Chengdu Metropolitan Development Strategy

China
World Bank and Cities Alliance; Chengdu Municipal Government

Issues
The World Bank and China began to explore innovative approaches to metropolitan planning in the early 2000s. With support from The Cities Alliance, a program to prepare metropolitan-wide development strategies was undertaken in five city-regions: Chengdu, Lanzhou, Zhengzhou, Xinxiang, and Erdos. Chreod was commissioned to prepare these strategies. The major tasks to be addressed were: 1) reforming the static 'master plan' approach to urban planning; 2) integrating economic and social issues into territorial development strategies; and 3) extending strategic planning across municipal boundaries to capture the full metropolitan region.

Approach
The Chengdu metropolitan region had a population of 11.2 million in 2000. Capital of Sichuan Province, the metropolis is a major hub in the Western Yangtze Region of 120 million people. Rapid economic growth since the mid 1990s has led to significant economic restructuring and to the uncontrolled growth of suburban areas and satellite towns.

We conducted a thorough analysis of economic trends in the metropolitan region and identified medium and high value-added manufacturing and producer services that could sustain regional growth. Constraints on human capital were identified, especially in education and training.

Social issues of an aging suburban population and extensive migration of rural workers to the urban periphery were analyzed. Master plans were evaluated and compared against actual urban and suburban growth trends which were identified through analysis of time-series satellite imagery. Environmental problems with water and air quality were quantified, and solid waste challenges defined.

Institutional arrangements and processes for inter-municipal coordination were closely examined. A major focus of the Chengdu Metropolitan Development Strategy was institutional reform needed to improve metropolitan-wide governance, planning, and the equitable delivery of public services.

Results
The Strategy outlined four economic development initiatives, three sub-strategies for addressing human and social development, five urban and suburban growth management initiatives, and eight sub-strategies on metropolitan governance. Parts of the Strategy were immediately adopted by the municipal government, particularly the extension of its planning area to include linkages with adjacent Deyang municipality in the formulation of its 11th Five Year Plan (2006-2010).

2003-2005
Client: World Bank: East Asia Urban Sector Unit The Cities Alliance Chengdu Municipal Government

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Project Area Population: 11.2 mn