International Conference

Population Geography and the Future of Urbanization in China

Symposium for Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Discovery of Hu Huanyong Line

October 17-18, 2015, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China

General theme and rationale for this conference

In 1935, Hu Huanyong published his paper, “The distribution of Population in China” in Acta Geographica Sinica. In that paper, he drew an important boundary line of the distribution of Chinese population on the map of China stretching from Aihui in the northeast to Tengchong in the southwest. The line, named as Aihui-Tengchong line or Hu Huanyong Line (Hu Line for short), divides China into two sharply contrasting parts, the densely populated southeast and the sparse northwest. The line is so simple, so clear and so stable that it not only captures the basic spatial configuration of Chinese population distribution till today, but also has profound influences on the definition and perception of the spatial patterns of Chinese economy, society and culture.

21st Century is the century for Chinese urbanization. The geographical pattern of Chinese urbanization will also be deeply marked by Hu Line. In the southeast part, megalopolis and metropolis clusters are developing. They form the regional backbones to promote the integration of urban and rural development, expand economic capacity and enlarge international influence. In the northwest part, central cities will be the regional centers. They will promote and facilitate the development of small and medium-sized cities, achieving urbanization of agricultural population locally and regionally. The human-environment relationship will also be optimized to strengthen ecological security in the northwest part. Such differential strategy is an important pathway to narrow the regional gap and achieve balanced development.

In order to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the discovery of Hu Line, East China Normal University (ECNU) is going to hold an international symposium on “Population Geography and the Future of Urbanization in China” on October 17-18, 2015 to review the new geographical patterns of Chinese population, economy, society, culture and ecology, and to explore the road of future urbanization in China.

Main Topics

1. Hu Huanyong and the Population Geography in China
2. Hu Line and Its Academic Impact and Extension

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3. Geographical Distribution of Population in China
4. Regional Strategy of Urbanization and the Spatial Process and Responses of Population in China
5. Population, Social and Economic Development and the Challenges of Resources and Environment in Metropolitan Regions
6. Urbanization and Optimization of Human-environment Relationship in the Middle and Western Regions of China
7. Other Issues of Population Geography and Urbanization

Organizer
School of Social Development, ECNU, Shanghai, China

Co-organizer
Population Geography Section, Geographers Society of China.
Center of Modern Chinese City Studies, ECNU
School of Geographical Science, ECNU

Academic Coordinators
Prof. Jinhong Ding: Population Research Institute, ECNU, Director of Population Geography Section, Geographers Society of China
Prof. Ruijun Wu: Dean of School of Social Development, ECNU
Prof. Yuemin Ning: Director of Center of Modern Chinese City Studies, ECNU
Prof. Min Liu: Dean of School of Geographical Science, ECNU

Paper Submission
Scholars from all fields of Geography and relative disciplines are welcome to submit papers to the symposium, but papers focusing on the Chinese population distribution and urbanization pattern will be given priority. Scholars interested in presenting a paper at the conference are asked to submit a full paper. The paper must include a title, an abstract in English of no less than 500 words or an abstract in Chinese of no less than 800 words, and keywords. The abstract submission deadline is April 30, 2015. The abstracts will be reviewed and selected for oral presentation. The full paper submission deadline is August 31, 2015 and will be included in the conference proceedings.

Important dates
Deadline to submit abstracts: April 30, 2015
Deadline to submit full papers: August 31, 2015
Please send abstracts and papers to:
Associate Prof. Chunlan Wang: clwang@soci.ecnu.edu.cn
Travel and local costs

The conference registration is free. Participants will be responsible for their own travel, board and lodging expenses.

All Chinese and foreign demographers, geographers and scholars in related disciplines are warmly welcomed to present a paper in the conference.

Conference secretary contact information

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