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# Analysis of the current problems and solutions in the construction of the Yangtze River Economic Belt

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**Abstract:** The Yangtze river economic zone (the river economic zone) covers Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Jiangsu, Hubei, Hunan, Chongqing, Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou and other 11 provinces, covering an area of about 205 square kilometers, and the total population and production value more than 40 % of the country. The Yangtze river economic belt crosses the three regions of east and west of China, with its unique advantages and great development potential. Since the reform and opening up, the Yangtze river economic belt has developed into one of the most comprehensive and strategic supporting areas in China[1]. However, some problems are gradually emerging, restricting the sustainable and stable development of the Yangtze river economic belt. This paper, through systematic analysis of the 1,061 questionnaire, found some problems in the protection of resources and environment, the synchronization of urban and rural development and the improvement of institutional mechanism, and put forward some suggestions on the construction of the Yangtze river economic zone.

Key words: Ecological development; Urban-rural gap; Regional cooperation; Yangtze river economic belt

#### 1. Introduction

China's economy has developed very rapidly in recent 40 years, but with the passage of time, some problems begin to appear: first, the economic growth rate is slowing year by year, and the economic growth momentum is no longer strong; Second, the environment is destroyed, the lack of resources is becoming more and more serious; Third, the gap between urban and rural areas is widening gradually. However, the relevant policies issued by the state have not been comprehensive enough, and the lack of targeted policies has led to the delay in solving the above problems.

## 2. The main characteristics and problems of the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt embodied in the survey results

### 2.1. In recent years, the economic development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt region has developed rapidly, but the ecological environment in most areas has been destroyed in varying degrees

Hubei is rich in natural resources and has great potential for hydropower resources. More than 728 acres of Lake area, wetland area of 1 million 445 thousand hectares, the creation of National Wetland Park 50, ranked first in the country. The forest coverage rate is 41.2%, and there are many rare species [2].

With the rapid development of industrialization and urbanization, people's living standards have improved significantly. In the 1061 questionnaires collected by the author, 79.55% (844) showed that the economic development and living standards of the respondents in different places have improved in varying degrees, which are highlighted in transportation, housing, medical care, education and soon (fig1).

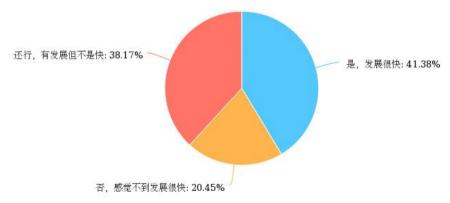


Figure 1

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But along with the economic development, the ecological environment problems in Hubei province become more and more prominent. 63.15% the questionnaire results indicating that the area environment has been seriously polluted (fig2); in addition the author found that access to information the following serious problems: 1. pollutants exceed the national standard level of the Yangtze River Basin, ecological pollution water pollution, local pollution is particularly prominent in rural areas; 2. compared to 10 years ago was significantly increased 3. and the atmospheric quality decreased obviously. Continue to decline, more number below the air quality standards. In 1998 Hu Jintao's visit to South Korea during the speech: "the China government attaches great importance to environmental protection, has put environmental protection and governance, implementation of the strategy of sustainable development as a basic policy in our [3], any economic policy economic development should not be at the expense of the environment, Hubei has such a superior natural environment, we should pay more attention to the environment protection and ecological development.

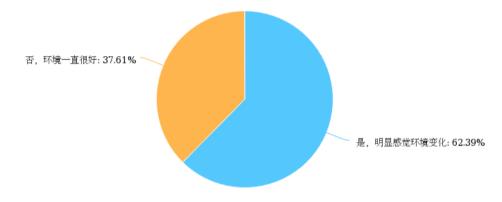


Figure 2

### 2.2. The overall level of urbanization increased steadily, but the gap between the rich and the poor widened further

Over the years, the 11 provinces and cities under the Yangtze River economy developed rapidly, and gradually formed a local economic center. But overall, the urbanization rate is not ideal, the Yangtze River Economic Belt region as the focus of economic development, its urbanization rate is lower than the national average.

66.07% of the respondents come from villages or towns in this part of the questionnaire, reflecting the rapid development of the local economy accounted for only 35.17% of its respondents said (fig3) more than half of its economic development is not obvious, the economic development situation mentioned above, we can figure out the current economic zone in rural area and urban gap is further increase.



Figure 3

#### 2.3. The regional cooperation mechanism is not perfect

Since the policy of the Yangtze River economic belt was issued, the research on the regional development strategy of the Yangtze River economic belt has mostly stayed at a single analysis level. Although the State Council issued the comprehensive planning of the Yangtze River Basin (2012-2030 years) in 2015, it

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focused on the rational development and application of water resources and flood control, but rarely involved in regional cooperation and comprehensive development.

Although the current regional cooperation mechanism is constantly adjusted, but the real regional cooperation, still faces many difficulties.

#### 3. Suggestions on the construction of the Yangtze River economic belt at present

#### 3.1. Strengthen the ecological protection of Hubei Yangtze River Economic Belt

#### 3.1.1. Strengthening water ecological protection and restoration

More than 70% of the human body is water, human beings cannot survive without water, destroying water ecology is the way to cut off human development.

Water pollution protection and restoration should be strengthened, industrial pollution should be controlled, living pollution should be reduced, agricultural pollution should be prevented and controlled, and water pollution should be controlled and reduced. New policies should be introduced to reduce water pollution more comprehensively, to strictly control enterprises with serious water pollutants, to strengthen efforts to control enterprises with excessive pollution, and to establish and improve urban garbage and sewage treatment facilities.

#### 3.1.2. Improves ecosystem integrated service capability

Thanks to the efforts of the government of Hubei in recent years, many aspects of the ecosystem have been restored.

The next step is to maintain regional ecological system stability as the main target, the implementation of forest construction and operation, factory pollution, returning farmland to Forest Wetland and biological resources protection, to strengthen air pollution control work.

#### 3.1.3. Strict ecological protection hard constraints

Ecological protection should be based on law. For enterprises, relevant laws and regulations should be promulgated to implement the blacklist system for seriously polluting industries and strengthen the environmental protection standards of enterprises.

#### 3.2. Balanced development, reduce the gap between urban and rural areas

At present, the gap between the rich and the poor in the Yangtze River economic belt is highlighted in the gap between urban and rural areas. A fundamental difference between socialism and capitalism is that socialism insists on common prosperity, not polarization. The common prosperity is the basic national policy of our country. The construction of the Yangtze River Economic Belt should not be enriched only by a part of the people, but forget the rural areas.

#### 3.2.1. Increase farmers' entrepreneurial support

At present, the main focus of the development of the Yangtze River economic belt is industry and commerce, while the vast majority of farmers can get more jobs, which is not significant for poverty alleviation. So if we want to keep pace with the pace of development in the agricultural areas, we must carry out innovation and entrepreneurship support.

#### 3.2.2. Implement the policy of benefiting people

Huimin policy implementation is to implement Scientific Outlook on Development, to promote stable and rapid economic development, building a harmonious society, comprehensively building a well-off society, reflects the fundamental principle of common prosperity, is the primary stage of socialism the main contradiction, is the embodiment of the party's ideas of "people-oriented and governing for the people", is the specific requirements of practice "Three Represents". At the same time, only after the real implementation of Huimin policy, the rights and interests of farmers can be guaranteed, in order to go all out to engage in economic construction.

#### 3.3. Strengthen regional cooperation and achieve common development

From the current economic development situation, the author thinks that we should set up a corresponding departments to reasonable planning of the Yangtze River Economic Belt region economy development, also can be in at the national level, to the macro perspective to control the collaboration between regions the Yangtze River economic belt; or to establish a separate organization, specially responsible for cooperation and development issues on the coordination between the middle and lower reaches of Yangtze river.

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