#### The Hukou System

Jeff Kelley May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013



# Hukou Defined

 Central government's household registration system

 Broadly classifies citizens as urban or rural







#### Importance

• 2011 majority of China urbanized

• Urbanization to reach 60% by 2020

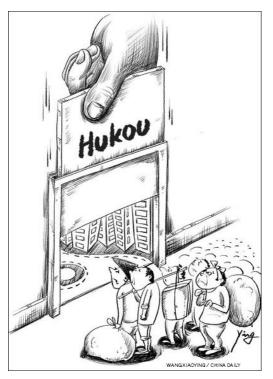
 Reform needed to facilitate continued urbanization and transition away from export industries

# History

Implemented in 1958 to control mobility

• Modeled after Soviet Propiska

Initial success due to rationing





# Reform

 Hukou decentralized in 1990's

Local governments
efforts inconsistent



ZHANG CHENGLIANG/OHINA DAILY

incin

 Often viewed as a source of revenue

# Case Study

- Zhejiang village, located in Beijing
- Autonomous migrant communities
- How to incorporate into local and regional planning efforts?



#### Conclusion

 Rural migrants not fully participating in urban life threatens stability

Stakeholders resistant to change

 Hukou reform will influence sustainability of urban communities



# What I Learned

Prior to departure, asked Chinese students at DAAP

- All urban...not concerned, not an issue
- During trip, asked students at BJUT and Shandong University
- All urban...not concerned, not an issue

Outgoing Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao at the Nation People's Congress in March 2013

Recognizes need for overhaul of Hukou system



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