



Module 1: Nature and Functions of Urban Planning

Nature and Functions of Urban Planning

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Outline

- **Types and Functions of Plans in General**
- **Current, Changing Context for Planning in China**
- **Essential Nature and Functions of Urban Planning**



Type of Planning I: Design

- **Blueprints, e.g.**
 - Architectural Design
 - Shop drawings
 - Electrical Diagram
 - Project Plan
- **Defined Parameters, Full control on details of Output, Input and Schedule**
 - Goals and End Vision – Drawings and Models
 - Difficult in large and changing contexts

Type of Planning II: Strategy

- **Plan of Action; Rules and Directions to respond to many possible variables, e.g.**
 - Military strategy and tactics (original meaning)
 - Monetary policy actions
 - Disease control program
 - City development Strategy
- **Broad goals, Control of own input but Little control over External variables:**
 - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats



Type of Planning III: Regulation

- **Rules for Action and Outcomes to comply**
e.g.
 - **Pollution discharge rules**
 - **Investment rules**
 - **Density zoning**
 - **Building regulations**
- **Standards more than goals**
- **Weak control over actions, but focus on guidance and monitoring**



Changing Context of Planning: Changes and Growth

- **Rapid Changes and Growth**
 - **Market Mechanisms**
 - **Economic growth, mostly non-state sector and suburban areas**
 - **Economic and environmental spill-over across administrative boundaries**
- **More overall resources**
Less control, especially for government
More and stronger entities to act
Larger areas and variables to cover
- **Need to guide and facilitate rather than command**



Essence of City: Density and Externalities

- **Essence of City = Many activities close together**
- **Externalities: Lack or ineffectiveness of price**

Positive: Agglomeration economies

Efficiency of public goods, e.g. roads

Negative – more damage in high density

Congestion, Noise

Pollution beyond absorptive capacity



Essence of Urban Planning: Harnessing Externalities

- **Urban Planning:**
 - **Fit various plans together within confined space (sectoral synthesis)**
 - **Locate and allocate land to various of activities and structures (Land Use & Infrastructure Plans)**
 - **Set standards and rules (zoning) for various land use**
- **to maximize positive externalities and minimize negatives**

Essential Nature of Urban Planning

- **Longer-Term than most**
- **Comprehensive, multi-sectoral**
- **Consequences of focus on land and structures**
- ❖ **Need to work with sectoral authority**
e.g. zoning vs rules for environment, traffic, etc
- ❖ **Need to focus on spatial externalities and go broad**
Less need in China for comprehensiveness
- ❖ **Need for broad implementation schedule**
- ❖ **Need for adaptation to changes and uncertainties**



Presenters

- **Jeff Soule – Urban Planning in USA**
 - **Context of no economic planning, increased participation**
 - **Evolution from blueprint to strategy**
- **Alain Bertaud**
 - **urban planning failures and success in world**
 - **Focus on interaction between plans and markets**
- **Mats Andersson**
 - **City Development Strategy**
- **Zhao Shixiu**
 - **Alternatives to urban planning !**