



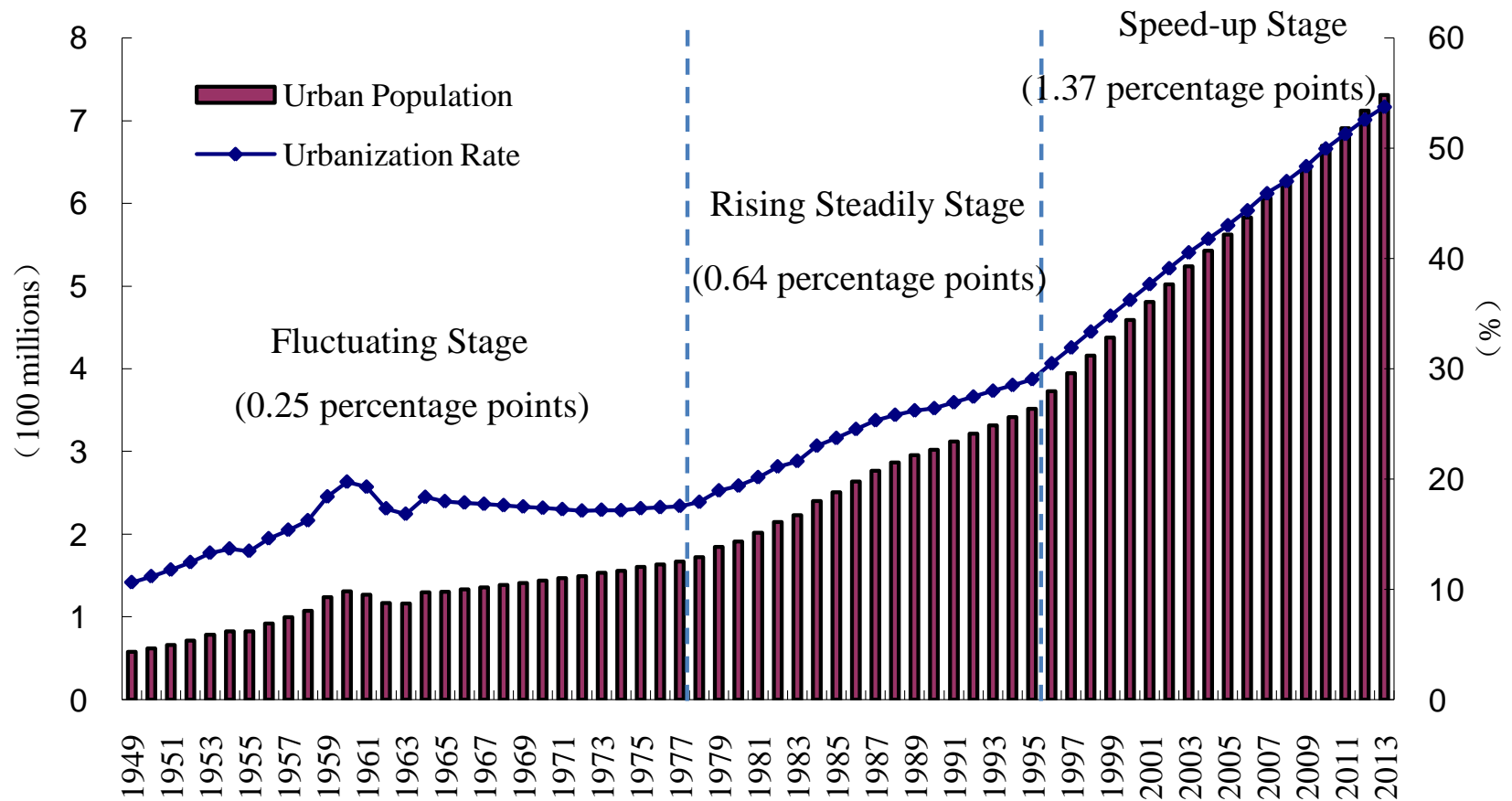
# China's Urbanization: Process and Prospect

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**WEI Houkai**

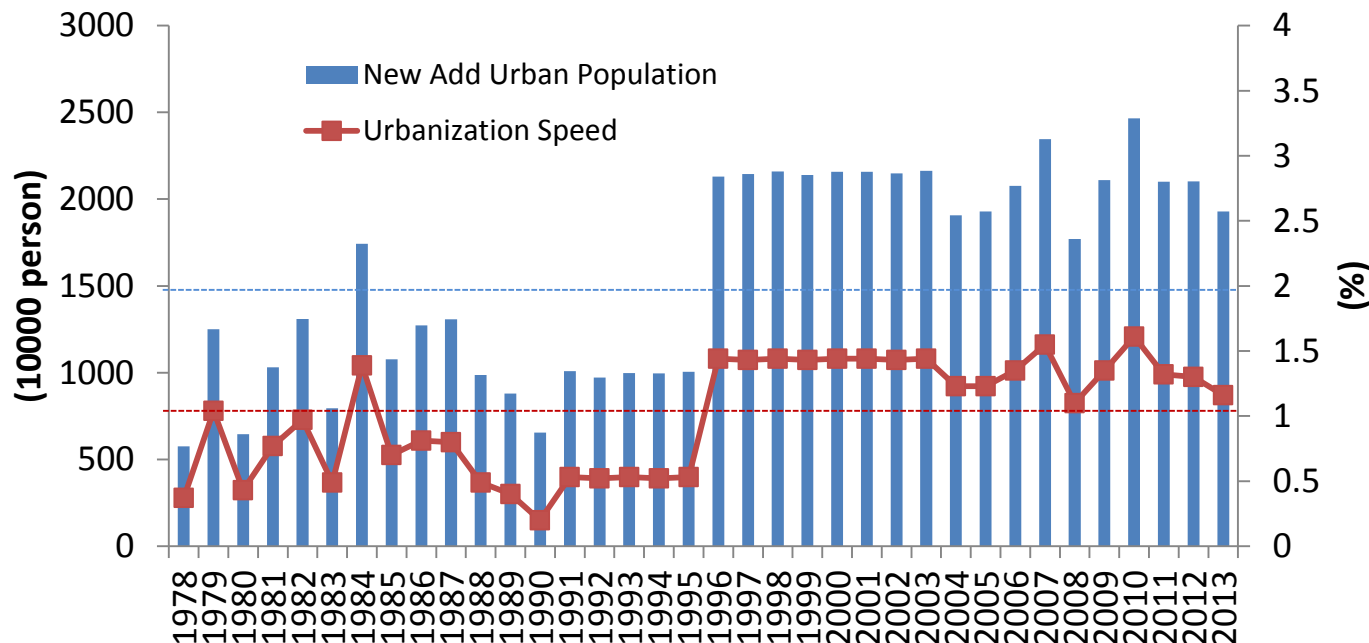
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# The Stages of Urbanization in China



# Urbanization of China: starting low, progressing fast, involving mass

- From 1978 to 2013, the urbanization rate of China ascends from 17.92% to 53.73%, a growth of 1.02 percentage points per year on average, of which from 1996 to 2013, China's urbanization rate increases 1.37 percentage points annually, which is 2.1 times the speed between 1978 and 1995, and 5.5 times the pace before China's reform and opening.

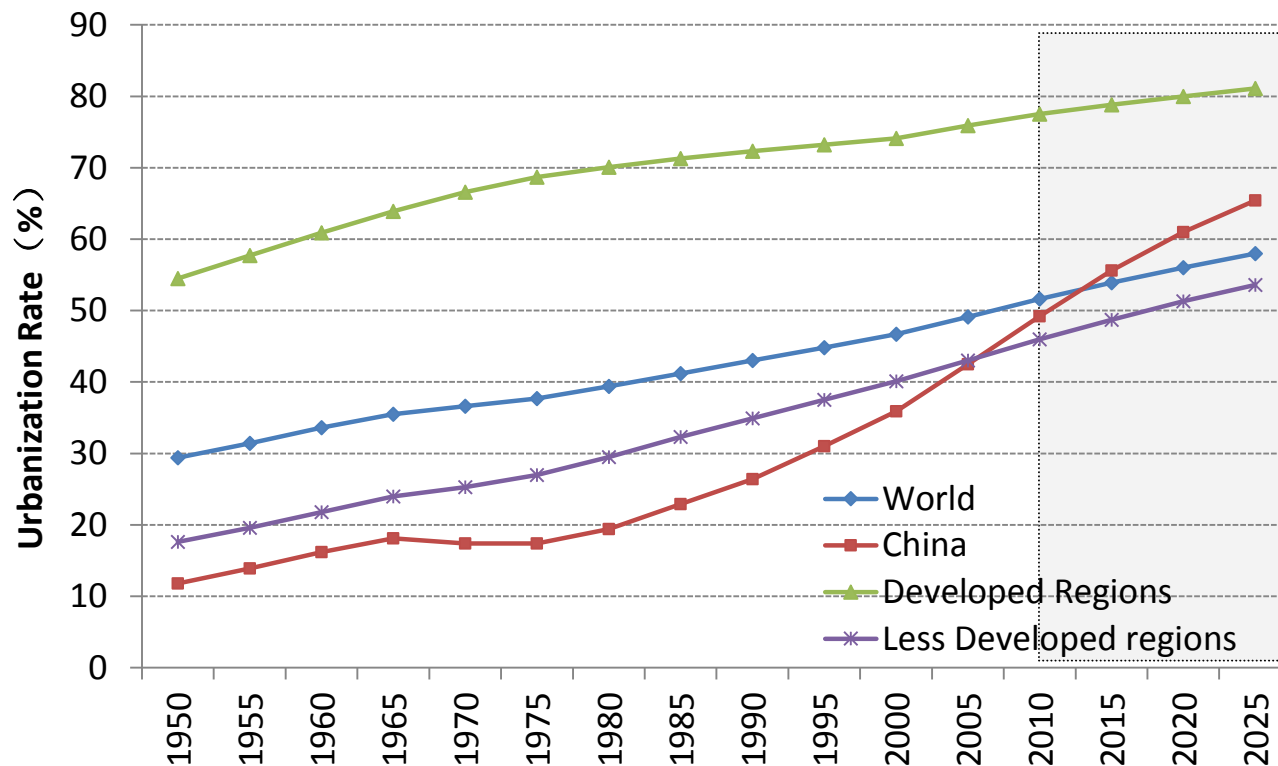


## Urbanization Speed in Different Periods

Period	Year	Annual average growth of urban population (million people)	Annual average growth of urbanization rate (percentage point)
6th Five-Years Plan	1981~1985	11.91	0.86
7th Five-Years Plan	1986~1990	10.20	0.54
8th Five-Years Plan	1991~1995	9.96	0.53
9th Five-Years Plan	1996~2000	21.46	1.44
10th Five-Years Plan	2001~2005	20.61	1.35
11th Five-Years Plan	2006~2010	21.53	1.39
12th Five-Years Plan	2011~2013	20.44	1.26



- China's urbanization rate increased 0.99 percentage point annually from 1981 to 2010, while at the same time the whole world grew 0.41 with the developed economies' 0.25 and the less developed economies' 0.55.
- China's urban population reached 731 million in 2013, which made the urbanization climb up to 53.73%, **higher than the average of the world.**



**The urbanization rates in China and the rest of the world (1950~2025)**



# Unbalanced distribution of urban population, Huge gap between regions' urbanization rates

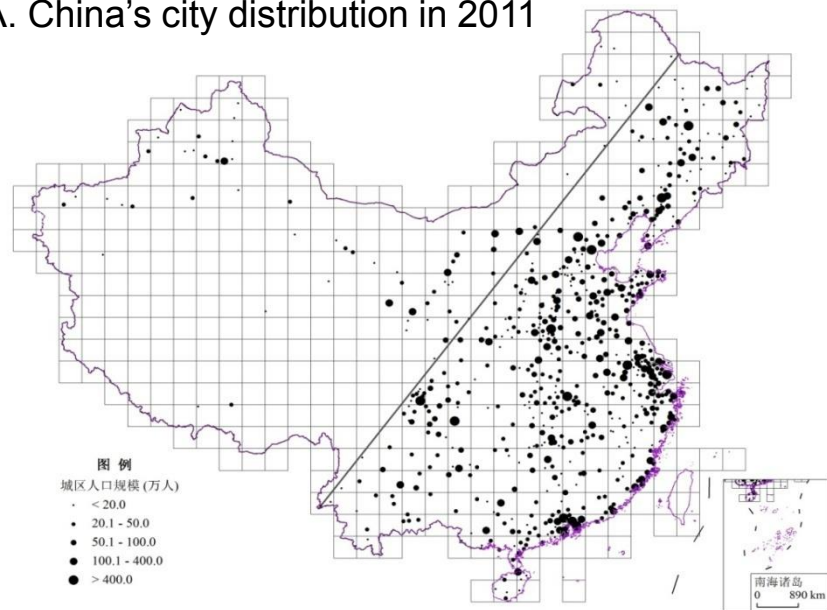
- In the year of 2012, **47% of China's urban population lived in the Central and Western Regions**, and 44% lived in the Eastern Region.
- The area on the east of Hu's line occupies 45% of the whole country's territory, but host 89.6% of the cities and 94.3% of the urban residents.

## The distribution of cities in the two areas divided by Hu's line (2011)

Item		Total	More than 2 million	1 -2 million	0.5-1 million	0.2-0.5 million	Less than 0.2 million
Whole country	City number	657	35	38	99	267	218
	Proportion of urban population (%)	100.0	43.0	12.5	17.0	20.4	7.2
East of Hu's line	City number	<b>589</b>	34	33	96	245	181
	Proportion of urban population (%)	<b>94.3</b>	42.2	10.6	16.5	18.7	6.2
West of Hu's line	City number	68	1	5	3	22	37
	Proportion of urban population (%)	5.7	0.7	1.8	0.5	1.7	1.0

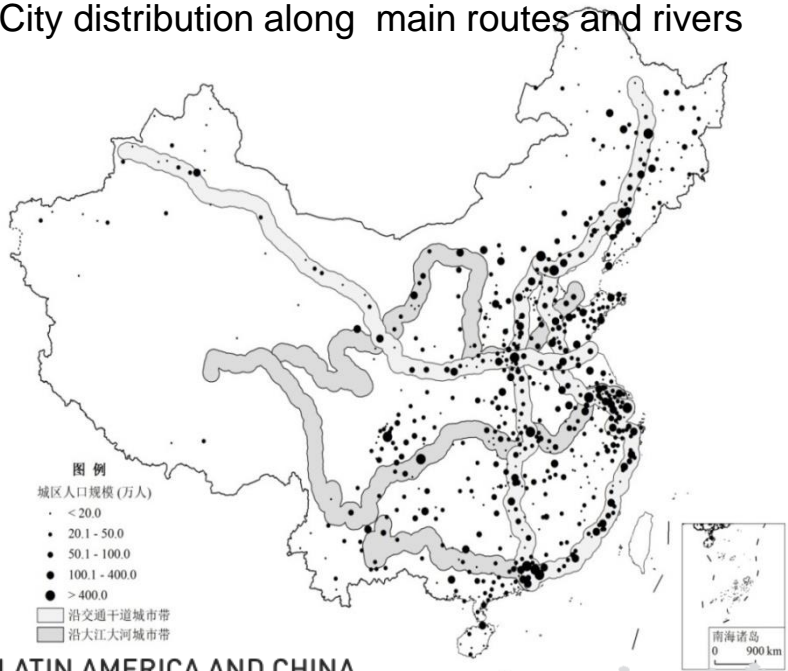


A. China's city distribution in 2011

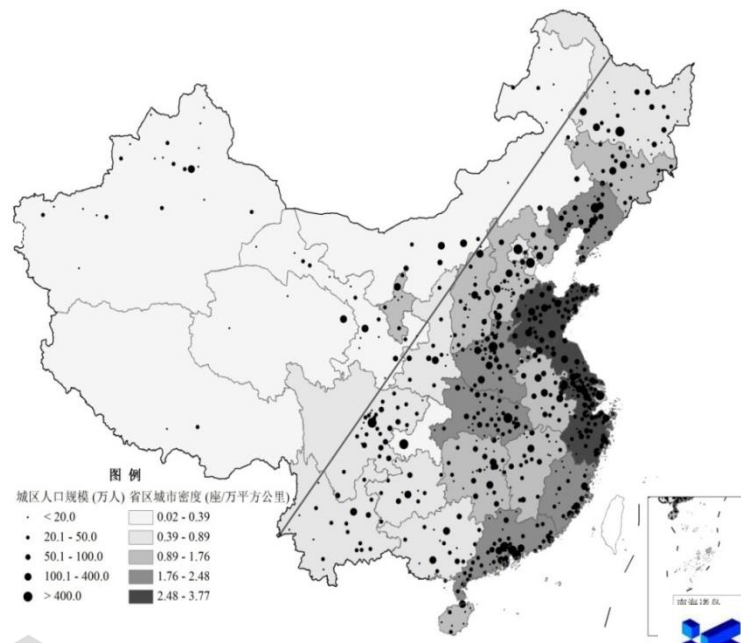


# The Spatial Feature of City Distribution in China

B. City distribution along main routes and rivers



C. City distribution in different provinces



## Big gap between the East and West Region on urbanization rate

- 2.2 percentage points in 1980
- 13.3 percentage points in 1995
- 18.3 percentage points in 2010
- **17.1 percentage points in 2012**

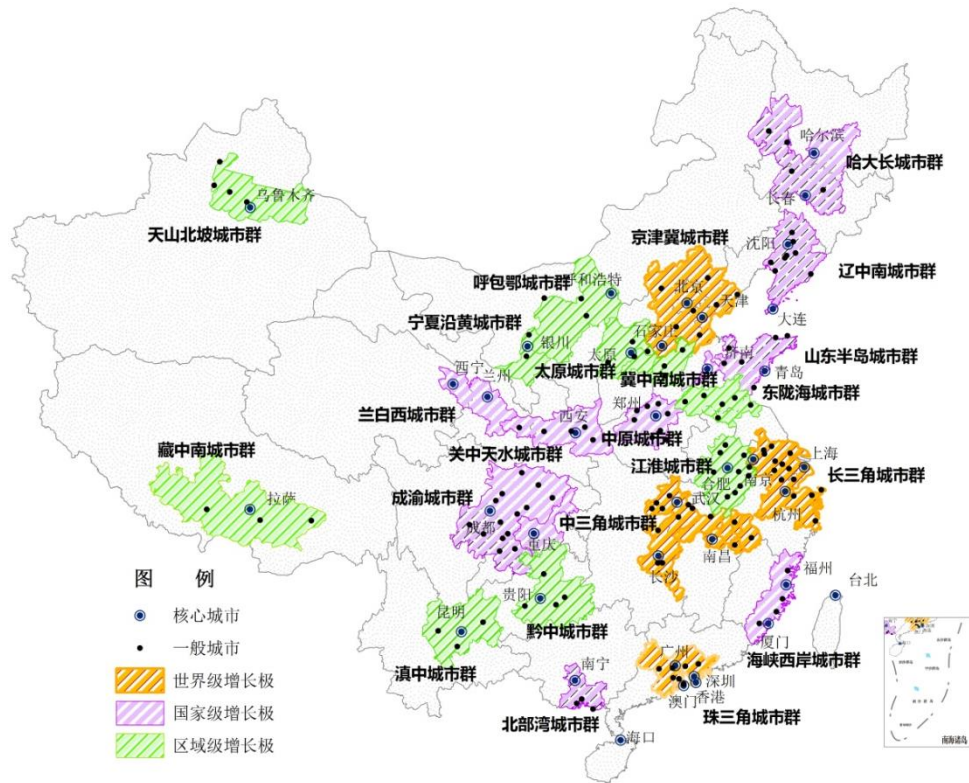
### The changing urbanization rates of the four major regions (1978~2012)

Year	Urbanization rate (%)				Period	Annual Average Growth (percentage point)			
	East	Northeast	Central	West		East	Northeast	Central	West
1978	15.73	37.01	14.08	13.78	—	—	—	—	—
1980	17.91	39.08	15.23	15.76	1978~1980	1.09	1.04	0.58	0.99
1985	28.00	45.98	19.57	20.16	1981~1985	2.02	1.38	0.87	0.88
1990	32.44	48.69	22.32	21.96	1986~1990	0.89	0.54	0.55	0.36
1995	39.29	51.37	26.99	25.97	1991~1995	1.37	0.54	0.93	0.80
2000	44.61	52.26	29.82	28.68	1996~2000	1.06	0.18	0.57	0.54
2005	51.78	55.15	36.55	35.36	2001~2005	1.43	0.58	1.35	1.34
2010	59.70	57.62	43.58	41.43	2006~2010	1.59	0.49	1.41	1.21
2012	<b>61.86</b>	<b>59.60</b>	<b>47.19</b>	<b>44.74</b>	2011~2012	1.08	0.99	1.81	1.66





# Fast-growing Urban Agglomerations are becoming the major form of urbanization



- 23 urban agglomerations contain 46.7% of the total cities, accommodate **51.4% of the total urban population** and produce 78.8% of China's GDP.
- Their economy and population density can be **3.63 and 2.26 times** that of the whole country.
- The six biggest urban agglomerations accommodate **31% of the total urban population.**

## The spatial distribution of China's Urban Agglomeration

## Urban construction's overreliance on land leads to faster urban land expansion than population growth

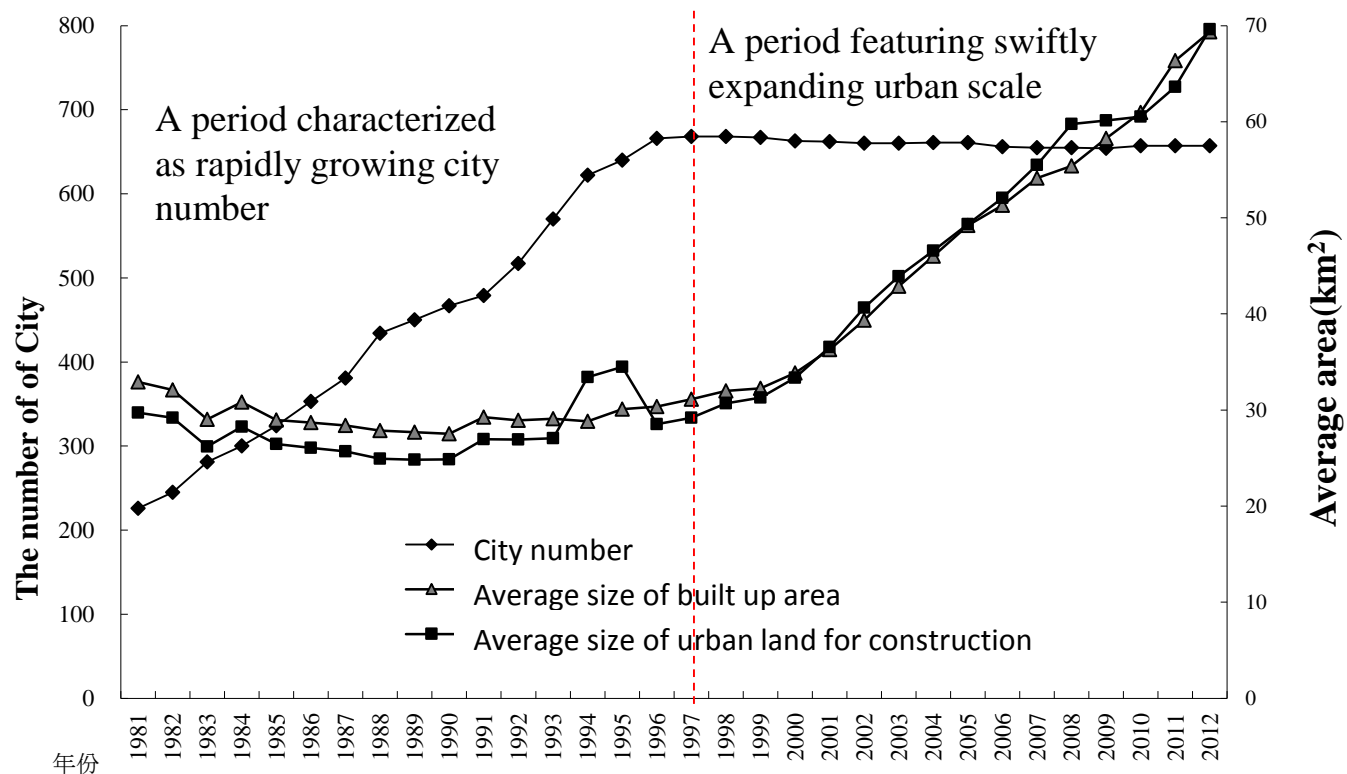
- The average annual growth rate of Built up area and land for construction reached 6.08% and 6.25% respectively during the period of 2001 to 2012, while at the same time the annual growth rate of urban population was just 3.72% on average.

### The average annual growth rate of urban population and urban land for construction in China

Year	Urban population (%)	Built up area (%)	Urban land for construction (%)
2001~2005	4.13	7.70	7.99
2006~2012	3.43	4.94	5.02
<b>2001~2012</b>	<b>3.72</b>	<b>6.08</b>	<b>6.25</b>



- From 1996 to 2012, the built up area on average grew from 30.4 km<sup>2</sup> to 69.4km<sup>2</sup> with an increment as much as **128.5%**; the mean area of land for city construction increased from 28.5 km<sup>2</sup> to 69.6 km<sup>2</sup> making a growth rate of **144.1%** in the 6-year-long period.

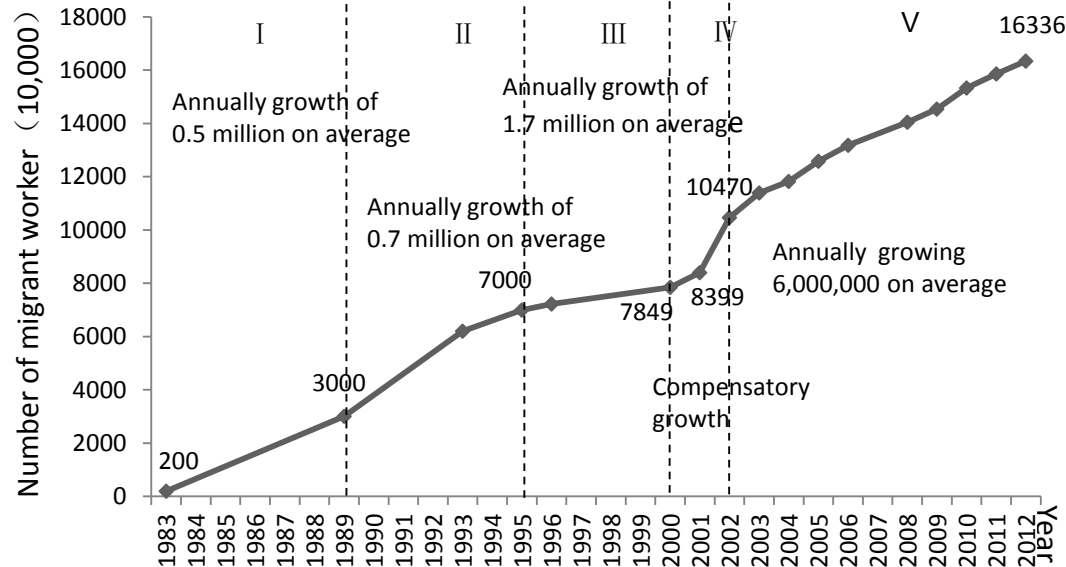


**The growth of city number and city land-use scale in China**



# Rural-urban migrants : Large scale and low citizenization

- China's urbanization rate counting by residents with native household register was only 35.29% in 2012, though urbanization rate (adding migrant workers) reached 52.59%.
- The gap between two computation results increased 6.8 percentage points from 2000 to 2012. About 390 million rural-urban migrants—including the stock of 190 million and the increment of 200 million—will acquire equal treatment as native residents has enjoyed by 2030.
- Achieving the aim of citizenization will cost around ¥ 130,000 for one candidate on average.



**The growing migrant workers: stage and trend**

# Polarization of Urban System in Urbanization

- **Big city** : both number and proportion grows; both population and space expands; urban disease is happening.
- **Middle and small city**: proportion or even number is decreasing; relatively declining is obvious.

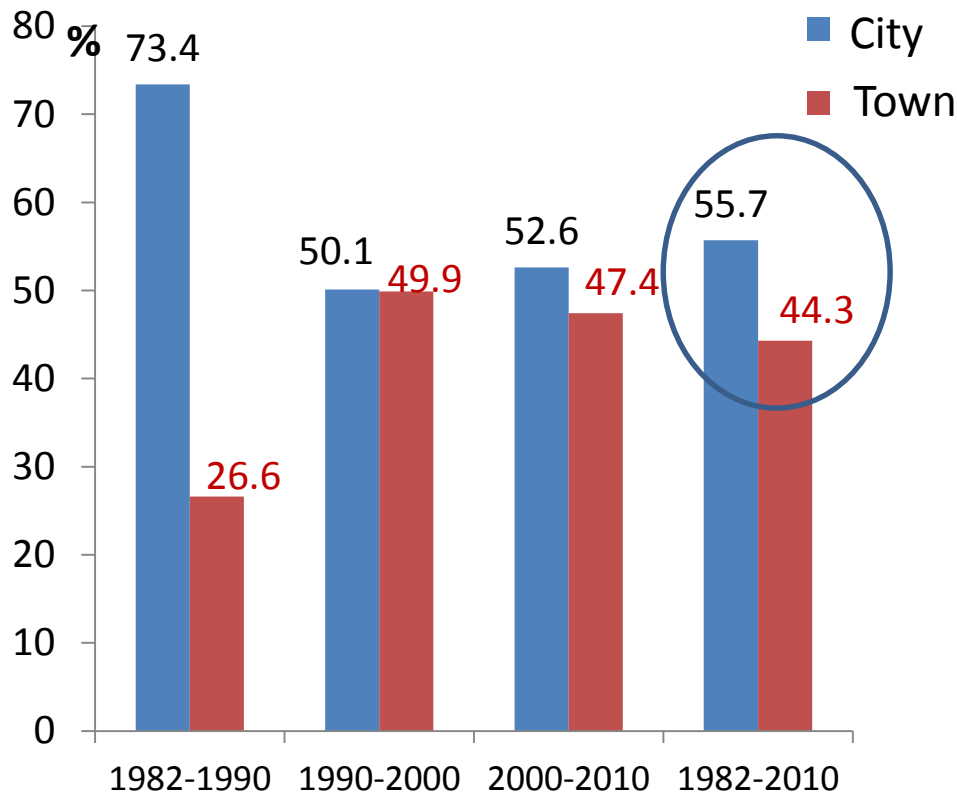
## Some absolute and relative indexes of different-scale cities in China

Urban population scale (million)	2000			2011			2000-2011			
	Number of city	Proportion of city number(%)	Proportion of population (%)	Number of city	Proportion of city number(%)	Proportion of population (%)	Number of city	Proportion of city number(%)	Proportion of population (%)	Population growth (%)
More than 4	5	0.75	12.97	10	1.53	19.96	5	0.78	6.99	126.60
2~4	8	1.20	9.56	14	2.14	11.81	6	0.94	2.25	81.98
1~2	25	3.76	14.55	39	5.95	16.38	14	2.19	1.83	65.82
0.5~1	54	8.12	15.54	96	14.66	19.11	42	6.54	3.57	81.11
0.2~0.5	220	33.08	28.86	245	37.40	22.90	25	4.32	-5.96	16.84
Less than 0.2	353	53.08	18.52	251	38.32	9.84	-102	-14.76	-8.68	-21.81
Total	665	100.00	100.00	655	100.00	100.00	-10	0	0	47.26

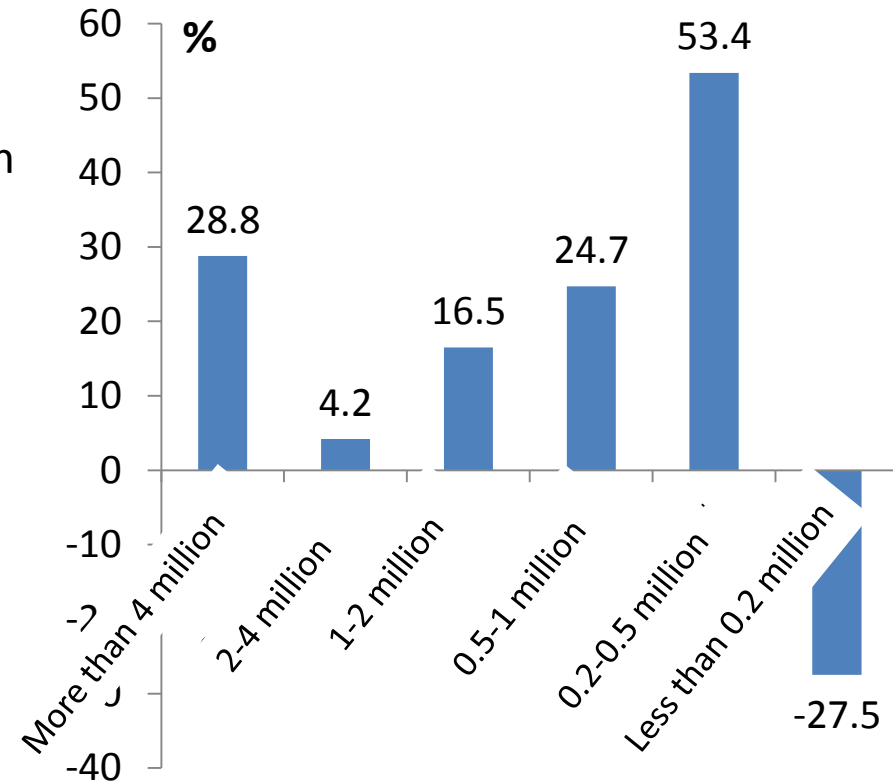


# Migrants 'preference to mega city

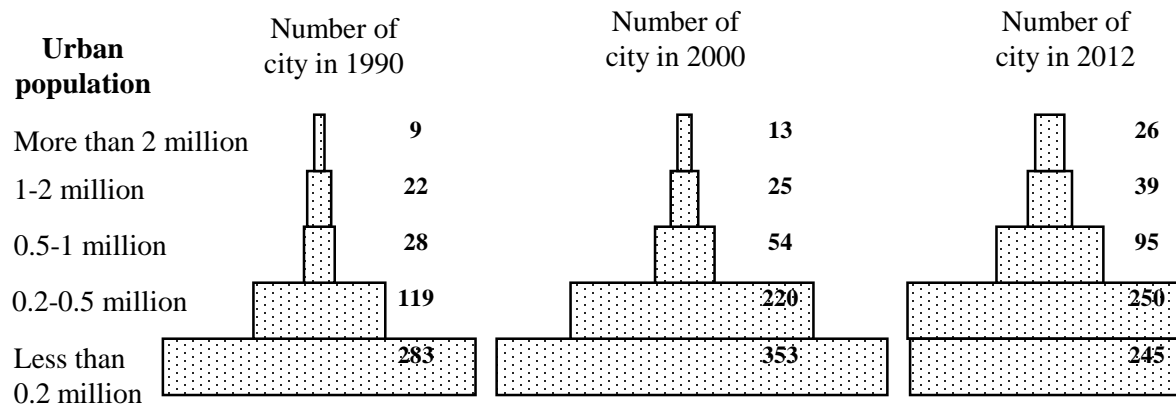
## The distribution of new urban population



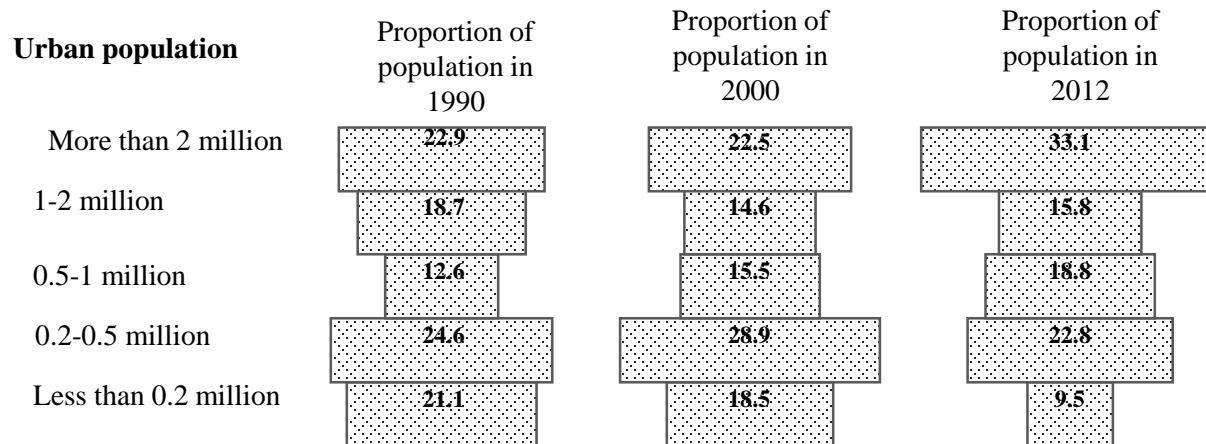
## The distribution of new residents living in pure city areas during 2006-2011



**Cities of more than 0.5 million people are home to 74.2% of the new residents, and for cities with more than 1 million people, the number is 49.5%. In fact, the small cities are shrinking.**



**China's urban system with the shape of “pyramid”**



**The distribution of urban population in different-scale cities is changing from “dumbbell” to “inverted pyramid”**



# The urbanization trend of China

- China is now entering the transforming period of urbanization: the pace is slowing down, the quality is lifting up.

## The prediction of urban population and urbanization rate by 2050

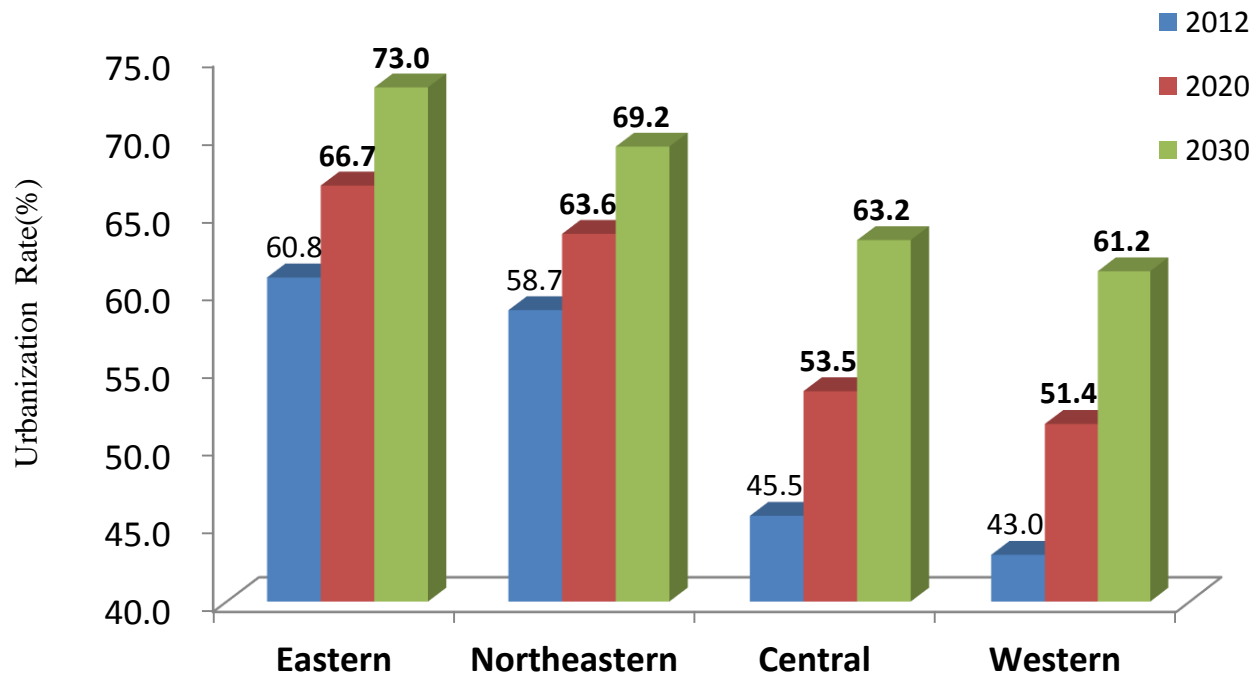
Item	2012	2020	2030	2040	2050
Total population of China (billion)	1.35	1.39	1.39	1.36	1.30
Urban population of China(billion)	0.71	0.84	0.95	1.03	1.06
Accumulated new urban residents (billion)	—	0.13	0.24	0.31	0.35
Urbanization rate(synthetical forecast, %)	52.57	60.34	68.38	75.37	81.63



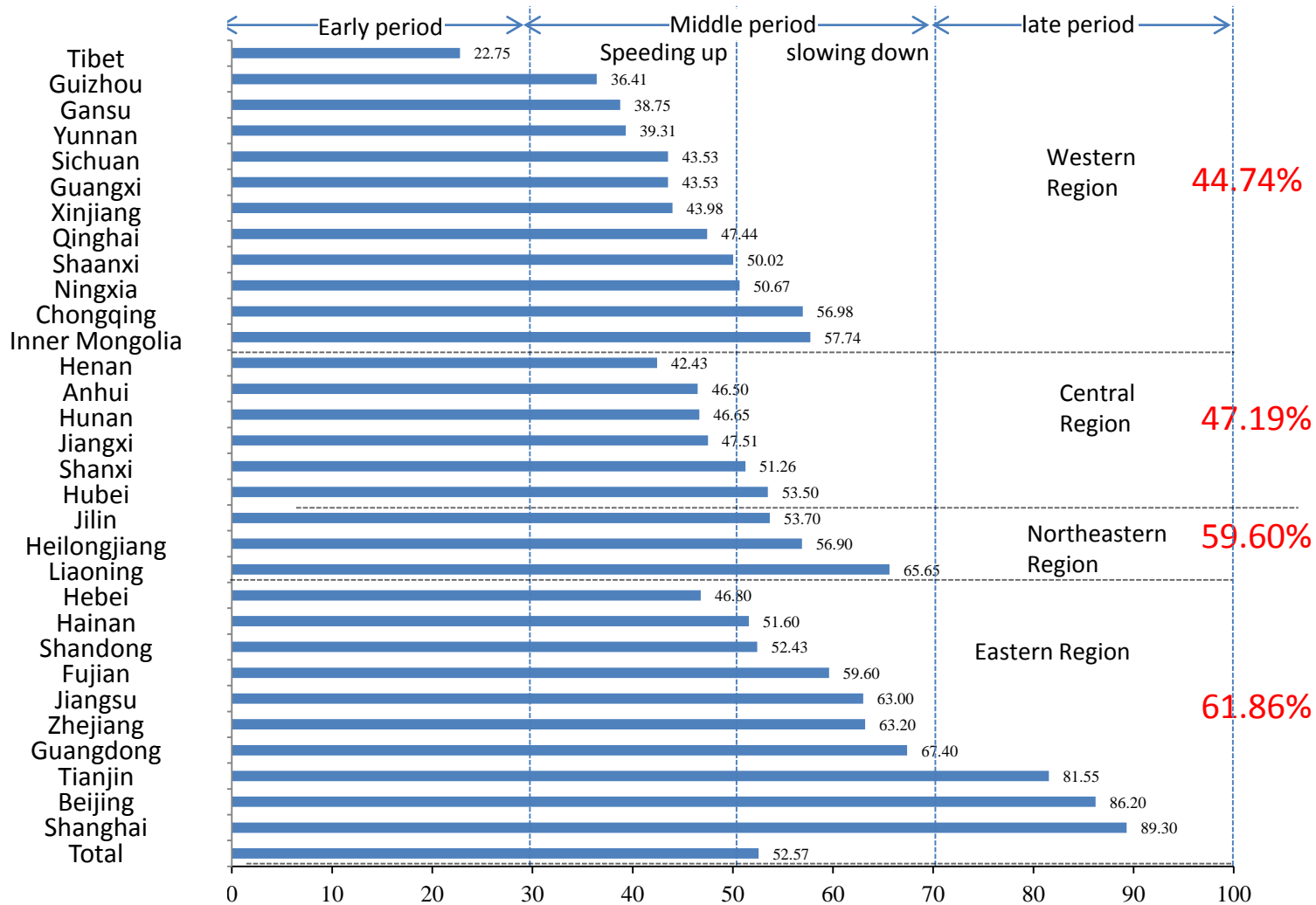


# Different Urbanization Trend in the Four Major Regions

- ❑ **The Eastern Region** : slowing down pace and improving quality
- ❑ **The Central and Western Regions**: combination of speeding up and improving quality



# Central and Western Region is the Crucial Battle Field for Further Driving Urbanization



The urbanization rates of all provinces in 2012

Urbanization rate (%)

# Main indicators of the national new urbanization

Indicators		2012	2020
Urbanization rate	Residents population urbanization rate (%)	52.6	About 60
	Native household population urbanization rate (%)	35.3	About 45
Basic public service	Compulsory education proportion of migrant workers' children (%)		≥99
	Free basic vocational skills training coverage of urban unemployed, migrant workers and new workforce (%)		≥95
	Basic pension insurance coverage of urban resident population (%)	66.9	≥90
	Basic medical insurance coverage of urban resident population (%)	95	98
	Affordable housing coverage of urban resident population (%)	12.5	≥23
Infrastructure	Proportion of public transport in total motorized travel of cities (more than 1 million persons) (%)	45*	60
	The coverage of urban public water supply(%)	81.7	90
	Urban sewage treatment rate (%)	87.3	95
	City life garbage treatment rate (%)	84.8	95
	Urban household broadband access (Mbps)	4	≥50
	The coverage of urban community comprehensive service facilities (%)	72.5	100
Resources and environment	Urban construction (m <sup>2</sup> / per capita)		≤100
	Urban renewal energy consumption ratio (%)	8.7	13
	Urban green building ratio (%)	2	50
	Urban green land ratio (%)	35.7	38.9
	The ratio of urban air quality up to the national standards (%)	40.9	60

Notes: \* indicate the data is of 2011.



## The Planning of Government: fulfilling the dream of three “100 million people” **by 2020**

- 100 million agricultural transfer population will acquire new citizenship.
- 100 million residents will enjoy updated dwelling benefiting from the on going reconstruction of urban villages and shanty towns.
- 100 million people will become new urban residents of Western Region.

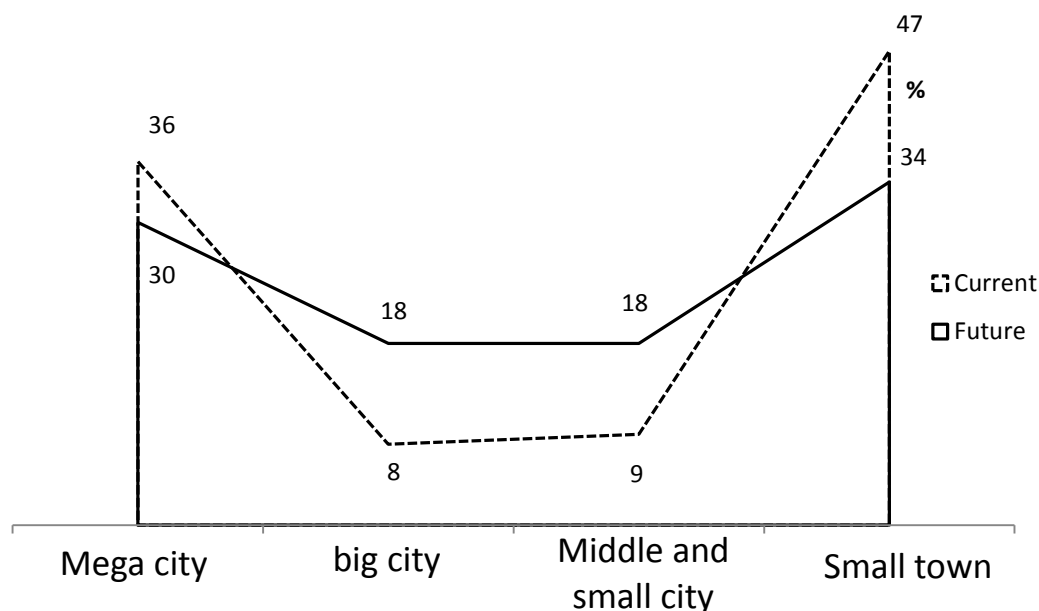
### The distribution of new urban residents in the four major regions during 2000~2012

Region	Urban population(thousand)		New urban residents	
	2000	2012	Quantity (thousand)	Proportion (%)
Total	465670	716250	250580	100
Eastern Region	203540	318330	114790	45.8
Northeastern Region	55550	65400	9850	3.9
Central Region	104490	169550	65060	26.0
Western Region	102080	162970	60890	24.3



# Boost the Balanced Development of Different-scale Cities

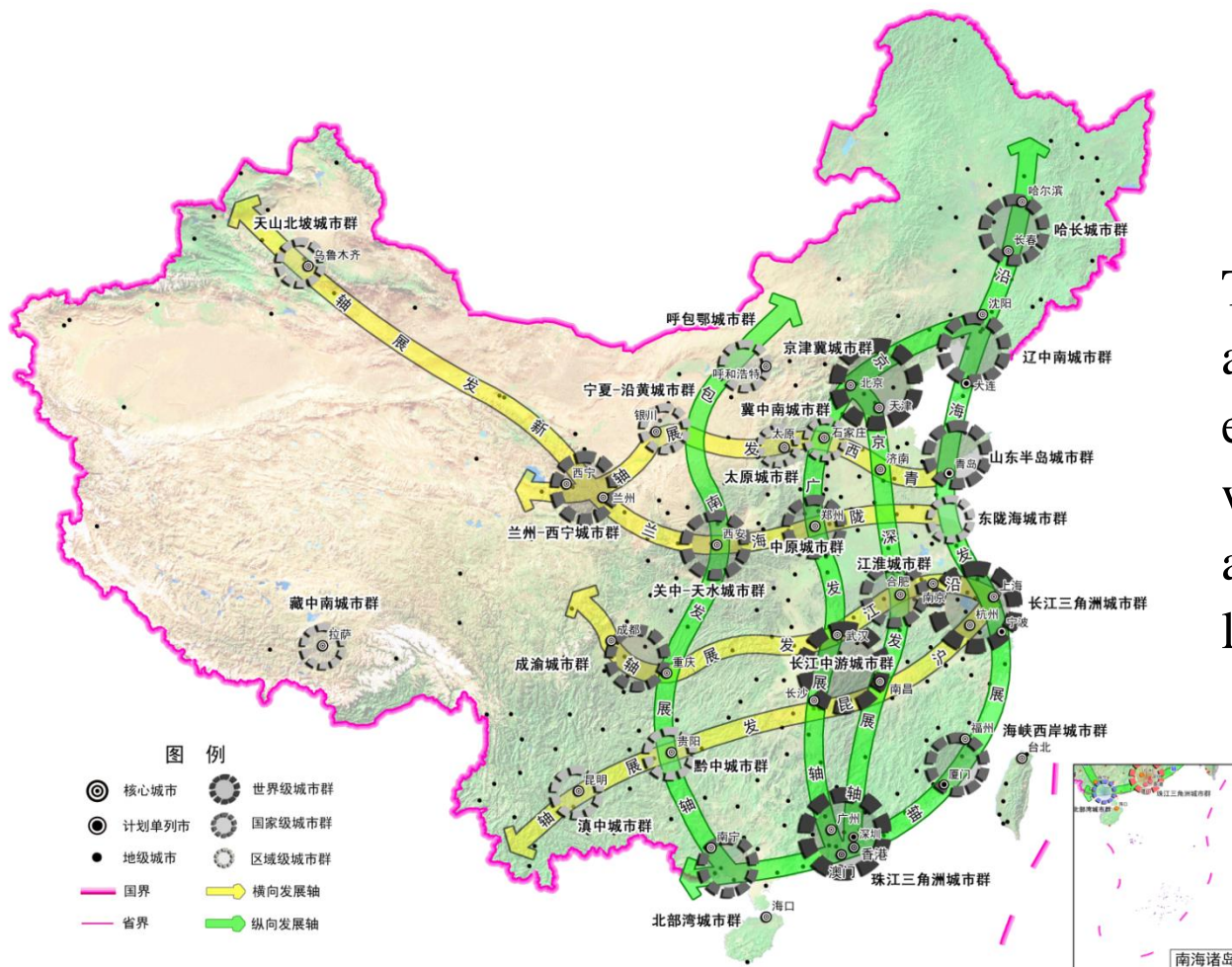
- Curb the expansion of super cities with more than 4 million residents.
- Promote the growth of big, middle and small cities.
- Lessen the importance of small towns in absorbing migrants.



**The distribution of new urban residents in different-scale cities (%)**



# Urban Agglomerations Major Form and Carrier of Urbanization



Three-level urban agglomerations along eight interwoven axes will create a polycentric and network structure not later than 2030.



*THANK YOU!*