

The New Criteria for Dividing Urban-Rural Area on the Integrated Urban and Rural Development in Wuhan City, China

Guoliang Hu

Wuhan Bureau of Statistics

Wuhan, China

Email: huguoliang258@sina.com

Abstract: The new dividing criteria for the urban- rural area promulgated by NBS in 2006 clearly stipulate that the resident committee and the village committee which are administrative bodies are the minimum dividing units. The new criteria will greatly influence statistics. Firstly, the urban and rural statistical system reform must be proposed in order to stop the chaos between the government statistics and the department statistics. Secondly, information must be kept to account for information before and after the re-dividing of the urban-rural area. Thirdly, the statistical methods have to be changed accordingly.

Wuhan City is located in the heartland of China with the largest total economy scale and is the most populous city in central China. Wuhan City was used to evaluate the impact of the new criteria for dividing Urban –Rural areas:

1. Expansion of the urban region. According to the preliminary estimates, currently there are 378 village-level administrative units with a total of 20 thousands hectare of farmland that would be classified into urban area – a big contrast to the rural statistical data of Wuhan in 2005.
2. Increased level of urbanization. According to the new classification, there are currently 205.4 thousand households and 613.9 thousand people classified in the urban area in Wuhan, an increase of 2.3% from the level of urbanization in 2005, which was at 57.3%.
3. Better planning and development. Transforming the thinking/cultural habits of considering "the villages in urban area" as still in the rural area to appropriately categorizing these villages as in the urban area will impact policies and planning.
4. Enlarge the urban-rural economic gap.
5. New demands for city development.