

## **TRANSITION, DISPARITY AND EFFICIENCY: ON THE YANGTZE RIVER DELTA MODELS IN TRANSITION**

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### Summary

*The paper analyses the transition processes in China from the point of view of the Kemp-Mac Dougall model, and shows the essential differences in the characteristics of these processes for two Chinese provinces of the Yangtze river delta, namely Zhejiang and Jiangsu. The difference is mainly reflected in the disparities of income levels, due to differences between the path dependence and path independence of respective developments, mobility playing an essential role in differentiation.*

**Keywords:** economic transition, income disparity, economic efficiency, Kemp-MacDougall model.

### **1. Introduction**

‘Systemic transition’ is usually classified and analysed as (1) ‘gradual way of transition’ as in, for example, China and Hungary, and (2) ‘radical way of transition’ as in, for example, Russia and Poland. However, the classification of ‘gradual way’ and ‘radical way’ has been rather ambiguous. Moreover, such an expression as ‘hidden radical way’ has been pointed out as realistic (see, for example, [2]).

One of the most serious defects of the analyses of systemic transition is that they have been primarily implemented in the midst of the actual transition processes, and so most of these analyses were not fully satisfactorily performed, with the main weight of these analyses being to devote attention to the reasons and the performance of the transition paths.

The results of such analyses cannot indicate the possible future processes within the transition economies. We therefore think we should make the analysis of transition processes much clearer, which means that the paths of transition need much deeper-rooted analytical framework.

Based upon such a way of thinking, in order to provide for the appropriated approach, we will pay our attention to the Chinese ways of transition, particularly focusing on the Yangtze River Delta Region (Zhejiang and Jiangsu Provinces).

This paper is a sequel to our previous paper, [5], and as we are mainly focusing our attention upon the beginning and the middle of the first decade of the 2000s (from the beginning of 1990s), data and statistics were shown as around then, not the latest ones. It is enough for us here to consider the facts already described in [5]. Another study meant to trace the phenomena mentioned in this paper until the latest years will be presented in our forthcoming paper, [8].

## 2. Theory: fundamental framework and analysis

The model indicated in this section is derived from the Kemp-MacDougall model, which is illustrated in Fig. 1.

Economy is split into labor and capital intensive industries. In Fig. 1 the designation of  $O_L$  denotes the origin of marginal productivity of labor intensive industry ( $MP_L$ ) and  $O_C$  indicates the origin of marginal productivity of capital intensive industry ( $MP_C$ ). Needless to say, the marginal productivity of labor in labor intensive industry is shown as rightward down ( $MP_L, MP_L$ ) and the marginal productivity of labor in capital intensive industry is indicated as leftward down ( $MP_C, MP_C$ ).

Workforce in labor intensive industry is shown as the distance  $O_L L^*$ , and workforce in capital intensive industry is shown as the distance  $O_C L^*$ . Needless to say, workforce in both industries is paid according to the marginal productivity, which is expressed as  $W_L$  and  $W_C$ , respectively. There is the income disparity between workforce in labor intensive industry and in capital intensive industry, appearing in the figure as the difference of distances  $O_C W_C$  and  $O_C W_L$ .

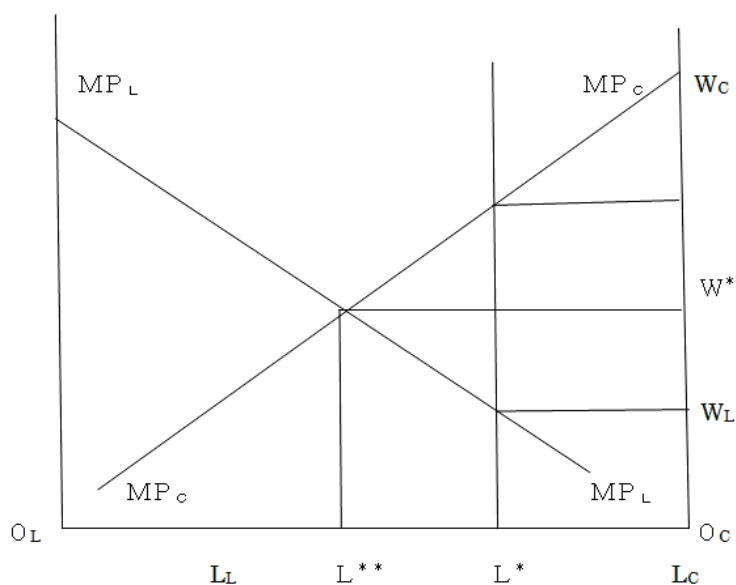
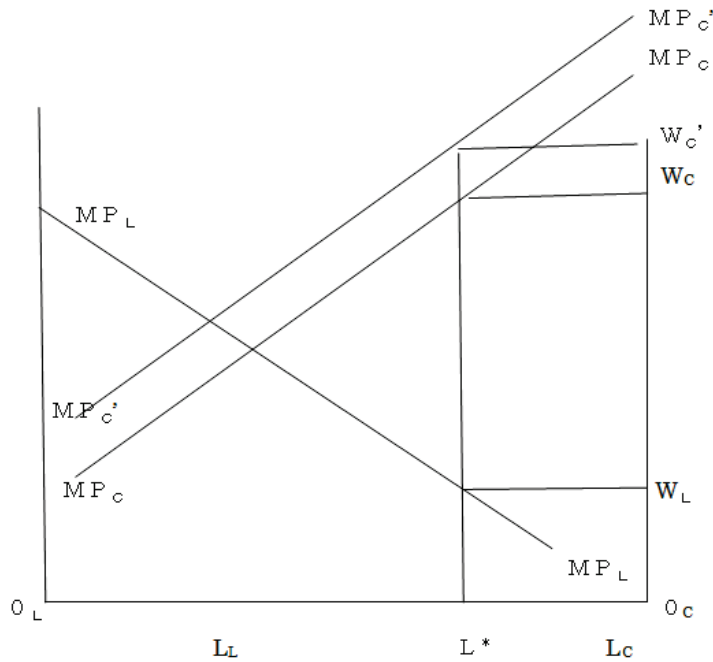


Fig. 1. Capital mobility, labor mobility and disparity I

If the free mobility of labor is secured, the above mentioned income disparity causes labor mobility, motivated by potentially higher income. Thus, the number of employees working in labor intensive industry decreases to the value of  $O_L L^{**}$  and the number of employees working for capital intensive industry increases up to  $O_C L^{**}$ . Through such mechanism, income levels in both industries are equalized at  $W^*$  and income disparity disappears. We can say, therefore, that according to the Kemp-MacDougall model, there is a significant relationship between labor mobility and income disparity (labor mobility works to decrease the income disparity).

The above explains therefore that, if the income disparity, shown as a difference between  $O_C W_C$  and  $O_C W_L$ , can neither disappear nor shrink considerably in medium and long term, it might be due to the existence of such impeding factors as a family registration system (to impede labor mobility from inland to coastal areas or from rural to urban areas) and lower level of education (impeding labor mobility due to insufficient ability of manpower). Actually, in China, existence of those factors might largely explain the existence of disparity. Such factors as family registration system and lower education level impede sufficient labor mobility, particularly to the capital intensive industry. In other words, to alleviate and to eliminate the disparity through structural reforms, it is indispensable to eliminate these impeding factors.

Then we suppose that capital mobility occurs in this economy. In this paper, we take into account two possible cases (in both cases, capital mobility is caused in capital intensive industry): (1) capital is mobilized from foreign sources, and (2) capital is mobilized from domestic sources. Both cases can be illustrated as in Fig. 2.



*Fig. 2. Capital mobility and disparity*

In Fig. 2, due to capital mobility in capital intensive industry, marginal productivity of capital intensive industry is shifted parallel upward. As a result, the wage rate in labor intensive industry remains unchanged at  $W_L$ , and the wage rate of capital intensive industry increases to  $W_C'$ . Thereby, income disparity increases, from the difference of magnitudes of segments shown as  $O_C W_C$  and  $O_C W_L$  to the one between  $O_C W_C'$  and  $O_C W_L$ .

We can thus say that there exist significant relationships between the upward shift of marginal productivity of capital intensive industry and income disparity (upward shift of marginal productivity of capital intensive industry entails an increase in the income disparity).

Generally and theoretically speaking, it is supposed that capital moving in from the foreign sources has more advanced technology and capital from domestic sources entails higher labor mobility.

However, in practice, these assumptions might not hold. Namely, if the degree of advance in technology is not so different and if the degree of labor mobility is not so different, the case of capital mobility from domestic might have more income disparity due to much more capital mobility even more labor mobility occurs as shown in Fig. 3.

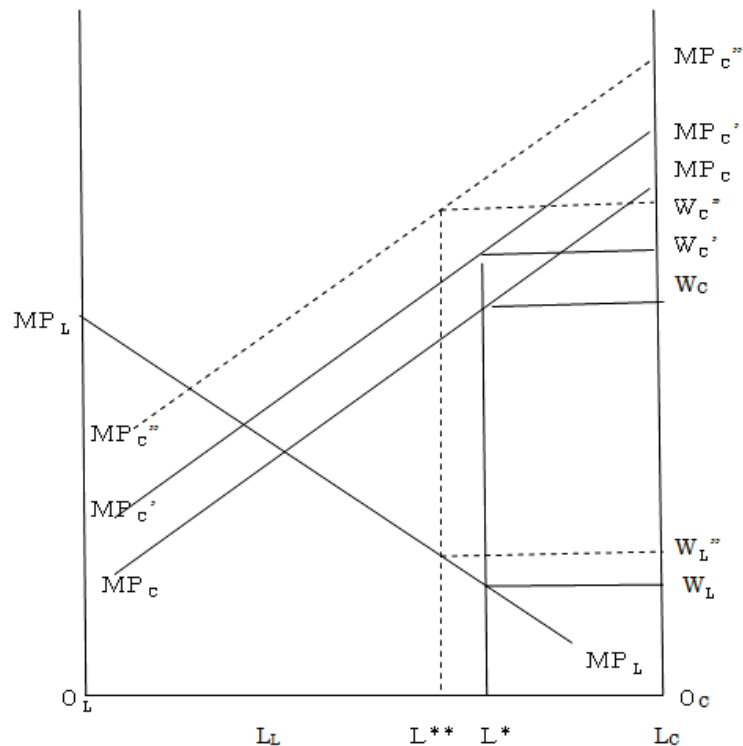


Fig. 3. Capital mobility, labor mobility and disparity II

In Fig. 3 (where marginal productivity of labor intensive industry is shown for both capital mobility cases, from foreign and from domestic sources), the dotted line indicates the 'capital mobility from domestic sources' case and the solid line shown as  $MP_C' MP_C$  points out the 'capital mobility from foreign sources' case.

As illustrated in Fig. 3, 'capital mobility from domestic sources' case leads to a more pronounced raising of the marginal productivity line than the 'capital mobility from foreign sources' case, and in capital intensive industry with capital mobility from domestic sources, more

labor mobility occurs (shown as  $L^{**}L^*$ ). Such mechanisms as mentioned above bring about more income disparity, which is reflected in the figure as the difference between  $W_L''W_C''$  and  $W_LW_C'$ . Therefore, we can say that there are possible relationships between the upward shift of marginal productivity of capital intensive industry for capital mobility from domestic sources and higher income disparity (and even more for labor mobility).

### **3. Facts: classification of systemic transition in the Yangtze River Delta Region**

As mentioned before, classification into 'gradual way' and 'radical way' of transition has never been sufficiently clearly defined. We should consider the ways of transition all over again and we would like to present alternative ways of transition, which are 'path dependent' type of transition and 'path independent' type of transition.

'Path dependent' type means a transition, in which such traditional structures as cultural, institutional, historical etc. have been playing important roles in the process of transition. On the contrary, 'path independent' type indicates the transition, in which such traditional structures have basically never been working.

We describe such classification into 'path dependent' and 'path independent' transition for the Zhejiang model and the Jiangsu model, respectively, in the Yangtze River Delta Region in China, both of which are considered in the following sections.

#### **3.1. Zhejiang Province: path dependent transition type**

GDP growth rate in the Zhejiang province had been at the level of 10–12 per cent per annum, and in 2003 it increased to 14.3 per cent. The Zhejiang province's per capita GDP in 2003 was 19,730 yuan (about 2,384 US\$, ranking fourth among all the provinces and municipalities directly under the central government of China). The sectoral breakdown of GDP in 2003 indicated that its value in the primary sector was 72.2 billion yuan, in secondary sector 483.0 billion yuan, and in tertiary sector 364.8 billion yuan. High performance in the secondary sector is observed in such industries as spinning, leather goods, food etc., and in tertiary sector in retailing, trade, catering, transportation, telecommunications etc. The active secondary sector production has, thus been generally and relatively less capital intensive.

As a matter of fact, Zhejiang has been the most active province in the private sector in the whole of China. Of the 2004 value added in Zhejiang province, state-owned sector accounted for 373 billion yuan (4.7 per cent less than in the preceding year) and the non-state-owned sector for 547 billion yuan (5.0 per cent more), the respective shares being 40.5 per cent and 59.5 per cent.

We can find the same characteristics in the exports from Zhejiang province, export value having rapidly increased. The main player in the export from Zhejiang province has been the private sector. The export share of private enterprises in its province had displayed a drastic increase, leading to 36.7 per cent of total export of Zhejiang province in 2003, which was more than of the state-owned enterprises – 32 per cent and of the foreign-owned ones – 31.3 per cent. This has been totally different from the situation in other regions of the Yangtze River Delta, like Jiangsu province.

### 3.2. Jiangsu Province: path independent transition type

A notable feature of Jiangsu province is that it has been the most pronounced inward FDI recipient province in China. Compared with Guangdong province, for example, in 1993 inward FDI value in Jiangsu province was 40 per cent of that in Guangdong province, but already in 2003 Jiangsu province's inward FDI reached 15.8 billion US\$, i.e. more than inward FDI in Guangdong province (15.6 billion US\$).

Economic growth rate of Jiangsu province has been at 10–11 per cent per annum for the ten years starting with the middle of the 1990s. Industrial structure in GDP displays a decreasing tendency in the primary sector and an increasing tendency in secondary and tertiary sectors. In 2003 production, for example, in the primary sector was 110.7 billion yuan, in the secondary sector 678.2 billion yuan and in the tertiary sector 456.3 billion yuan, with the total of 1,245.2 billion yuan (the second rank in China after Guangdong province).

In relative terms (mainly in comparison with Zhejiang province), industries in Jiangsu province have been more capital intensive.

International trade turnover of Jiangsu province in 2003 amounted to 113.67 billion US\$, of which export was 59.14 billion US\$ and import 54.53 billion US\$. Of the export value, foreign-owned enterprises contributed 41.13 billion US\$, meaning that their share was 69.5 per cent of the export total.

We can generally say that the characteristic feature of the Jiangsu province, compared with Zhejiang province, is that the economy of this province has not entered the path dependent transition process (meaning that it has not been based on the cultural, institutional, historic etc. background), but that it relied on the process of inward FDI, which has shown itself as capital intensive way of development, with capital originating from foreign sources.

### 3.3. Comparative views on transition patterns

In Zhejiang province, it can be said that the transition pattern has gone into an orbit based upon the cultural, institutional and historical background of the area. The transition pattern can be referred to as 'path dependence' in the sense of previously being more compatible with the market oriented system as traced back to the period before the World War II. The process of transition in Jiangsu province has been, on the other hand, rather discontinuous, because the transition and development pattern in that province has been deeply depending on inward FDI, with attractiveness of the area for FDI coming mainly from the geographical advantage, not from the accumulated resources with traditionally cultural, institutional and historical background. Thus, the transition and development process in Jiangsu province can be referred to as 'path independence'.

Table 1 shows the ratio of light industry production in the whole industrial production in Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces. It can be seen that starting with 1978 this share in Jiangsu province has been lower than in Zhejiang province. The changes in the share of the non-state-owned sector can also be seen in Table 1.

Table 2 shows the situation with respect to inward FDI. Inward FDI in Jiangsu province has been always the highest in the Yangtze River Delta Region and, as regards the whole of China, since the year of 2001, Jiangsu province has become the biggest recipient of the inward FDI (outdistancing the Guangdong province with this respect).

Tables 3 and 4 show the shares of export by state-owned enterprises, foreign-owned enterprises and other (private-owned) enterprises, respectively, in both provinces. It is clear that in

Jiangsu province the share of foreign-owned enterprises was higher, and, on the other hand, in Zhejiang province the share of private-owned enterprises was higher.

So, to sum up, in Jiangsu province, capital intensive industry has been more active, and capital having moved from foreign sources has gone into more capital intensive industry. On the other hand, in Zhejiang province, as shown in the share of light industry, less capital intensive industry has been more active and less capital from foreign sources has been received.

We suppose, then, that Zhejiang province has gone into the orbit of 'path dependent' transition (led by private-owned and traditionally managed enterprises with domestic capital) and Jiangsu province has gone into the orbit of 'path independent' transition (led by foreign-owned and foreign-managed enterprises with foreign capital).

*Table 1. Aspects of structure of industrial production (%)*

Province	Year	Light industry	Non-state-owned sector
Jiangsu	1952	93.89	31.88
	1978	52.40	38.54
	1990	54.65	65.69
	2000	43.20	87.30
Zhejiang	1950	89.67	11.28
	1978	60.18	38.66
	1990	62.47	62.83
	2000	54.12	91.85

Source: China Statistical Yearbook, annual, Jiangsu Statistical Yearbook, annual, Zhejiang Statistical Yearbook, annual etc., and authors' calculations.

*Table 2. Regional distribution of FDI inflow (percentage of national total) (%)*

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
The Bohai Rim Region	28.8	25.9	29.4	23.8	22.3	25.7	27.8
Beijing	7.9	4.3	5.7	3.9	3.3	5.2	4.1
Tianjin	5.9	3.9	5.7	3.0	2.5	2.7	3.6
Hebei	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.3
Liaoning	8.4	8.0	8.0	6.0	6.3	5.6	5.6
Shandong	4.2	7.5	8.1	9.7	8.7	10.8	13.2
Yangtze River Delta Region	29.3	30.4	32.3	39.7	42.7	45.9	42.1
Shanghai	11.2	10.0	10.2	10.7	10.8	9.3	7.6
Jiangsu	14.5	15.7	18.0	21.8	23.7	25.9	25.1
Zhejiang	3.5	4.7	4.0	7.2	8.1	10.7	9.4
South China Region	28.7	28.6	27.0	24.5	24.0	16.2	17.0
Guangdong	17.6	13.3	18.5	16.2	18.4	11.7	12.6
Fujian	9.6	11.8	7.2	7.2	4.7	3.7	3.5
Hainan	0.3	1.9	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
Guangxi	1.2	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.7
Other Regions	13.2	15.1	11.3	12.0	11.1	14.6	13.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: China Statistical Bulletin of Foreign Economic Relations, annual, and China Statistical Handbook, annual, and authors' calculations.

Table 3. Export from Jiangsu province (1999-2003, %) according to ownership sector

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
State-owned	41.1	38.0	35.0	27.9	20.6
Foreign-owned	53.9	56.1	57.6	63.0	69.5
Others (private-owned)	5.0	5.9	7.3	9.1	9.8

Source: JETRO Shanghai Center, Jiangsu Province Statistical Yearbook, annual, etc.

Table 4. Export from Zhejiang province (1999-2003, %) according to ownership sector

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
State-owned	61.8	55.0	45.1	38.4	32.0
Foreign-owned	25.9	27.5	30.9	31.3	31.4
Others (private-owned)	12.4	17.5	24.0	30.4	36.7

Source: JETRO Shanghai Center, Zhejiang Province Statistical Yearbook, annual, etc.

### 3.4. Changes in income disparities in Jiangsu province and Zhejiang province

Table 5 shows the changes of per capita income disparities within Jiangsu province and Zhejiang province between the “reform and open door policy” period of 1978–1990 and the “reform and open door policy deepening” period after 1990.

As it is, unfortunately, extremely difficult to have statistics on income disparity between capital intensive and labor intensive industries, we use here income disparity between urban and rural areas as proxy for them. Further, as it is very difficult to have statistics on labor mobility, here in this paper we would have just theoretical expectations on this issue.

Throughout the 1980s, we observe that, as regards the difference between urban and rural areas in terms of per capita income (hereafter it is expressed as ratio of “urban-to-rural”), these differences in both Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces got reduced. The ratio of “Zhejiang to Jiangsu” has been increasing in both urban and rural areas.

As far as per capita income disparity after 1990 is concerned, all the ratios in Jiangsu and Zhejiang have increased. It can be expected that with rapid urbanization after 1990 income disparity between urban and rural area would indeed increase. With respect to the income level of Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces, incomes in Zhejiang have been constantly higher than in Jiangsu, and the ratio “Zhejiang to Jiangsu” has kept expanding in urban areas. In rural areas this ratio decreased after 1995, but then, after 2000, it has been increasing again.

Concerning the ratio of “2003/1990”, we observe a remarkable expansion in urban areas of Zhejiang province.

We can therefore state that, from the viewpoint of income, economic performance of Zhejiang province has been obviously better than that of Jiangsu province, while per capita income disparity between urban and rural area has generally been more in Zhejiang province than in Jiangsu province, particularly after 1995.



*Table 5. Comparison of per capita income disparity in Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces (1990-2003)*

		1978	1990	1990/ 1978	1995	2003	2003/ 1990
Jiangsu province	Urban area (yuan): A	288	1,613	5.60	4,647	9,262	5.74
	Rural area (yuan): B	155	884	5.70	2,457	4,239	4.80
	A/B	1.86	1.82		1.89	2.18	
Zhejiang province	Urban area (yuan): C	332	1,932	5.82	6,224	13,180	6.82
	Rural area (yuan): D	165	1,099	6.66	2,966	5,389	4.90
	C/D	2.01	1.76		2.10	2.45	
Zhejiang/ Jiangsu	Urban area	1.15	1.20		1.34	1.42	
	Rural area	1.06	1.24		1.21	1.27	

Note: Income is in nominal.

Source: Jiangsu Statistical Yearbook, annual, Zhejiang Statistical Yearbook, annual.

In order to provide an additional framework for the comparison of the Zhejiang and Jiangsu transition patterns some remarks are due on some aspects of the conditions, under which the respective transition processes have been taking place. Zhejiang has traditionally been regarded as a very picturesque region, with mountains, lakes and thousand of islands on the sea. However, the very same features have also be subsumed in the popular expression of “70 per cent mountain, 20 per cent water area and 10 per cent rice field”, meaning that in traditional rural economies there was very little land to live from. On the other hand, Jiangsu is characterized by a rather flat land, with, also quite numerous water bodies. This formed much more advantageous conditions for agriculture. Historically, under the South Song dynasty, Confucian ideas of “attaching greater importance to justice and less to gain” influenced very much the lives of people from Jiangsu, while an area in Zhejiang (Wenzhou) was the birthplace of “Yongjia school”, which advocated “reaching justice through gain”. Thus, people from Jiangsu were traditionally much less mobile than those from Zhejiang, who had, by the very force of things, to display higher mobility and entrepreneurship.

#### 4. Interpretations

With the results quoted above, we can forward the following interpretations, based upon the analysis outlined in Section 1 of the paper:

- (1) There is a significant relationship between labor mobility and income disparity (labor mobility leading to a decrease in income disparity).
- (2) There is a significant relationship between upward shift of marginal productivity of capital intensive industry and income disparity (upward shift of marginal productivity of capital intensive industry leading to an increase of income disparity).

Obviously, it can be also said that there is a significant relationship between upward shift of marginal productivity of labor intensive industry and income disparity (upward shift of marginal productivity of labor intensive industry leading to a decrease of income disparity).

In Section 2, we classified the types of transition into 'path dependent' and 'path independent' ones, whose examples are Zhejiang province as the former and Jiangsu province as the latter.

As mentioned earlier, it is not easy to test the significance of cultural and climate factors. Confirming the significance of these factors by either experiment or questionnaire research seem to be the way to go. It is necessary with such approaches to recognize the path of economy and society concerned.

The case of 'path dependence' means a transition process, in which such traditional structures as cultural, institutional, historical etc. have been playing an important role in the process of transition. On the contrary, the case of 'path independence' indicates the transition, in which such traditional structures have basically never been working. It is also pointed out that, the 'path dependent' transition has been led in the cases here considered by the private-owned enterprises and the 'path independent' transition has been led by the foreign-owned enterprises.

According to the above-mentioned classification, we can propose the following.

- (1) Zhejiang province has gone into an orbit of 'path dependent' type of systemic transition. Jiangsu province, on the other hand, has gone into an orbit of 'path independent' type of systemic transition.
- (2) In Zhejiang province, less capital has moved in from foreign sources and more labor has been mobilised than in Jiangsu province.
- (3) In Zhejiang province, economic expansion has been more pronounced than in Jiangsu province, and per capita income disparity between urban area and rural area has been higher than in Jiangsu province.

(As there exist definite restrictions on capital mobility and labor mobility in China, facts mentioned here might not be compatible with theoretical propositions.)

### **5. Concluding remarks: towards the optimal orbit of systemic transition**

Should we think that, as the 'path dependent' type of transition is associated with higher labor mobility (which theoretically leads to an income disparity lower than in the 'path independent' type of transition), the 'path dependent' type of transition is always the better one?

Obviously, this is not true.

As more moderate income disparity might not guarantee adequate economic efficiency, a moderate income disparity, corresponding to the 'path dependent' transition type might make the economy stay less efficient (without securing appropriately high speed of sustainable economic growth).

In order to be able to attain these two goals (moderate income disparity and efficiency) simultaneously, it is necessary to have both the marginal productivity of capital intensive industry shifted significantly upward and free labor mobility implemented.

Needless to say, when income disparity exists between different industries, labor would move from lower income industry to higher income industry, this principle working effectively in market economy and leading to a decrease of income disparity. However, in the transition process conditions, such market based rational mechanism might not fully work.

It can be proposed that the optimal combination of a significant upward shift of marginal productivity in the capital intensive industry and much freer mobility of labor force would move

the transition orbit towards the vicinity of the optimal one. We think that in reaching this kind of optimal trajectory, appropriate governmental policies, involving some elements of industrial policy, might play a very important role. We are going to analyze such potential policies in the future investigations.

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### TRANSFORMACJA SYSTEMOWA, ROZWARSTWIENIE I EFEKTYWNOŚĆ GOSPODARCZA: MODELE TRANSFORMACJI W DELCIE JANGTSE W CHINACH

#### Streszczenie

Artykuł opisuje zasadnicze cechy transformacji systemowej w dwóch prowincjach chińskich, położonych w delcie rzeki Jangtse, mianowicie Zhejiang i Jiangsu. Na tle schematu opartego na modelu Kempa-MacDougalla omówiono różnice między odpowiednimi procesami transformacji, a także ich uwarunkowania, klasyfikując je do dwóch typów: 'zależnego od historii' i 'niezależnego od historii'. Wnioski, związane głównie z rozwarstwieniem dochodowym oraz efektywnością gospodarczą, prowadzą do postulatów odnośnie polityki gospodarczej.

**Słowa kluczowe:** transformacja systemowa, zróżnicowanie dochodów, efektywność gospodarcza, model Kempa-MacDougalla.

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