

Thinking “Bigger” About Smaller Places: Capturing the “Adjacent Possible” Innovations

Presented to the

Coal-Reliant Communities Innovation Challenge Workshop

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Three Questions:

Innovating What?

Diversifying How?

Transitioning Where?



U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers
5th District of Kentucky

Bob Mitchell
U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers
Chief Advisor



SOAR

Shaping Our Appalachian Region

Unique Kentucky Challenges

County lines

Family names

Friday night lights

Listening to old tapes

Stories we tell ourselves

“All great truths begin as blasphemies.”

-George Bernard Shaw

Innovating What?

How “we” consider “we”

How we “see” our region

How we “consider” our options

How we support the “connectors”

Diversifying How?

In our vision of the future

In our sense of possibility

In our actions and alignments

In our new collaborations

In our narrative and networks

Transitioning Where?

The Framework for Regional Rural Innovation



Critical Internal Considerations

- Wealth Creation, Intergenerational Wealth Retention, and Appropriate Wealth Distribution
- Youth Engagement, Retention, and Leadership Development
- Social Inclusion and Social Equity Considerations
- Specific Attention to Social Mobility and Inequality

Eight Forms of Rural Health

Physical

Financial

Natural

Human

Intellectual

Social

Cultural

Political

LEAVING THE LAND

China's Great Uprooting: Moving 250 Million Into Cities

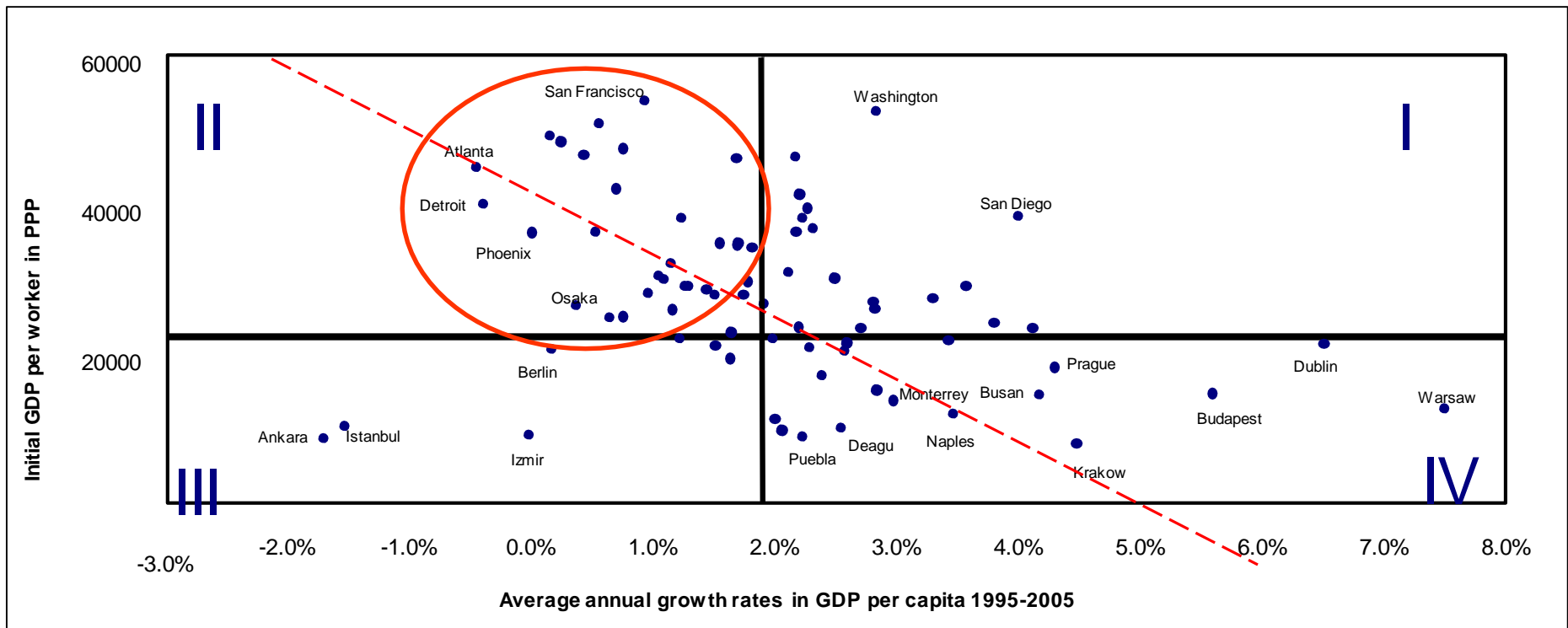
Articles in this series look at how China's government-driven effort to push the population to towns and cities is reshaping a nation that for millennia has been defined by its rural life.



...but not necessarily faster growth

Only 45% of metro-regions grow faster than the national average.

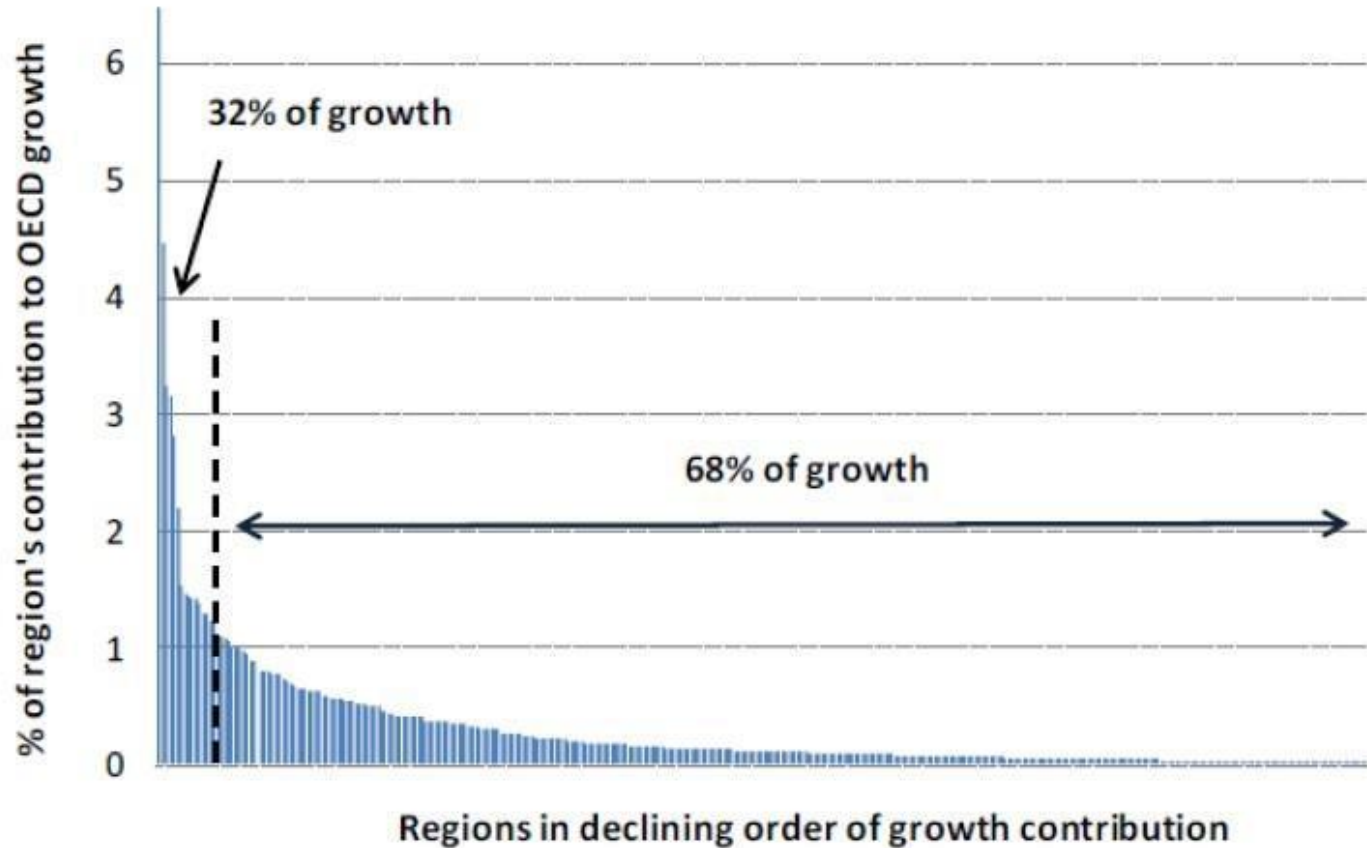
Metro-regions appear to have entered in a process of convergence.



...signs of inefficiencies appear in significant number of metro-regions...

Contributions to aggregate growth depend on few hub regions...

Contributions to growth by OECD TL2 Region, 1995–2007



Source: OECD Regional Database (Territorial Level 2 regions).

...the fat tail is equally important - if not more - to aggregate growth...



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Collective Impact

Large-scale social change requires broad cross-sector coordination, yet the social sector remains focused on the isolated intervention of individual organizations.

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By John Kania & Mark Kramer | 90 4' | Winter 2011

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Five Conditions for Collective Impact Success

I. Common Agenda

- Shared vision for change

II. Mutually Reinforcing Activities

- Differentiated, but still coordinated

III. Backbone Organization

- Serves entire initiative, coordinating participating organizations, firms and agencies

Five Conditions for Collective Impact Success (cont'd)

IV. Continuous Communication

- Consistent, open, unmediated

V. Rigorous and Shared Measurement

- Collecting predictive indicators, regional data: then measuring ongoing results consistently



“What lies behind us,
and what lies before us
are tiny matters
compared to
what lies within us.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



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