Abstract

In the past decade, Chinese cities' progress of growth mode transformation is not obvious. Meanwhile, there are some emerging problems like soaring housing prices, worsening city environment and increasing social problems, highlighting urban diseases. It is an urgent issue for Chinese cities to seek the sustainable development mechanism and the new path of urbanization. This annual report has the theme of "A New Benchmark: Constructing the Ideal city with Sustainable Competitiveness" It is a quest to explore the future development directions for cities in China. Based on research in the past ten reports, Annual Report on Urban Competitiveness (No. 11) has achieved new progress in urban competitiveness theories with clearer theoretical framework and policy implications. It is the first time we clearly distinguish among the three parts of urban competitiveness, of which urban general economic competitiveness is the output, current and short-term aspect of urban competitiveness; urban industrial system competitiveness and urban sustainable competitiveness are the input, sustainable and long-term aspect of urban competitiveness. Urban general economic competitiveness shows cities' ability to create value, which is reflected by the scale, speed and efficiency of cities' value creation activity. Urban sustainable competitiveness is cities' conditions of factors and environment, which is illustrated from six aspects, including the quality of economic agents, local factors, local demand, local and global connections, social systems and infrastructure. Aimed at building an ideal city, we claim that an ideal city should be people-oriented, livable city, entrepreneurship and business-friendly fair, inclusive, harmonious, environment-friendly, innovation-driven, city, urban-rural integrated, an communication and information friendly, culturally open and diversified. We extract key elements from the six aspects of urban sustainable competitiveness, and recompose them according to the eight characteristics of an ideal city. Then we design the index system of urban sustainable competitiveness. Therefore, a city's urban sustainable competitiveness reflects the gap

between an ideal city and its current state, as well as real cities ability to achieve the ideal. Based on the index system of urban general economic competitiveness and urban sustainable competitiveness, we analyze the urban general economic competitiveness of 293 cities and the urban sustainable competitiveness of 287 cities in China. And we find that there are big gaps between Chinese cities and the ideal city in terms of urban sustainable competitiveness in eight aspects. Each field needs to deal with a series of urgent problems. In the future, in order to build ideal cities and solve these problems effectively, Chinese cities should take the new path of urbanization and achieve sustainable development.