

Expo Shanghai 2010

5th Expo Theme Forum in Shaoxing (Zhejiang Province), China

“Economic Transformation and Urban-Rural Relations”

September 9 – 10, 2010

Balancing economic development with harmonious relationship between urban and rural areas is a global challenge facing both developed and developing countries in this urbanized era; as such, it is a key theme in our efforts to meet the major development objectives of our time.

The 5th Expo Theme Forum, “Economic Transformation and Urban-Rural Relations,” therefore examined the impact of economic transformation on urban-rural relations, focusing in particular on the following areas: 1) how to balance economic transformation and sustainable development in the context of globalization, 2) how economic transformation can benefit not only urban but also rural areas, and 3) how to realize development that is achieved jointly between urban and rural areas as well as between cities themselves.

Six sessions were held during the forum:

“A Thematic Dialogue: Urbanization, Economic Transformation and Enterprises Responses”

Summary: Under the dual pressures of declining resources and the financial crisis, economic transformation has become a common preoccupation for cities around the world. Economic transformation comprises changes in policy and market environments, and these changes pose an array of challenges in how our enterprises operate and produce their goods and services. Two main topics were: the interplay between urbanization and economic transformation as well as the challenges and opportunities brought to businesses by economic transformation.

“Urban-Rural Interaction and Public Services Equalization”

Summary: In the course of economic development, a divide exists between urban and rural areas, both in developed and developing countries. The experience of developed countries shows that the pace of economic growth will be unbalanced between the two areas for some time. This imbalance can be seen currently in China and many other developing countries. The main factor of the divide lies in the advantages enjoyed by cities, including more effective governing systems, policies, investments, and public services. The session focused on how to achieve a more balanced development in the two zones by equalizing public services and other factors.

“Growth Modes Transformation and Sustainable Economic Development”

Summary: The sharp increase in urban economic activities has put more pressure on resources and the environment, which in turn impedes local development. It is crucial, therefore, that urban planners change their traditional growth model and make sustainable development a key objective.

“Population Mobility and Social Integration”

Summary: The influx of surplus rural labor into cities is inevitable during industrialization. Most developed countries have experienced this stage, while developing countries are only now dealing with a massive movement of labor and immigrants and the social problems that follow. Against the backdrop of the economic crisis, employment and social stability among migrant workers have become dominant concerns for city managers in many developing countries, including China.

“Economic Integration of City Clusters in the Context of Globalization”

Summary: As globalization spreads, economic competition has shifted from between countries to between cities. Experience shows that the rise of a city to world prominence depends on close economic relations and resource integration with its neighboring region in order to build a stronger economic base. The session focused on the issues involved in the development of city clusters in a more competitive world as well as Shanghai’s efforts to build itself into a global financial center and how the city interacts with the surrounding Yangtze River Delta region.

“Local Leaders Roundtable: Villages, Towns and Small Cities in a Global Context”

Summary: While many villages, towns, and small cities find themselves unable to fully participate in the full range of economic activities taking place worldwide, their successes and failures can have a major bearing on the global economy. The roundtable brought together mayors from counties and small cities from around the world to share their experiences.

About the host city

Shaoxing, with a population of 4.37 million inhabitants, boasts a rich cultural and historical heritage dating back 2,500 years. Considered a modern economic powerhouse in China, Shaoxing has been designated by the World Bank as one of the country’s six “golden cities” for its strong investment environment.

The Shaoxing forum was jointly organized by the National Development and Reform Commission of China, Executive Committee of Expo 2010 Shanghai China, the World Bank, and the Shaoxing Municipal Government,

About Expo Theme Forums

Each of the six Theme Forums is designed to explore in depth one aspect of the EXPO 2010 overall theme of “Better City, Better Life.” The conclusions of each Theme Forum will be incorporated into the Shanghai Declaration, to be presented at the end of the Expo during the Summit Forum.

Each Theme Forum is held in a different city in the Yangtze River Delta region. The Theme Forums are considered as an opportunity not only for the Expo to leverage its messages beyond Shanghai but also for these neighbor cities in the region to show their support for the event.

5th Expo Theme Forum - Program and speakers

Opening Ceremony

ZHANG Ping

Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, PRC

James ADAMS

Vice President, World Bank

ZHAO Hongzhu

Secretary of the CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee

YU Zhengsheng

Member of the Political Bureau of CPC Central Committee; Secretary of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee; First Deputy Director-General of the National Organizing Committee of Expo 2010 Shanghai China; Director of the Executive Committee of Expo 2010 Shanghai China

Plenary Session: Economic Transformation and Urban-rural Relations

Eric MASKIN

Professor of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University, U.S.

Nobel Laureate in Economics 2007

“Rural and Urban China, Globalization and Inequality”

Romano PRODI

Former President, European Commission

Former Prime Minister, Italy

“New Era, New Challenges and New Vision: Building a Future for All”

Joschka FISCHER

Former Foreign Minister & Former Vice Chancellor, Germany

“Economic Transformation and the Climate Challenge: A European Perspective”

LI Yang

Vice President, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Director, Institute of Finance and Banking, CASS

“Balanced Development between Urban and Rural Regions: from the perspective of National Income Distribution”

Saskia SASSEN

Professor of Sociology; Member of Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University, U.S

“Novel Spatial Formats: Beyond Urban versus Rural”

Thematic Dialogue: Urbanization, Economic Transformation, and Enterprises Responses

ZHU Xiaoming

Vice Chairman of the CPPCC Shanghai

President, CEIBS

“Subdivision Restructuring and Economic Transformation”

LI Daokui

Professor of Finance, Tsinghua University

Member, Monetary Policy Committee, People’s Bank of China

“New Style Urbanization Based on Market Mechanism”

FAN Gang

Director, National Economic Research Institute, China Reform Foundation

“Urbanization and Effective Implementation of Public Policies”

Simon CHEN

Chairman, EVOC Hi-Tech Holdings Group

“Encouraging Innovation for Transformation of Growth Patterns and Sustainable Economic Development”

XU Huang

Chairman & Co-CEO, Mindray Medical International

Parallel Session 1: Urban-rural Interaction and Public Services Equalization

KE Bingsheng

President, China Agricultural University

“Reducing Rural-Urban Disparities in China”

LI Peilin

Professor & Director, Institute of Sociology, China Academy of Social Sciences

President, Chinese Sociological Association

“A New Stage of Development and Social Reform in China”

Klaus DEININGER

Lead Economist, Development Economics Group, World Bank

“Urban-rural Integration and Public Services Equalization”

QIAN Jianmin

Mayor of Shaoxing, China

“Creating a Livable City and an Eco-friendly Environment”

ZUO Xuejin

Executive Vice President & Senior Research Fellow, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

“Rural-urban Interaction: Promoting Equality in Public Services and Development”

Antonio MELOTO

Chairman, Gawad Kalinga Community Development Foundation, Philippines

“Building a Nation from the Ground Up: The Gawad Kalinga Initiative”

LIU Minquan

Professor & Director, Center for Human and Economic Development Studies, Peking University

“Urbanization and Sustainable Development from a Human Development Perspective”

Parallel Session 2: Growth Modes of Transformation and Sustainable Economic Development

XIAO Lin

Deputy Director-General, Development and Reform Commission, Shanghai

President, Shanghai Academy of Development and Reform

“Promoting the Economic Transformations of Shanghai by New Concepts and New Patterns”

John DONAHOE

President & CEO, eBay Inc.

“The Importance of Empowering Entrepreneurs”

CHEN Huan

Deputy Director-General, China CDM Fund Management Center, Ministry of Finance, PRC

“Low Carbon Development and the China CDM Fund”

Vikram NEHRU

Chief Economist & Director for Poverty Reduction and Economic Management and Private and Financial Sector Department, East Asia & Pacific Region, World Bank

“Making Urbanization Inclusive”

WANG Yi

Deputy Director-General & Professor, Institute of Policy and Management, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Team Leader and Chief Scientist, CAS China Sustainable Development Strategy Study Group

“Transforming China’s Economic Development through Green Development”

JIN Liangshun

Chairman & President, Jinggong Group

“A Program of Transformation and Upgrading Promotes the Sustainable Development of Enterprises”

Federica BUSA

Advisor of the Secretary-General & Director of Communication, BIE

“World Expos and Public Entrepreneurship: Driving Economic Transformations in the Global World”

Parallel Session 3: Population Mobility and Social Integration

Li Qiang

Dean, School of Humanities & Social Sciences

Professor & Chair, Department of Sociology, Tsinghua University

“Population Mobility and Social Integration”

Peter RAMSDEN

Thematic Pole Manager, URBACT, EU

“Cities and Migrant Integration: Paradoxes and Opportunities”

CAI Fang

Director, Institute of Population and Labor Economics, “Chinese Academy of Social Sciences”

Dudley POSTON

Professor of Sociology, Texas A&M University, U.S

“Migration to the United States, a Country of Immigrants: Challenges, Debates and Perspectives”

Kenji KOSAKA

Professor, School of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan

“Group Employment and Japan’s High Economic Growth”

Parallel Session 4: Economic Integration of City Clusters in the Context of Globalization”

Vladimir N. KNYAGININ

Director, Center for Strategic Research “North-West,” Russia

“Russia: the Goal of Metropolitanization”

CUI Zhiyuan

Professor, School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University

Assistant Director, Chongqing Municipal State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission

“Innovation in Household Registry Reform in Urban and Rural Areas in Chongqing”

Sahid YUSUF

Consultant, World Bank
“Cluster Development 2.0: Innovating to Grow”

Edward LEMAN
President, Chreod Ltd.
“Facilitating China’s Metropolitanization Through Accessibility Improvements”

Local Leaders Roundtable: Villages, Towns and Small Cities in a Global Context

Gorica DIMCIC-TASIC
Mayor, Svilajnac, Serbia

Adolfo Antonio FETTER Jr.
Mayor, Pelotas, Brazil

Madelaine Alfelor-GAZMEN
Mayor, Iriga, Philippines

GUO Baocheng
Secretary, CPC Shenmu County Committee

Mirjam SALET
Mayor, Spijkenisse, Netherlands

WU Renbao
Former Secretary, CPC Huaxi Village Committee

Closing Plenary

Toshio NAKAMURA
President, Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Secretary-General, Japan Association for World Expo 2005 Aichi Japan

ZHONG Yanqun
Fulltime Deputy Director of the Executive Committee of Expo 2010 Shanghai China