

Cornell AAP
City and Regional Planning



Equity Planning in China, Focusing on Education

Xiao Tan, Ziyu Zhao

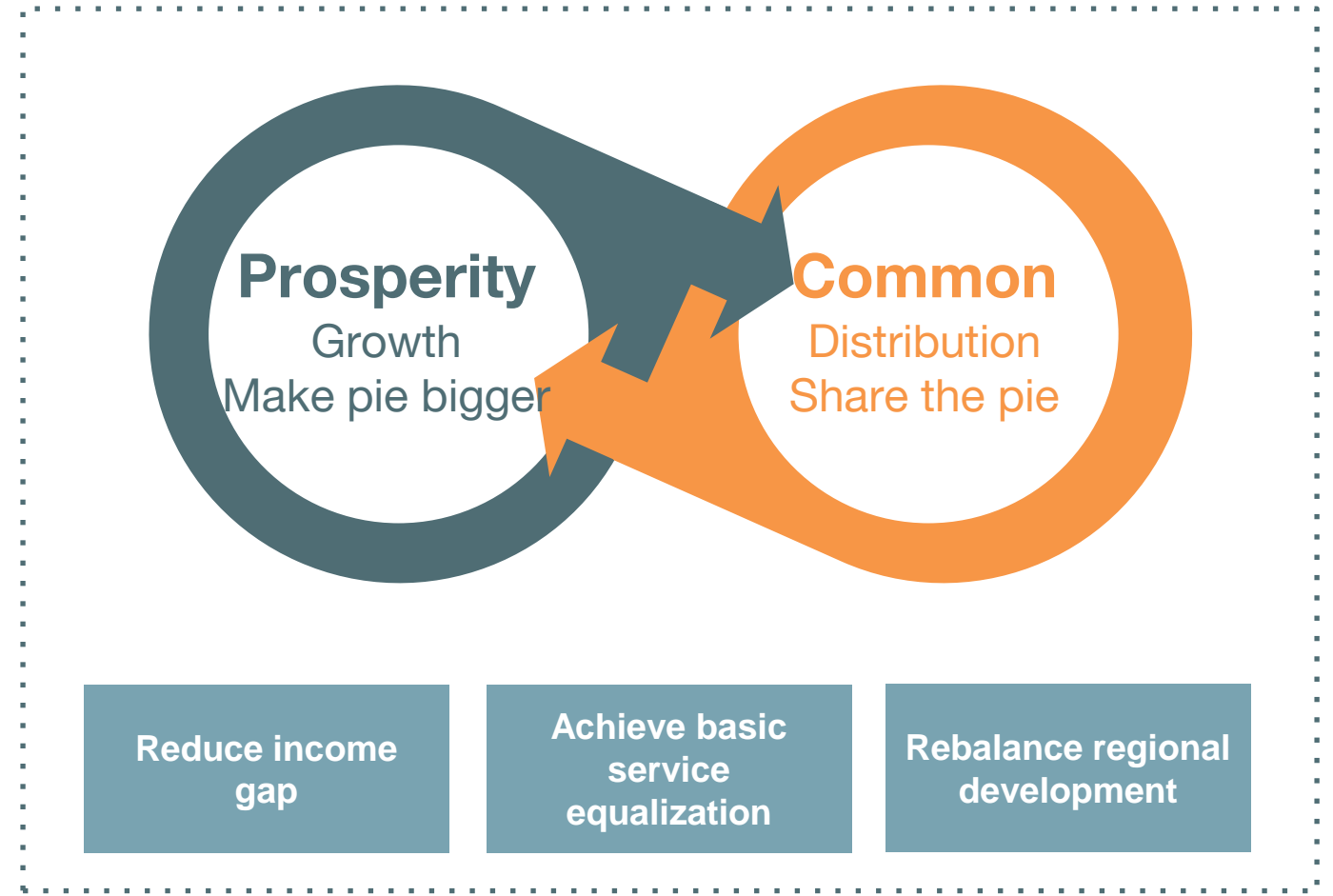
CRP Economic and Community Development Workshop, Cornell University 2022

Instructor: Mildred E. Warner

Common Prosperity

Equity Planning under Chinese Context

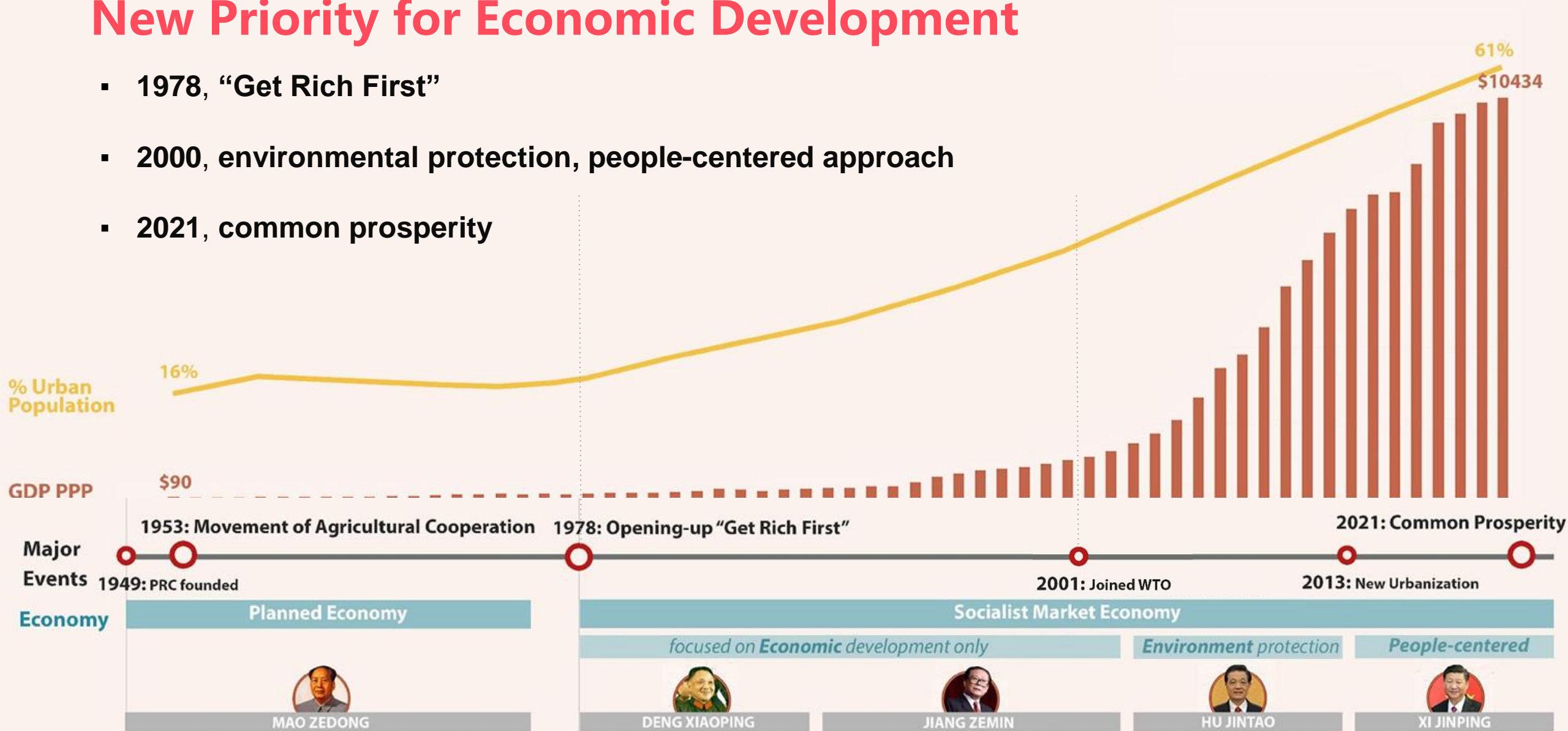
- It is a **process of co-construction** and **shared** development to improve the quality of life **for every one**.
- **Growth & Distribution**
- **Zhejiang province** has been chosen as the pilot zone in 2021.



Common Prosperity

New Priority for Economic Development

- 1978, “Get Rich First”
- 2000, environmental protection, people-centered approach
- 2021, common prosperity

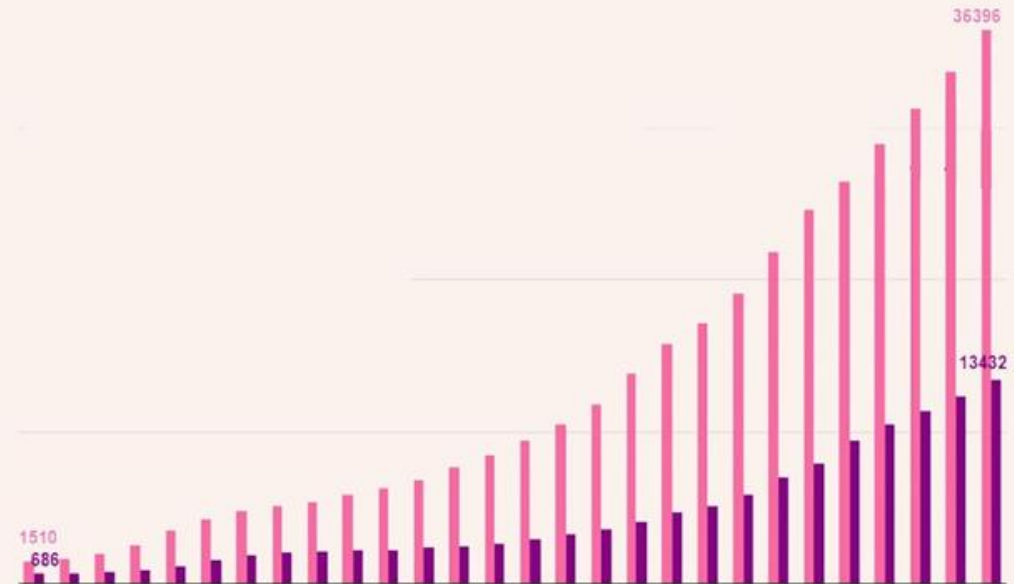


Common Prosperity

New Path Elevating Rural Prosperity

- The **Hukou**, a governmental household registration system, divides residents into rural and urban citizens in China.
- **Rural areas lagged behind** during the 40-year robust economic growth.

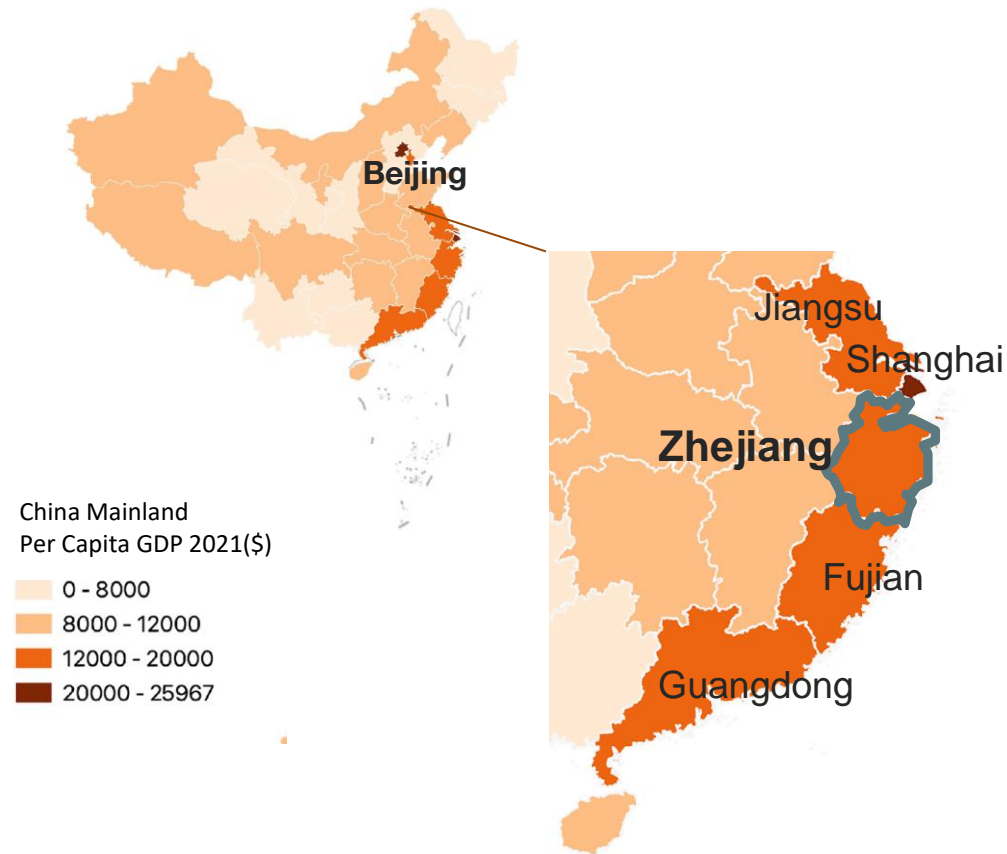
■ Per capita disposable income of **URBAN** residents (RMB)
■ Per capita disposable income of **RURAL** residents



Inequity in Basic Services

Disparity in Urban-rural Education

- **Hukou system** creates inequity in providing basic public services



	National level		Zhejiang	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Teachers With Mater Degrees*	3%	0.4%	28%	1%
Teachers With Bachelor Degrees*	75%	53%	84%	82%
Enrollment Rate to High School	72%	46%	57%	46%

* Data for primary school



Basic Education Supply

Central Government

- **Fully provide public facilities based on residential units**, including housing, schools, hospitals.

Equal

Local Government

- **Fully provide nine-year compulsory education**

Difference in Tax Revenue

- urban area increased because of housing commoditization, rural area decreased because of agricultural tax abolition

The Lack of Transfer Payment

Citizenship Obsacles

- rural migrants' children were not able to access basic education in cities.

Create Inequity

Intergovernmental Collaboration

- all levels **share compulsory education expenditure**

Mitigating Inequity

Major Events



Economy

Planned Economy

Socialist Market Economy

focused on Economic development only

Environment protection

People-centered



MAO ZEDONG



DENG XIAOPING



JIANG ZEMIN



HU JINTAO



XI JINPING

New Actions to Improve Equity



Improve rural education

- **Set same construction standard** for urban and rural schools.
- **Form school collaborations to share teaching resource** among urban and rural schools
- **Include equal development in performance appraisal**



Support rural migrant children

- **Eliminate structural obstacles** of rural migrant children to access basic education.
- **Expanding service population** to permanent residents.
- **Reduce challenge of transferring residency statues** from rural to urban.



Transfer Payment

- **Enhance the provincial function in transfer payment** to provide more accurate transfer in county level.
- **Increase the amount** of transfer payment.



Achievement

National and Provincial Achievement:

- The expenditure on rural students is over that on urban students.
- The students in the rural and urban areas enjoy similar facility resources and book numbers.

Provincial Achievement

- Coefficients of difference between schools of compulsory education at the county level are smaller than 0.3.
- 98.04% of new schools reach the construction standard during the 13th Five-Year Plan period

	National level		Zhejiang	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Public Education Expenditure (per student)*	11357.37	12530.84	16816.77	20725.41
Books & Magazines in Libraries* (per student)	34.89	38.28	55.46	56.14
Number of computer for teaching* (per student)	0.11	0.11	0.17	0.21
Teaching facility Value* (per student)	0.2	0.16	0.3	0.35

* Data for primary school



Reflections

Institutional changes are needed.

- Urban and rural should have new revenue mechanisms to ensure balanced fiscal income resources.
- Alternatively, the central government should take more responsibility in rural education.

More focus on teacher quality and high school enrollment.



A young girl with short brown hair and bangs is smiling broadly at the camera. She is sitting at a desk with several open books and papers. In the background, a young boy is visible, looking towards the camera with his hand raised. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a classroom or library setting.

Questions & Comments

More Information:

[Equity Planning in China, Focusing on Education | AAP Labs \(cornell.edu\)](#)

Welcome to reach out!

Xiao Tan (xt235@cornell.edu)

Ziyu Zhao (zz724@cornell.edu)