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Profiles of the cities of DPR Korea – Methodological Remarks

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The present work approaches the research subject of cities in the DPR Korea using three different methods. On the one hand, special characteristics of the cities have to be ascertained, on the other hand the focus is on growth and urbanization processes of individual cities and furthermore interrelations between cities (population shares, shares in the companies) are discussed.

The city profiles are divided by content into four parts.

- Part 1 provides an overview, in which tables, in which data on population, area size, etc. for each city, were compiled. It is followed by information on the physical geography and agriculture in each city. The sources that were used are usually the IPA (2003) and PSC-8 (2009). For each city a climatic data table was constructed (based usually on data from PSC-8). In the IPA source you often find in the description of the ri information on the proportion of forest area or the cultivable area within the ri. On the basis of these details, maps were produced, in which either triangular or square symbols are used. For the cities, where more information on forest area within the ri was available, triangular symbols were used, in which the color “green” depicts a forest area share of 100%-67% and the color “blue” a forest area share of 66%-34% and the color “pink” a forest area share of 0%-33%. Percentages are listed next to the icon. If no percentage is listed, but a symbol was placed, this means that although there is no information on the forest area in the IPA, a specification on the proportion of cultivable area exists, so the appropriate color of the icon could be inferred from that data. Therefore, conversely, the color “green” in the square symbols indicates that this ri has an acreage share of 0%-33%. The color “blue” refers to an acreage share of 66%-34% and the color “pink” to an acreage share of 100%-67%.
- Part 2 of the city profiles focuses on the economy and the equipment of the respective city with industrial companies, but also with cultural institutions. The short overviews of the economy of each city are based largely on the IPA (2003) and PSC-8 (2009). An overview of the quantitative research results follows. Here, however, the results are shown sorted and analyzed by each city. There are usually three tables displayed for each city. In the first table of Part 2 (“Ranking”) the first number indicates the rank, which the respective city obtained in terms of the number of companies. In parenthesis the number of companies is shown. The second number (in the row “Companies important”) represents the rank in terms of the important companies, and in parenthesis according to the number of important companies. The third row “Cultural institutions” indicates the rank each city takes in terms of the number of cultural institutions mentioned in the subsection “culture” of the IPA source. The number in parenthesis refers to the number of cultural institutions. The numbers of the second table (“Ranking-Total number of companies in relation to population”) indicate the rank, which each city scored in terms of the quotient between the proportions of companies and population. The first number refers to the total number of companies, the second to important companies, the third to cultural institutions. Due to the small number of “important companies” in the sources KOFC (2010), MOU (2012) and KCNA (1998-2011), no values were obtained. Also in the third table (“Specification”), the numbers embody the ranks and the numbers in parenthesis embody the number of companies. The ranks indicate the specialization of the city with regard to light industry, the heavy industry, and the mining and energy sectors. Rank 3 in the light industry sector means, for example, that it is the third highest city specialized in light

industry. (In other words: Rank 3 would not mean that it is the third most important city in terms of light industry within the DPR Korea.) The aim of this table is just to find out in which industrial sector each city is specialized. In the ranking numbers were taken into account, which resulted from dividing the number of companies in the sectors of “Light Industry,” “Heavy Industry,” “Mining” and “Energy” by the total number of industrial companies of the city. An illustration follows that shows the most important companies in the respective city, where especially the important companies, were considered. Consequently, all companies have been included that appear in at least three sources and were at least once identified as important. During the description of the companies the portraying of details, which can be looked up in the KOFC (2010) and IPA (2003), has been avoided. Emphasis was placed, however, on the mention of the total size of the company and the number of employees, in order to assess the fundamental importance of the companies for the individual cities.

- Part 3 of the city profiles is dedicated to the presentation of results of a structural analysis of the individual cities. It deals on the one hand with the current distribution of intense built-up districts, the *dong* 洞, within the city area. Thus, following questions were raised regarding the individual cities:
 - Are secondary centers definable, aside from the city centre?
 - Do the centers have historical antecedents? It was examined here especially, where in the cities, which emerged after 1955; the former administrative seats of a district (up) or *rodongjagu* have been situated.

The structural analysis on the other hand is focused on dynamic aspects, where the aim was to find out new information about the urbanization process on individual North Korean cities in detail, and also about the process of urbanization in North Korea in general.

Thus the cities were examined regarding the following questions:

- Has the municipal area been increased or reduced by incorporations or separations?
- Have rural units (*ri* 里) been converted to urban units (*dong* or *rodongjagu*) (“*dongformation*”)?
- And when and in which parts of the cities have these transformations taken place?
- Has the number of *dong* of a city increased by the splitting of existing *dong* or by restructuring?

Here too, an intriguing question exists: when and in which parts of the city have these changes taken place? For most cities new thematic maps were designed and produced that provide information on incorporations and urbanization processes in the Korean cities. In the illustrations of the development of the administrative units within the cities, it has to be considered that they always refer to the current city borders. The city borders also always show the situation according to the latest obtainable information from today. This also applies to maps that relate to earlier periods, when the city borders were different than today.

- Part 4 provides a final short evaluation. In that part it will be examined—if necessary—to what extent the observations actually prove or not the quantitative results.