

# **Sustainable Development and Synoptic Intergovernmental Policy-making: A Public Policy Analysis with Reference to China**

**HU Wei**

Professor and Dean

School of International and Public Affairs

Shanghai Jiao Tong University

China's rapid economic growth during the past three decades of market orientation reforms has brought immeasurable benefits to the Chinese people. Incomes have increased, poverty has fallen, and health indicators have improved. Yet the same unbridled growth that has lifted millions out of poverty has also caused serious environmental damage. Currently the Chinese Government has acknowledged importance of a balance between growth and environment so as to ensure sustainable development and quality of life for the Chinese people. The Chinese leadership is striving to carry out "scientific development concept" which calls for sustainable development,<sup>1</sup> and build "a harmonious society" which emphasizes "harmonious coexistence between human and nature", meaning environmental harmony. However, the problem for the China's intergovernmental decision-makers is how to incorporate environmental protection into its economic policy-making and implementation. For this reason, it is imperative that the Chinese Governments at different levels should enforce synoptic public policies in socioeconomic development in order to realize sustainable development.

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<sup>1</sup> The Scientific Development Concept is the current official guiding socio-economic ideology of the Communist Party of China incorporating sustainable development, social welfare, a human-centric society, increased democracy, and, ultimately, the creation of a Harmonious Society.