



New Thinking about Urban Growth: Liujiang County

The Background of Urbanization Development

● The External Surroundings

National Plan for New Urbanization(2014-2020) was issued by China Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the State Council in March 2014. Following that, the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region issued the Plan for Integration of Liuzhou, Laibin and Hechi in which Liujiang County was listed as one of the twenty seven important strong counties in economic development in the Region. In January 2015 Liuzhou Municipality was approved as one of the new comprehensive pilots in *National Plan for New Urbanization*.

Situated in central Guangxi, Liujiang County occupies an area of 2,539 square kilometers with a population of 562 thousand. With geographical advantages, it is located in the core economic zone within which the integration of Liuzhou, Laibin and Hechi has been planned. Liujiang, adjacent to Liuzhou Municipality which is the strongest industrial city in Guangxi and has obvious development advantages among the six counties administered by Liuzhou Municipality.

● The Internal Surroundings

Liujiang, a place known for its abundance of rice and fish and named "the Commercial Centre in Central Guangxi", has good basic conditions for industrial development.

> **Industry** It has obviously benefited from the spillover effect of building Liuzhou into a megacity because of its nearest location to Liuzhou. There are more than 700 industrial enterprises in Liujiang, with automobile and automobile parts, machine-building industry as the pillar industry. Its competitive industries include sugar industry and pharmaceutical industry. Xinxing Industrial Park, with a total plan area of 27 square kilometers and more than 6700 Chinese mu utilized, is named as one of the first-category industrial parks in Guangxi.



SGM of Wuling Co., Ltd

> **Agriculture** Liujiang is the base for Non-Staple Food Project for Liuzhou. Liujiang boasts seven leading agricultural sectors--grains, sugarcane, vegetables, fruits, silkworms, aquatic products, livestock and forestry. It enjoys also high reputation in suburban specific agricultural products in Guangxi. Many famous agricultural brands are very popular in our region, such as grapes, lotus roots, ginger and Qinghua pear.

> **Tertiary Industry** Liujiang is the seat of ancient ruins of "Liujiang Man", which is known at home and abroad, and is rich in cultural heritages and tourist resources.



Baipeng Town: Lotus Roots

The problems of urban growth in Liujiang County

● Public services in Liujiang County have not developed as rapidly as those in Liuzhou city

Compared with Liuzhou City, Liujiang County lags behind in the following areas, such as per capita road area, education, medical care, etc. Labao town, where the county government is located, possesses a larger population of 100,000; however, it only has two public kindergartens and hospitals.

Comparison of Public Service-Oriented Indicators in 2013

Indicator	Per Capita Road Area	Pre-School Three-Year Enrollment Rate	Health Professionals /Per Thousand Population	Per Capita Public Green Space	Urban Sewage Treatment Rate/Capacity
Liuzhou(urban district)	11.72m ²	77%	12.1	11.1 m ²	90%
Liujiang	3.26 m ²	60%	2.5	5.4 m ²	73%



"Liujiang Man" Site

● Inadequate services are creating social problems.

Social problems arising from land expropriation become more serious in the past few years. The expropriated farmers tend to receive land compensation and employment. Such benefits for land-expropriated farmers were not thought through; especially the problem how to put them into employment has not been solved. Those farmers are sinking into poverty after spending all of the compensation.

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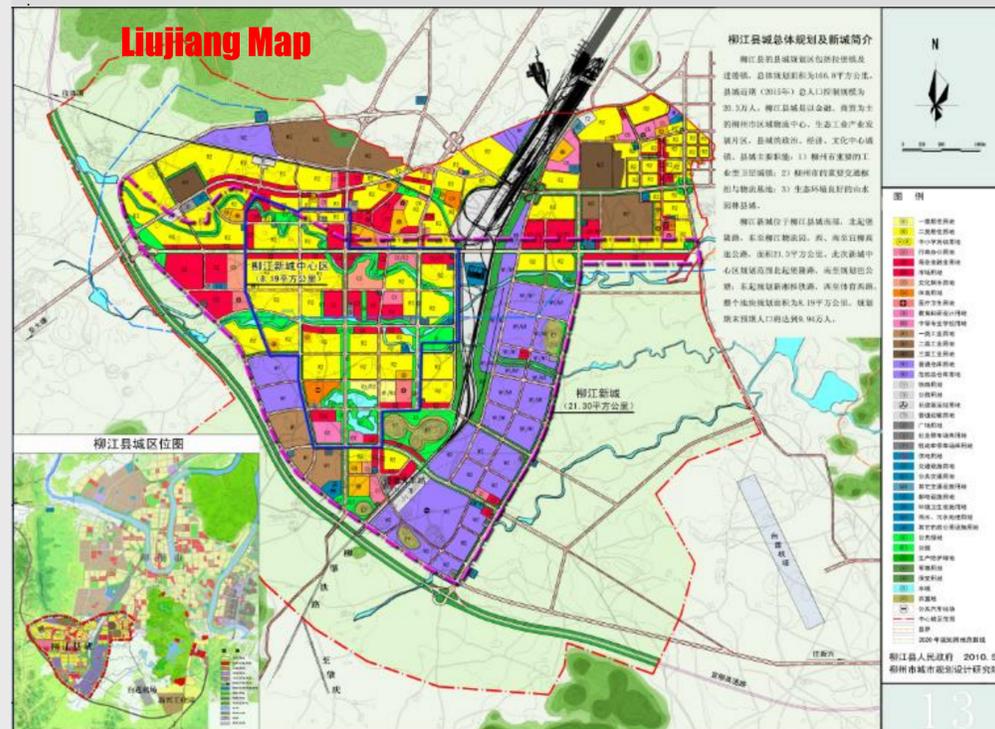
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Introduction

"The New Road to Urbanization with Chinese Characteristics" that was put forward by the 18th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, is being implemented, following the Congress, in Liujiang County of Liuzhou City through a series of plans and policies. This is an analysis of the process of urbanization under those plans: The Twelfth Five-year Economic Plan for Liujiang County and The Research Report on Liujiang Urbanization. The paper depicts four of the major components:(1) background material on the urbanization of Liujiang County and the opportunities that both external and internal factors present at present, (2)problems of urban growth in Liujiang County. (3)the new thinking about urban growth and the policies that can enhance the urbanization in terms of developing competitive industries, accelerating facilities construction, promoting the equalization of public services, and eliminating the institutional barriers, and (4) a model of interaction between urbanization and industrialization to guide Liujiang's development.



● Accelerating the Construction of Infrastructure in Liujiang

> Speeding up the Building of the Infrastructure for transportation

We should improve the internal traffic network by widening the main roads of our county and the three-dimensional traffic channel, under which the railway line crosses our county. We will increase the external traffic capacity by expanding the transport capacity of the railway lines and their reform between Hunan and Guangxi. We will try to speed up the extension and transformation of the roads between our county and its towns, and develop the short-journey public transportation between the counties and between the towns.

> Strengthening Supporting Facilities

We will develop a new central area, mainly by strengthening the following public infrastructure, for instance, water supply and drainage; gas and power supply; sewage and garbage treatment, etc. We will build culture and art museums, science and technology museums, the parks, the new county commercial center and along-the-river scenery project.

> Developing Healthy Small Towns

There are twelve towns in the County. We are planning to link them together by guiding them to develop further based on their different functions-orientation and industrial bases. For some towns, especially those with a large population, garbage treatment stations and sewage treatment plants should be built or rebuilt. We will improve our public service facilities and set up some high-level regional educational and health service centers to meet the needs of the rural residents.

Conclusion

Liujiang County is taking advantage of unprecedented opportunities to speed up urbanization. Successful urbanization in Liujiang is the result of successful management of the reciprocal relationship between population growth and industrial development. A solid foundation has been laid and a platform for future industrialization is in place so that the expansion of its industrialization enhances and enriches both expansion and quality of the county: more people with a better quality of life.

New Thinking: Addressing the problems of urban growth in Liujiang County

● Developing Competitive Industries Energetically

> Improving the quality of industrialization

As an important industrial county, Liujiang will continue to quicken its industrial development. First, we will complete industrial supporting ability and industrial coordination, making full use of the geographical advantages in the core area of economic integration, strengthening the regional mutual contact and developing interaction. Second, we will optimize the regional and industrial layout and quicken the construction of "the Industrial Corridor" characterized by the Xinxing Industrial Zone so as to form a new development pattern of "Multi-District Area". In the next 5 years, Xinxing Industrial Zone will be developed as a small town, based mainly on industry, in which the size of population of the town will reach 50 thousand to 100 thousand. Third, based on the present industrial foundation, we will enhance our capability of independent innovation by making great efforts to research and develop the core technology in order to develop self-owned brands with core competitiveness. We will also develop and upgrade our competitive industries by way of using high tech and advanced practical technology, energetically develop the following industries: power, agricultural product processing, new materials, new energy, etc.



Xinxing Industrial Zone



LiuGong Machinery Co., Ltd.

> Targeted Agricultural Development

Liujiang, has become the country's largest bi-annual cropping base of lotus roots, grapes and green onions. We will establish the standardized production base, such as vegetable base and meat base to meet the demand of Liuzhou. A great deal of competitive agricultural business entities will be attracted to invest in the agricultural enterprises. The production-marketing combination modes, such as "leading enterprises +bases + farmers" and "farmers +supermarkets" will be developed. The introduction of enterprises and projects for processing fruits and vegetables, silkworm, livestock, poultry and aquatic products will be accelerated so as to extend the industrial chain.



Chentuan Town: High Quality Grain Base

> Modernizing Services

Firstly, we will make great efforts to develop modern logistics, quicken the building of specified logistics park and the wholesale market. It is most important to build the Guangxi Changle Modern Logistics Park and the Airport Logistics Area in Xinxing Industrial Park. Secondly, we will speed up to build "the tourism corridor" and connect with "the Golden Tourism Circle"(i.e. a popular tourist route).This effort includes development of the popular farmer-run restaurants with high standards and adequate size. Thirdly, we will accelerate the formation of comprehensive commercial and logistics networks between Liujiang and Liuzhou by establishing rural distribution centers that link rural communities with the greater metropolitan area to support the establishment of the farmers' shops and commercial centers.



Lotus Sea

● Equalizing of Public Services

> Equalizing Education

We will try to narrow the differences between Liujiang County and Liuzhou City in teaching resources and conditions in schools. We will steadily improve the overall arrangement and adjustment in the rural primary schools and high schools, reasonably allocate the educational resources for compulsory education.

> Equalizing Health and Promoting Culture

We will further perfect the basic facilities and equipment so as to bridge the differences step by step between the different levels of County-level hospitals and the City-level hospitals. We will explore the potential national cultural resources and support some cultural projects with Liujiang local characteristics and compile folk songs of Zhuang nationality, firework-gathering and Cai diao Opera characterized by Liujiang style and start to hold art festivals with the local customs of Zhuang nationality.



New Central Area

> Social Management

We will quicken the integration of the social security system in urban and rural areas, effectively quicken the linking up of the pension insurance of urban workers, the pension insurance of the farmers who have lost their land and the pension insurance of the urban and rural residents, integrate the standards for the lowest life guarantee for the urban and rural residents and the standards for the relief of the poor farmers with those for the Liuzhou residents.

● Eliminating the Systematic Development Institutional Barriers between Urban and Rural Areas

> Improving the Land Management System

We will encourage farmers to transfer the contractual right of land by means of subcontract, rent, exchange of land, and share-cooperation. We will improve the compensation system and set up the social security mechanism for the farmers whose land have been requisitioned and adopt specific measures to allow farmers to exchange their land for social security, for employment, or for stable earnings.

> Furthering the Reform of Household registration System

We will establish a uniformed system for the urban and rural population registration and steadily reform the household registration system .We will actively promote the systematic reform in employment, education, medical care, pension and housing which is associated with the household registration so as to eliminate the systematic barriers in the binary structure