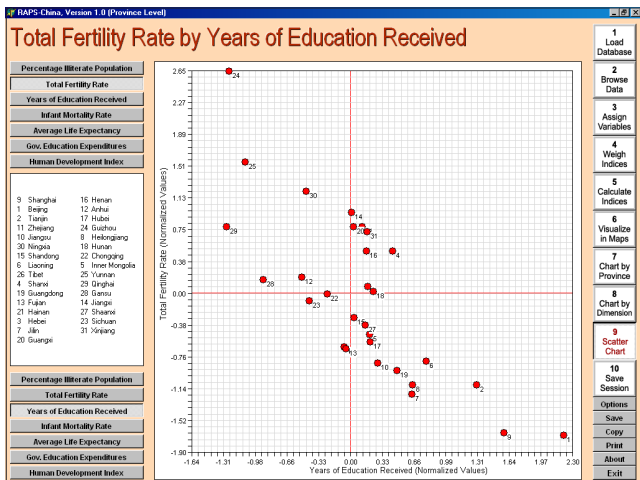


## Hardware requirements

The RAPS-China tool can be used on any PC with the MS Windows operating system '98, NT 4, 2000, XP. The software needs a screen resolution of 1024x768 pixels. RAPS cannot run at lower screen resolutions! You also need third-generation Web browser (such as MS Internet Explorer Version 6 or higher) to read the included help files.

## Ordering information

The RAPS-China tool is available on CD-ROM from IIASA for a handling and shipping charge of US\$ 39. Please complete the order form included here and send it to Gerhard K. Heilig, IIASA, SRD, Schlossplatz 1, A-2361 Laxenburg, Austria, Fax: (+43-2236) 71313. Orders may also be made via the Internet at: [www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/SRD/RAPS/](http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/SRD/RAPS/)



**Order Form**

**RAPS-China**  
A Regional Analysis and Planning System

Quantity  US\$ 39 per CD-ROM

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Fax: (+43-2236)71313; E-mail: [heilig@iiasa.ac.at](mailto:heilig@iiasa.ac.at); Web: [iiasa.ac.at/Research/SRD](http://iiasa.ac.at/Research/SRD)

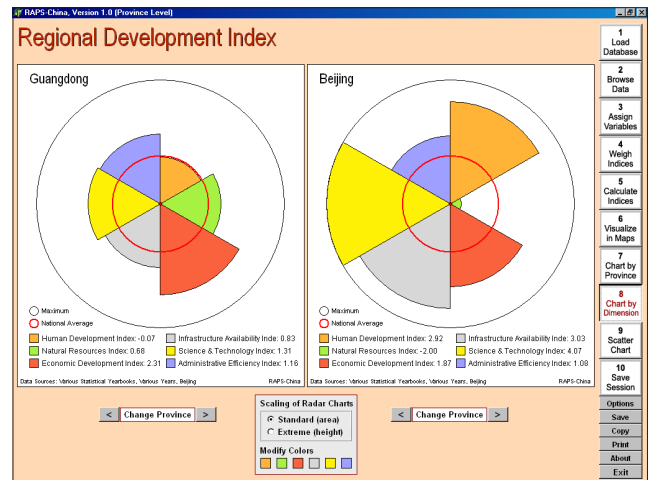
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# RAPS-China

## A Regional Analysis and Planning System

RAPS-China is a toolbox that can be used by researchers, political decision makers and planners to analyze the staggering regional divergences in China's development and to visualize the results in informative maps and dynamic charts. The system follows a theoretical concept that understands regional development as a *multi-dimensional process* involving many different sectors, objectives and options.

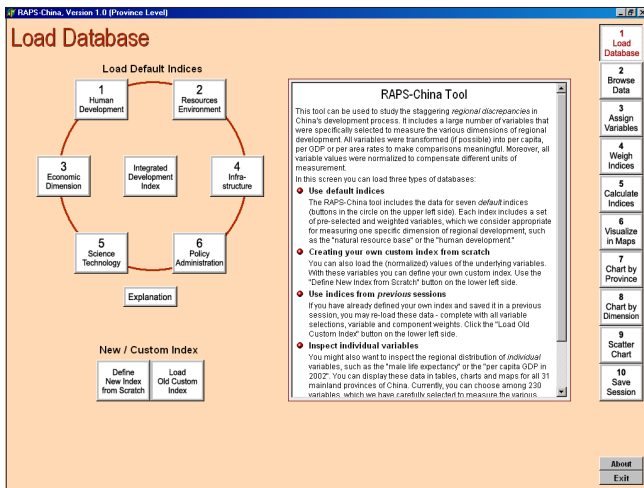
China's regional development, especially the growing disparity between highly developed coastal provinces and the lagging rural hinterland, is of the highest political relevance. In March 2004, China's Premier Wen Jiabao, during his opening address to the most recent People's National Congress, declared rural development a key priority. The government decided various measures for promoting development in lagging rural regions. The RAPS-China tool can be used to monitor these measures.



The RAPS-China tool was developed by Gerhard K. Heilig, leader of the IIASA Research Activity on Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) in General Research.



This project was partially supported by the Anniversary Fund of the Österreichische Nationalbank (Project No. 10390).

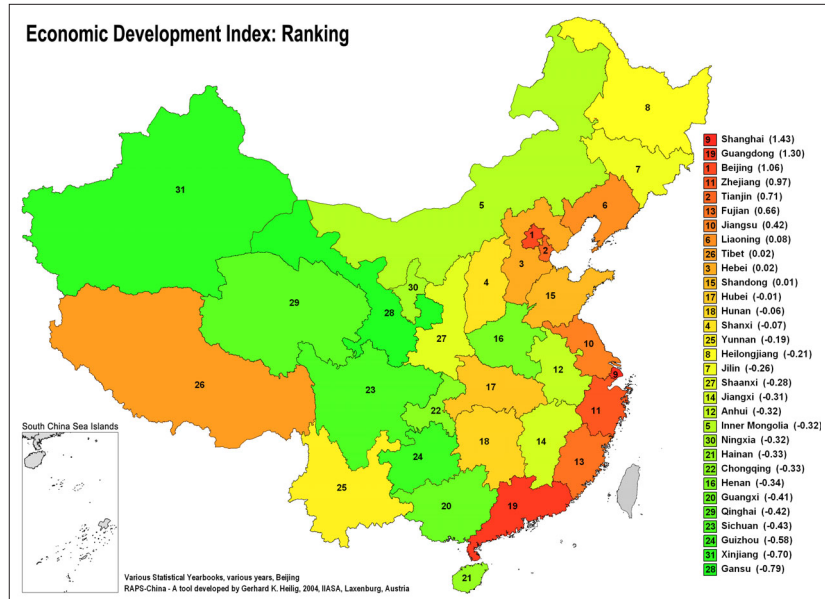


## The RAPS components

RAPS-China consists of five components:

1. A **specialized database** of development indicators for all 31 mainland provinces of China. These indicators were carefully selected to measure six fundamental development dimensions, namely, human development, natural resources, economic development, infrastructure, science and technology, and political representation and administration. The data are from various official statistics. Where necessary and appropriate, they

Example: Thematic map printed with RAPS



have been converted into per capita, per area or per GDP rates. All data are included in both raw and normalized form (with a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1) to compensate for different units of measurement.

2. **Tools for searching, retrieving, filtering, and sorting** the data. With a large number of indicators, it is essential to have tools available for quickly finding and retrieving specific data records.
3. **Tools for constructing custom indices.** With these tools the user can select and combine variables into a customized development index, such as a Basic Education Index or an Index of Household Income. The user can assign individual weights to each index variable and combine up to six component indices to calculate a composite index. Individual weights can be assigned to each component. Of course, it is also possible to retrieve just the individual indicators for visualization (maps, charts) or for specialized statistical analyses.
4. **Advanced tools for visualizing and presenting results.** RAPS-China includes various tools for the production of thematic maps, tables, bar charts, radar charts, and scatter plots, which are specifically tailored to the presentation of variables and indices that represent China's regional development. All maps can be produced without prior knowledge of GIS software.
5. **Six default development indices** of China's regional development. These include a regional Human Development Index, a Natural Resources Index, an Economic Development Index, an Infrastructure Development, and an Index of Scientific and Technological Development, and an Index of Political Representation and Administrative Efficiency.

The current Version 1.0 of RAPS includes almost 300 indicators from our internal database of more than 1,000 variables. With its open (ASCII) file format, the database can be easily expanded by the users to include additional indicators.

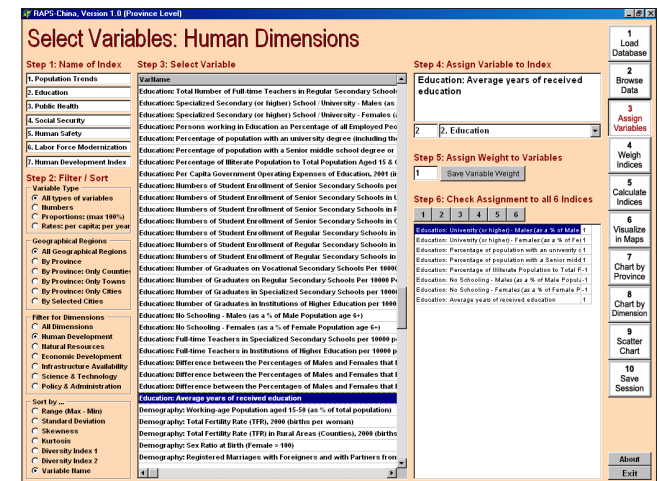
## Objectives

The main objective of RAPS is to bridge the gap between regional development research and policy. More specifically, it serves three purposes: RAPS facilitates the *communication of research results* to other scientists, politicians, planners, journalists, and the interested public. Unlike with simple PowerPoint presentations, these results can be compared *immediately* with the hundreds of key-variables of regional development in China that are included in RAPS.

RAPS can also serve as an *online reference tool* for quantitative information on regional development in China. In policy meetings, RAPS can provide detailed numerical background information within seconds on many different dimensions and aspects of regional development.

Finally, RAPS can be used as an *educational tool* at the college and university level. With RAPS, students not only have easy access to a large multidimensional database, but they can also use the default indices, such as the Human Development Index or the Natural Resources Index, to get a better understanding of the huge regional diversity in China.

RAPS-China provides the user with tools, not solutions. The advantage of the system is that it allows the user to empirically test his/her own ideas and concepts. However, a user may be also interested in our default solutions in



the form of six specialized development indicators included with the RAPS application. We believe that these default indicators are not just arbitrary collections of variables, but actually represent *key factors* of regional development in China. We have developed them to measure the *underlying* driving forces that we consider to be responsible for the great regional divergences.

The RAPS-tool is part of a series of CD-ROMs on China, which also includes the ChinaFood CD-ROM, an analysis of China's food security by the same author (see: [www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/SRD/ChinaFood](http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/SRD/ChinaFood)). These CD-ROMs try to explore new ways in science publication for making our research more accessible to other researchers and political decision makers. Moreover, they include software tools, detailed datasets and statistical material that would be impossible to be published in print.