

Supplementary Material II: Interview Protocols and Guides

Round 1: Special Research on Kunshan's Development Trajectory, Shanghai-Jiangsu Integration and the Development of HQIBH

Date: January 2018

Participants: Officials from the Kunshan Development and Reform Commission (2); officials from the HQIBH Planning Bureau (2); real estate agents (2); local residents (2).

Objectives: This round of fieldwork aimed to examine Kunshan's development trajectory, the evolution of Shanghai-Jiangsu integration, and the development of HQIBH. Particular attention was paid to industrial spillovers from Shanghai, population and housing dynamics, industrial development, cross-boundary governance arrangements, and everyday challenges associated with cross-boundary integration.

Interview Guide

1. What factors have contributed to Kunshan's position as one of China's leading county-level economies?
2. How has Kunshan's development evolved through the stages of agricultural industrialisation, export-oriented industrialisation, industrial upgrading and metropolitan integration?
3. What progress has been achieved in transportation connectivity, public service provision, industrial cooperation and policy coordination between Kunshan and Shanghai?

4. What major barriers continue to constrain Shanghai-Jiangsu integration?
5. What were the original planning objectives and strategic positioning of HQIBH?
6. How has HQIBH undertaken business, industrial and population spillovers from Shanghai?
7. What characteristics define housing development, commuting patterns and population structure in HQIBH?
8. What challenges exist regarding industrial upgrading, enterprise development and land-use efficiency in HQIBH?
9. What institutional and administrative barriers affect cross-boundary collaboration between HQIBH and neighbouring areas in Shanghai?

Round 2: Special Research on the AHBICC

Date: March 2018

Participants: Urban planners from Shanghai urban planning and design institute (4).

Objectives: This round investigated the development foundation, planning characteristics, governance structure and integration challenges of the Anting-Huaqiao-Baihe Interjurisdictional Collaborative Cluster (AHBICC) from a metropolitan planning perspective.

Interview Guide

1. What characteristics distinguish the AHBICC from other cross-boundary areas around Shanghai?
2. How do planning and governance systems differ across Anting, Baihe and Huaqiao?
3. What are the major characteristics of industrial development and industrial division of labour within the urban circle?
4. To what extent has industrial complementarity translated into substantive industrial cooperation?
5. What are the main commuting patterns and jobs-housing relationships within the urban circle?
6. How do differing development models between Shanghai and Jiangsu affect cross-boundary integration?
7. What transportation bottlenecks hinder regional integration?

8. What deficiencies exist in public services and ecological governance across the urban circle?

9. What institutional barriers constrain deeper cross-boundary collaboration?

10. What planning priorities should guide future integration of the urban circle?

Round 3: Special Research on Key Tasks of Shanghai-Jiangsu
Cross-boundary Integration

Date: Feb, 2019

Participants: Staff members from the Yangtze River Delta Regional Cooperation Office (3); Urban planners from Shanghai urban planning and design institute (2).

Objectives: This round examined the policy framework, governance mechanisms, implementation challenges and strategic priorities of Shanghai-Jiangsu cross-boundary integration.

Interview Guide

1. What are the principal objectives of Shanghai-Jiangsu cross-boundary integration at different governmental levels?
2. How do governance standards differ between Shanghai and Jiangsu in areas such as ecological protection, land development and public service provision?
3. How does the current regional coordination mechanism operate?
4. What challenges arise from existing institutional arrangements for cross-boundary governance?
5. How are responsibilities, costs and benefits distributed in cross-boundary ecological governance?
6. How do multiple planning frameworks influence the development of border areas such as HQIBH?

7. What obstacles affect the implementation of the Shanghai Metropolitan Area Plan?

8. Which fields have achieved the greatest integration progress and which remain difficult?

9. What institutional reforms are necessary to promote deeper cross-boundary integration in the future?

Round 4: Special Research on Cultural-Tourism Corridor Development and the Current Development of HQIBH

Date: May, 2022

Participants: Mayor of Dianshan Lake Town of Kunshan (1); officials from HQIBH Planning Department (1); officials from Kunshan DRC (2); a staff member of the Jiangsu High-tech Investment Group (1).

Objectives: This round investigated cultural-tourism corridor development, the evolving development trajectory of HQIBH, and governance issues affecting border-town collaboration in the Shanghai-Jiangsu border region.

Interview Guide

1. How have border towns in the Shanghai-Jiangsu region evolved under regional integration strategies?
2. What role have national integration policies played in shaping local development?
3. How have changes in regional administrative structures affected resource allocation and development opportunities?
4. What governance relationships exist between prefecture-level governments and county-level jurisdictions?
5. How has Kunshan pursued development through proactive engagement with Shanghai?
6. What forms of complementarity and competition characterise

industrial relations between Kunshan and Shanghai?

7. In which policy fields has cross-boundary collaboration been most successful?

8. What obstacles remain in areas involving land development, industrial projects and fiscal interests?

9. How have land constraints and stock-based redevelopment emerged as major development challenges?

10. What priorities should guide future development and regeneration in HQIBH?

Round 5: Special Research on Community Development, Livelihood Services and Population Dynamics in HQIBH

Date: May, 2025

Participants: Shanghai Planning and Natural Resources Bureau (1); Kunshan Transportation Bureau (1); representatives of major enterprises in Kunshan (3); an official from the Education Bureau of Kunshan (1); an official from the Human Resources and Social Security Bureau of Kunshan (1); officials from AHBIGO (2); physicians from Kunshan First People's Hospital (2); and staff members from local communities (2).

Objectives: This round explored community development, population structure, grassroots governance, livelihood services, commercial activities and the socio-spatial impacts of Shanghai-Jiangsu cross-boundary integration in HQIBH.

Interview Guide

A. Residential Characteristics and Population Dynamics

1. What factors motivate residents from Shanghai and other cities to relocate to HQIBH?
2. How do housing affordability and transportation accessibility influence residential choices?
3. What are the major characteristics of population composition and mobility within local communities?
4. How do cross-boundary commuting patterns shape everyday life

and residential behaviour?

B. Public Services and Community Governance

5. What challenges arise in community governance under conditions of high population mobility?

6. How do residents evaluate local educational, medical and public service provision?

7. What barriers are created by administrative boundaries in accessing public services?

8. How do community organisations and resident representatives contribute to grassroots governance?

C. Commercial Activities and Livelihood Services

9. How has Shanghai-Jiangsu medical insurance interoperability influenced local pharmacy operations?

10. What challenges do local businesses face under differing regulatory systems between Shanghai and Kunshan?

11. How do online platforms and changing consumption patterns affect local commercial activities?

D. Future Development Prospects

12. What advantages does HQIBH possess in attracting population and industrial development?

13. How does transportation connectivity support cross-boundary integration?

14. What improvements are needed in public services, industrial support and urban amenities?

15. What opportunities and challenges are likely to shape the future development of HQIBH?