

Public Administration and Service in the Process of Rapid Urbanization: Practice of Changping

Hou Junshu

Party Secretary of Changping District Committee of the CPC

Changping District, located in the northwest part of Beijing, is one of the new zones of urban development in Beijing. Changping has an area of 1343.5 square kilometers, good ecological environment, long history, rich culture and abundant educational resources of science and technology. There are two National Forest Parks, many scenic spots and places of historic interest such as the Ming Tombs and Juyongguan Great Wall, 14 universities and their sub-campuses, 18 state-level scientific research institutions, which serve as an important component of Beijing Zhongguancun Science and Technology Park.

Since this century, Changping has undertaken the transfer of a large number of migrant population and industries, and the urbanization process is quite fast. For the past decade, resident population has grown from 0.782 million to 1.908 million, among which migrant population increased from 0.22 million to 1 million. The fast growth of population has brought about a series of “Urban Diseases” such as traffic congestion, environmental deterioration, public service shortage etc., which have been severe challenges to urban management service and regional sustainable development. In recent years, we have strengthened urban management, controlled population scale, improved public service, treated ecological environment and strived to build a livable and workable new Changping. Our approaches mainly include the following four aspects:

1. To Strengthen the Governance of Large Communities

Huolongguan and Tiantongyuan are miniatures of fast urbanization in Changping. These two communities are large residential areas built at the end of the 1990s to ease down town population. Due to insufficient overall plan and design at that time, there is desperate shortage of supporting service facilities in these communities, about which residents complain the most.

Tiantongyuan community, located in Dongxiaokou town, with an area of

8 square kilometers, resident population of 0.32 million, population density of 40,000 per square kilometer, has great difficulty in urban management and high pressure on public service. In 2012, we implemented comprehensive reform in Dongxiaokou area by establishing three neighborhood offices directly under the District Government, completing public administration system on public security, transportation, urban and judicial management, etc., setting up service centers of public affairs in community, sectionalizing service & administration units, simplifying administrative procedures and processes, and improving pertinence of service, which have been warmly welcomed by local residents.

Huilingguan community, with an area of 11 square kilometers, and resident population of 0.38 million, is also grossly inadequate in service resources and management strength. Considering that a large number of young people reside in this community where new media is widely used, we strongly support the development of local network enterprises and community websites, and transfer part of public administration and service affairs onto community websites, to give residents convenient access to information, suggestion and service. Huilingguan Community Website, as the largest community website, has over 300,000 registered users, among which 200,000 community residents perennial online. In this community full of cultural atmosphere and youthful energy, we encourage the development of community societies and organizations and guide their participation in community service by government purchase of services, subsidizing public welfare activities etc. So far, there have been 360 societies and organizations in this region, holding over 700 activities annually, activities such as “Huichao Cup” Football Match, “Super Echo” Singing Competition and Huilingguan Spring Festival etc. have attracted over 100,000 participants. In this year, we’ve brought in a demonstration base of innovation and entrepreneurship owned by Tencent, a well-known network enterprise in China, and built four new business incubators to attract young people who dreams to explore innovation and entrepreneurship here, doing our utmost to make this region a new promised land for public entrepreneurship and innovation.

2. To Construct New Urban Functional Areas

In recent years, learning from the experience of Huilingguan and Tiantongyuan communities on work-life imbalance, adhering to the principle of promoting city construction and industrial development

simultaneously, keeping balance of residence and employment, we've built New Urban Functional Areas in the southern part of Changping which includes Future Science and Technology City, Business District of Science and Technology, Shahe University City etc. Among the above, Future Science and Technology City, an innovative and entrepreneurial base for national high-level personnel, has introduced R&D institutions of 15 oversize state-owned enterprises of China such as China Shenhua Group, China Guodian Corporation etc., including 10 research institutes of central enterprises and over 5300 researchers settled here. Business District of Science and Technology focuses on the development of finance, business, and R&D service industry on science and technology, which aims to become a service center of scientific and technological innovation in northern Beijing. Now the project of Cloud Center has basically completed, and National Patent Office will entirely move here. Shahe University City includes new campuses of Beihang University, Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, China Foreign Affairs University, Central University of Finance and Economics as well as Beijing Normal University etc. Now four of the above universities have completed construction and opened, including Beihang University, Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, China Foreign Affairs University and Central University of Finance and Economics, with altogether over 20,000 in-school teachers and students.

In these functional areas, we've created a number of small, intelligent, multi-functional industrial space vectors to promote industrial integration and development, cultivate new type of operation, gather high-end elements, promote industrial upgrading, so as to construct an urban economic system dominated by modern service industry. Changping has also attracted 36 large central enterprises to establish 157 branches here such as China Petroleum, China Mobile etc.; brought in R&D and manufacturing base of international well-known enterprises like Novartis, Novo Nordisk etc.; gathered over 2900 small and medium-sized technology-oriented enterprises, cultivated 19 local listed enterprises such as Lepu Medical etc.

3. To Compensate for the Shortage of Public Service

Excessive growth of population has brought about enormous pressure to basic public service of city, for example, quota of kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools cannot meet the actual demand, the number of quality medical institutions is obviously insufficient. Since

2010, we've increased the investment to construct, renovate and expand over 70 kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools, and introduced well-known schools in Beijing to set up 20 branches here such as the High School Affiliated to Beijing Normal University; brought in five national first-class medical institutions such as Beijing Tsinghua Changgung Hospital, Peking University International Hospital etc., and upgraded 5 local hospitals. The operation of these medical and educational institutions has effectively relieved the tense situation of insufficient public service resources in this region.

During the construction of these medical and educational institutions, we took government as the lead, and attracted joint participation of all forces, to form a new pattern of public service supply with diverse mainstay, co-construction and sharing. Beijing Tsinghua Changgung Hospital is a large-scale general hospital, constructed with the donation by Formosa Plastic Group and Taiwan Changgung Memorial Hospital, co-managed by Tsinghua University and Beijing City, having 1500 beds and started operation since last November. Peking University International Hospital, constructed with joint investment by Peking University and Founder Group, with 1800 beds, is a hospital affiliated to university combining medicaid, education and scientific research. We give government fund as rewards and subsidies to guide social forces to support education. We've helped 67 non-governmental kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools to improve school conditions and strengthen their management on safety, sanitation etc. We take well-known schools and hospitals as the lead with radiation effects, organize medical consortium with famous hospitals as mainstay, implement school district system and new school alliances with famous schools as the core, to mobilize the upgrading of overall medical and educational level in the whole district.

4. To Strengthen Urban and Rural Environmental Governance

Excessive growth of population will result in rampant illegal construction and intensified environmental pollution. We combine the administration of people, land, rental housing, low-end industry and rural collective economy, to severely crack down on illegal construction, comprehensively strengthen the integrated management of urban and rural environment order. We are the first to launch negative list of industries in Beijing, to strictly prohibit and limit enterprises unsuitable for industrial development, shut down or relocate 93 industrial enterprises with high energy consumption, water consumption and pollution; clear

over 3000 illegal, dirty and insecure wholesale markets, small shops, small workshops and waste materials recycling units; remove over 9 million square meters illegal construction in three years, which have contained the rapid growth momentum of population and achieved a negative growth of migrant population for the first time in Changping in 2014. Since 2011, we have continuously implemented large-scale plain afforestation projects, achieving cumulatively afforestation of 117,000 acres, newly increasing plain greenland of over 80 square kilometers. 10 water recycling plants have been newly built, 4 of which have already put into use. Over the past five years, energy consumption per ten thousand yuan of GDP in this district has declined by 32%, total water consumption decreased 34 million cubic meters, by which we've successfully established National Health District and National Ecological Demonstration Area. At present, we are formulating "The Thirteenth Five Year Plan", which will further settle urban growth boundaries and ecological red line, to reduce the intensity of urban development and expand green ecological space, in order to build a beautiful Changping with lakes mirroring mountains, blue sky and green fields.

Coping with the challenges to public management and service brought about by fast urbanization, our experience includes the following: The first point is to correctly grasp the evolution law of urbanization and lead the development by scientific urban planning, to prevent blind expansion of city as "share pie". The second point is to adhere to people-oriented principle, keep harmony between economic and social development, expand educational and medical supply, enhance equalization of basic public services, so as to allow residents to share development fruits. The third point is to maintain rapid economic development, support and cultivate industries with comparative advantages, and create sustaining power for healthy development of urbanization. The fourth point is to establish the principle of sustainable development, strengthen general ecological management, advance comprehensive carrying capacity of city, and promote the coordination of population, resources and environment, to make the city in perfect harmony with nature.