

## **The impact of international collaboration on place leadership in new town development in China**

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### **Abstract**

In the urbanization process in China, new town development still enjoys high priority among many cities in China. Facing serious environment problems, low carbon city or knowledge are preferred by local governments to upgrade manufacturing industries and transfer to tertiary ones. To import technological or financial resources from abroad, collaboration is established between Chinese and foreign governments, corporations and knowledge institutes to develop new towns with both ecological and knowledge features. As various Sino-foreign partnerships exist in China, this research inquires the impact of these Sino-foreign partnerships on place leadership in the new town development. This research investigates the impact of international collaboration on leading organization structure, project process, and resources and actors attracted in Guangzhou Knowledge City and Shenzhen International Low Carbon City in the South China. The Sino-Singapore partnership is an independent administrative organization in Guangzhou knowledge city, representing its own interest to communicate with other actors to some extent. The leading organization of the Shenzhen Low Carbon City is within the Shenzhen municipal government, which under the municipal authority. As for the project process, the process of Guangzhou Knowledge City is faster than Shenzhen Low Carbon City. The Singapore government and investors play an important role to transfer urban design knowledge and introduce economic cooperation partners through conferences and higher official visits. After the withdraw of the Dutch government in Shenzhen Low Carbon City, the main stakeholders are from Shenzhen, with limited international urban designers and enterprises. The international cooperation has more influence leading organization in the new town Guangzhou than Shenzhen, which also further impact their project process, and resources and actors attracted in the two cases.