



2019 The 5th PKU-WASEDA Workshop

Theme: "Urban Governance and Community Participation"

December 20, Peking University

Speakers:



Topic: "Urban Governance and Community Participation"

--by Prof. Pan Wei, Peking University

The art of city construction is a major Chinese contribution to architecture. Due to the long history of largest cities in the world, China has had a very long tradition of city governance. As early as Han Dynasty (202BC–220AD) and Tang Dynasty (618-907), laws in detail separated the urban residential districts from the commercial ones. In addition, China had even a longer and stronger tradition of the self-rule community, the popular participation of which guaranteed the longevity of major Chinese dynasties. However, in the time of modern industries, urban governance in China lagged far behind that of the developed countries. China learned modern city governance, especially city police organization, from the "leased territory" of major Chinese cities. After the communist take-over in 1949, urban residential communities developed quite well through the 1950s-1970s. Popular participation in communal life was its main feature. Today's community self-rule in Singapore is largely a copy of just that. From the 1980s to now, China's urban governance has experienced a very difficult time, mainly because of rapid urbanization. The real rural residents reduced from the 80% of the population to less than 20%. Chinese farmers, unlike the retired soldiers in Japan after WWII, often ignore regulations of city life. Therefore, we might find three basic factors for a mature city governance : (1) Advanced urban infrastructure out of tax revenue; (2) strict enforcement of laws concerning urban life; (3) massive communal participation by stable residents who well identify with their cities.