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地理通訊 Index of Articles

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NOTE:

Part I of the Hong Kong Geographer will report the activities of the HKGA and hopefully to inform members of other activities related to geography in Hong Kong sponsored by other institutions. Part II of the Hong Kong Geographer will include short feature articles for general readers. These features do not reflect the views of the Hong Kong Geographical Association. The contributors are solely responsible for their papers.

PART I ACTIVITIES

Apart from the publication of our house journal - Asian Geography, in the coming months, the exco of HKGA is planning to organize the following activities for our members and the public. Members' support for these activities are deeply appreciated.

(1) The Fifth Geography Day and the A.G.M. of the HKGA will be held on 2nd March 1985. The venue of this festive event will be either Baptist College, or Cheung Sha Wan Catholic School or St. Paul Boys' College.

(2) There will be a field study day to be held in ~~Nov.~~ Jan. 1985. It will be also a join function with the Geography Inspectorate, Education Department of Hong Kong. For further details, please contact Mr. P.K. Chan (Office Tel: 5-871281; Home Tel: 5-685885).

(3) In order to serve our members and the in-service teachers, the HKGA will cooperate with the Extra-mural Department of the University of Hong Kong to run a course on junior form geography in next spring. Speakers will include Mr. K N. Cheung, Ms. Linda Lau, Dr. V. Sit and Dr. D.K.Y. Chu.

* * * * * *

Dr. Yeung Yue-man (楊汝萬), B.A., Dip.Ed. (HK), M.A. (Western Ontario), Ph.D. (Chicago) has been appointed Chair Professor of Geography, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Dr. Yeung was Associate Director of the Social Sciences Division at the International Development Research Centre, Canada before joining the University, and is renowned for his studies on urban policy.

PART II FEATURES

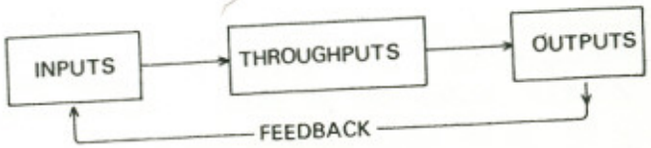
The City as a System

Linda Li

The city is an open system with interacting subsystems

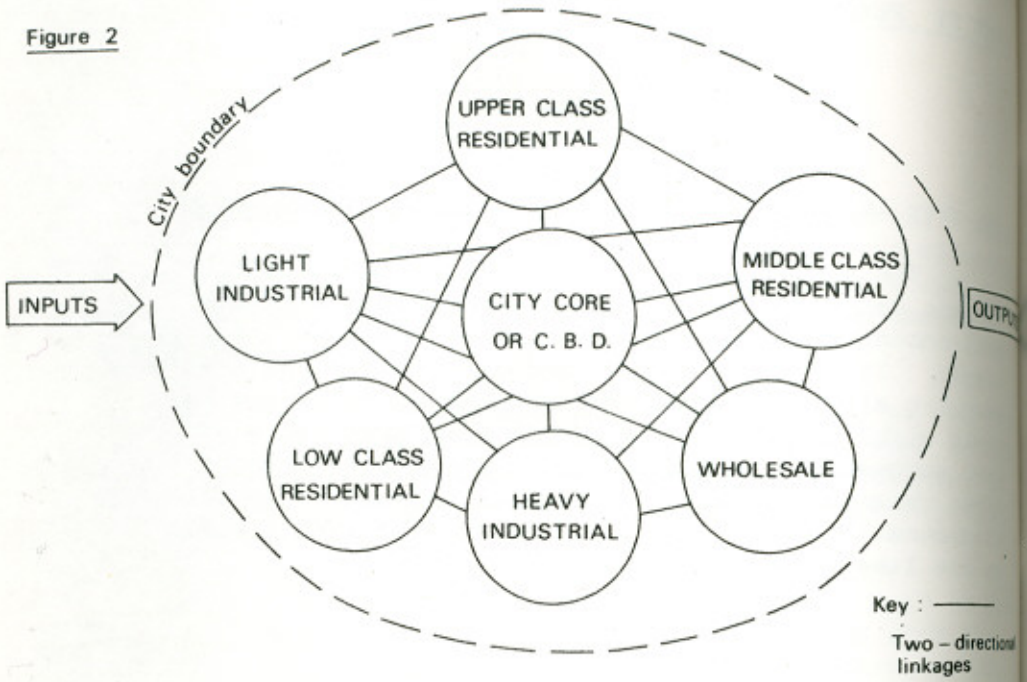
The systems approach may be used to teach the dynamic nature of a city, its relationships with its environment, and the interrelationships within the city itself. It could be a very useful follow-up and summative exercise after the topics of urban landscapes have been dealt with. In this issue of the Hong Kong Geographer, I have suggested here for ALE geography teachers some teaching notes which may be used in conjunction with an input-output diagrammatic model. The simplest form of such a model can be one like this:

Figure 1



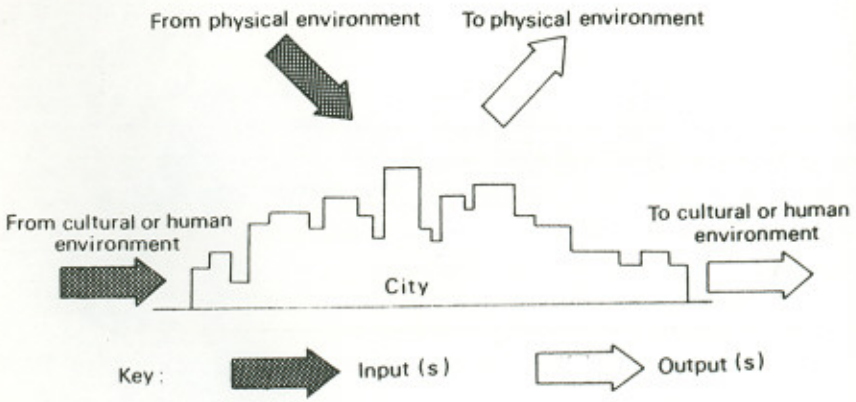
The inputs, throughputs, outputs, and feedback can be further broken down into different types and items to produce a more detailed and elaborated diagrammatic model if desired. Another form of a model to illustrate the components of a city system may be as follows:

Figure 2



Teachers may design other forms of representation of the components of a city system as appropriate. Sometimes a pictorial model can be used, such as shown below:

Figure 3



The captioned title may be considered under the following aspects. Teachers may modify them and use them selectively with reference to a specific city.

I. A. Definition of a system = a system consists of elements or objects with interactions or interrelationships between or among them. Linkages are necessary.

B. An open system = there are inputs from, and outputs to, its environment.

II. The City as an open system

A. Inputs from the environment to the city: people, matter/material, energy, and information.

1. Tourists, business men, relatives from outside the city, etc.
2. Food supply from the rural area(s), other regions outside the city, etc.
3. Water supply, gas supply, electricity supply, etc. from ...
4. Raw materials from the rural area(s), other regions outside the city, etc.
5. Manufactured products ...
6. Power/fuels ...
7. Capital (investment and profit) from other cities, countries, etc.
8. Skill, technology, research information, etc. ...
9. Books, newspapers, periodicals/magazines, telegraphs, letters/mail, telecommunications, etc. ...
10. Roads, transport vehicles (road, rail, water, air) leading or coming to the city
11. Inputs from the physical environment -- oxygen, sunshine, warmth, rain, etc.

B. Outputs from the city to the environment: people, matter/material, energy, and information

1. People leaving the city for tours, on business, visiting friends and relatives outside the city, etc.
2. Waste water and sewage from homes, factories, etc.
3. Manufactured products
4. Waste fuels and gases from domestic, industrial, and vehicular combustion
5. Capital/money leaving the city as payments to suppliers of raw materials, fuels, manufactured imports, food imports, and tourist spendings, etc.
6. Heat energy from electrical appliances, combustion, human activities, etc.
7. Feedback information, technology, etc.
8. Roads, vehicles, etc. leaving the city

III. Subsystems in the city

A. Functional zones (e.g. commercial, industrial, residential, etc.)

1. Segregation of functions in the city for higher efficiency, better living environments, benefits of agglomeration and internal economies of scale, etc.
2. Segregation through time and 6 processes (concentration, centralization, deconcentration, decentralization, invasion and succession)

B. Transport within the city (intra-city transport) provides economic, functional, and social links, e.g. (Between or among ...)

1. Between work places and homes (journeys to work)
2. Between schools and homes
3. Between shopping centres and homes (shopping trips)
4. Between wholesale and retail firms
5. Between commercial firms
6. Between wholesale firms and factories
7. Between friends and relatives (social visits/social trips)

Some of these links are between and among production and consumption.

Transport (and telecommunication) systems and networks are essential.

C. Public utilities systems

1. Water supply system
2. Gas supply system
3. Electricity supply system
4. Sewage disposal system

D. Telecommunication systems

1. Telephone system
2. Postal system (letters, printed matter, various types of mail)
3. Broadcast and television system

E. Social systems

1. Family system
2. Human relationship system

F. Government, administrative, and political systems

* * * * *

Please be informed that starting from Dec. 1984 onwards, the New Exhibition Room of the Royal Hong Kong Observatory at Tsim Sha Tsui will be opened to group visits. Geography classes will be given priority. Do send in an application for your Geography Club or for your class. The material on display is especially relevant to the H-level syllabus.

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