

Department of Social Work & Social Administration The University of Hong Kong



A Conceptual Framework of Local Government and
Third Sector Responses to Labor Migration in the
PRC

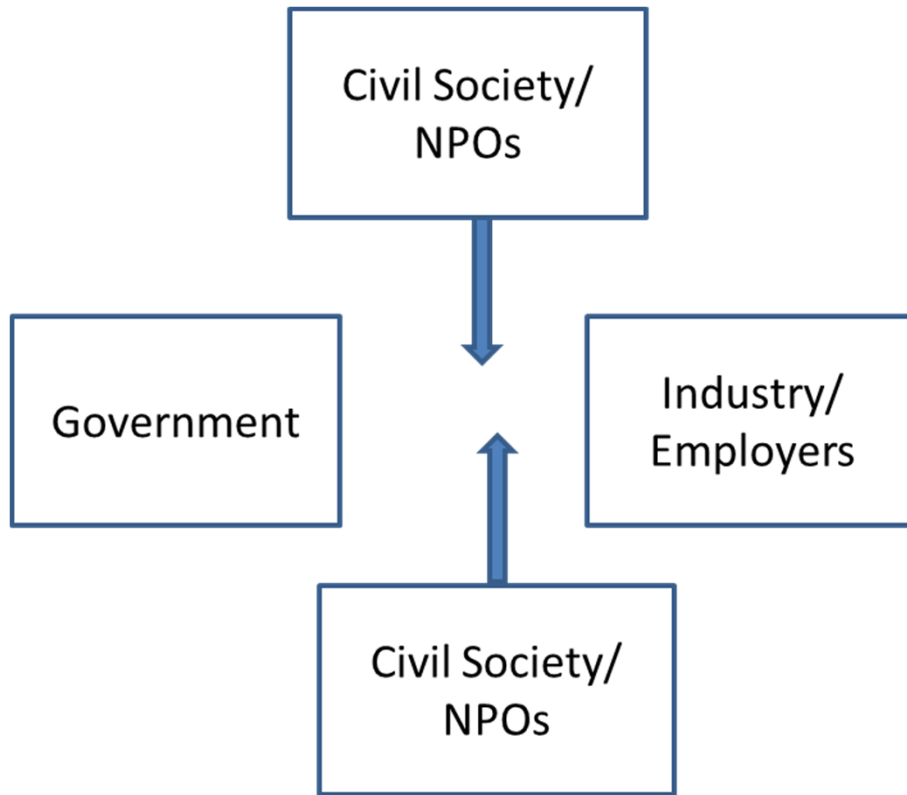
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International Conference on
Collaboration among
Government, Market, and
Society: Forging Partnerships
and Encouraging
Competition, Shanghai, PRC



Social protection & migration



Population changes

- Increased life expectancy
- Below replacement fertility
- Rising inequality
- Urbanization

([Peng, 2011](#))

An (im)mobile population

- Migration is one of the important drivers of transformation in economic and social conditions in 21st century China
- Over 260 million Chinese people are migrants living in an area that is different from their Hukou registration
- Disruption of family and local social protection structures

Social protection in China

- The logic of place based protection
 - Hukou
 - Work unit
 - Harmonization?
- Impacts of economic reform
- Local government responsibility

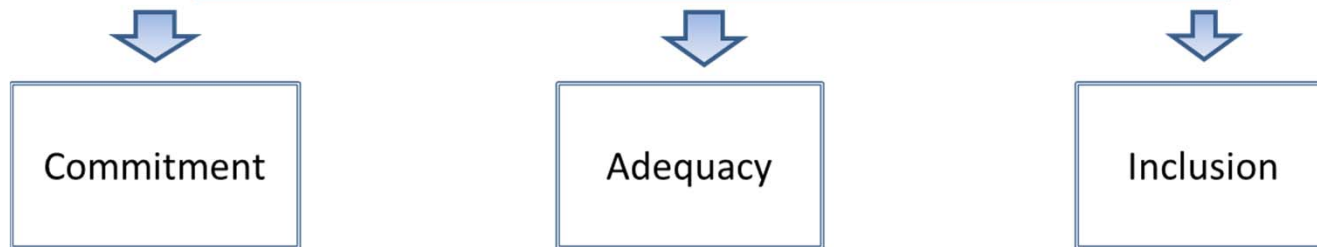
Local variation

- MLSS (Minimum Living Standards Schemes)
 - Experimentation from 1993 to national legislation in 1999 based on ‘best practices’
- Experimentation with migrant populations
 - Including healthcare, pension, unemployment insurance, occupational injury insurance and maternity benefit
 - Wide variation >> economics, inequality (Shi [2012b](#))

Productivist-developmental state?

- Subordination of social policy to economic policy (Holliday, [2000](#))
- Reliance on family
- “disappearing of productivist elements and the rapid rising of the universal features of a modern welfare state... [with] ... civil society emerg[ing] as a *strong competitor* to the state in determining the path of welfare reform” (author emphasis added) ([Kim, 2008:120](#)).

Policy Packages of Support



*Program rules,
availability,
accessibility, eligibility,
entitlement*

Generosity of benefits

*Coverage of
potential population*

[\(Meyers et al., 2002:96-97\)](#)

