United Nations Development Programme

联合国开发计划署

UNDP China

Engagement Concept Note

UNDP Internal Review and Clearance Process

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Project (Activity) Duration	December 2014-December 2015
Starting Date	December 1, 2014
Ending Date	November 30, 2015
Estimated Budget	USD 162,893
Source of Funding	Oriental Outlook Media Co., Ltd under Xinhua News Agency

1. Background

Background

UNDP supports the sustainable development of over 170 countries all over the world. In its over 30 years' cooperation with China UNDP has been devoted to improving people's lives and made great achievements in areas such as poverty reduction, democratic governance, energy and environment, crisis prevention and recovery, as well as sharing international experience and knowledge for sustainable development.

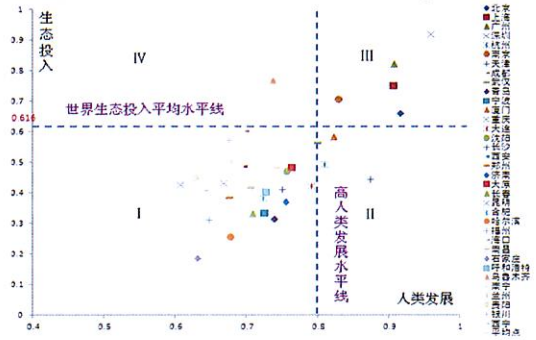
With China recently passing the 50% mark for urbanized populations and releasing the National New-type Urbanization Plan, in addition to a range of pollution crises and upcoming climate change negotiations, sustainable urbanization has become a major development issue in China.
UNDP and Xinhua News Agency have been in discussions regarding how to best support Chinese cities and municipal officials in making the transition from breakneck to more balanced development. Xinhua has had considerable success with their Happiness Index as a way of reincorporating human needs and satisfaction into evaluating regional development. A sustainable

cities index was proposed as a way of highlighting good urban development practice in an objective and quantifiable way. However, it was also felt that many less-developed cities may also have good practices in terms of ecological or human development even if overall they may not be able to compete with richer, more developed cities.

Therefore, it was proposed that the partners produce a report that would both evaluate a set number of cities using objective, quantative data in the form of an index and also invite cities to participate in developing case studies for the report as a way of incorporating qualitative data for a more in-depth exploration of specific good practices. A media campaign and high-profile events would attract city participation and promote knowledge exchange.

Urban Sustainable Development Index (Tongji University)

The Urban Sustainable Development Index (USDI), developed by Professor Zhu Dajian (the School of Economics and Management, Tongji University, Shanghai) is based on UNDP's Human Development Index and the Urban Ecological Input Index. The USDI evaluates cities according to both their human development and environmental achievements and represents them in a scatterplot (see picture). Cities may fall into one of four quadrants:



I. Low human development, high environmental quality (e.g. Ningbo and most other Chinese cities)
II. High human development, high environmental quality (currently Xiamen, Tianjin and Hangzhou)
III. High human development, low environmental quality (e.g. Beijing)
IV. Low human development, low environmental quality (only Urumqi)

The goal is to have as many cities as possible move into Quadrant II.

Advantages of the USDI

Philosophical:

- Based on the perspective that economic development and environmental protection support human flourishing[1]

[1]Other indices, particularly those promoted by the private sector, tend to emphasize economic growth and frame environmental degradation as a drag on economic development. While presumably the underlying assumption is that economic development is of benefit to human beings, this is often not explicit. Recent critiques of the late 20th and early 21st century overemphasis on economic growth are reminders that economic growth is not an end in itself but the means to an end.

- Acknowledges the importance of human development in a developing country and the Chinese context
- Does not emphasize the rank of cities relative to one another, where differences are often quite minor, but instead recognizes an acceptable range for both human and environmental development as the ultimate goal for a sustainable city
- Indicators emphasize results rather than inputs
- Part of a partnership between public, private and academic sectors

Practical:

- HDI is a signature UNDP data product- applying HDI to cities is an innovative extension of the utility of that tool that enhances UNDP's knowledge base and reputation
- Indices are excellent marketing tools- both to promote sustainable development goals in the media and to attract local governments to participating in larger sustainable development projects
- The 2014 China City Statistical Yearbook now contains all the data required to support HDI calculations for the shortlisted cities

2. Objectives and Delivery

The objectives of the project are defined by the following two pillars:

Project Goals

1. Report

The Sustainable and Livable Cities Report will contain the results and analysis of the application of the USDI to 37 Chinese cities with populations of over 3 million. It will also contain at least ten case studies of good practices related to index criteria. Cities smaller than 3 million may also participate in the case study portion of the report.

2. Awards Ceremony

An Awards Ceremony will be held. The top three cities as ranked on the USDI Index will be recognized, as will three other cities that have made achievements in good practices. These award categories still need to be defined through discussions with Xinhua and Tongji.

Events in individual cities may also be held on a case-by-case basis.

3. Timeframe

December 2014: Preparatory work for finalizing the index indicators and recruiting case studies
January-February 2015: Begin recruiting case study cities.
March-July: Cities evaluated using Index; Case studies conducted.
August: Case studies evaluated by expert panel, top 3 cities in each category chosen.
September: Report written. Preparation for Awards ceremony.
October: Awards ceremony held on World Cities Day, October 31st. Report launched.
November: Follow-up dissemination work conducted.

4. Key Partnership

UNDP and Xinhua are the two main partners in the project. Tongji University is contracted with UNDP to develop and apply the USDI. UNDP and Xinhua will jointly develop an invitation letter to invite a range of Chinese cities, including ones with populations smaller than 3 million, to participate in developing case studies for the report. UNDP will send a team of experts to interested cities to evaluate their good practice. A team of experts will be established to evaluate all good practices and decide on the ones to be recognized at the Awards Ceremony. UNDP and Tongji will write the report and Xinhua will organized the Awards Ceremony and media campaign.

5. Indicative funding requirements

Case studies will need additional funding: RMB 45,000 per case study to cover travel and research costs.

Annex I: Budget (USD)

Activities	Activity Description	Source of Funding	Timeframe	Account Breakdown	Planned Budget
1.1	Index prep and analysis	Oriental Outlook Media Co., Ltd	December 2014-September 2014		39,862
1.2	Case Study research	Oriental Outlook Media Co., Ltd	March 2015-July 2015		45,000
2.1	Report writing	Oriental Outlook Media Co., Ltd	August-September 2015		25,000

3.1	Judge's Panel for Awards	Oriental Outlook Media Co., Ltd	August 2015		20,000
4.1	Travel	Oriental Outlook Media Co., Ltd	March 2015-July 2015		20,000
5.1	GMS, 8%	Oriental Outlook Media Co., Ltd	December, 2014-December , 2015		13,031
				Total	162,893

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