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We need more territorial Justice

in the interest of an Ecological Civilization and Sustainable Development

Input to Eco Forum Global 2016 Guiyang on 9.7.2016

Ladies and Gentlemen,

regarding and researching our world in many countries together with my international post graduate Masterstudents at TUM we could discover many similar problems :increasing inequality between urban and rural areas, huge income gaps between rich and poor, unsustainable resource consumption in urban development and devastating large scale industry and infrastructure on the one side and irreversibly destroyed , poisoned and deserted rural areas, growing natural disasters due to wrong land ,forest and water use , lack of land tenure security and of access to water, rural poorness and enhanced climate change impacts on the other side.

The most important answer and hopefully effective recipe of our human society are e.g. the new SDG 2030 and the Paris Climate agreement both endorsed by China and my home country Germany. If you read all goals and measures you easily can find out that the Red Thread of both global agendas is Justice or Equity - equity for all human beings either man or women, equity for minority people, equity for all regions, urban and rural, equity for our nature, landscapes, fauna and flora .

Ongoing Globalisation has twofold impacts , positive and negative ones:it contributes to more wealth and opportunities in general , especially in cities , but it causes also more inequality and imbalance at the expense of rural regions. Cities are the winners of globalization, rural areas mostly the losers.

A lot of countries accept this obviously unavoidable situation because of lack of political interest or lack of power , courage, visions , concepts and measures.

Chinas President Xi Jinping writes in his book "The Governance of China" about his dream on the great national renaissance and about his hopes in terms of reaching „Blue sky, green meadows and clean water for future generations“ . More or less he addresses green development or developing an ecological civilization.

But he also admits:

„As long as rural areas, especially their poor parts lag behind the rest of the country so long we can not talk about having reached a society with modest wealth“

With other words:he also could have said :accepting imbalance and gaps between urban and rural areas is not a sustainable policy , is not a green development for an ecological society. There are a lot of reasons for proving this statement.

Europe also does not accept this imbalance and fights against this trend by conceptualizing, financing and launching a lot of specific comprehensive territorial and rural development programmes. In Bavaria we even do have after a public referendum an amended constitution which now demands “equivalent living and working conditions in urban and rural areas”.

What is the mental reason and sociopolitical background of this exciting situation ?

It is not only a nice idea but it is much more: it is the command for territorial justice or equity (**see figure**: territorial justice) which verifies the old dream and ethical norm of equal treatment and equal rights for all people and for all regions!

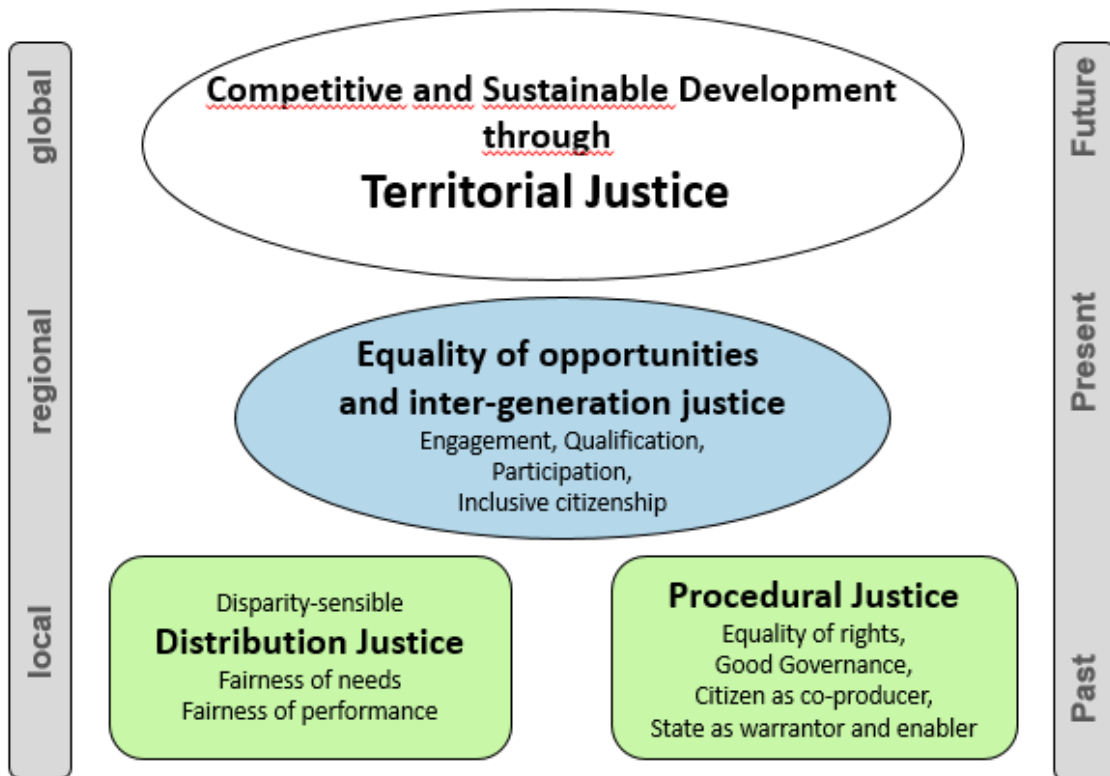
The societal/political background is the overwhelming wish of people for guaranteeing or developing vital cities , municipalities , villages and landscapes – all together **in balance** thus securing high life quality or in chinese slogan thus guaranteeing best chances for an ecological civilization .

The **three pillars of territorial justice** (equality of opportunities and intergenerational justice, distributional justice and procedural justice) meet exactly the contents and demands of SDG 2030 and Paris Climate Agreement.They can clarify, structure and help to find the right measures and strategies for achieving sustainable development ,reducing poverty or imbalances and aiming at a stable society. What do we need? We need concrete criteria e.g. for providing basic infrastructures like supply, education, traffic, housing , work places and jobs in agriculture and non agricultural sector , recreation , rate of ecoareas or for applying participative planning, governance procedures ,adequate measures and technologies etc. And we do need systemoriented planning and weighing up procedures which make sure ,that one sided spatial (only urban) or the dominance of only economic solutions can not furthermore happen.

Two final words: As TUM Professor of Land Management and Land Development I would like to point out very clearly : without land reforms and secure land tenure systems ,without fair access to land , water and other resources and without providing comprehensive rural development programmes ,education ,vocational training for non agricultural jobs and without extension services we will not really overcome rural poverty !

Universities and Academies should play a key role in the scientific field of a new fair urban rural partnership and equitable development for both urban and rural areas. This is the best contribution to reaching finally a sustainable society without hunger and poverty.

Model „Territorial Justice“



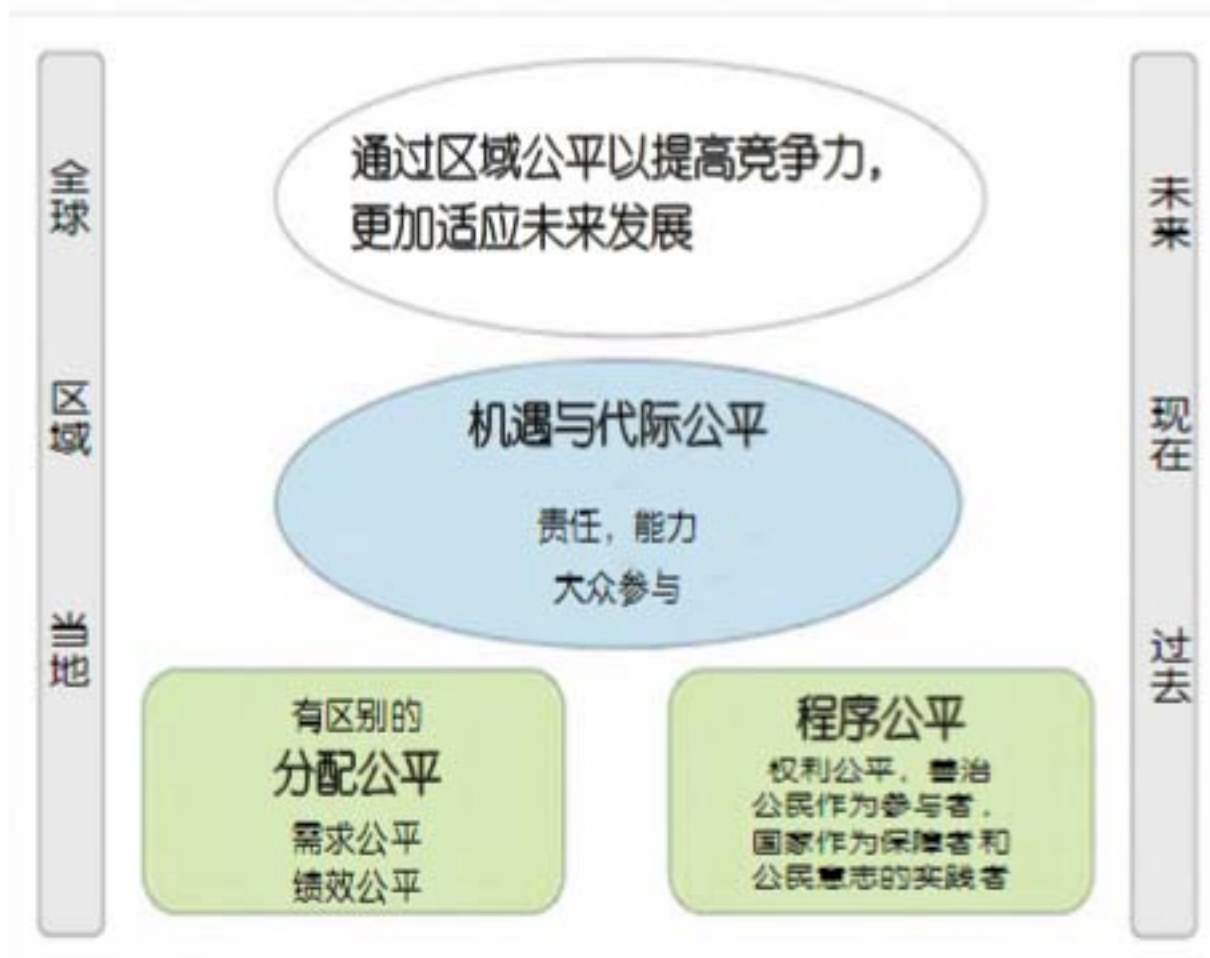


图4: 空间公平