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ECOLOGICAL AND SUSTAINABLE COMPETITIVENESS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THREE URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS

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Abstract

This study aims to evaluate the competitiveness of three major urban clusters in China, namely the Yangtze River Delta, the Pearl River Delta, and the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, during the period from 2010 to 2020. In the context of globalization, studying the promotion of urban development is of great significance. Employing entropy methods, the research analyzes the competitiveness of these urban agglomerations across three dimensions: production, ecology, and quality of life. The findings reveal that in terms of production and quality of life, the Yangtze River Delta emerges as the most competitive city cluster, closely followed by the Pearl River Delta. In contrast, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region lags behind in competitiveness. Conversely, concerning ecological competitiveness, the Pearl River Delta takes the lead, followed by the Yangtze River Delta and the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei. Overall, the Yangtze River Delta urban agglomeration demonstrates the most robust and comprehensive competitiveness, followed by the Pearl River Delta and the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei. Consequently, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei should prioritize stimulating innovation and development through increased investment in science and technology. Furthermore, enhancing the quality of life can be achieved through the establishment of a modernized public service system. Additionally, promoting ecological civilization construction via green development is essential for the region's sustainable growth. Evaluating the comprehensive competitiveness of urban agglomerations from three dimensions: production, life, and ecology, in order to promote sustainable development of cities, and has reference significance for global urban development.

Key words: competitiveness, ecology, life and production, entropy method, urban agglomeration

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