

Territorial Activities of the RSA China Division in 2025

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1. RSA China Division Annual Conference

From 19–21 September 2025, the Annual Conference of the Regional Studies Association (RSA) China Division was successfully held at Zhejiang University.

The conference was themed “Regional Transformation and High-Quality Development in the Age of Artificial Intelligence” and generated strong academic engagement and positive scholarly feedback.

Key highlights of the conference included:

- Academic discussions on frontier topics such as artificial intelligence, regional transformation, industrial upgrading, and spatial governance;
- Seven keynote speeches and eleven parallel sessions;
- Participation of more than 180 scholars from over 80 universities and research institutions in China and abroad.



2. Fourth Council Leadership Transition and Annual Council Meeting

On 15 February 2025, the 2024 Annual Council Meeting and the Fourth Leadership Transition Meeting of the RSA China Division was successfully convened online via

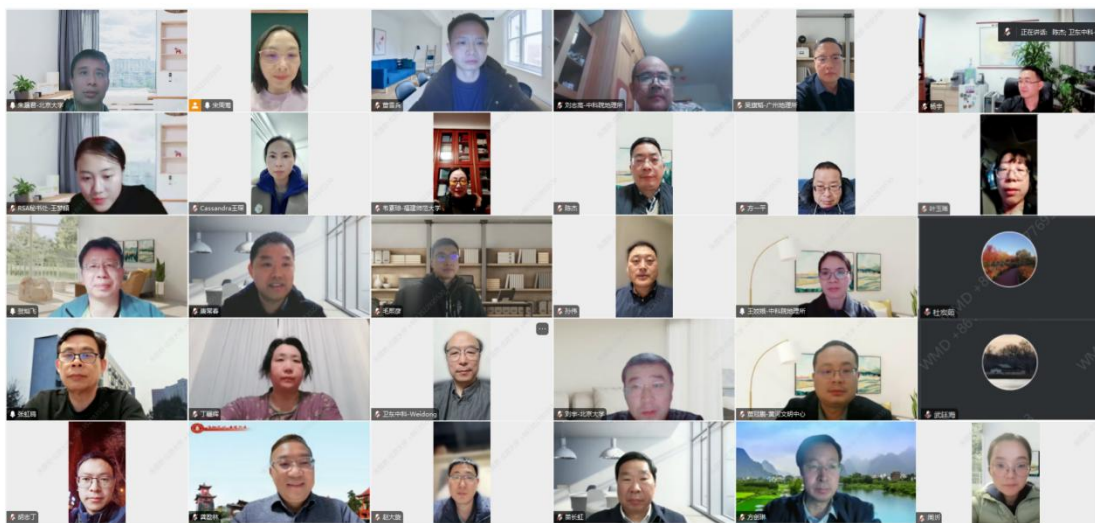
Tencent Meeting.

The meeting brought together 30 council members from across China and focused on both retrospective review and organisational renewal.

Key agenda items included:

- A review of the work progress of the RSA China Division during 2021–2024;
- Consideration and approval of new council and standing council members;
- Election of a new Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary-General, and Deputy Secretaries-General.

The meeting marked an important milestone in consolidating the governance structure of the RSA China Division and ensuring continuity in its organisational development.



3. Membership Development and Management

Over the past year, the RSA China Division maintained steady progress in membership development and management.

Key developments included:

- 44 members joining the Division or renewing their membership;
- Membership promotion through conference engagement, academic activities, and multi-channel outreach.

These efforts contributed to strengthening the visibility and attractiveness of the RSA within the regional studies community in China.

4. Communication, Outreach, and Academic Promotion

Over the past year, the RSA China Division actively strengthened its communication,

outreach, and academic promotion through coordinated online platforms and external channels.

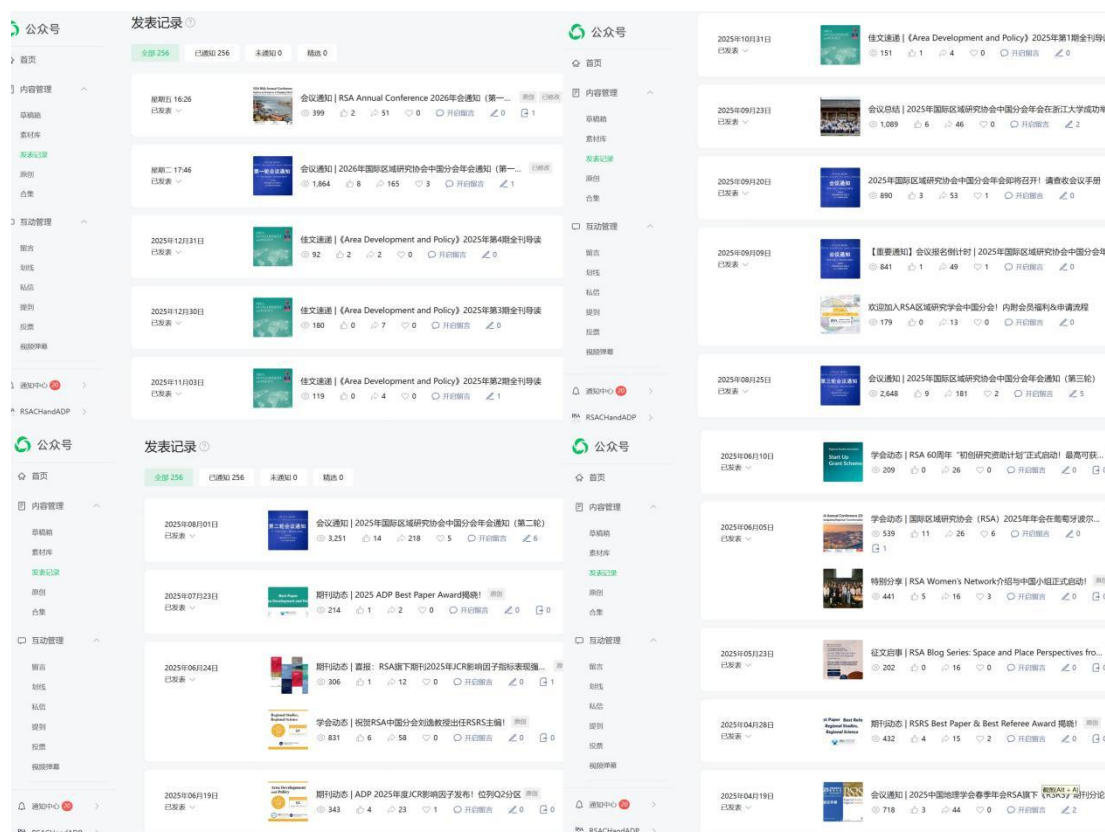
Key activities included:

● Official Website Maintenance

The official website of the RSA China Division was regularly updated with information on the annual conference, leadership transition, and other divisional activities. Website functionality optimisation and routine maintenance were also carried out.

● Official WeChat Public Account

Through the official RSA and Area Development and Policy (ADP) WeChat public account, with approximately 2,500 followers, the Division disseminated around 30 posts over the year, covering updates on divisional activities, journal developments, and related academic events. These efforts strengthened communication and outreach within the academic community.



● Multi-platform Promotion

Four issues of Area Development and Policy article recommendations were published via *China Geography Journals Information Platform*, one of the most influential academic WeChat platforms in the field of geography in China (with over 20,000 followers). This initiative significantly expanded the journal's visibility within the Chinese academic community.



● Conference Promotion and Session Organisation

① From 24 to 28 March 2025, Professor Shenjing He, Vice Chair of the RSA China Division, organised an Area Development and Policy journal session at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), attracting nearly 200 participants for on-site academic exchange.



② In May 2025, Professor Jiaoe Wang, Vice Chair of the RSA China Division, conducted promotional activities for the RSA at the 3rd International Symposium on Transport Geography, further enhancing the Association's visibility within related disciplinary communities.



5. Area Development and Policy (ADP) Journal Activities

- Manuscript Submission and Publication

In 2025, Area Development and Policy received 205 manuscript submissions. A total of 4 issues were published during the year, comprising 32 articles and 656 pages in total.

- Special Issues

Four special issues were organised during the year:

- ① Asia in the Transforming Global Economy (completed)
- ② Theorizing Back for Evolutionary Economic Geography (ongoing)
- ③ Speculative Urbanism and the Infrastructured State (ongoing)
- ④ Services and Development in the Global South (ongoing)

- Editorial Team Development

Four new editors were appointed in 2025, further strengthening the editorial team's international composition and disciplinary coverage.

- Editorial Reports

Mid-year and end-of-year editorial reports for ADP were prepared and submitted in March and September 2025, summarising journal operations and key developments.

- Journal Evaluation and Indexing

Area Development and Policy is currently ranked Q2 in the Journal Citation Reports

(JCR). In addition, continued efforts have been made to integrate the journal into the Chinese Academy of Sciences journal evaluation system. In 2025, ADP was included in the CAS journal ranking for the first time, classified as Tier 3 in the field of Regional Studies.