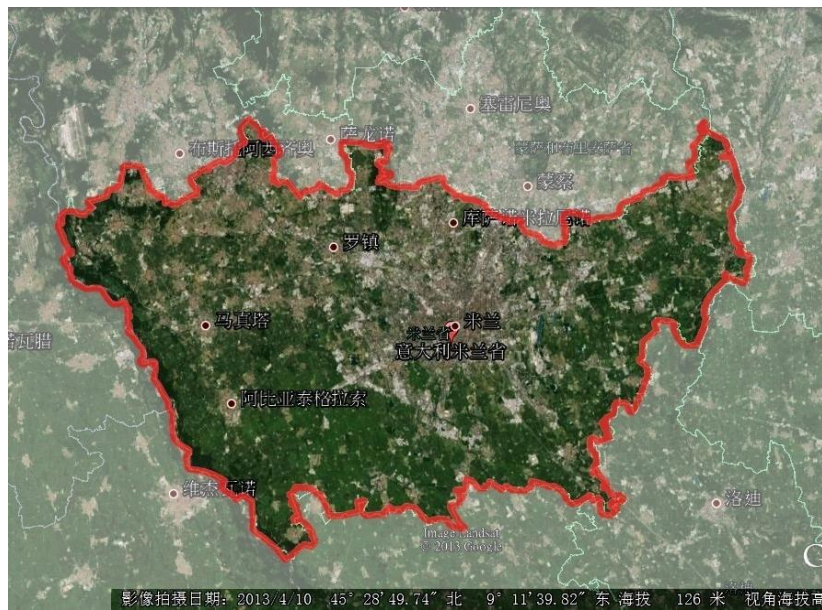


Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。 -9Provincial Satellite Map of Milan Province

Source: Google

Furthermore, according to the aerial photographs, from the form of city development view of point, there is nearly continuous urban areas in Milan province which is in stark contrast with the fragmented and uneven

urban development forms in Zhejiang (When the plane flies high enough, there is only Hangzhou bay in Zhejiang could be compared with the cities in Milan in terms of the level of development in which it arrives and Zhejiang's city area continuity level is also lower than the Milan's, where the contrasts are even clear in the South and the West). This is because Italy started its transformation of cities to metropolitan cities in the 1970s. Different with the pizza-pattern city sprawl in our country, the metropolitanization of Italy started from the immigration of the core cities' population and employment to the peripheral. Due to this fact, the peripheral towns expanded rapidly especially those have a strong traffic connection with Milan. This leads to the vague boundary between Milan city between its peripheral cities and the city clusters started to develop into a metropolitan region. However such thing has never happened in Zhejiang province although there are also some small cities are developed through urbanization however it is not because of the implications by center cities.

Only from the population, development scale, and land area points of view, Milan province is in a similar size with Hangzhou in our country. Milan has a population of 3078000 people, land area 1555 squared km, 1978.42 people/squared km while the population of Hangzhou has reached to 4454000, the land area 3068 squared km, population density 1451.8 people/squared km.

(2) The differences in regional economic development pattern

If the advantage of Zhejiang is manufacturing, then the advantage of Milan must be design. Milan has a great deal of renowned brands, of which lots have a rich culture and an excellent history. The enterprises in Milan have the top designers and research teams in the world so they could keep innovating and stay in the front of the industry. Even though “Made in China” and “Made in Italy” are both world-known tags, their natures are different. Although some of the products that Zhejiang produces could be argued as good quality and even international advanced level, the design, research and innovation processes were not done in Zhejiang. However, this is the lifeline that decides the future of an enterprise.

Unlike the competitive relations between the enterprises in Zhejiang, the relations between Milan’s enterprises are both cooperative and competitive. They could form a common industry net, and the structure of it is very balanced with diversity and specialty. Thus, Milan could on the one hand make full use of its industry advantages, and deal with the industry crises as a whole on the other hand. The environment for innovation in Milan is very good, and the productive mode is novel and effective, which is in the leading position across the world. There are, though, also a lot of labor concentrated industries in Milan, not alike those in Zhejiang their productive methods are proliferated. Although the

productive methods are labor concentrated, the high quality, low costs, high technology in control process, advanced design of them all differ them from those in Zhejiang essentially.

(3) The external challenges that two provinces face are different

On the external front Zhejiang faces a lot of challenges: such as, urban development level unbalanced, low urban quality, unreasonable layout, insufficient construction land, extensive land use. For a long time, the urban development of Zhejiang is extensive and denotative. Although the urban development is in a fast space, the sacrifice is considerable, such as low quality, environment damaged, low urban population quality, and the working population are generally not very well educated.

In contrary with Zhejiang, Milan from the external point, its challenges are majorly come from the variation: No matter it is from the economic or social or environmental view of point, the development environment of Milan is always changing, especially after the 1980s, this trend became even serious. With the rapid development of European cities since the mid eighties last centry, new urban problems of the new levels emerged. Such problems are actually very common among the cities in Europe, not only Milan. The changes currently taking place in Milan could be explained from three angles:

Migration -- In the past thirty years, Milan city nearly has lost one third of its population (about 480000 city residents), which made the

population of Milan province after 2005 is even smaller than 1951. The population majorly removed to other cities in Milan province and the peripheral provinces of Milan province, especially at the foot of the Alps. The migration is primarily due to these factors: Firstly, the marketization of residential housing makes the cost of living in the Milan city elevate dramatically. Many people choose to live in more economic class out of Milan city, replacing the cost of housing for the cost of time and transport. Secondly, the development of transport makes the separation between working and living become possible. Merely the center railway station of Milan there are 32000 people come in and out. Thirdly, the cities that share the population of Milan have their own appeals, beautiful living environment, good air quality, good traffic, low housing price etc.. Due to the above three points, the migration becomes the trend of cities of Milan province, which leads to the serious waste of land and the high energy consumption and pollution due to the transport. On the other hand, the population of Milan province was refilled by a large quantity of immigrations and poverty population. According to the statistics in 2009, the immigration population represent 14% of the overall population of Milan.



Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。 -10The terrible traffic condition in Milan

Source: la città di città-un progetto strategico per la regione urbana Milanese

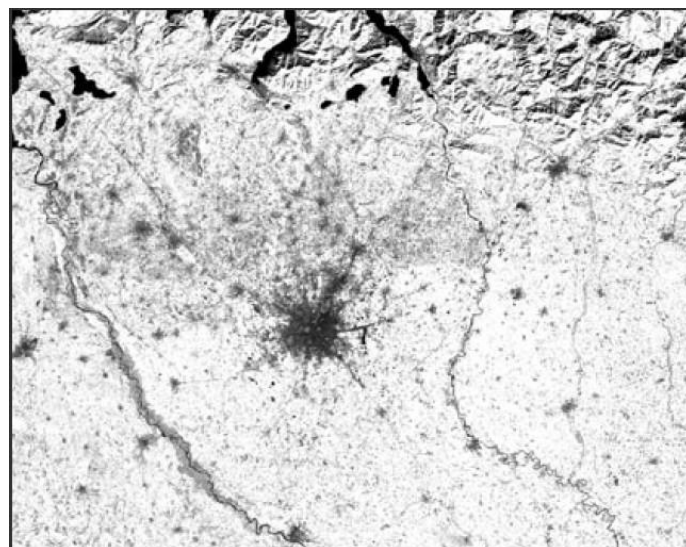
Differentiation -- from the economic point of view, there are 370000 companies in various scale in Milan province, increased by 65% compared with 1981. Nearly in every ten residents there is a company and they are distributed in various places in Milan province; From the social point of view, the break-up of the traditional families and neighbor networks brings a series of consequences. As was mentioned earlier, people may live in a certain city, work in Milan city, and entertain in another city. The youngs leave Milan for affordable housing which makes

Milan city one of the most serious aging area. Social differentiation is becoming increasingly serious, the globalization has broken the social balance and has strengthen the polarization effect between all walks of life, especially those immigrations and marginalized who mainly work in no-technic service industries. In addition, it is the middle class crisis. With the fall of the wages, the power of consumption of middle class has fallen as well and there are a sequence of family constructure problems (low birth rate, incomplete family service); From the political and administrative view of point, the local roots of political parties become increasingly weak (this is also due to the differentiation of population and the shifting life style), which makes it increasingly difficult for the administration and the social will come to an agreement. Meanwhile, the traditional local organizations such as church organizations, local culture association etc, also become weaker. Traditionally closely related departments and organizations become increasingly decentralized.

New type communication net -- with the development of transportation, communication technology, those traditional geographical neighbour networks are weakened while the new neighbour network emerges. They are probably based on common interests, common industry, common hobbies etc.. And such new type social connection has nothing to do with geographical distance.

These three points of changes have a great impact on the cities and

towns in Milan, of which some can be directly seen. For example, we can clearly see the changes taken place in Milan city from the satellite image of 1972 and of 2007. In the thirty five years, the original city development axis has been weakened and the traditional city boundaries have been vague which becomes a metropolitan area having a very clear layer structure. By the year 2007, the range of city clusters expanded again and the clear layer structure was missing at that time. However some implications had been remained in the deep urban context, for instance, the traditional geographical area based (or administrative area based) range of planning does not meet the new demand. Our understanding to city spaces has turned from a material space that can hold various substances to a virtual space that can bear the weight of various stream and movement. With the chaotic growth of cities, the distribution of a city structure and understanding for a city are become increasingly complicated.



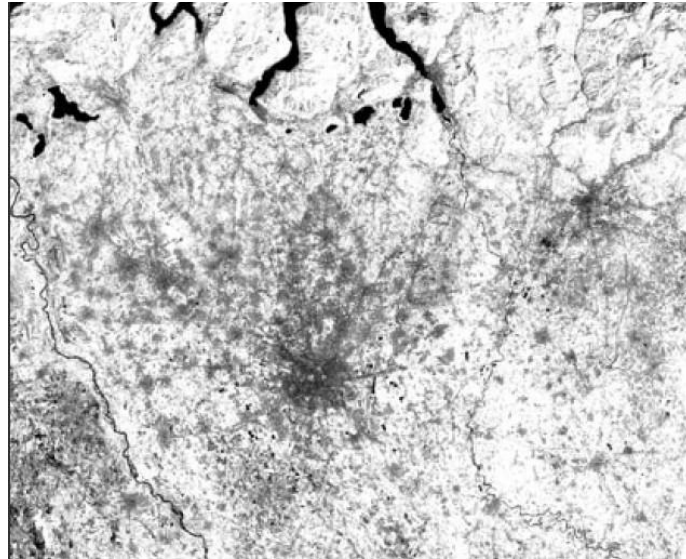


Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。 -11 Provincial Satellite Map of Milan Province
1972(Above), 2002(Below)

Source: la citta di citta-un progetto strategico per la regione urbana Milanese

7.2 Correlation studies on improving quality of cities and towns in Zhejiang

So far there is no special project aiming for improving the quality of cities and towns in our country. What we are discussing here is drawn from the urban improvement strategies of Zhejiang. The section takes Zhejiang as an example, selecting “urban system planning of Zhejiang province”, “new type of development in Zhejiang”, “twelfth five-year plan” and “improve the quality of urbanization in Zhejiang” as research objects which are all very typical.

7.2.1 urban system planning of Zhejiang province’s research on improving the quality of cities and towns

November 11th 2009, Zhejiang government published the new version of urban system planning (1996-2010), in order to push forward the new

urbanization strategy, to build the coordinated development of urban and rural area and an urban system that is healthy and order with Zhejiang characteristics.

In this planning, there are four parts are pushed forward for improving the quality of cities and towns in Zhejiang, including four aspects: economic development, social progress, resource saving, Eco-environment protection.

In the economic view of point, the planning suggest that the Zhejiang province should keep improving the industrial structure to push forward the urban development within the province. The economic development method for Zhejiang was industry and we should now give priority to both industries and services sector; transforming from depending mainly on capital and materials to depending high technology and high level human resources. Therefore, Zhejiang has to improve its own ability to innovate to push forward urban development.

In the social progress point of view, Zhejiang ought to combine the development of cities and the construction of harmonious society, further improve the infrastructures and strengthen the social security. Moreover, it should try to build an effective and equal service network. Continue to improve the public safe level, social services, and optimize the public transport, promote a moderate growth in urban population meanwhile optimize the urban population structure and ensure people the basic living

standards, ensure the people within the whole province a good livelihood.

In the resource saving point of view, to strengthen to prevention and treatment of pollutants while protecting ecological green land resources, and make rational use of the coastal resources of Zhejiang; The large and medium size cities could utilized the natural resources around the city, say, pond, forest etc., to build suburban green spaces. To increase the coverage of green area and strive to build a environmental-friendly city with a conservation culture.

From the point of specific measures, the planning offers a macro-strategy for the cities and towns within the province from the aspects like urban development, spacial and industrial layout, ecological, cultural and other supports. It set guidelines for every city from the point of views in population development, transportation infrastructure construction, ecological and cultural construction, the overall planning. Finally, it specifies the recent actions to ensure the successful implement of the planning.

7.2.2 The research of quality of cities and towns in *twelfth five-year plan for the new type urbanization development in Zhejiang*

In February of 2012, ZheJiang government published the *twelfth five-year plan for the new type urbanization development in Zhejiang*. In the first part of the plan, it represent the main goal of the new

urbanization of Zhejiang province the the basis of the conclusion of Zhejiang's urbanization development situation and background, of which those related to the improvement of quality of cities and towns are: To keep improving the well-bing rate of urban residents. To improve the level of the income of urban population and to improve the life quality of them. To improve the ecological environment and guarantee the legal rights thus to improve the stability and harmony of the society making the life of urban residents become more dignified and more happy.

From the view of specific measures, the planning group offered the specific strategies in following aspects:

Firstly, on the economic development level: the plan suggests to improve the function of the city, to ensure the city absorb the quality productive factors, to accelerate the development of industries that are in accordance to the city's resources endowment and the city's current status, to accelerate the comprehensive economy, to push forward the technical progress of the city, to promote industrial convergence, to strengthen the construction of brand, to improve the city's industry competitiveness thus to improve the economic development of the city.

Secondly, on the urban living security level: the plan request to amplifying the construction of indemnificatory houses. To rationalize the demand for housing by policies while developing the public rental and low-cost houses. Meanwhile strike to regulate the order of housing

market and make sure it is developing on a healthy path.

Thirdly, on the construction of infrastructures level: To accelerate the pace of pushing forward the integration and networked process of the urban transport, telecommunication, electricity, water supply and drainage system. Keep developing the utilization of the city underground space and the building of the flood protection facilities thus improving the comprehensive bearing capacity of the city.

Fourthly, on the social development level: To push forward the social programs construction, such as culture, education, health, sports, pension etc..

Fifthly, on the urban environmental level: The plan request Zhejiang to the comprehensive city environmental management meanwhile accelerate the construction of environmental facilities, improve the appearance of the city, improve the ecological appeal of the cities and the towns.

Sixthly, on the level of characteristics of the city: The plan request the cities in Zhejiang capitalize their advantageous resources to foster the characteristic function of each city, to create a high quality self image, form a unique city style.

Above six parts are the quality improving strategies in the twelfth five-year plan of Zhejiang. It observed the improvement of quality of cities and towns from the governmental management view of point, and

provide every aspects with a specific method.

7.2.3 The quality of cities and towns improving research in *improving urbanization quality of Zhejiang province*

In the background of the government makes great efforts to push forward the urbanization, in 2013, professor Nankai Xia presided the writing of the subject of “*improving urbanization quality of Zhejiang province*”.

The subject put forward the quality improving strategies from the quality of economic development, quality of social development, quality of spacial, environmental and infrastructural development, population development quality.

Urban industrial development: Industry is the fundamental drive of the urban development. Therefore, the urban industrial development should be upgraded. Fully utilizing characteristics of development in Zhejiang province, cultivating the industrial growth pole, improve the quality of cities and towns with industry.

People live peacefully and work happily: Living peacefully is the foundation of living in a city and employment is the safeguard of living in a city. Therefore, we should insist the people first policy, taking the living and working issues of local and foreign population in the consideration, in order to improve the quality of cities and towns.

Space intensive coordination: On the spacial level, first it should be

intensive development, reasonably control the city space scale, utilize the spacial resources of the city; Secondly, city space could be considered on the metropolitan level, accurately positioning the city, coordinating the city space development with other regions' development.

Public services: social public services are the necessary part in running a city or a town healthily and a crucial criterion in assessing the life quality of a city. Therefore, the level of the public services have to do with the quality of cities and towns and the life of residents and it should be built from the angle of city-function perfection.

7.3 correlational research of Milan province on improving quality of cities and towns

There are a great deal of studies in Italian academies about the strategies of improving "quality of cities and towns" from various angles. This section uses Milan as the research object, selecting quality improving strategies for Milan from different ages and different institutions. Through comparing the difference between these strategies and our counties', we could analyze in further detail.

7.3.1 Milan province's strategies of improving quality of cities and towns in 1980s

The economic and urban development of Italy in 1980s shared a lot of similarities with our current situation: At that time Italy had just experienced 20-year long economic take-off (1951- 1973, Italy's

economic growth had been more than 5% for 23 year, i.e., “Italy miracle”). Nevertheless, in 1980s, the economic take-off slowed down, the economy started to stay stable; from the urban development point of view, from 1950 to 1970, the urbanization rate of Italy had increased by 10%, increased from 54% to 64%. In the 80s, it had been slowed down and turned into a stable growth (in 2012, the urbanization rate for Italy was 68.4%); from the economic development pattern of view, the 1980s Milan was in a transformation period of from Fordism pattern to the urban knowledge-basis pattern.

Italian scholar Bagnasco, Le Gales (2000) thought, the twenty or thirty years after 1980s, every city strategy and city subject in Italy is about the “competitiveness”. In the influence of global competition and the globalization, the cities are being awarded the attribute of global competitiveness, which is very much alike the cities’ researches theory in our country currently.

In 1980s, Milan, there are a series of city quality improvement strategies, although they are discussed and illustrated from different angles and perspectives by the government, scholars, and the society, they are the same in the core and they can be summarized into following five points:

(1) Support enterprise transformation: give enough support to the post-Fordism enterprise transformation;

(2) Land utilization: the management on the change of material space, especially the reuse of the abandoned land and abandoned area;

(3) Human resources: strengthen the construction of local human resources, strengthen the scientific research activities, improve the higher education and specific education;

(4) Structural transformation: to consider the regional economic structure and the metropolitan economic structure as a whole, thus to upgrade the economic structure;

(5) Soft power: enhance regional culture and art capacity, improve local feature appeals, thus strengthen Milan's status as "Central European city".

From 1980s, Milan has started to put the above topics into various city schemes. It could be argued that from the late 1980s, Milan has been striving to build a metropolitan region that has global competitiveness. Following economic, social issues could represent the urban development features at that time: de-industrialization, the expansion of urban service industry, the population loss in downtown Milan, population aging, a decrepit infrastructure (most were built in 1960s). However, the urban scholars came to realize that after 1980s Milan's urban quality issues have never changed substantially. Even if in the last twenty years, although there has been a great change in economic, social, culture points of views, the issue for improving the quality of cities and towns in Milan

city, Milan province, even Lombardy has never changed.

It is clear that the urban quality issues Milan province has met at that period is what a city or a town would meet when it first come into a mature period of developing. The priority at that time is what we are paying attention to today. The city and towns quality issues in Italy at that time have already started to emerge in our country, and they would be more serious with the further development of our cities and towns.

7.3.2 The improvement strategy for quality of cities and towns in Milan these years

After 2000, new changes have taken place in the urban problems of Milan when comparing to the 1980s. In 2007, “City of Cities -- Milan’s strategic plan” published. This is a complete and comprehensive urban quality improvement plan.

“City of Cities -- Milan’s strategic plan” summarized the major changes of city in Milan into three factors: Movement, Fragmentation and New Networking. These three phenomenons are closely related to each other. With the simplicity of movement, the increase of population flow, goods flow and information flow, these changes directly or indirectly lead to the change in the traditional society and the spatial organization form. Freer movement and more decentralized communication subject have also contributed in the formation of the new network.

For example: with the increase of housing price, young people leave their family to find cheaper housing, which break the traditional family relationship in Italy; people's activity range enlarged increasingly, not constrained in small towns and communities; movement separate living from other part of life, making it a series of actions in different places.

In the industry point of view, the enterprises became extremely decentralized and fragmented. Enterprises that were becoming increasingly small formed a new network, such network generated the mutual competition and mutual promotion among enterprises. The new network replaced the old network which is on the geographical relation basis. The traditional one suites those are geographically near while the new suites those are remote and only required occasionally person-in-person meet.

Therefore, the traditional Italian planning strategies were challenged by many new problems: increasing changing speed, instability of communication channel of communication, the weakened status of traditional planning body (political party, local organization, local enterprise), etc.. In such background, in 2004, a strategic planning group that are made up of planning experts in architecture & urban planning school of Impoliteness di Milano, representatives from government of Milan province and Milan city, Milan board representatives and representatives from the cultural and art circles established, to work out

new strategic plan for Milan's city problems, and to improve the development quality of Milan.

The strategic plan which is called "La Citta di Citta" lasts for three years, primarily aimed at the emerging problems in Milan province, which is very much different from the plan in 1980s. And among them, the core part of it is the urban quality improving strategy in Milan.

(1) The reason and perspective of the analysis

"strategic plan" thought that in the current urban area, local competitiveness, social cohesion, management ability of the local government all lie on the urban quality attributes. Therefore improve the quality is notably important.

Unlike the "from up to bottom" pattern in our country, the plan concerns the city users rather than the government, which includes: city residents and short-term residents (no matter they are the consumers of the city or not), the users of city service (college students, patients in the hospital), businessman (stay in Milan for a long time or come to Milan regularly), and various companies, enterprises (mainly tertiary industry) etc.

(2) The specific methods in upgrade strategy

We have discussed before (4.1.1) the six parts of natures of quality of cities and towns. In this section we are going to talk about what upgrade strategy this strategic plan has offered to these six points of view.

A. Housing

Housing is the first and foremost factor and requirement for the quality of cities and towns in Milan province and it would cause a lot of complicated problems: isolation between the fringes and the society, the demand for quantity to the demand for quality etc.. Many researches of Milan provincial government shows that housing problem is not only related to the housing itself but also involves practices of residents, which are closely related to the living environment referring to complex social problems. However such practices are always be neglected by scholars.

Therefore, “strategic plan” not only pays attention to the traditional housing space topic (e.g. City space, quality of constructions, quality of living environment etc.), but also concerns a series of social policies and problems. The strategic plan emphasized that there should be comprehensive intervene in the daily problems of residents and there should be more careful control about the social wealth and resources. Finally, it points out the necessity of the participation of the public.

Specifically, the strategic plan asks to concern about four aspects in the housing problems:

Firstly, Milan province need to deal with the increasing housing demand. Because for many families in Milan province, housing is still a serious problem. In fact, the increasing marginalized groups are being isolated by the society. The housing conditions of these people can not be

compared to the Italian native (or European). Currently, the contraction of the rental housing supply, and the increasing level of instability in the labor relations, all lead to the housing problems in Milan province. Even worse, those who really need the care of housing policies (e.g. immigrations) have never been paid attention to. Therefore, to improve the quality of the cities and towns in Milan, the provincial government need not only pay attention to the rental housing market but also to those fields indirectly affecting the housing market (for example, to help those low-income families with the temporary housing problem). Meanwhile, the government should concern the social exclusion problems making policies that are friendly to immigrations and foreigners.

Secondly, to offer diverse solutions for the residents who are seeking housing. The availability is no longer a problem for the resident population of Milan but to the temporary population and those moving population, which are continuously growing, it is still a problem: the population of the third world, of which there are the low-incomes and the high-incomes, they never stay at place for a very long time; the colleges students in Milan province of which only very few live in the dormitories; the family member of the patients who are in the famous hospitals of Milan, would have to endure various unreasonable housing (too expensive, too crowded, poor conditions etc.); various temporary professional workers in Milan who have different purchasing power thus

the demand for housing is different. Besides, the advent of the temporary housing and other new type of housing has to do with the weakening of the traditional family structure and diversified forms of cohabitation: for instance, young people who leave their family for work, divorced singles, elderly people who live alone, couples who live together but not married etc.. These various forms of living styles are all related to the temporary housing policies. Although in some of the areas (for example, student dormitory, hospital ward), there have been some market moves and they are having good feedback, other areas still do not have a practical solution. For example, the medical service related housing problems.

Thirdly, keeping pace with the housing demand. Milan province should connect the spaces with the housing demand. It requires the ability of reshape the spaces. Relevant departments should connect housing space with daily practices, jobs, demand of families and change of living circles. High-price housing market emphasize the commodity attribute of the housing, such sale and rental are rigid demand; Meanwhile, housing has another attribute as a family life carrier and living is another special kind of rigid demand. However above two attributes of rigid demand cannot respond to the change of the housing demand effectively, but the plasticity, fuzziness, remodeling and reorganizing of the housing space do. Meanwhile they are also effective methods to solve current urban social problems. The increasing of dwelling forms, the further unification of

working, living and socializing, increasing personal housing ownership and the decentralization of it all requires the renewal of the relevant policies, and the relevant departments to increase the supply of the public housing. And the private rental sale market should be encouraged and even the housing construction standards and management of commuter traffic should be reconsidered.

Fourthly, to improve the neighbor relations and the landscape quality of the living condition. The improvement of living condition involves two key points: First is the interpersonal relationship, the diversity and intensity of it; And second is the landscapes, whether they are comfortable, friendly and so on. Therefore the green area of Milan province should have following features: Firstly, the open space around living regions must be appealing and friendly. It could offer public green area as well as relative private spaces for residents to entertain or do sports. These open spaces should be available in a walking-distance, or bike-distance, and surrounded by traditional daily services. Meanwhile such space should be mixed, activity mixed and people mixed as well. While the space have various activities in the society in it, it should also offer the local residents a sense of intimacy, safety and belonging and easy for them to communicate with each other. Thirdly, there are a variety of landscape spaces with Milan's metropolitan region's characteristics in Milan province (some of the public spaces originated from the Milan's

traditional “center - margin” model while others are built for various living spots). These spaces form a structural framework which could solve many existing residents living problems in Milan. Protecting and promoting these green spaces, improving the supervision of green area protection, are also strategies to promote the living standards in the city.

Finally, the strategic plan pointed out the tasks for the government in the housing point of view: the provincial government need to put forward the solution to coordinate every level of the government as well as public and private departments. Although the provincial government does not have authority to execute, it is very important as a coordination role.

B. Movement and breath

Another front of meaning of quality of cities and towns is movement and breath. Movement is an equivalent to transportation, it means that residents could be transported to every direction by all means within the city and they could conveniently choose a more comfortable spot. Nevertheless, the “strategic plan” also emphasized on that in the movement people can breathe freely in a less polluted condition. “Strategic plan” thinks, the traffic in Milan province is expensive, difficult and time-consuming. On the other hand, the pollution is very serious in Milan. These two problems have some sort of relation: It could be argued it is a vicious circle. However, solving one will always

make worse the other: new type of transportation would cause pollution while tackling the pollution especially when solving the air pollution problem will constrain the traffic.

“Strategic plan” thinks this level of quality improvement should be done from following two aspects:

Firstly, making different strategies for diverse means of transport. “Strategic plan” points out that the complex traffic problem cannot be solved by single scheme, but should be dealt with different strategies. It requires relevant departments make sustainable solutions in terms of environment, society, system, economy etc., to conduct the construction of relevant projects and facilities. These schemes should be practical and start with the small scale and short-term. Specifically, it involves following parts: First, rail transportation: Now seems the suburban railway is always behind schedule and lacks comfort, however its coverage has been considerably promoted. The importance of railway as the key connection to the metropolitan region has not been fully aware. It is clear from the latest Milan map, many of the railway stations are proliferated from the existing built area to the outsider. Thus new city area of Milan province came into exist, and multiple-center structure is strengthened. However, public transportation is not visible beyond the radiation of traffic axis, the emerging urban areas, notably should not forget the North of high density; Second, the ground public transportation:

public transportation, tram are all trying to replace private cars in the urban area beyond Milan city. Reorganizing the means of transport, altering the routine, improving the service to increase the usage of some certain lines, developing some of the lines into provincial line or even super provincial line, improving the accuracy of the schedules, thus can make urban population in Milan province more convenient going out; Thirdly, the environment of the public transport: it is part of people's daily life to go out through public transport, therefore it is essential for Milan province to improve the level of comfort while improving the level of efficiency. Due to the expansion of activities of Milan citizens, the frequency of public transport should be ensured, and so does the speed, which should be constant and appropriate, and the vehicle comfort. Even the comfort of the public waiting rooms should be improved, and they could be carriers of social, cultural and recreational activities rather than the current situation, waiting rooms being settled in desolate regions with dull and boring content. In many ways, the quality of transport is also determined by the integration of different types of roads and the quality of the road landscapes. The Milan's strategic plan suggests that the experiences of the Netherlands and the France should be learned. It says that the construction of non-motorized traffic is an essential part of improving the quality of transportation. In fact many previous governments of Milan province all tried to develop non-motorized traffic

(such as The City Bicycle Project, the construction of pedestrian streets etc.). To improve the non-motorized traffic system, however, a lot of decisive works are required to be done. The net of urban bicycle lanes is there yet and the security of the pedestrian spaces is required to be improved.

Secondly, improving the environment quality. Apart from the accessibility of the transportation, “ Strategic plan ” also pays attention to the environment that the traffic users enjoy, i.e. The ecological environment of Milan province. Firstly the air condition: The quality of air is not a separate matter and it should be considered with the traffic and mobile issues which are the main causes of the air pollution. The anti-congestion policies clearly show the relationship between the traffic attribute and the air quality is very close. Various public policies are try hard to improving the quality of the air and the quality of the mobility. Currently there is a variety of measures, but in general they are aiming to restrain and reduce the pollution. There are many examples: the restricted use of old electrical machines and heating equipments, which contrite a lot to the pollution, policies encouraging lift, different road user charges to different cars, different infrastructure charges to different buildings with different level of friendly condition, the introduce of the solar energy and other energy-saving technologies; Besides, the plan also broadly pointed out other environmental attributes of the regional quality

of the urban area of Milan, which are as important as the air and are all key factors of the quality of cities and towns in Milan. The water quality has a lot to do with the quality of cities and towns in Milan province, for it has an implication on the regional economy, agricultural development, industry, architecture and commerce and is also a factor of the structural difference between the cities in the South and the North of Italy. Therefore, to improve the quality of cities and towns more broad public policies are required. And they should not only include negative actions, such as the restriction or negative protection, but also include direct and indirect positive actions, such as the encouragement of the friendly environment and the innovation in the environmental quality. Therefore, the plan suggests, that on the one hand Milan province need to increase the quantity of green parks and opening spaces to improve the ability of environmental regeneration and on the other hand Milan need to link the existing ecological resources (both public and private) to bear the ecological pressure ensuring clear air and abundant landscapes for the people.

The strategic plan points out the tasks for the provincial government: The provincial government is required to link the infrastructure managers and the policy makers generating establishing an effective partnership.

The provincial government has already met some tough problems

in some of the projects: like reorganizing the middle road to improve the efficiency of the public transportation, the usage of the new environment and the new means of traffic management, special management of the infrastructural construction related to the sustainable development of the vehicle traffic in the core parts of the cities, other means of management innovation. From this point of view, the recent Milan provincial government's obtain in control of Serravalle could be thought as an important opportunity in the strategic framework within Milan urban regions. As a management innovation it could be even used in social and cultural undertakings. Meanwhile, it could also be seen as an important opportunity of reorganizing the structure of infrastructures. In fact, this purchase program of the provincial government could be seen as a programme that changes the relationship between regional landscapes, engineering projects and new infrastructures. The function of the government could be seen as a kind of driver that promotes the technology and methodology, which not only need to promote the adaption of the new infrastructures and the compensation of the bad effect of the new facilities, at the same time it should push the development of the infrastructures to the high-quality and high value-added end.

The privilege of the provincial government could also be used in the management of the existing facilities and projects improving the value of

these facilities through diverse and innovative methods: for example building traffic connection between those vibrant infrastructures, setting public transport lane on the existing roads and recycling the provincial right of competency.

Large infrastructure programme related policies on the provincial level can not be neglected now, however improving the quality of cities and towns in Milan province still require management and intervention of various roads on the individual level and the reorganization of the ways of cargo transportation. Meanwhile, the government is still the main manager of the ecological environment and transportation. The provincial government is not only responsible for the quality of existing large parks and the construction of several new parks, but also need to pay attention to the establishment of the facility net work, improvement of the environmental verification standard, promoting the energy innovation, encouraging the usage of the bicycle (non-motor vehicle), protecting farmland through making new legislations and laws.

C. Shared space

The strategic plan thinks that in a metropolitan region like Milan province, the quality of cities and towns is closely related to two factors, one is quantity and diversity of shared space; and the other is the possibility of convergence among different people and different life practices. The quality of cities and towns, and even the quality of city

agglomeration is determined by the degree of sharing of the urban space, the possibility for residents to enjoy quiet and slow spaces, the diversity of the places where they can meet and chat; meanwhile it has also to do with various flows (human flow, material flow), the ability of the interconnection in cities, positive external effects of the shared space.

Milan province has been establishing the contacting network of every level (global, regional), and trying to offer diverse communal spaces, of which Milan province is superior to other regions in Italy. Nowadays, although other cities of Italy are trying to share the function of Milan in background of globalization, Milan is still the node of the globalization. However, in Milan province, those contacting networks that can enrich residents' daily life and have implications on the regional development of Milan are weakened: new type of barrier to migration impede the globalization within the province; people living in Milan province with different life styles can hardly communicate with each other; leading worker in various sectors have no contact and cooperation; public space and open space are sporadic without diversity and richness.

“Strategic plan” improves the this part of quality of cities and towns through two ways: first, increasing social spaces. The cities and towns in Milan should be given various opportunities, generating intersection between social spaces with different forms and different values, social social events, institutions, figures, and life. This required us not only pay

attention to the material space of the cities and towns, but also to the spiritual level. And we should not only establish the “ public atmosphere” (i.e. Social atmosphere of public space) in the traditional urban researches of Italy, but also should on the framework and foundation of the cultural integration design and create communication space.

The plan required the social public space designed by Milan province should have following features: firstly, the spaces must be diverse; and they should be open, that is to say the activities here make no restriction to any individual and social organization; thirdly, there could be an integration of diverse people and diverse cultures during the construction of the space. A good quality of cities and towns means Milan has to maintain the existing complex public spaces with European and mediterranean traditions and at the same time creating new public spaces, in which the residents of Milan could hold various social activities, produce meeting opportunities and social events. And it also creates a perfect impression of Milan and makes spaces beyond traditional schedule.

Based on the above analysis, the provincial government need to know and collect the daily life practices of various social groups (such as immigrations, students), in order to know how they use the public spaces and how they have implication on the public spaces, so that they can produce a policy that can make public spaces like this. This policy should

also improve the regional compound circuit and promoting the geographical and thematic diversity of public spaces through policy making, no longer focusing on the specializing and signifying of some certain public spaces. The ability of information exchanging of the space should be considered rather than the expansion of it, because although many public spaces are expanding, the content is very limited.

The space that the plan design is like this: they could be functional spaces, such as traffic nodes (airports, railway stations etc.), and at the same time they could also be important communal spaces of the near residents that are also opened to residents live in other places; they could be the joint within or of the peripheral of various functional regions, such as traditional squares, parks and the spaces between the new buildings.

Secondly, preserving the slow and quiet spaces within the cities. A good quality of cities and towns can also be assessed by how convenient could the residents select the place with different level of crowdedness to live, avoiding the probability for residents to live in a place unwillingly, ensuring the citizens could have a place that is quiet and comfortable to live in. Therefore, the city should offer the joints of the flows in the city, the space of slow life, the space of quiet life, the space that can keep residents away from noise and business. In the process of city sprawl, the ability for a city to provide citizens with spaces that can reduce their pressure in their busy city life is one of the most important abilities. The

life quality of cities and towns is determined by the ability to provide residents with various spaces for them to communicate and entertain. In these spaces citizens can offer their bodies and paces of life more spaces. In contemporary cities and towns, slow life is becoming some kind of welfare. The open spaces, green areas in the parks, urban forests etc., could be the places where people meet each other and where people meet the nature and enjoy the quietness.

At the same time some indoor spaces such as libraries, natatoriums, could also be the choices for residents to combat the fast paces of life. In fact many regions in Milan province can be the places for urban people to enjoy the slowness: the non-urbanized area of the Brianza mountains, parks of the South, places along the canals, urban forests, even some of the small towns in the peripheral of cities. People could life in these places permanently or temporarily for a slow life and quiet living spaces.

Finally the plan pointed out the mission for the government: Currently the policies of Milan province for improving the communication between different groups are very limited. The government had given up a lot opportunities for promoting regional communications: such as the Nord park, Idroscalo lake, which are the main resources for providing communications and slow life and very few other places can compete them in this point of view. However the operation power of these places are given away by the government to

private institutions so they could not be transformed by the government. If take the above mentioned libraries and natatoriums into consideration, them there are still a lot buildings need the management of the government. Meanwhile, both the plan and other relevant policies require the government to pay attention to various people, especially those need help most, such as those who have difficulties in life, those who are in the special period of their life.

The specific methods include: offering spaces for the communication of different cultures, offering entertainment facilities for immigrants, holding large-scale activities that can enrich the culture of Milan province, providing communication space while providing living space. The provincial government has invested and designed the network of green spaces and the public spaces of the high density urban areas. Meanwhile some works have been done to the emerging areas such as Monza. Creating new green security need to consider various factors (cross-regional parks, forests, urban green lands etc.), various linear resources (ecological resources, walk corridors) etc. Thus double need to the green space of Milan province can be met: Firstly to form the fragmental green spaces into a unitary system. Secondly to reduce the bad implication of the urban construction in environmental issues. Currently, there are many small-scale gree spaces in Milan whose quality are not ensured and may be disappeared at anytime. On the one hand it is due to

the lack of financial support, on the other hand there is no strategic design for improving their quality.

D. Create culture, enjoy culture

The quality of contemporary cities and towns has not only to do with the quality of material spaces or ecological environment, but also has to do with the ability to offer spaces, to create cultures, the ability to offer diverse entertainment for residents and the ability for education. Many big and middle cities in Europe and America have shown that the culture is the key factor of the competitiveness of a city and the key factor to enjoy a better life.

The contemporary cities and towns like Milan, must be able to provide good-quality of environment to produce art and culture, abundant opportunities of cultural activities, enough places for knowledge producing and reproducing, abundant entertainment spaces, meanwhile to provide corresponding economical environment for these activities.

Furthermore, there have been a great number of outstanding art and cultural institutions and experimental innovation spots which is a part of the core competitiveness of Milan. The problem today is the dispersion of the urban culture and the decrease of the appeal of Milan province (at least some of the areas). Milan province is facing serious challenges: cities of Milan province need not only act as bases of creating, studying, training arts, but also should act as the base for residents to entertain. The

diversity of culture and entertainment is an important factor of quality of cities and towns and is also an important factor of city's vitality and competitiveness.

The "plan" including three parts to improve the culture aspect of the quality of cities and towns.

First, promote the production and transmission of culture. Contemporary cities and towns should benefit everyone from the diverse culture supply, meeting all kinds of people's demands for more cultural activities, culture experience and culture places. This ability is the intangible assets of the city regions, which is as indispensable as the infrastructure. As a whole, the culture supply in Milan Province is good. But compared with other regions in Italy and Europe, it had a certain level of decline in recent years. For example, the progress of museum construction has been boomed in many cities. Instead, in Milan, the dynamic places like Brera art museum has not be valued with equal value; in other cities, besides the provincial capital of Milan province, there is no other museum is given the full play of its value except for the Chini arcelor balsa photography museum (the key research case of Milan provincial government).

Even in the aspect of theater, music and movie, some problems have been revealed according to the report. In Milan, some famous arts institutions have gone through the trying moments, such as la Teatro alla

Scala. And the development of building the library system in some areas seems to be promising, but in some small cities, many libraries are confronting being changed by current life and facing the loss of some potential culture spaces. The whole construction of library framework system in Milan Province is quite extraordinary but the problem of insufficient fund lead directly to the continued progress of the European museums implement plan and the reduction of library construction. In addition, there are a lot of major projects are terminated for a while.

The priority is also be given to mobilize young people, especially the talented in the universities, to promote the regional development with their knowledge resources and innovation ability, which may do good to the prosperity of cultural innovation and artistic development, meanwhile reduce the cost of it.

Second, strengthen the investment in education and training systems. The quality of cities and towns is directly related to the diverse and flexible training systems, which enable a variety of people in Milan to accept the cultural values and expertise provided by Milan Province

In the Province of Milan, although the higher education system is already built good, but from the point of view of various domains within the province, some aspects of the work are still very deficient, which including different kinds of training centers, cultural and educational institutions, education and sports facilities, cultural tolerance system and

student and residents' culture undertaking and so on.

In Milan Province, the university system is perfect, it has many centers (many universities not only in the Milan headquarters, but also have campuses in other locations, such as Como, Valle jersey, etc.), but there have been some problems: On one hand, students are the main part of the regional population. And the proportion of foreign students is increasing. They are likely to become the new population in these regions, thus, close attention should be paid to work out the solution to the localization of these foreign students. On the other hand, the communication between the universities and some other new research institutes, various training areas are insufficient; Third, Milan Province didn't reserve enough space for students' creativity. Government should not only regard students as temporary occupants but allow them to take an active part in the creative activities and the process of local entertainment industry innovation.

Third, support the diversification of entertainment. Contemporary towns must enable to provide time and spaces for urban residents' daily entertainment lives, entertainment training, creation and other functions. The support of these entertainment places to the urban residents is as important as the ones driven by the market. In this aspect, Milan metropolitan area is undoubtedly outstanding, the recreational activities of which is diversified into the system, but it doesn't last its

predominance as before. In the range of Milan Province, the number of the cinemas and other places for recreation has been increasing, seemed to be an active sign. However, the diffusion of its positive influence is limited by the number of the well-made films. Under such circumstance, they only run a few of top grossing movies, which force them to meet with the crisis. Besides, the financial situations of personal cultural playback systems in Milan are not as sound as the official cinemas and inevitably fall into the movie crisis. Meanwhile, some world famous exhibitions rooted in Milan, such as Salone Del Mobile, Fashion Week, Design Week, etc. are regarded as the classic cases of the city, as a gateway, to develop a collaborative relationship with the industrial zones where its influences are covered. For example, it has been thousands of years for Milan province area to be the world-renowned place of furniture origin that laid the foundation of the Milan Triennale. As long as through the newspaper and other media, we can observe a clear view of the diversity of entertainment spaces in Milan Province:

Music venues, Communicative spaces, open-air trade spaces (markets), beyond the boundaries of the region. But in present, they are still fragmented with on integration and to be unified.

The “plan” has pointed out the tasks that the Milan province government should take: Making continuous effort to the development of the culture undertaking. Many new relevant policies have been

introduced in the autonomous region of the government, accelerating the networked process and integrations to the provincial culture undertakings and make them systemized. All of these policies are benefit from the advanced experiences of the mature culture poles in Milan Province. On the view of the culture, the quality of contemporary cities and towns involves three basic points and the importance of the three increases gradually. First, make definition to the new culture facilities. (The so-called new culture facilities may small in number but great in meaning). Secondly, reorganize the dispersive cultural activities, cultural initiatives and cultural participants in the city areas of Milan Province into a network. Last but matters most, the broader supportive measure provided by Milan Province Government to the wide spread of culture and the filed of innovation within the range of province and to strengthen the connection between the city spaces and public recreational activities.

E Provide new types of social welfare

The urban quality of Milan Province obviously has a close relationship with some social contents, including the quality of local social service, social justice and social security as well as the effective fight against the social isolation and discrimination and the harmonious social relationship between people. The motivation and the capability of local agencies and organizations to do charity work to the variety of

people in need rank as the important factor to measure the quality of the cities and towns.

The promotion of the urban quality is not simply dependent on the community volunteer activities organized by specialized agencies, but requires more spontaneous charity work from the grassroots of the society with non-specialized organized, contributing to the city harmony and cohesion.

The urban quality also has something to do with the temporal organization of urban city life. The forms of which not only concern the support of money but also can be found in the home level of nursing. More and more people in the modern society are bothered by many problems: such as the polarization, new-type disadvantaged groups, poverty etc., while people's participation in these issues is becoming the key to the solver of these problems.

The "plan" suggests that Milan province should reconsider the social welfare strategy. In Milan, the relation between family and society is becoming increasingly fragile, while the housing and the employment are also becoming increasingly uncertain. In such background, the urban quality is determined by whether residents could get along with the neighbors well, have a friendly social service, social fairness, social security etc. These years Milan province as well as the whole Lombardy's welfare system has following features: highly technicality, limited

permeability, pertinence to the groups of specific interest, high exposure (especially in the field of nursing old people), the failure in solving the poverty and the isolation in the society. Furthermore, recently more and more families are dealing with their family problems with financial solutions rather than the nursing methods (the elders, the youngs problems), which may lead to an exceedingly heavy financial burden. At the same time, a lot of social policies have also turned into cash policy which may have a certain level of hidden danger.

Currently, the welfare system in the province, especially in the municipalities have been implemented well. And there have been some tempt beyond regional scale. However due to the traditional bureaucratic system, there is resistance. The legal relation between the private department and the third-party testing department is weakening. What worries people is the relation between the government, the public sector and the third-party department which may lead to an unwelcome cycle. The new phenomenon is that there is new competition between the private organization and the social organization, however, they did not improve the service. In fact they bring bad effect. To improve the quality of cities and towns, these problems need to be tackled. However this does not mean that the cities and towns in Milan only offer costly service. They should offer bearable service to solve various new type and old type of social isolation.

In this point of view, Milan province need to contribute to the major regional welfare strategy and policy improvement and offer support to the voluntary organizations, such as places, voluntary training, recompense etc. Under this framework, Milan government could improve the quality of cities and towns through four possible ways:

Firstly, the government should support the cross-regional social service network, which could compensate the rationality of the economic means and meet the unpredictable demand. The provincial government has to be the security force of the social welfare. The non-bureaucracy social practical programme could guide this issue in all directions.

Secondly, the provincial government need to coordinate various social welfare programs of every municipality areas to promote the harmony of the social welfare of various regions and various categories thus improving the life of people of different levels.

Thirdly, provincial government should promote structure of unity of the private institutions and the third-party organizations to improve the interaction between the public organizations and the third-party organizations, strengthening the transparency. At the same time supporting the new type citizens groups and citizen actions, which could not be that organized and formalized but should be more close to the public and be more flexible, so that they could avoid the various underground collusion cooperations.

Lastly, offering spaces and collaborative networks to those unformed organizational systems or individuals.

F innovation and commerce

The plan points out that the quality of cities and towns has a lot to do with the economic development, employment ability, innovation ability and entrepreneurial ability. As many international researches show that the attraction and the competitiveness of a region is determined by its innovation ability, trade ability, the ability to attract capitals, the human and technological resources, the ability of offering stable employment and the ability of sustainable development. The improvement of the quality of cities and towns could help the formation of the new-type trade's foundation thus linking the regional economy and global economy.

“Plan” improved the above mentioned issues in three parts:

Firstly, supporting the trade system. One of the way to link the urban quality and the economic development is to support the entrepreneurial system and business system, especially the starting enterprises which have been excellent but still have space to improve. Supporting the enterprises not only means to support traditionally predominant innovation industries (fashion design, finance, IT etc.), but also ought to support new type manufacturing and frontier researches, such as biopharmaceutical researches. Similarly, provincial government should

not only support those mature enterprises but support those small and medium-sized enterprises which have a great potential to grow.

Such strategy involves a series of problems: 1, the integration of small and medium-sized enterprises and the supply of the manufacturing systems; 2, accelerating the cooperation of universities and enterprises through direct and indirect intermediary channels; 3, increasing the interaction between government and enterprises, decreasing the bureaucratic system caused transaction costs; 4, improving the financing in the new trading situation, focusing on the projects; 5, coordinating the policies of employment and training with the demand of human resources. The provincial government should do its best, for example, the key problem now is innovation industries that are dominated by the government should develop in a sustainable way. These industrial projects could be low polluted car manufacturing, low cost materials in housing, components of city spaces etc. The government should also help to make the environment recover and pay attention to the productivity of citizens thus can form the virtuous circle.

Secondly, promoting the cooperation and the relation of the enterprises and the society. The growth of the regional economy and the development of the enterprises in Milan province have to do with the improvement of the relation between the enterprises and the local society and the improvement of the local elements which determines the

capability of Milan to support the the local enterprises and the ability to attract external enterprises.

The first part is to establish the trade network within the province thus forming a regional system. The government could establish such system through following means: Linking the professional organizations forming a professional system, promoting the integration of the trade groups, establishing a more broad network to develop the relationship of individuals and enterprises, improving the universities and other research groups' research abilities, thus improving the service of the trade and the transportation.

The other part is to improve the living environment of the human resources: Milan province has to make sure its environment and space can meet the changing demand of various settlements. In this point of view, not only need to reorganize the production regions that are distributed in various places of the province to improve the quality of these places, but also need to establish an integrative production system in the diverse urban areas, which would be accompanied with the rapid change of regional features: for instance, the recognition of many historic streets, the diversification of the potential garden cities, the change of the regional industries.

Milan province need to rethink the improvement of quality of cities and towns in many ways: to improve the living environment, making

the environment more healthy, more friendly, more productive, improving the regional attraction to high-level talents and other components of regional quality (space, quality of space, value of important activities, social places etc.), improving the accessibility of the city, improving the quality of established places.

The third part is to strengthen Milan's status of the global gateway. The living environment of the enterprises in Milan has a lot to do with the status of Milan in the world since it is the key to them to connect to the world. To strengthen Milan's global gateway status in the world, Milan need to strengthen the relationship with emerging remote regions and to support the servicers that can strengthen the relation. At the same time the traditional trade relation should not be weaken, such as the North Europe, Atlantic, Asia, middle and far east etc. Thus the quality of cities and towns of Milan province could be strengthened and enterprises would be settled in Milan province, at least their manufacturing or trade part.

In this point of view, the Milan provincial government has done a lot and is still working hard. The provincial government is trying to build a innovation system of small and medium-sized companies, creating incubators of enterprises and innovation accelerators, regional innovation center and regional development organization and is trying to make innovation in the credit system of innovation filed and bring more participants to the regional innovation forum. Such actions could better

support and implement the regional innovation and trade policies: it could make the create industries carry out more easily, make the create resources more accessible, simplify the process of the implementation of a new concepti, find suitable spaces for create industries, make the high quality technical work carry out more easily, make the create industries more easy etc.

(3) promote the policy-making process

The policy-making process of the strategic plan is open to all benefit clusters and it is a from bottom up pattern with participation by all people. Such quality improving method could be a great reference to our country, therefore I am going to make a brief introduction to this process in this section:

A initial phase: setting quality improvement goal

In January of 2005, the working team from the school of architecture and urban studies of Polytechnic University of Milan (later referred to as “DiAP”) leaded by professor Alessandro Balducci reached an official agreement with the government. From January to May of 2005, the working team from DiAP had made various careful researches and made frequent interaction with Milan government to ensure the aim and demand of the “strategic plan”. The work pattern of the “strategic plan” was formed in the initial phase. The plan does not want to come to an outcome, say, a document, but emphasize on the process, the making of

the plan and the series of actions in the implementation which are not about a single project but about a collection of measures in the process of the project implementation. These measures are in different phases of the plan and they would correct themselves or correct each other while the plan is running.

B First stage: Form a guiding principle and planning process framework

After the initial phase, the project comes to the first stage, that is the formation of the guiding principle and the establishment of the planning process. In this stage, in order to define the strategic plan more roundly, the DiAP work team increased their members of research team, who have new professional background. The specific measures include:

First, the project team build a conceptual framework, publishing a “declaration” document for participants to think and discuss. In this phase, a series of creative principles were pushed forward: for example, defining “ Milan region” as a new urban region as a whole; it should on the one hand serve the urban development and regional competitiveness and on the other hand serve the people who live in it; the project team also explained where the quality of cities and towns need to improve.

Secondly, this stage starts the interaction of the participants. The participants involve all those related to the urban development of Milan region: provincial government, municipal government, representatives

of the employees and the employers, chamber of commerce, federation of environmental problems, scholars, artists etc.. The participants of the “ Strategic plan ” are formed in this stage, and perfected later. This organization is one of the most important parts in the plan;

Thirdly, this phase has also built the management structure of the whole strategic plan. The management team involves former government officials, scholars of Polytechnic University of Milan, senior leaders of each departments of Milan provincial government etc.. Meanwhile, an international advisory body has also been formed in this phase to assist the plan. There have also been various meetings of social organizations (trade association, employers federation, environment federation etc.) in this phase;

Finally, this phase has also create the communication strategy of this strategic plan (the communication between each interest group is the key of the strategic plan). Various channels of communication have been created in this phase and a website was established; various activities have been organized, of which some were specifically prepared for the strategic plan, some played a supporting role to other strategic activities. Each activity had very different audience.

After continuous practices, interactions, redesigns, the framework and operating mode of the “ strategic plan ” were formed in this phase. In January of 2006, “ City of city -- A Strategic Plan for Milan Urban

Regions ” was made, which recorded all the achievements of the first phase and made a decent plan for later measures. This document is for discussing (pushing forward the strategies through discussion and interaction is the key of the strategic plan). It represented the international perspective of Milan Region and made the work mode and guiding principle of the strategic plan. It could even be seen as a declaration document (which is very different from the traditional method of plan in Italy).

C Second stage: public participation and works progression of the improvement of quality of cities and towns

In this stage, the project team arranged a great deal of workshops, held many large-scale activities and launched many important projects. The activities and projects designed in the former phases were carried out in this phase, since March of 2006:

The first thing was the first “ urban quality improvement strategy contest ” whose first principle is to arouse the enthusiasm of the public of Milan urban regions. This contest was the key part of the second stage of the strategic plan. It was held in the March of 2006 and was thought to be the most innovative “ planning tool ” in the strategic plan. It was aimed at encourage all sectors of Milan tell their thoughts and idea about the improvement of the quality of cities and towns, no matter it was about the existing projects or about new plans.

The research group brought a wide range of participants to a great deal of meetings making them gather together discussing intensively the topic of quality improvement making it the kick-off project of the strategic plan.

The first phase of the contest had attracted 410 participants who are from all walks of life covering the whole urban region of Milan to push forward their schemes.

The second phase of the contest emphasized on building a platform that can allow participants to maintain ongoing dialogue. The Polytechnic University of Milan established a “ Strategic Plan Support Center ” for this purpose and at the same time had the outcome of the contest screened and perfected by using the academic resources of it. The judging panel was made up by 9 members whose background varies: architect, sociologist, company manager, (Italian urban) historian, film producer, Triennale chairmen. They were required to select the winner from various candidates. Due to the diverse background of the judges, the contest had got rid of the single perspective of architecture covering more aspects of the urban issues of Milan.

The second phase was called “ strategic blueprint ”, which was to mobilize the government forces of Milan province. The “ blueprint ” was actually a summary of the items that need to be improved. It collected the suggestions from various individuals and organizations of the society.

The “ blueprint ” could be the platform for the government and the public to have dialogues through which the creative thinking of the social force of Milan could be displayed on the office table of the government.

One of the challenges that the “ blueprint ” would be facing is to scope out the mission for every department of the government and other is to illustrate the relation between the advice and the adviser, (i.e., what suggestion does the benefit group give, why does they give this suggestion), to predict the implication to Milan province of every suggestion.

To make the “ blueprint ”, there are two level of works: one is to collect materials from various resources and project perspectives; and the other is to construct a sustainable and solid communication platform (forum, public discourse, interview etc.) for the government and the social forces through various activities. In June of 2007, the official document of “ the improving actions and engineering blueprint for Milan’s urban quality improvement ” was published and distributed to all the governmental offices.

The third phase is the confirm of the start project. The start project involves new projects and the old ones that have been implemented before the strategic plan. The strategic option and the strategic direction of the government were made visualized through these start projects and were available for the public to discuss.

In the end, six projects designed by various levels of Milan government were selected as the start projects. They are: 1, family: social housing experimental workshop; 2, the culture and customs of Milan; 3, “ city of city ” Metrobosco; 4, provincial government serving municipalities: inter-municipality cooperation in the Adda area; 5, “ basic aspects assist ” to non “ self-sufficiency ” measures of Milan province; 6, rethinking of the industrial regions: function, management of quality environment

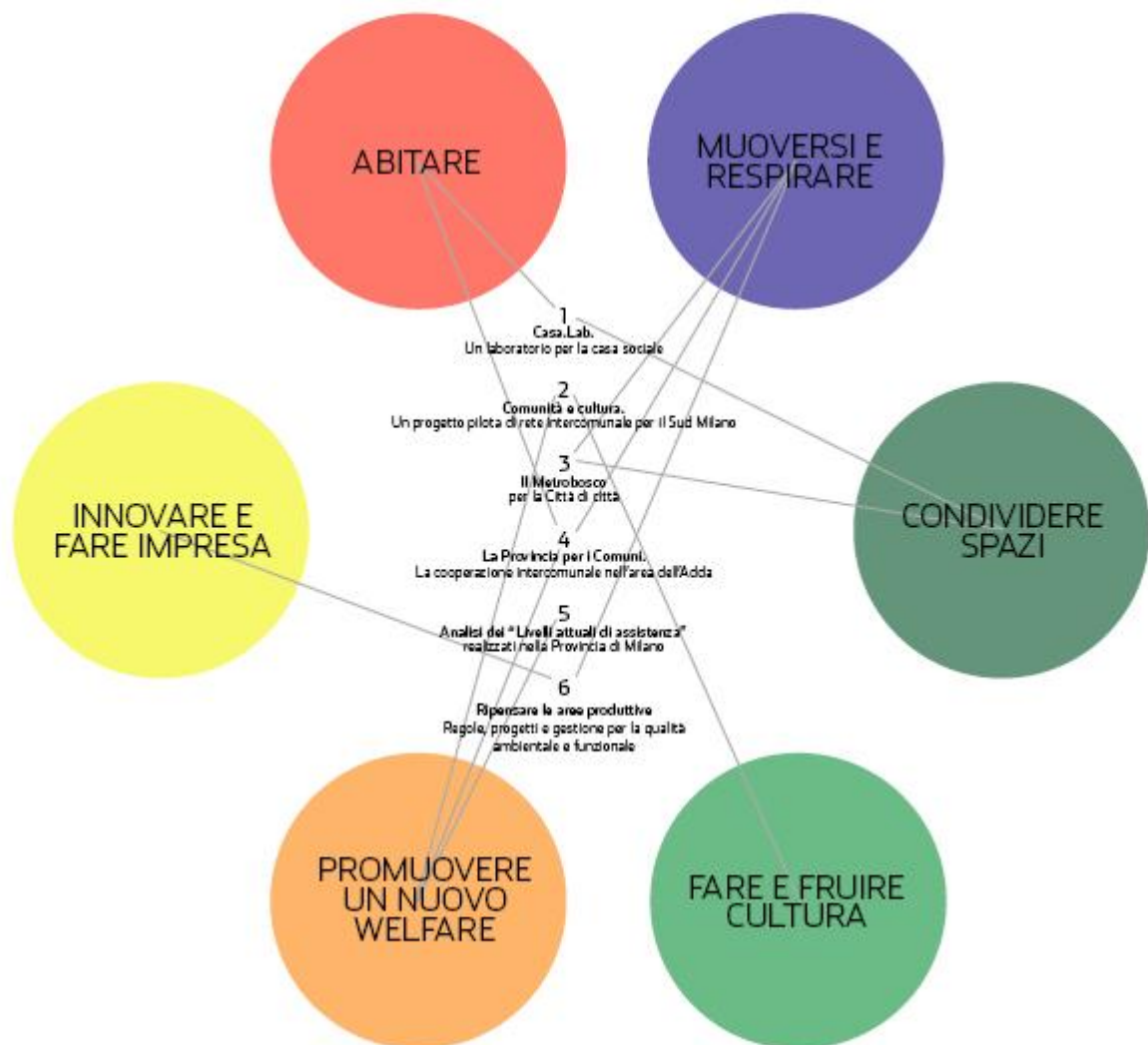


Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。-12 “Citta di citta” Six major activities to improve the urban quality

Source: Citta di Citta

After the projects are settled, the inspection committees would examine the content of the engineering plan, the feasibility of the project, and the follow up actions. Then every project would be undergoing in the whole framework of the strategic plan. Meanwhile, the content of these projects would be available to the public in terms of a series of activities and exhibitions. It is a golden opportunity to demonstrate the content of the strategic plan through these exhibition and activities. This made it possible for the representatives in different aspects to discuss intensively about their ideas about the quality of cities and towns and thus used by the strategic plan. Their arguments and perspectives are very different due to their different backgrounds and interests, so they are of high-valued. These opinions and arguments are from local board, chamber of commerce, local social organizations, intellectual, experts etc..



Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。-13 The scenes of the discussion of “VIVIMI”

Source: Citta di Citta



Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。-14 The scenes of the exhibition of “VIVIMI”

Source: Citta di Citta

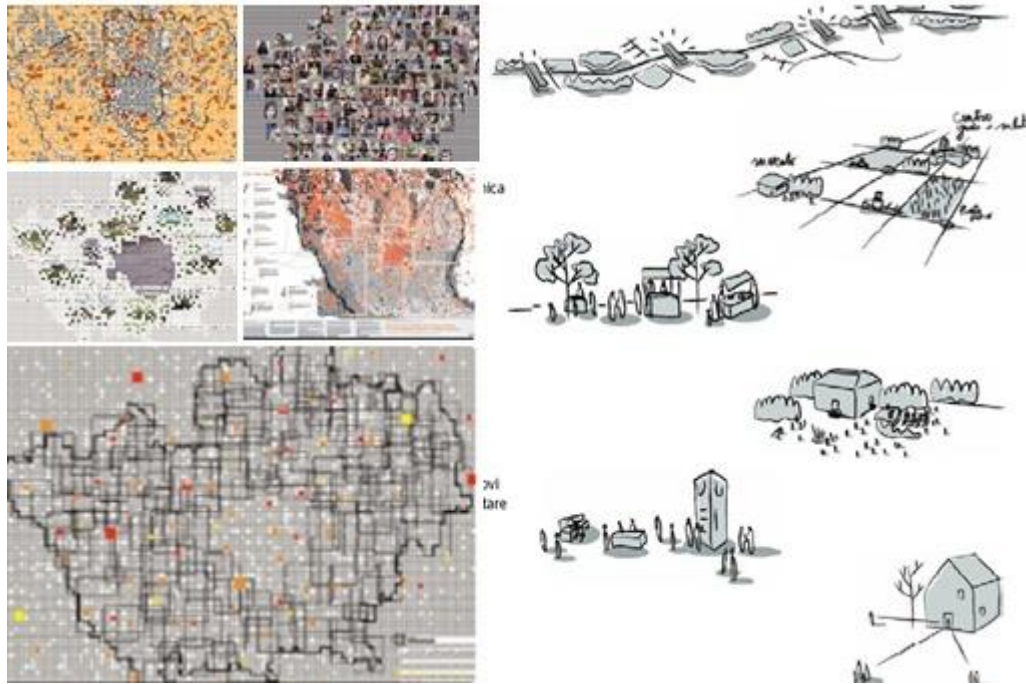


Figure 错误!文档中没有指定样式的文字。 -15 The diversity of the results of “The City of Cities”

Source: Citta di Citta

D Third stage: closeout phase

After the above major phases, the strategic plan comes to the closeout phase. The content of the third stage involves further developing the projects and the critical reconsideration of the first two phases to consolidate the achievements and make a mid-term assumption. Meanwhile, making an assessment of the achievements. The primary task is to make a preliminary study -- forming the guideline of the starting project. The six projects should be supported and supervised until they are well implemented.

The winner of the contest reached an agreement with the provincial government in this stage, to ensure the implementation of the project. The third phase has also determined the the starting problem of the urban

quality improving project -- housing issues.

Because of the huge success of the contest, the method and the vision of the strategic plan was widely accepted by the public of Milan and received a great deal of valuable suggestions. In the third stage, April of 2008, the research organization organized the second contest -- “urban quality improvement strategy implementation contest”

The aim of this contest is: to collect urban quality improvement suggestions in the practical perspective; trying to discover the potential of the municipal government, making them the key role in the development, establish more broad cooperation organization (including other municipal government and the participants of the first contest).

Meanwhile, a series of exhibitions that displayed the contents and the achievements of the strategic plan were toured across Milan’s urban areas. In this stage, the achievements in the earlier stages had also been assessed, The assessment emphasized on the detail and the complexity of the planning process.

(4) The result of this quality improvement actions in cities and towns

“ City of city -- Milan strategic plan ” opens a new term for the quality improvement work of Milan’s urban regions even the whole Italy. However, in the end the staff movement in the provincial government disturbed the implementation of the plan:

The government was not able to get reappointment after the election,

so those who were of the plan no longer have the authority. Therefore the plan was in difficulty in being carried out.

Although the plan is a innovation in management and could push forward the plan of regional development, its disadvantages emerge when the stuff was shifting: it could not build a lasting mechanism and was greatly affected by the governmental shift. It could be argued as very fragile. Its execution cycle was too long to adapt the four-year government. As a compensation, other strategic plans replaced the plan, such as “ World Expo region: To 2015 ”, which followed some of things in the “ City of City”. However, they are basically different in terms of the aim, the content and the method.

This problem should also be considered by the city designing circles in our country, the policy continuity, especially in the change of the state leadership. How to let the policy be continued, is the challenge that both Italy and China would have to face.

7.3.3 OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)’s suggestion for Milan’s urban quality improvement

In November of 2006, OECD published the “ OECD regional report: Milan, Italy ” in the “ Policy Briefs ”. Apart from the economic development and industrial function of Milan province, they also gave their conclusion to the urban development in Milan. This version of urban

quality promotion strategy emphasize the economic development quality of Milan's cities and towns.

OECD's report says, in the long run if Milan province does not make some changes it would lose its traditional competitiveness and would be unable to face the challenges from other European center cities. If Milan want to become a innovative service center in the dynamic industrial region, it is required to do the following:

- (1) Improve its innovation and attraction
- (2) Support the reform through a more inclusive management mechanism

Based on this, the report argued that Milan could upgrade itself to a power station serving for Italy or even bigger region rather than itself only. Such promotion required following three points:

- (1) manufacturing service:

Firstly, innovation does not necessarily mean the optimization of product and process, it could also be a reform of the system (especially in Italy, where a small-scale of company could produce high-quality products but can hardly promote its experience). In fact, the center of Milan has already started to offer part of the manufacturing services to improve the quality of small-sized companies: There are a variety of sophisticated designers who can offer high-level engineering design; the biggest headquarters of Italian banks could offer financial services;

advertisement companies and media enterprises could offer communication services; Rho-Pero, based on the most perfect exhibition and fairest system, could offer sales and PR. However these services had not been fully extended and applied. For example, although Milan possesses the most perfect academical and educational resources in Italy, the universities and research institutions had contributed limitedly to regional economic development. Enterprises, service suppliers, training institutions lack interaction. Even though the local enterprises make up the major frame of local economy, universities hardly cooperate with local enterprises. Therefore an innovative interactive department is required to coordinate the knowledge suppliers and users. This is not only for the supply of knowledge talent but also for the diffusion of core technology. Moreover, a system that ensures the persistent connection of these economic institutions and service continuous upgrading could make Milan a regional growth pole.

(2) breakthrough and innovative direction

Finding out the breakthrough and innovation direction for the market could be argued as paving the way for the region. Generally, the breakthrough and innovative direction were decided by universities and regional research institutions, and they need the public's support to extend and to push forward the local economy solving market problem. However, this process failed in Milan: on the one hand, from the

enterprises' view, they are unable to assert a claim to their innovative direction because they lack the sense of innovative direction; on the other hand, the universities and research institutions lack the will to work with local small enterprises. They prefer to do the research activities rather than the technology extension. And the expensive transaction cost is another reason for them not to do this. Therefore, the innovative policies should involve the innovation of the economic generalization and increase the interaction between universities and enterprises.

(3) international visibility

The world famous brands of Milan are still its key to maintain its status in the global market. Milan possesses some of the most outstanding brand activities, such as fashion activities and design activities. Speaking of fashion, Milan should deal properly with the relation between famous brands and unfamous designers. Public policies could strengthen synergistic effect on the fashion supply chain and the relation between fashion masters and small manufacture enterprises. As for the design, Milan has a great tradition on it, however it should be perfected.

From a long-term perspective, Milan's creative ability would keep decreasing -- because the low salary in Milan's metropolitan regions would keep the talents away. Milan's average income is just beyond the level of Italy, which is below 15 countries of EU. At the same time Milan's living cost is higher than other major cities in Europe (such as

Paris, Berlin, Madrid). Milan's famous universities are also less attractive to international students compared with other European universities, which indicates the further recession of Milan's creativity.

Some direct measures are needed to promote Milan's external connecting and habitability to develop Milan into high-valued, concept producing, knowledge-intensive service. These factors consist core resources of growth, including external front (attracting high-level human resources), and internal front (improve the regional level of knowledge exchange). In order to make synergy effect between production area and the core of service orientation, the interaction system, innovative extension, sufficient service are required and the demand of the expanding market must be met.

Through examining the unstable traffic structure in Milan, we can see if the management system does not change, then most of the problems would not be solved. In Milan, means of transportation are well allocated in cities' center, however in countryside they are very limited even blank. The vague function across governments at all levels, the restrictions on funding, staging of policy aggravate the stalemate in investments. Some experimental measures tried to solve the problem, but can only cover part of it.

7.4 The differences and similarities between two countries' improvement strategies of quality of cities and towns

7.4.1 The similarities between two countries' improvements

From the researches of Italy and China, we can see there are many similarities: both involve the promotion strategies like economic development of cities and towns, social harmony, social welfare, resources and environment, Eco-environment protection, housing security, infrastructures, public services and so forth. At the same time, Milan and Zhejiang also put forward similar industrial development strategies considering their own external challenges.

7.4.2 The differences between two countries' development phases

Our urban quality improvement researches' priorities are very similar to Italy's in 1980s: At that time Italy's economy is rapidly developing just like us now therefore the priorities at this phase focus on the economic development and city's competitiveness. For example, supporting the transformation of enterprises, strengthening land utilization, speeding up the structural transformation, increasing the soft power. Comparing with Italy in 1980, our country did not realize these things since the last ten years, its undeniable that there is a certain level of gap between our country and the advanced level.

However, currently Italy concerns more compared with the 1980s. In the " Milan's strategic plan " of 2007, in the six parts of Milan's urban quality improvement, only " innovation and commerce " one item is directly related to city's competitiveness and economic development, and

it was listed at last. The other five items care more about the life of residents, involving the housing problems, environmental problems, traffic problems, social integration, public space, cultural creation, people's entertainment etc..

7.4.3 The differences between methods of strategy-making of two countries

In our country, the pattern for strategy-making is mainly “ from top to bottom ”. The policy-makers majorly involve: government sectors, scientific research institutions, research organizations (citizens would participate the part for them).

While in Italy, even the government and the research institutions also lead the research of urban quality improvement, the “ from bottom to top ” pattern is more frequently adopted in the process of strategy-making.

Take “ Milan's strategic plan ” as an example: although the principal team of research is made up of professors of DIAP such as professor Alessandro Balducci, professor Valeria Fedeli et al., there are also other representatives from all walks of life: former officer of Milan provincial government (Daniela Gasparini), he brought huge administrative support to the committee; during the strategy making process, the programme team invited the community to join the programme: municipal government, representatives of employers and employees, chamber of

commerce, federation of environmental problems, scholars, representatives from the culture and art circles etc.. Such a diverse committee can meet different demand of various benefit groups in the society. As for the citizens, they vote for different schemes which is also an effective form of public participation.

Furthermore the urban quality improvement research in our country largely depends on the research institutions and the governmental departments which is a very closed environment. Even if there is the public participation, it is a very special stage in the whole closed process. The scientific research of researchers and scholars, the negotiation with the government, the case studies, the empirical researches, model building are the major ways in our country to promote urban quality.

While in Milan Italy, the Milan's Strategic Plan's promoting process is more open to the public, more like an experimental research process that participated by all: Milan's strategic plan is actually an experimental innovation. It is not a plan in the traditional sense. It is a guide that points the direction rather than interfering the evolution process of the city. Comparing with the strategic plans in our country, Milan strategic plan is more explorative and experimental. It is an interactive process that is more comprehensive and related to more aspects. It seeks resolution from various benefit groups to instruct the government and research institution to make urban quality promoting strategies.

7.4.4 The differences of the primary focuses on the promoting strategies between two countries

The priority in making urban quality promoting strategy of our country is: the economic development, social development, ecological environment, urban and rural overall development, the improvement of the urban development, city cluster building and other macroscopical strategies in the urban development process. We concern the urban development process in the perspective of macro urban development to examine the macro issues in the urbanization process. These issues are closely related to the healthy development of urbanization in our country. It could be argued as the national interest of the “national interest and people’s livelihood”.

We can see from Italy’s urban quality promoting strategies, Italy concerns more about life practices of city users (including citizens, enterprises, temporarily residents, public interest organizations etc.) and their feelings. There is a great part in the strategy that is about the satisfaction degree. Comparing with our country, Italy’s strategy is more about the national interest.

Chapter 8 Cause Analysis and Enlightenment of the Differences

8.1 Cause Analysis of the Differences

8.1.1 Different phases of urban development of two countries

The differences of two countries' researches on quality of cities and towns are majorly due to the different phase we are in. Our country is currently in a rapidly growing phase, from 2000 to 2013, the urbanization rate of our country has increased from 36.22% to 53.7%, the average growth rate per annum is 1.34% and is keep growing. In such a rapid urbanization process, population keeps shifting from rural area to the cities and towns, the employment turns from agricultural towards non-agricultural, urban construction lands keep expanding, thus making the key elements of cities and towns like living environment, means of transportation, ecological environment, social culture, ecological development, public space keep changing with the urbanization. If our country only pay attention to the static attribute of "quality of cities and towns", it could not instruct the urban development of our country roundly. Therefore, the most of our researches were about "urbanization quality".

However Italy had been in the stable period for a long time, in the forty years from 1970 to 2012, the urbanization rate of Italy had only increased by 4.6%. Its big development time is over, most of Italy's cities are stably

developing, stop developing or even in a decline. The above mentioned cities and towns all come to the stabling phase. How to promote the existing stable elements is the topic that the urbanization comes to a stabling phase. Therefore, the research on the urban quality could effectively help the urban development of Italy.

Furthermore, the different economic development phase also lead to the different researches on urban quality. In 1980s, Italy was in a rapid economic growth, therefore Italy's priority on urban quality promotion was: enterprise transformation, land utilization, human resources, structural transformation and soft power, which are very similar to what our country is concerning now. That is to say, when two countries are in a fast growth period, the priorities are all about the development elements and competence factor of the cities and towns, and see the economic development as the first development goal. While in today's Italy, the development is slowing down. Therefore, Italy's researches on urban quality are turning to the internal front, especially the ability for a city to reshape itself and to serve people.

8.1.2 The difference between urban administrative systems of two countries

The urban quality research pattern of our country is “from top to bottom” and Italy is “from bottom to top”. This difference has a lot to do with the administrative systems.

We have mentioned the administrative system in our country previously. Such system makes every level of government has the most decisive implication to the urban development. Therefore, doing research from the point of view of governmental management could guide the work of our government more purposefully thus helping the cities and towns developing healthily.

While in Italy, provincial government has a very weak power, which is weaker than the municipal government. Even if the power of municipal government, its much more weaker than the power of our government of all levels. The power is in the hand of all walks of life of Italy, the society dominates the urban development in Italy. Therefore, the “from bottom to top” research is more consistent with Italy’s national circumstance.

8.1.3 The cultural differences

Two countries have different research perspectives, our country emphasizes on the government perspective, the integral development of country and region. While Italy emphasize on the individuals. The has to do with the cultural tradition:

NanYing Sha points out in the *Analyses the differences between Chinese and western human rights*: The Western has always emphasized on the concept of “natural person”, i.e. the natural attribute of human beings, individuals, selfishness and separability; by contrast, our country emphasizes “social person”. The concept of “individual follows

people ” has a long history. The social attribute and dependent attribute are what our country understand about human beings.

According to the above, we can partly know why our research pays attention to push forward the development of the country as a whole, while Italy concerns more about the satisfaction of individuals.

8.1.4 The cause of the differences and the analysis on the cause and the implication

According to the above mentioned differences in urban quality researches and the analysis on these differences, I tried to match the cause of the differences to the differences themselves (of course, there is a comprehensive reason behind every difference, I am just trying to show which cause is more close to the specific difference): Among them, the difference of urban quality connotation is due to the cultural difference and different phases of development; the different evaluation system has to do with the different developing phase, urban ministrative system, cultural customs; the difference in the urban development evaluation system is primarily due to the different administrative systems and the implication of different cultures. Finally, the different urban quality promotion strategies have more to do with the different urban development phases and administrative systems.

8.2 The enlightenments that the differences bring about

8.2.1 Our research on quality of cities and towns should be

separated from the urbanization quality

The first enlightenment that this research brings about is that we should separate the “urbanization quality” from

Currently there is no separate research on “quality of cities and towns”. There is even very few definition of it. There is a tendency in our academic circle that mix the research of “urbanization quality” with “quality of cities and towns”. However, we can now see they are different concept, even if some parts of them are similar. Therefore, it is more scientific and more responsible to do researches respectively.

As we mentioned above, in the rapid growing phase of urbanization, the research on urbanization quality is more important than the research on quality of cities and towns, while the urbanization gets to a stable period, the quality of cities and towns becomes more important. Since our country is at the turn of the process, we should separate the two concepts apart to guide the urban development in our country in a more effective way.

8.2.2 The enlightenments that “people foremost” urban quality research perspective brings about

Although our country is still in a rapid growth phase of urbanization and economic development, no matter the urban quality or the urbanization quality should be based on people. Although the administrative system of our country is what leads to the “from top to

bottom” pattern of our urban quality research, we ought to be courage to acknowledge the problem and limitation of the current system -- which is not able to reflect the individual’s demand. We should put more consideration to the individuals, finding the way to solve the problems of quality of cities and towns in the perspective of citizens. Decreasing the macro narration, respecting the micro reality.

We can see from today’s Italy, the research on urban quality is how “ people foremost”: They pay attention to the life and production change of the city users thus adjusting the urban quality improvement strategy; While paying attention to the facilities in the cities, they view the comfort level as important as the construction of these facilities; they constantly observe the various change of the society, no matter the housing demand or the family structure. These micro changes could alter the whole process of the development of cities and towns. These are what our country could use for reference.

8.2.3 The enlightenment that Italy’s urban quality evaluation indicator brings about

Italy’s selection of urban quality evaluation indicator has a profound guiding significance.

Doing research on same topic’s different indicator on the one hand offers us the difference of research priorities, on the other hand Italy’s indicators could reflect the urban quality problems more effectively.

Zhejiang province and other regions in our country could use these indicators as reference in assessing the quality of cities and towns.

However this requires the statistical department of our country to look for gaps from the statistical indicators of Italy's statistical department: In fact there is no difference in the statistical categories, however the slight difference in the statistical content could lead to an immense practical difference. For example there is a great deal of statistical data about the quantity of local enterprises in our country's statistics, while in Italy the corresponding statistics are about the ratio of enterprises that go bankrupt in one year which could more effectively reflect the status of the local enterprises. Again, there is statistics in our country concerns the proportion of teenagers but none of them reflects the number of entrepreneurs out of ten thousand teenagers, however the latter could better reflect the regional development prospect.

8.2.4 The enlightenment that Italy's urban quality promotion strategy brings to our country

Many urban quality promotion strategies of Italy could bring our country enlightenment:

First of all, the urban quality improvement is endogenic, considering from the current situation rather than the exogenous development. This is due to the fact that when the urbanization is stable, cities lost the chance of development and expansion to improve the quality, thus the quality

improvement issues can only be dealt by the existing situation. Improving the quality of existing facilities, forming a unitary system, improving the utilization efficiency of the existing resources etc.. Since our country begin to enter a deceleration phase of urbanization, altering the extensive form of urban development pattern, learning from Italy is very useful to the urban development in our country.

Secondly, paying attention to the social force. The social force researches in Italy's urban quality improvement researches should be paid attention to. Improving the urban quality as well as the urbanization quality could not be done by the government or the research institutions only. Without the support of social forces, no matter how good the strategy is, it would not be well implemented. Even if the strategies themselves, due to the fact that the perspective is too general, they would not be the best. Using the social force in Italy's urban quality improvement strategy should be learned by us.

Thirdly, in Italy's urban quality improvement researches, they pay a great attention to the floating population and immigration. However, we have been ignoring these people in our researches.

Fourthly, although comparing with the urbanization quality, the quality of cities and towns is a statical concept, Italy's urban quality researches start from the researches of change in Italy's cities and towns, including social structural change, the change of people's demand etc.. The research

techniques that starts from the changes are also what could be learned by us.

Fifthly, the implementation of the strategy would always be disturbed by the transition of the government. Although the continuity of our government is better than Italy's, this issue should also be paid attention to by our country.

8.2.5 The enlightenment that Italy's "reverse urban studies" brings to our country

We have mentioned before that Italy's urbanization rate had exceeded 60% since 1970, rural area became the minority of the territory. Therefore, the "reverse urban studies" came into exist, the villages became the research subject, from this perspective they viewed the urban issues. Because of the shrinking of the research subject, the research became clearer. Due to the change of the research perspective, the conclusion became more distinctive. It is a fair supplement of the urban researches, which has to do with the urban and rural development, food security etc..

In 2011, the urbanization rate of our country succeeded 50% for the first time, "reverse urban studies" could be the next destination of our research.

Chapter 9 Conclusion

9.1 The Conclusion and Innovation Points

Through comparing the urban quality researches of Italy and China, the conclusion could be drawn as following:

Firstly, on the urban quality point of view. China and Italy pay different degree of attention to the connotation of “urban quality”; two countries have different perspectives on the urban quality connotation. Italy concerns more on the daily life of people, emphasizing the urban competitiveness and development ability; moreover, Italy’s sorting technique in urban quality connotation emphasizes more on the interaction of all levels of connotation, while our country did the research separately.

Secondly, on the urban quality evaluation system establishment. Italy’s evaluation system concentrates on whether the city users are satisfied by paying attention to users’ feeling and efficiency. In contrary, our evaluation system concentrates on the urban development level, majorly reflecting the economic attribute and competitiveness of cities and towns and the propulsive efficiency of urban economic development.

Thirdly, on the urban quality evaluation methodology. Italy’s individual based weighting method is very different with our statistical based weighting method; and Italy’s urban quality assessment result is published in various ways (newspapers, magazines, websites, news etc.).

Furthermore, all city users could according to their own need to customize their evaluation system, while China's evaluation result is majorly used by government.

Fourthly, on the improvement of urban quality. In our country, the urban quality research pattern is "from top to bottom", while in Italy, although the dominating force is also the government and research institutions, in the strategy making process it is the "from bottom to top" pattern that is adopted by Italy. At the same time, the policy making priority is also different since China concerns more about the national interest while Italy concerns people's interest.

The possible innovation point and subject contribution would be as following:

Firstly, this paper brings Italy's urban quality research to our country for the first time and at the same time systemizes it and makes comparison with the related researches of our country, which supplement the blank in Italian urban quality issues for our country.

Secondly, this paper compares the "urbanization quality" with the "urban quality", pointing out the difference in content, suggesting the separate research, avoiding confusion.

Thirdly, this paper collects and analyzes primary source and method of Italy's urban quality research, making full use of international academic communication platform, bring our country the world's most advanced

experience for our country to use for reference to establish the most reasonable urban quality research system.

9.2 Research Shortage and Prospects

This paper compares the concept, the evaluation system, the evaluation methodology and the promotion strategy, lacking actual case based quantitative research. Meanwhile, Italy's urban quality evaluation system is majorly aiming for the regions that have a high urbanization level, i.e. the Italy that is about to enter the mature phase of urbanization, lacking the research on the earlier stage of urban quality evaluation system.

In the light of the above shortage, the future studies could use Italy's urban quality evaluation system to make empirical analysis on China's cities or use China's system to evaluate Italy's cities. Thereby, we could achieve new enlightenment from the cross differences in the evaluation results. Meanwhile, we could also make further summaries and conclusion on Italy's earlier urbanization and rapid growth period, to perfect the reference research of Italy's experience.

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