

Preface

China's economic and social development is growing by leaps and bounds since the introduction of reform and open door policy in the late 1970s. Cities, coastal cities in particular, play very important roles not only in the process of industrialization and wealth accumulation, but also in the unprecedented pace of urbanization and regionalization. Numerous studies have focused on various dimensions of the development in the coastal cities, especially Shanghai and Shenzhen. The first 30 years of opening and reform was a period of capital, knowledge, and skill accumulation for the Chinese cities to catch up their counterparts in the developed economies and go back to the global economic platform. Fruitful achievements were found but problems and challenges emerged at the same time. Unsustainable way of development, the need of economic restructuring at both local and national levels, and the better way to intervene the further growth of cities *per se* are the examples. Thus there is no wonder that, in the next 30 years of opening and reform, sustainability, competitiveness, transformation, and so on should be the goals and focuses of development. From a British colony to a special administrative region of China, Hong Kong has been playing a crucial role in China's rise. With rapid development in mainland cities, Hong Kong is facing both challenges and opportunities. Chinese cities are now in a brand new spatio-temporal context, as well as new domestic and global circumstances. Therefore, the new directions and goals of development need special attention.

While numerous research efforts on individual Chinese cities can be found, there are not many special research projects dedicated to Chinese cities in general in recent years. For this reason, the authors are interested to examine the latest development of the selected seven leading coastal cities from three regions in Southern and Eastern China. They are Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong from Greater Pearl River Delta region, Fuzhou from the Taiwan Strait West region, and Shanghai, Hangzhou and Nanjing from the Yangtze River Delta region. The authors will empirically investigate the direction of socio-economic and urban development of the coastal cities in question, and will also theoretically analyze the approaches, courses, and models of urban and regional development. While major socio-economic plans and urban plans of the six mainland cities are studied,

Hong Kong is examined by a case study of the challenges and responses of its logistics industry in the context of rising mainland cities. Thanks are due to Prof. Xiaolong Luo at the Department of Urban Planning and Design, Nanjing University for his help in the preparation of Chap. 7 on Nanjing. Ms. Ting Jin provided needed research assistance in the research of the logistics industry in Hong Kong for the Hong Kong chapter (Chap. 8). Dr. Lei Wang has helped to read the draft of the whole book. The project is supported by the Research Centre for Urban and Regional Development of Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies (HKIAPS), the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Shatin, NT, Hong Kong
June 2016

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Development and Planning in Seven Major Coastal
Cities in Southern and Eastern China

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2017, XVI, 261 p. 68 illus., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-46420-6