

**Voice of  
the Mayors**



**Ge Honglin**  
Chengdu

Practices in integrated  
urban-rural development



# About

## Voice of the Mayors

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Celebrating its thirtieth anniversary, METROPOLIS wishes to leverage the unique experience of its members, represented by the mayors of the major metropolises, presidents and governors of metropolitan regions. Too often, the expertise of these high-ranking officials is lost once their term has come to an end. However, at a time when global urban development is quickening its pace, their experience is more beneficial than ever for the new generations of local decision-makers, the entire spectrum of public and private local development stakeholders and partners in the international community.

In its capacity as a network of the world's major metropolises, METROPOLIS also seeks to make an active contribution to the current international debate concerning the revision of the Millennium Development Goals, negotiations on climate change and the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

This is how the idea for **Voice of the Mayors** came into being, as a wealth of first-hand testimonies from local and regional leaders whose experience deserves to be recounted and disseminated. Bequeathing this legacy also conveys the willingness of METROPOLIS members to share their experiences and to enhance the exchange of knowledge, a concerted effort to contribute towards shaping sustainable urban development worldwide.

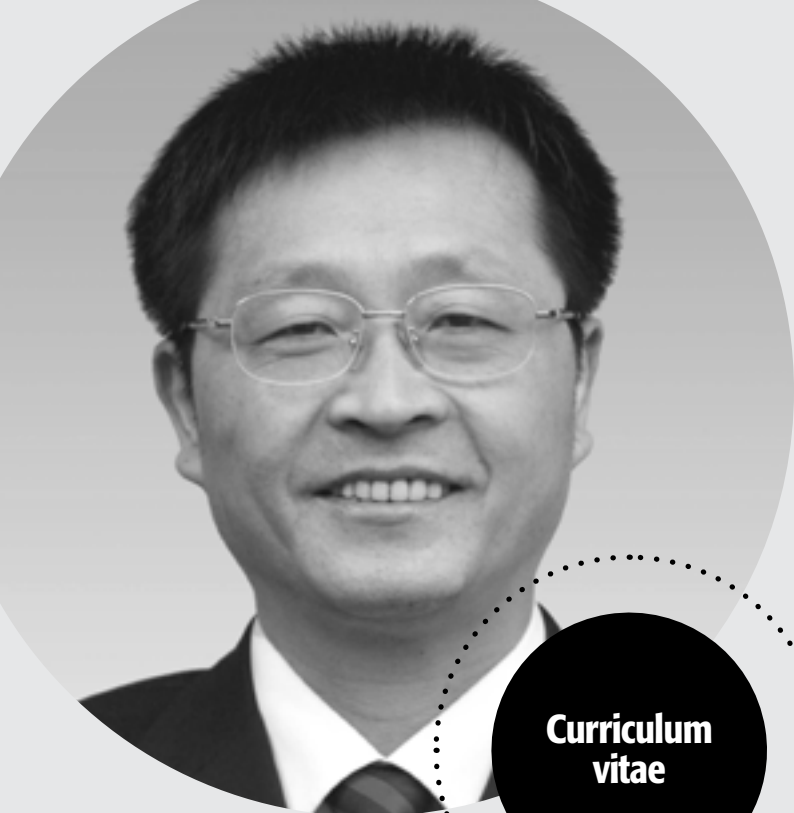
Upon the creation of METROPOLIS in 1984, the 14 founding members expressed their desire to work together to strengthen their mutual capacities to manage their cities. **Voice of the Mayors** helps to achieve this goal with the 136 members that comprise METROPOLIS today and the young generations of local decision-makers.

The testimony you are about to read serves to enhance the association's training activities and the work carried out within the framework of the METROPOLIS Initiatives, the METROPOLIS Women International Network and of METROPOLIS Youth.

The experience of the leading decision-makers in major metropolises across the world is essential. They manage the day-to-day needs of millions of citizens as regards housing, mobility, education, health, safety and energy, to name but a few. They run cities, urban areas and metropolitan regions that are sometimes larger than certain United Nations member states in terms of population, budget size and global reach. They are the main political leaders on the front line, tackling the challenges facing the planet. Nevertheless, this role has yet to be sufficiently recognised in present-day international relations.

It is Metropolis' aspiration that **Voice of the Mayors** will help these leaders' words to be better heard, listened to and taken into consideration by the international community.

**Alain LE SAUX**  
**METROPOLIS Secretary-General**  
**October, 2014**



## Curriculum vitae

GE HONGLIN

Mr. Ge Honglin, born in Nantong, Jiangsu in April 1956, began his career in December 1975. As a postgraduate as well as a professor-level senior engineer, He holds a Doctor of Engineering degree and now serves as Deputy Secretary of CPC Chengdu Municipal Committee and Mayor of Chengdu Municipal People's Government.

**Dec. 1975-Mar. 1978**

Worked in Shanghai Refractory Materials Plant;

**Mar. 1978-Feb. 1982**

Studied at Department No. 5 in National University of Defense Technology and graduated with a bachelor's degree in engineering;

**Feb. 1982-Jul. 1984**

Studied at Department of Materials in Xi'an Jiaotong University and graduated with a master's degree in engineering;

**Jul. 1984-Jan. 1995**

Worked in Shanghai Iron & Steel Research Institute and served as Deputy Director of Research Office, Division Chief of Scientific Research, Assistant Director, Deputy Director (during this time: joined the PhD Candidate Program co-launched by University of Science & Technology Beijing and University of Windsor from Feb. 1986 to Dec. 1991 and graduated with a doctor's degree in engineering; and engaged in doctoral dissertation research in University of Windsor from Nov. 1987 to Feb. 1989)

**Jan. 1995-Jul. 1995**

Deputy Director of Shanghai No. 5 Iron and Steel Plant

**Jul. 1995-Nov. 1998**

Director and Vice President of Shanghai Metallurgical Holding (Group) Company, and Chairman of the Board of Shanghai No. 5 Iron and Steel Group Company;

**Nov. 1998-Oct. 2001**

Director and Deputy General Manager of Shanghai Baosteel Group Corporation, member of Standing Committee of CPC Shanghai Baosteel Group Corporation, and Director of Shanghai Baosteel Research Institute;

**Oct. 2001-Jun. 2003**

Deputy Secretary of CPC Chengdu Municipal Committee;

**Jun. 2003-Aug. 2003**

Deputy Secretary of CPC Chengdu Municipal Committee, Vice Mayor and Acting Mayor of Chengdu Municipal People's Government;

**Aug. 2003-present**

Deputy Secretary of the CPC Chengdu Municipal Committee and Mayor of Chengdu Municipal People's Government.

Delegate of the 17th and the 18th CPC National Congress, Delegate of the 11th and the 12th National People's Congress, Member of the 9th and 10th Sichuan Provincial Committee of the CPC, Representative of the 9th and 10th Sichuan Party Representative Congress of the CPC, Representative of the 10th, 11th and 12th Sichuan People's Congress, Representative of the 9th Shanghai People's Congress, Representative of the 11th and 12th Chengdu Party Representative Congress of the CPC, and Representative of the 14th, 15th and 16th Chengdu People's Congress.

# Ge Honglin

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## Practices in Integrated Urban-Rural Development in Chengdu

**C**hengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province, is a center of science and technology, commerce and trade, and the hub for finance, transportation and communication in Southwest China. Governing nine districts, four county-level cities and six counties, Chengdu covers an area of 12,100 km<sup>2</sup>, and has a total population of 14.178 million, of which 11.733 million are registered. Ten countries have already opened consulates in Chengdu, including the USA, Germany, France, and Australia. Chengdu is honored with the title of “the Land of Abundance”, being home of the pandas and blessed with many world-famous natural and cultural heritage sites, such as the Dujiangyan Irrigation System and Qingcheng Daoist Mountain. Chengdu

has also been rated a world Gourmet City and China’s Best Tourist City by UNESCO and the World Tourism Organization respectively. The city ranks first in Forbes’s list of the world’s fastest growing cities over the next ten years, and in 2013 became the fourth city in China after Beijing, Hong Kong and Shanghai, to host the Fortune Global Forum.

As China enters the 21st century, it has made tremendous strides in its economic development, including resolving the problems of the country’s urban-rural dual structure and the income gap between urban and rural areas. As the major metropolis in Southwest China, and the region’s center, Chengdu has vigorously promoted urban-rural integration and rural development since 2003. The last ten years of tireless efforts have created a set of sound working principles and methods in urban-rural integration which have contributed to the particular path of urbanization that Chengdu is following, and have ushered in an era of common prosperity for Chengdu’s urban and rural areas.



### Vigorously Promoting Integrated Urban-Rural Planning

Planning is of the utmost importance in guiding and promoting urban-rural integration. Chengdu has prioritized the role of top-level design, innovative planning, and effective management system mechanisms in promoting integrated urban and rural development, ensuring a rational urban and rural spatial distribution and reasonable allocation of resources.

Chengdu, has, in the first instance, adopted a unitary planning system instead of a dual planning system. According to the urban-rural development concept of “a single entity”, Chengdu treats the urban and rural areas as a whole, and has transformed urban planning into a wider urban-rural planning. Furthermore, an integrated layout is being implemented in Chengdu in terms of the urban-rural system, including the industrial structure, infrastructure, transport network, and environmental protection, as a way to promote a multi-center urban and rural spatial distribution, and to nurture a comfortable and people-friendly urban spatial structure. A new system for an in-

tegrated urban-rural coordinated development is basically in place, consisting of one metropolis, seven satellite cities, six regional hub cities, 14 small cities, 165 featured towns, and about 2,800 new rural communities.

In addition the city is executing a whole-area planning system instead of a sub-area planning system. According to the “Whole-Chengdu” concept, 19 districts (cities) and counties throughout the region will be planned in a unified manner. Under this system, four development zones and one cooperation zone have been defined, incorporating an ecological tourism development zone, an optimized development zone, an elevated development zone, an expanded development zone and a cooperation zone for industrial functions. Moreover, the whole-area-based planning system has been established to bring about effective communication between experts in general planning, professional planning, special planning, detailed planning and urban design. To ensure that whole-area planning can be truly implemented, Chengdu has taken the lead in setting up a city-level office for urban-rural planning supervisors, and a supervision bureau for plan-

ning execution. In addition the city is organizing a planning supervision team to be in charge of supervision and inspection of urban-rural planning implementation. This will make it easier to ensure a smooth implementation of all planning decisions.

A third aspect of the city's planning system is devolving planning to the village-town level. Technical guidance for small towns and villages has been developed to a high standard, to ensure that the new rural areas can develop in a dynamic and orderly way. For example, we work in innovative ways with banks in village and town planning. Cooperating with the China Development Bank to promote village and town planning, the bank and government co-review the planning development program and the fund demands of each county (city). Then, the level of inputs that need to be provided to support the city finances are assessed, and if the planned project is deemed viable and trustworthy, banks offer preferential loans. This gives the project an opportunity for further fundraising at a later date. In a related move, a village planner system has just taken shape in Chengdu, making the city the first in the country to employ a specialist planner in each town. The planner acts as the local government's consultant, providing operational guidance and technical support regarding local planning from a professional point of view, and ensuring that effective solutions can be found to towns' grassroots planning issues.

### **Vigorously Promoting Integrated Urban-Rural Industrial Development**

Industry serves as a main support in promoting urban-rural integration. In recent years major pillar industries have been being energetically developed in Chengdu, in order to improve the urban industrial system, optimize the industrial structure, and to promote the integrated and coordinated development of industries. These effectively support the sound development of urban-rural integration.

Firstly, the city has been energetically developing advanced manufacturing. By treating advanced manufacturing as the backbone of ur-

ban development, we will integrate the former small-scale and scattered 116 industrial zones into 21 concentrated industrial zones. To implement this strategy, we have established 13 city-level function areas for industries, which will promote the concentrated and intensive development of industries. These industrial zones have attracted 252 of the world's top 500 enterprises and have formed various industrial clusters, such as IT, auto machinery, aerospace, and biomedicine. As far as IT is concerned, a large number of world-renowned companies have set up branches here, including Intel, Texas Instruments, Dell, and Lenovo. This has formed a complete industry chain from integrated circuits and optical displays, to electronic terminal manufacturing and software, and to service outsourcing. Currently, 50% of notebook chips and 70% of IPADs in the world are made in Chengdu, turning Chengdu into an important global IT industrial base. In addition, the city has also attracted a number of competitive automotive manufacturers, such as Volkswagen, Toyota, and Volvo, with an annual output of 730,000 vehicles.

Secondly, the city has been speeding up the development of a modern service industry. By treating the modern service industry as the bedrock of future urban development, we are vigorously developing services in finance, logistics, modern exhibition provision, and information and consulting. The city is also striving to develop comprehensive large business circles, through the building of commercial streets and service buildings, and the welcoming of global brands, to enhance the overall level of service development. At present, there are 220 financial institutions and 32 foreign financial institutions in Chengdu, with Groupama setting up its Chinese head office in Chengdu. This shows that Chengdu is the center of finance in Southwest China with the largest number and market scale of financial institutions in the region. Chengdu also has Asia's largest railway container center, and has opened a 14-day direct service train to Lodz, Poland with a guaranteed line, time and price. In addition, Carrefour, Auchan, Metro, IKEA, and Wal-Mart have opened stores in Chengdu, offering local people greater convenience in their daily life.



In addition, the city is actively developing special industries. By always treating special industries as an important support for the sustainable development of urban and rural areas, we are developing labor-intensive industries, agricultural processing, rural tourism and urban agriculture in towns according to local conditions. This will promote the joint development of tertiary industries, and encourage rural farmers to work locally and at home. These measures have come to fruition in a number of small cities such as Anren Sichuan Cuisine Industrial Park, home to a variety of industries and a large population. At the same time we have developed a number of simple, elegant and unique towns such as Anren Ancient Town, utilizing fully their local historical and cultural resources and protecting these ancient sites.

### **Vigorously Promoting an Integrated Urban-Rural Market System**

The Chinese traditional urban-rural dual structure has seriously hindered the development of a unified market, and made it difficult for the market to operate fully. However, Chengdu is endeavoring to remove institutional obstacles to stimulate the vitality of the urban and rural market.

Firstly, the city is reforming the rural property system. Chengdu has led the country in the last three years in defining rural collective land ownership, rural collective construction land use rights, rural housing ownership, rural land contracts and management rights. As a result, Chengdu has been able to resolve and clarify the property rights of rural farmers and eliminate their worries whilst they work in the city. A modern rural property system is taking shape, featuring clarity of ownership, defined power and responsibilities, strict protection and smooth operation. This in turn is creating opportunities for villages to attract investment, technologies and talents.

Secondly, the city is reforming the unified household registration system. Chengdu is taking the lead in China in giving rural farmers the freedom to choose to stay in the countryside or move to the towns. They not only retain their property rights over their rural land, but they also enjoy

the same civil rights and property rights as urban residents. In this way rural farmers have been released from the bondage of rural registration and have attained equal rights with urban residents, becoming truly 'citizens of society'.

Thirdly, the city is reforming the investment and financing system. We have modified fiscal inputs in agriculture, established a "government-guided and market-oriented" investment and financing platform, and developed mortgage financing options in rural property. Since 2007, three rural investment and financing platforms in Chengdu have taken shape; development of modern agriculture, construction of small towns, and urban-rural commerce and logistics investment. These three platforms have attracted 36.63 billion RMB in investments in agriculture and the rural areas, and are shaping up to be an excellent mechanism for guiding and fostering market-driven social inputs into agriculture and rural areas.

### **Vigorously Promoting Integrated Urban-Rural Infrastructure**

China is lagging behind in rural infrastructure due to the historic lack of long-term investment. Chengdu has placed a strong focus on infrastructure, and is striving to upgrade transportation, communication, energy, environmental protection and other infrastructure projects in both urban and rural areas, effectively enhancing the overall carrying capacity of towns and cities and increasing their population.

Firstly, the city is strengthening the construction of transport facilities. Having made tremendous efforts in the construction of airlines, railways and highways, Chengdu is now China's 4th largest aviation hub, 5th largest railway hub, and the highway hub in Western China. Currently, the annual passenger throughput at Shuangliu International Airport exceeds 33.4 million, and the city has opened 71 direct flights to cities all over the world, including London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Abu Dhabi, Melbourne, and Bangalore. At the same time, the urban transportation network is being improved, and Chengdu is the first city in Western China to achieve a complete county-by-county expressway and village-by-village





highway system. In Chengdu city itself, metro construction is well under way. Seven metro lines will eventually operate, with a total length of over 150 kilometers. At present, Chengdu is advancing the construction of a county-by-county rail system, and is making great strides in achieving full bus integration in central districts and suburban areas.

Secondly, the city is strengthening the construction of communication facilities. Chengdu is accelerating the construction of an optical network and wireless network, and advancing the upgrading of regional networks and communication infrastructure. It has opened the first direct data channel for international exports in central and western China, and achieved direct access to the internet. Meanwhile, Chengdu is vigorously developing villages' access to the telephone and internet, and working hard to actualize 100% coverage for radio, television, mobile signals and 3G networks.

Thirdly, the city is strengthening the construction of municipal facilities. We are endeavoring to expand water, gas, sewage treatment, waste disposal and other facilities to rural areas. This will include establishing a centralized disposal system for rural garbage, a standard sewage treatment plant for each town, and a mini sewage treatment plant in each 50-household area.

### **Vigorously Promoting Integrated Urban-Rural Public Services**

Public service is China's most prominent gap between urban and rural areas. In recent years, Chengdu, in its efforts to equalize urban-rural basic public services, has been focusing on optimizing the structure of urban and rural public services, increasing investment in rural public services, speeding up the construction of rural public services, and striving to ensure urban and rural residents enjoy equally the city's reform and development outcomes.

Firstly, the city is developing urban and rural education in a balanced manner. Chengdu has taken the lead nationally in investing in standard primary and secondary schools in rural areas, and improving standard non-profit kindergartens and other educational facilities. In addition, it is promoting school staff training, and school twinning assistance in urban and rural areas, and upgrading the educational information network coverage. Chengdu has made a breakthrough in ensuring a fair education system in which urban and rural students can enjoy high quality free compulsory education wherever they live. Currently, a 12-year compulsory education is being actively researched, and a construction project has been launched to modernize primary and secondary schools by 2020.



Secondly, the city is advancing the overall upgrading of the urban and rural health system. Chengdu leads the country in establishing standard public hospitals in towns, standard health stations in rural areas and developing a rural medicine distribution supervision network, comprehensively promoting the sales of national “zero-profit” essential medicines. Moreover, it is also vigorously carrying out health interventions in birth defects, and promoting universal health examinations and other public health services, so that all urban and rural residents enjoy fair, efficient, safe, convenient and low-cost health services.

Thirdly, the city is achieving full coverage of urban and rural social security. Chengdu leads the country in establishing an integrated urban-rural basic medical insurance system, and subsidizing rural farmers through the farmland protection fund to enable rural farmers to participate in the pension insurance system. Nearly 90% and 98% of rural residents have joined the urban-rural pension and medical insurance system, and nearly one million migrant peasant workers have joined the urban workers’ insurance scheme. An integrated urban-rural social security system

has basically been established.

### **Vigorously Promoting Integrated Urban-Rural Management System**

Good government services are essential to urban and rural development. In recent years, Chengdu has deepened standardized service-oriented government construction, further optimized the approval process, and improved administrative efficiency. The city is striving to create a high-quality and efficient government services environment.

Firstly, the city is reforming the administrative management system. With a view to resolving defects in the administrative management system resulting from the urban-rural dual structure, Chengdu has introduced the “giant department” reform, operating on the principle of simplified administration, unified action and higher efficiency. This has combined urban-rural administrative resources into one unified whole, and integrated and adjusted the functions of over 30 governmental organs, including planning, agriculture, transportation, finance, water supply, forestry, and gardens. These reforms are effectively

improving the public administration and public service coverage in rural areas.

Secondly, the city is enhancing the efficiency of administrative services. Efforts have been intensified to adjust and optimize the operational process and service process, with an emphasis on reducing administrative approval items. Throughout the region, Chengdu has reduced administrative licensing items by more than 90% and approval time by more than 60%, and thus become one of cities with the least administrative approval items and shortest approval waiting time. If there is no pre-approval item, an enterprise can finish all registration processes within the hour.

Thirdly, the city is improving the administrative service quality. Civil servants are receiving professional training in service provision. The local government is also taking an active role in communicating with enterprises and intermediary organizations, to strengthen the protection of intellectual property rights and to solve problems for enterprises in a timely fashion. For example, we insist on organizing a quarterly informal discussion with foreign-invested enterprises, and responding to every suggestion and piece of advice proposed by any enterprise, thus creating a good reputation in respect of administrative services. In 2007, Chengdu was rated by the World Bank as a Flagship City for Investment Climate in Inland China.

Thanks to years of efforts by all citizens, Chengdu has made great achievements in integrated urban-rural development, and the economy has sustained a steady, sound and rapid growth. Chengdu's GDP has increased from 131.3 billion RMB in 2000 to 910.9 billion RMB in 2013. In the same period the urban-rural income ratio has narrowed down to 2.31:1 from 2.61:1, and the urbanization rate has risen from 53.7% to 68.4%. Chengdu was hailed as "China's Brave New World" by the German newspaper "Welt Am Sonntag" (Sunday World) on February 12, 2012. In the article, it said that Chengdu is rapidly expanding and is well able to withstand this kind of development, with not one slum evident in its rapid ur-

banization. At present, Chengdu is presented with many new and significant opportunities, brought about by the western development strategy and the city's designation as a national urban-rural pilot area for comprehensive reforms. We will learn from the advanced experience of international cities' development, further improve the quality and efficiency of our development, and accelerate the construction of a modern international metropolis.

## Basic information about Chengdu

Chengdu, is the capital of Sichuan province and the central city in western China. Chengdu governs nine districts, four county-level cities and six counties, covers a total area of 12,400 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 14,18 km<sup>2</sup> is its administrative area and 598 km<sup>2</sup> is its heart and has a resident population of 15 million.

Chengdu, enjoying a history of over 3000 years since it was first built, boasts a time-honored history, profound culture and tourism offers. As the first batch of ancient city famous for culture and history, Chengdu was honored by WTO as Best Tourism Destination in China. As the major habitat for pandas, Chengdu is also considered Home to Pandas.

Defined by the State Council as the center for science, trade and finance and hub for transportation and communications of southwest China, Chengdu is also the political, economic, cultural and education center of Sichuan province. Housing the High-Tech Industrial Development Zone at national level, Economic Technological Development Zone and Comprehensive Bonded Area, Chengdu is also the powerhouse for the "Go West" strategy, the world important industrial base for electronic information, China essential industrial base for automobile, aviation, aerospace, new energy and new material.

Rated by Forbes as the world fastest growing city in the next decade and China's Best City for Business, Chengdu has attracted the presence of 252 firms out of Fortune 500. Approved by the State Council as the pilot city for national integrated urban and rural development reform, Chengdu is also another pilot area for national integrated reform after Shanghai Pudong New District and Tianjin Binhai New District.

At present, Chengdu is working to shape the Tianfu New Area, with a planned area of 1578 km<sup>2</sup>. Led by modern manufacturing and concentrated with high end services, the Tianfu New Area is designed to be an international modern city area desirable for business, investment and living and the highland for western China's economy. It will be a powerful boost for the effort of delivering another economic center in China's west.

## Regional weight

### The city with 3rd largest number of consular presences

At present, 10 countries including the US., Germany, South Korea, Thailand, France, Singapore, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Australia have already had consular presence in Chengdu. Israel and New Zealand have also got the approval to set up consulate general too, adding the number of consular offices to 12, second only to Shanghai and Guangzhou.

### Financial center in southwest China

Home to Chengdu branch of People's Bank of China(PBOC), Chengdu serves as the financial regulation center for southwest China by fulfilling the responsibility on behalf of PBOC in Sichuan, Guizhou and Yunnan province as well as Tibet autonomous region to deliver financial stability. A total of 46 foreign funded banks and insurers such as Citibank, HSBC, Morgan, UNITA, ANZ and Standard Chartered have set up branches in Chengdu, a city that is also the southwest headquarters for CBRC (China Banks Regulatory Commission), CIRC(China Insurance Regulatory Commission) and CSRC(China Securities Regulatory Commission).

### Aviation hub in southwest China

The Air Traffic Management Bureau for China Civil Aviation in southwest, headquartered in Chengdu, as one of the air traffic management organization in 7 regions of China civil aviation, offers air traffic management for aircrafts in Chengdu, Kunming, Guiyang and Lhasa.

Chengdu Shuangliu international Airport is working to create air connections that link Chengdu to the whole world by making more international air routes available. Currently, 71 international air routes have been opened to air traffic in 167 cities home and abroad. Central international direct passenger flights that fly from Chengdu to Bangalore, Bombay, Tokyo, Melbourne, Karachi, Doha, London, Amsterdam, Abu Dhabi, Seoul, Bangkok, Singapore, San Francisco and Kuala Lumpur have been in service. Direct flight from Chengdu reaching Moscow will also be opened by the end of this year.

On Sep 1, 2013, the 72 hour Transit Without Visa policy has been introduced officially in Chengdu, the 4th city after Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou and the 1st in central and western China that is able to offer such preferential policy, which is a great convenience for international businessmen to visit and discuss business affairs in southwest China. It's needless to say how important Chengdu is as the aviation hub in southwest China.

### **Transportation Hub in Southwest China**

Chengdu Railway Bureau, as one of the total 18 railway bureaus directly under China Railway Corporation, is the administrative body for national railway lines and by-lines as well as railways with joint investment of Sichuan, Guizhou province, Chongqing, Zhaotong city of Yunnan province, Tujia and Miao minority ethnic groups in Enshi, Hubei province. The Chengdu-Europe Express Railway, opened on April 26, 2013, reaches directly to Lodz of Poland by way of Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus. The Chengdu-Europe Express Railway, serves as on-ground freight channel starting from central and western China to Europe with Chengdu functioning as the station of departure. This highlights the role Chengdu has played in land freight in this region.

Chengdu is also the hub for expressways in western. In 2013, a highway transportation circuit starting from Chengdu to Chongqing within 2 hours and the 8-hours highway transportation circuit from Chengdu to Kunming, Guiyang and Xi'an have taken shape. An efficient highway network that links Chengdu to other places in Sichuan province, western China and the whole nation has been well developed.

### **China's exhibition and convention center**

Ranking No.1 in terms of the scale and scope of exhibition and convention business, Chengdu has delivered a total of 503 major exhibition and convention programs, among which there are 105 international conferences, 169 international exhibitions and 229 festivals & games. 88.091 million visitors and participants have been attracted to those exhibitions and conventions.

In June, 2013, the Fortune Global Forum has enjoyed a complete success in Chengdu, the 4th city to host such high level meeting after Shanghai, Hong Kong and Beijing. Plenty of other world renowned meetings staged in Chengdu such as World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention have brought world fames to Chengdu, a city that is the permanent city to host China International Intangible Cultural Heritage Festival and Western China International Fair.

### **Livable City**

#### **Climate**

Located at the center of Chengdu Plain that has seen no flood, drought or famine due to the Dujiangyan Irrigation System built at the trunk stream of Minjiang River, Chengdu is of the sub-tropic monsoon climate featured in "early spring, hot summer, cool autumn and mild winter", with an average temperature of 16 degree centigrade and annual rainfall of above 1000 mm.

#### **Living Condition**

Famous for its comfortable life style, Chengdu is well-equipped with shopping and dining facilities, where the French in Chengdu call it "The Other Paris". Chengdu was crowned as the City of Gastronomy by UNESCO in 2010. As the cradle of Sichuan Cuisine, the NO.1 of China's Four Schools of Cuisine, Chengdu enjoys the praise of "Sichuan's got the flavor for all eating in China". Now there are 24 National Time-honored restaurants and 35 Municipal Famous Brand restaurants.

#### **In-city Transportation**

Transportation in Chengdu has become more and more convenient. Since 2005 Chengdu launched the construction of metro system, Line 1 and Line 2 have got running and other 8 lines will see completion in 10 years. 147 km of underground railway will be constructed by 2015. The opening of BRT on Chengdu's second ring road has remarkably enhanced the speed and accessibility of our public commuting system with 28 stops along an exclusive and on-time routine. 16 community buses free of charge are operated and another 187 in-city buses are free in early morning running.

METROPOLIS' VOICE OF THE MAYORS IS SUPPORTED BY

## Cities Alliance

Cities Without Slums

The Cities Alliance is a global partnership for urban poverty reduction and the promotion of the role of cities in sustainable development. Cities Alliance Members include local authorities, national governments, non-governmental organisations, multilateral organisations, and associate members. METROPOLIS is a founding member of Cities Alliance.

[www.citiesalliance.org](http://www.citiesalliance.org)



The Global fund for cities development (FMDV) was created in October 2010 at the initiative of METROPOLIS, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and 34 founding members (cities and city networks). It is an international political organisation which aims to strengthen solidarity and financial capacity by and among local authorities and is complementary to existing mobilisation, coordination and advocacy networks.

[www.fmdv.net](http://www.fmdv.net)



Created in 2004, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is the united voice and world advocate of local and regional self-government. Members of UCLG are present in 140 countries, and are organized into seven regional sections, a Forum of Regions, and a metropolitan section coordinated by METROPOLIS. UCLG's membership includes over 1,000 cities and regions, as well as 155 local government associations.

[www.uclg.org](http://www.uclg.org)



The World Urban Campaign is a global partnership coordinated by UN-Habitat, designed to promote a positive vision of sustainable urbanization and to place the urban agenda at the highest level in development policies. It is meant to build alliances with all the sectors of society in a movement to provide a knowledge and action-oriented platform to address urban challenges. It is a platform for Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to be held in 2016.

[www.worldurbancampaign.org](http://www.worldurbancampaign.org)

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# Voice of the Mayors # 11

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