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Urbanization in China is taking place at an unprecedented pace and will continue over the next decades. Levels of urbanization in China has risen from 18 percent in 1978 to 30 percent in 1995 and to 39 percent in 2002. It is expected that China will quadruple its total GDP and reach 55 percent of urbanization by 2020.

Urbanization in China is a comprehensive process involving transformations in many areas, including;

Management of spatial expansion via modern urban planning

Administration of land use changes via land policy reforms

Process of rural-to-urban migration, and the development of public finance systems.

All of these changes are part of urbanization in China_a transition from a centrally planned economy to a socialist market economy.

Not surprisingly, this rapid urbanization process, along with ongoing social and economic transitions, has presented great challenges for those leading urbanization in China. Chinese urban planners and public policy makers are faced with;

Urban sprawl

Resource shortages

Urban redevelopment

Environmental pollution

Economic restructuring

Social inequity

In response to the issues surrounding urbanization in China, the Lincoln Institute held a

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conference in May 2006 to facilitate the search for urbanization strategies and instruments that promote urbanization in China in ways that are economically sound, environmentally desirable, politically feasible, and socially acceptable. This volume presents the proceedings of that conference in four sections that address the most pressing issues of urbanization in China: urban planning, land policy, rural-to-urban migration, and financing.

Editors Yan Song and Chengri Ding and the other chapter authors shed light on these and other issues related to urbanization in China. Their contributions enhance our understanding of the challenges at hand, and help to inform those involved in policy decisions in this rapidly changing environment.

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