RESEARCH ON REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPED REGIONS—THE CASE OF SHANGHAI–NANJING–HANGZHOU AREA

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ABSTRACT: The developed regions are faced with the problems of regional comprehensive development, and the research on regional comprehensive development has become a trend in the world. To optimize regional industrial structure and to select and determine scientifically the spatial development strategy of regional industries are the central themes to be solved for the research on regional comprehensive development in the developed regions. This paper proposed the basis for optimizing regional industrial structure, and the main factors of selecting and determining the regional leading industries. Based on this, the paper puts forward the leading industries and the spatial development strategy in Shanghai–Nanjing–Hangzhou area in the future ten or more years. Combined with the situation of Shanghai–Nanjing–Hangzhou area, the paper also discusses some problems of locating superior developing axis to benefit the rational distribution of regional productive forces.

KEY WORDS: regional comprehensive exploitation, regional leading industries, spatial development strategy, superior developing axis

I. THE PROBLEMS OF REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPED REGIONS

Uneven regional economic development is a objective law independent of man's will. Since each region has its own natural superiority and different social, economic, scientific, technical and cultural conditions, as well as different original economic foundation and history of the regional economic development, there are three types named developed region, less–developed region and non–developed region according to the level of their economic development. The so–called developed regions are usually such regions in which there are
aggregative economy, population and cities, high level of science and technique, culture and productive forces, high level of gross national product (GNP) for per capita and per square kilometer, the important position in the economic areas system of the whole country or an administrative region. For example, the Ruhr Area, located on the middle west of Germany is a comprehensive industry area which developed from the coal mining industry, now it is a comprehensive industrial area including iron and steel industry, coal and chemistry industry, petrochemical industry, power industry, machinery industry, auto industry, electrical equipment, light industry, food industry and so on. Since the beginning of this century, this area has always been one of the important industrial and economic in Germany and Europe, and also been the important hub of communications. This area has one-third of workers, they produce 86% hard coal and coke, the output of iron and steel makes up 60% to 65% of the country, the output of the automobiles one-third, generator capacity 35%, power 60%. The land area is 1.8% of the country while the population is 9% and the GNP is one-fourth. Besides, the Ruhr Area has six million people and 4,593 square kilometers of land, so the population density is 1,306 persons per square kilometer on the average, in some places the figure can reach 3,000 persons. In the Area, there are cities closely side by side and the urban district hasn’t disconnected obviously.

Another example is Shanghai–Nanjing–Hangzhou area, it is located in the eastern coast of China. There, the land area is 1% of the total area of the country, while the GNP is 15% of the whole country, the gross output value of industry and agriculture is 17%, the gross output value of industry is 23%, the revenue of the area is 16% of the total, the per capita gross national product is 1,787 yuan, 1.24 times more than the per capita gross national product of the whole country (796 yuan). In the area, the cotton yarn output is one-fourth, the chemical fibre output is two-fifths, the output of the television sets, refrigerators, washing machines is 40% respectively, the output of steel and steel products is one-sixth, the output of cutting machine tool, internal-combustion engine and generator is nearly one-fourth respectively. In the area, there are some high-tech industrial districts which are gradually coming into being and rare in our country. There is also the biggest sea port and external trade port Shanghai and port group in the lower reaches of the Changjiang (Yangtze) River and the trunk railways of Shanghai to Nanjing, Shanghai to Hangzhou and Hangzhou to Ningbo linking with the national railway network, a dense road network, a lane along the Changjiang River, the inland river and the coast, and the famous Changjiang River Delta city group.

In these developed regions the high density economy aggregation and high level economy development have obviously brought out the aggregate benefit in the regional economy, and the abundant economic strength built up for a long term becomes the evident superiority on the one hand. But on the other hand, in the developed regions, it is limited and conditional to play the part of the aggregate benefit for the regional economy. Someone unsuitably identifies the economic aggregation with the aggregate benefit and thinks