

Beijing, the capital city of China, is located at the northern end of the North China Plain, connected to the city of Tianjin, surrounded by Hebei Province. As the second largest city of China, Beijing covers an area of 16,410.54 km², with a resident population of 19.61 million. In the 12th national Five-year Plan (2011-2015), “Capital Economic Circle” is defined for the first time. Although the detailed scope of the circle is still under discussion. Previously, concept of “Jing-Jin-Ji Metropolitan” was frequently used to call the city group of Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei.



Figure 1: Map of Jing-Jin-Ji Metropolitan



Figure 2: Map of Capital Economic Circle

► Administrative arrangement and planning fabric

In China, regional planning issue is taken charged by Development and National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). To build Capital Economic Circle, and accelerate the regional growth of Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei, is pointed out in the 12th national Five-year Plan. “Development Plan of Capital Economic Circle” is to be issued within 2013, by national council. According to NDRC, Beijing should make the proposed draft of the plan, and submit to NDRC. Then the 3 municipal government should work together to determine the formal plan under the coordination of NDRC. Compared to Capital Circle, which emphasizes the primacy of Beijing, previously used concept of “Jing-jin-ji Metropolitan” implies a polycentric urban structure. “Jing-Jin-Ji Metropolitan” refers to a “2+8” urban structure, thus, Beijing, Tianjing, and 8 cities of Hebei. Plan making of Jing-Jin-Ji Metropolitan started once in 2004 directed by NDRC but achieved little progress till now.

Among the municipalities, Beijing and Hebei Province signed the Agreement of Cooperation Framework the first time in 2010, and the second time in 2012. The agreement covers 9 aspects of cooperation, such as transportation system, energy, water and ecology, and so on.

Within the municipal level, Hebei defined its Economic Circle around Capital, consisting 4 cities and 13 counties located around Beijing, such as Zhuzhou, Laishui, Xianghe. Emerging Industries are introduced to launch in the circle, such as ecological industry.

► Urban identity and some critical issues

Areas within the 5th Ring are considered as central city, which consists of six districts. Having been developed from the ancient Imperial City, areas within the 2nd Ring Road is considered as inner city, areas within the 5th Ring are considered as central city, which

consists of six districts. Outer districts are defined as new urban function area and ecological function area.

Transportation and air pollution are the two critical issues at present. From 2003, 70% of the urban roads are running under full capacity. In 2010 Beijing set Traffic Congestion Index to watch road traffic. In 2011 the average value is 4.8, which means light congestion; while in peak hours the value had risen over 9, which means heavy congestion. Since 2011 restriction was put upon the private car registration to improve road transportation. Four metro lines are invested to improve public transportation.

Air pollution had become severe since the winter of 2012. In January 2013, haze weather has lasted for 24 days. The pollution is caused by the gasoline component of private vehicles, and industry gas in surrounding cities.

► *Urban evolution and growth story*

Urban growth in Beijing occurred as urban land expansion from centre city to the edges. Expansion from scattered points in surrounding suburban and rural area re-integrates with each other again gradually. Urban area is concentrated in the southeast part, showing the development pattern as called “spread pie” “blossom everywhere”.

In recent years, Beijing focuses on the service-oriented economy and emphasizes the development of high-end industries. Ratio of the three industries is 1.0:23.5:75.5. Since the 11th Five-Year Plan (2001-2005), technology innovation has boosted Beijing’s economy growth. A national innovation demonstration zone, Zhongguancun, has been established to implement the concept of “science and technology Beijing”.

More intensive cooperation is going to be carried out in capital circle, represented by the moving of Capital Steel from Beijing to Hebei. According to agreement of cooperation agreement, inter-city rail transportation system is under construction to connect Beijing and surrounding cities. The three municipalities are working on the Transportation Plan of Jing-jin-ji. In ecological and energy fields, energy plants in Hebei are planned to provide water, electricity, and gas to Beijing in the future. At present Beijing is giving financial support to build ecological forest in Tianjin.

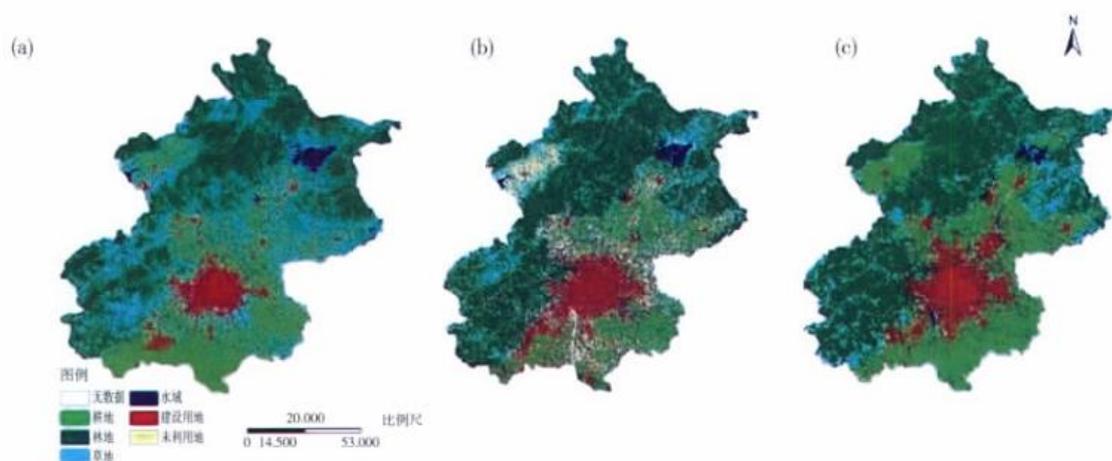


Figure 3 Land use of Beijing in 1987, 2000, 2008

