

## PRESS RELEASE

**Civic Exchange Releases Report on Wellbeing in Shanghai**

*Shanghai residents report relatively high levels of satisfaction, in report that follows up comparative findings in Hong Kong and Singapore.*

**HONG KONG, 13 January 2017** – Civic Exchange (CEX), an independent public policy think-tank in Hong Kong, has released a report on wellbeing in Shanghai, as part of a larger project that measures public satisfaction with issues like housing, education, health care and the environment across Asian metropolises. Of the three cities, Shanghai residents were found to be the most satisfied with their lives (scoring an average of 7.4 out of 10), compared to Singapore (7.1) and Hong Kong (5.8).

“**Asian Urban-Wellbeing Indicators: Shanghai Report (2016 First Report)**”, a 166-page report by Prof. Michael DeGolyer, can be downloaded from the CEX website. Bilingual highlights (in English, Traditional Chinese and Simplified Chinese) by CEX project manager Carine Lai can also be found online, along with previous reports on Hong Kong and Singapore released in 2016.

One of the aims of this project is to help governments prioritise which subject areas to address.

**Interviewing Shanghai Residents**

For this project, more than 900 residents were reached by landline telephone numbers. An additional 600 street interviews were conducted in order to reach migrant workers without Shanghai “hukou,” who may not have a home telephone. All interviews were conducted in Putonghua / Mandarin.

**Key Shanghai Findings**

- Shanghai residents are generally satisfied with their lives (scored 7.4 out of 10).
- 81% of Shanghai residents would prefer to stay in their city, even if they had the choice to move elsewhere. This implies that Shanghai might not have the “brain drain” concerns of Hong Kong and Singapore.
- Slightly more than half of Shanghai residents feel the city has improved over the years, with a clear majority feeling it is a good place for children and the elderly.
- Three issues stood out as the most important to residents: Housing (20%), medical care (19%) and education (18%).

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- Environmental concerns were cited by relatively fewer residents (12%), but were seen as important by particular groups, like students and artists.
- Out-of-province migrant workers were generally optimistic and saw Shanghai as a desirable destination, but were less satisfied than average Shanghai residents with their daily lives.
- Migrant workers generally live in smaller, rented premises, compared to Shanghai residents, who were more likely to own homes. Large proportions of migrants were dissatisfied with their housing compared to residents. They were also more concerned with medical care, less satisfied with doctors' care, and in general in poorer health.
- In conclusion, Shanghai residents are generally satisfied, optimistic about the future and see their city as a good place to live. However, there is inequality between full residents and migrants in terms of their happiness with access to housing, medical care and education.

### About Civic Exchange

Civic Exchange (CEX) is a Hong Kong-based non-profit public policy think tank that was established in 2000. With the mission to advance civic education and engage society to shape public policy, Civic Exchange undertakes research in air quality, nature conservation and the urban environment, along the framework of wellbeing.

### Media Contacts

PowerPoint presentations for this report can be found here [in English, Traditional Chinese](#) and [Simplified Chinese](#).

The full Shanghai report can be found at:

<http://civic-exchange.org/en/publications/8290345>

All of CEX's Wellbeing reports can be found at:

<http://civic-exchange.org/tc/publications/8290350>

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