

Final Report: Senior Researchers Stay at Freie Universität of Berlin

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Study on Urban Sustainable Development and Urban Renewal

German Experience and Enlightenment

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It was my great pleasure to have this wonderful researchers stay at Freie Universität Berlin and I had learned a lot during those days. I really appreciated Ms. Katrin's thoughtful and meticulous arrangement.

Sustainable urban development is one of the important goals of the UN 2030 agenda. The modern accelerated urbanization has brought about unsustainable development dilemmas such as excess production capacity, excessive environmental consumption, inadequate infrastructure and services, and high cost of living. How global cities will overcome their difficulties and move towards harmonious and stable development will be the main development goal of future cities.

In the past, some Chinese cities, especially the traditional industrialized cities, followed the development path featuring fast growth, high consumption and rapid expansion. After years of development and changes in the industrial structure, these cities are faced with many problems, such as insufficient growth power, serious population loss, and slow transition. It is an important issue to achieve sustainable urban development and urban renewal.

So my research topic was "Study on Urban Sustainable Development and Urban Renewal——German Experience and Enlightenment". With the extremely well coordinated by Ms. Katrin, I had many fruitful conversations during my visit. I have met with Profs. Berthold Kuhn, Kerstin Tews, Elena Meyer-Clement and Maria Rosaria Di Nucci who kindly shared their fields of research. Prof. Berthold Kuhn's research is in the field of Political and Social Sciences. From him I learned the social, economic and environmental sustainable development framework and strategies proposed by the German government. With the help of Prof. Kerstin Tews, I studied some typical cases of urban renewal and successful sustainable development areas. Prof. Maria Rosaria Di Nucci taught me a lot about the micro research methods of sustainability. In particular, Prof. Elena Meyer-Clement's research focused

on transformation of rural areas. The conversation had catalyzed our interests, which had led to continuing our discussions by email. We hope that there would be more collaborative research in the future.

Through this researchers stay, I understood that as an industrial country with manufacturing as its pillar industry, Germany has been focusing on sustainable urban development and urban renewal, and has accumulated considerable experience. For example, the German government has transformed the development patterns of Ruhr in various ways and successfully achieved its renewal. It is an important inspiration and a significant reference for the transformation and development of Chinese traditional industrial cities.