

The Hukou System

Jeff Kelley

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Hukou Defined

- Central government's household registration system
- Broadly classifies citizens as urban or rural
- Precludes access to services



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
- Often viewed as a source of revenue



ZHANG CHENGLIANG/CHINA DAILY

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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