

**Significance of Chinese Local Governments in China's Coastal Regional  
Economic Development: A Comparative Study on the Nine Cities in the Pearl  
River Delta Economic Region**

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**Abstract**

Chinese local governments play an important role on the local economic development because of the formation of China's regional economic model after the Reform and Opening Policy in 1978. Based on the curiosity on what are the Chinese local governments' roles on the local economic development, I came up the research questions on local governments' role on macro regulation, participation and cooperation. Thus I did a research specific on the local governments in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region. I used one shot case study as my research design and collected 450 related journal articles in the PRD region from the biggest social knowledge sources website in China --- China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI). Therefore, I used content analysis as my research method and analyzed the data by using checklist. After the data analysis, I found out the local governments macro regulation role in the PRD region mainly were industrial transformation, environment protection under economic development and infrastructure construction. Participation roles major were indirect investment and direct investment. Finally the cooperation roles mainly were logistics cooperation, tourism cooperation and industrial coordination. In this paper I will talk about each question in detail. However because of the limitation of my resources and abilities, I will do better in the future.