**Hark! Hark! The park — Does green space limit growth?**

**Jeffrey Sachs**

SHANGHAI is a world-leading city, and will be one of the top three or four cities in the world in the 21st century.

This is largely due to Shanghai’s unique position within China at a time when China will become the world’s largest economy.

Shanghai is in a real competition with New York, London, and other great cities. Each of these cities is a natural leader of its own geographical region.

The main challenge, therefore, is not competition between Shanghai and other world cities, but rather the challenge facing Shanghai to achieve a high and sustainable quality of life, and a high economic productivity.

All great cities, including Shanghai, need to invent new ways to achieve sustainable development. No great city has yet met all of the challenges of 21st century — low-carbon energy, public health for an aging population and an obesity epidemic, sustainable clean water, reduced air and water pollution, effective waste management, and resilience to global climate change.

Shanghai will need to think and plan ahead to accomplish these tasks.

Here are some of the key challenges of a truly sustainable Shanghai.

- **Quality of Life.** Shanghai needs to emphasize parks, green areas, plentiful opportunities for walking and bicycling, multi-use zoning (combining residential, commercial, artistic, and service-sector industries), high-density residential settlements, and low automobile use in the central city.

- **Pudong, for example, is a relatively low-density settlement, which is very dependent on automobile use. There's an insufficient emphasis on walking, cycling, public transport, and mixed-use zoning (which combines commercial, residential, cultural, and other activities).**

- **Public Health.** Shanghai has achieved remarkable successes in public health, summarized by its spectacular life expectancy of 81 years.

Yet there are at least three major challenges ahead: high air pollution and resulting diseases (e.g., asthma, other lung diseases, cancer, etc); water pollution; climate change and risks to health; obesity, which is now of epidemic proportions among children; and a rapidly aging population.

- **Transport.** Shanghai needs a robust system that emphasizes walking, bicycling, public transport (buses, metro, light-rail), and reduces the reliance on automobiles within the city.

- **Emission standards:** Shanghai also has many opportunities to raise energy efficiency, through green building design, co-generation of power and heat, renewable energy (wind, solar, etc), nuclear power, plug-in hybrid automobiles, and other advanced technologies.

- **Population policies.** Population policies should help to manage the continuing rapid inflow of population to Shanghai, for example by establishing several “satellite cities” in the environs, which would reduce the strains on Shanghai’s infrastructure and services.

(Readers who are interested in the details of these challenges and opportunities, can consult the Shanghai Development Report 2008, published by the Shanghai Urban Planning Institute and by the Shanghai Economic Research Institute.)

**Thanks to Shanghai lady cops who helped me change my hukou**

**Wang Yong**

NOVEMBER 10 will go down in my history as a day worthy of special celebration. On Monday I became a “new Shanghai resident” — I got a formal Shanghai residence permit, my cherished hukou. It took me many years, but finally I got it. I had resigned my hukou in another big city, which I had held for nearly 20 years.

It’s not just the day itself that is worth celebrating — it’s the warm attitude of Shanghai policemen.

They were all smiles, even joking now and then as the deed was done. By contrast, the policemen in that other city were grumpy and grudging and charged me a fortune for the process.

But the people are different.

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