Prologue 2

In today's economic globalization and the rapid development of information, the competition between countries, which mainly occurs as competition between cities, has become dramatically intense. How to grasp the global urbanization trend accurately in the changing world environment, and then enhance the city's own competitiveness to make it win the increasingly fierce competition, are the urgent problems faced by every city manager. At the same time, with the diversity of world development, science and technology innovation plays an increasingly important role in promoting social progress. This importance is also profoundly reflected in the competition between cities. Under the process of globalization, how to control and utilize more world resources, especially the resources related to science and technology, has become an important dimension of a city's competitiveness.

In order to carry out further research on the new change and development of the world cities, the Global Urban Competitiveness Research Project (GUCP) group, under the support and assistance of GUCP President Professor Peter Karl Kresl and the leadership of Dr Pengfei Ni, initiated the research and wrote work for the *Global Urban Competitiveness Report – 2010*. It was a hard and challenging job. During more than one year's research, members of the project team demonstrated a persistent, serious and responsible attitude to complete every task and every piece of work. The project team members made several trips to study, explore and discuss the project with the national experts from several countries and they communicated with many city's government departments. Through extensive accumulation of knowledge, experience exchange and discussion, as well as arduous theoretical innovation, data collection, field research and data analysis, the *Global Urban Competitiveness Report – 2011* was produced.

Professor Peter Karl Kresl provided guidance on the structure, writing of theory and system construction of the Report. GUCP experts and consultants have appraised the Report's theoretical framework, indicators system and data analytical methods, giving many valuable suggestions and comments which have been adopted. They have also recommended the cases of the best cities from a global perspective, and some members also personally wrote the best city cases.

The *Global Urban Competitiveness Report – 2011* covers a set of complete measures of the global urban competitiveness index system and has a scientific data collection and analysis. A comprehensive comparison of 500 cities is made, as well as a serious analysis of the driving force for development in the current world and urban development trends. On that basis, it also provides case studies on 24 of the most competitive cities globally. It can be said that the *Global Urban Competitiveness Report – 2011* has more perfect indices, more real data, more scientific method and more rational analysis than any other comparative report.

This study has received great support from international experts and scholars and governments in many cities. The project team sincerely thanks everybody for their support.

The completion of the Report is a Herculean task, and each team member has made

enormous efforts. The project group also fully mobilized a lot of human resources at home and abroad, to participate in the research. Dr Pengfei Ni decided the basic theories, index system, research framework, and key conclusions. Dr Qinghu Hou provided technical guidance on econometrics and Zefang Wu, Xu Yang and Chao Wu from Nankai University are responsible for the specific measurements and calculations. Dr Shaokun Wei collected and organized the data and materials and coordinated the compiling and editing. Specific writing division of labor is as follows: Chapter 1, Pengfei Ni and Shaokun Wei; Chapter 2, Pengfei Ni and Shaokun Wei; Chapter 3, Shaokun Wei, Heng Zhao, Yuwei Li and Yongjie Chen; Chapter 4, Wenxuan Pan, Jing Bai, Kai Liu, Bi Zhao and Ke Zhang; Chapter 5, Qiongjie Zheng, Jun Zou, Qingbin Li and Jing Bai; Chapter 6, Jing Bai and Shaokun Wei; Chapter 7, Jing Bai and Ke Zhang; Chapter 8, Shaokun Wei; Bibliography, Shaokun Wei.

The authors of best city cases are: Chicago, Peter Karl Kresl, Jun Zou; Montreal, Austin, Chengdu, Jun Zou; Nanchang, Yongjie Chen; Munich, Milan, Copenhagen, Jing Bai; Qingdao, Jing Bai, Qingyong Zhang; Edinburgh, Kathy Pain, Qiongjie Zheng; Nantong, Hyderabad, Qiongjie Zheng; Incheon, Cheol-Ho Shin, Bi Zhao; Osaka, Fukuoka, Melbourne, Bi Zhao; Hefei, Fengyong Lv; Suzhou, Xin Jiang, Ke Zhang; Guangzhou, Yue Zhang, Ke Zhang; Sao Paulo, Ningbo, Wuxi, Ke Zhang; Nanjing, Fengyong Lv; Taichung, Shan Wang.

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