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Author: [ADVANCED](#) | Volume Page
 Keyword: |



[TOP](#) > [Available Issues](#) > [Table of Contents](#) > [Abstract](#)

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[\[PDF \(541K\)\]](#) [\[References\]](#)

Forming Kuznets Curve among Chinese Provinces

[Hiroshi Ohnishi](#)¹⁾

1) Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University

Abstract: As coastal areas in China achieved economic growth, income disparities between the rural and urban areas have become prominent, and this trend can be measured using Gini coefficients and Theil indices. However, as Williamson (1991) mentioned, there is a possibility that the catching-up process of the poor areas is sometimes measured as a process of widening regional income disparity, for example, from distribution 1 : 1 : 1 : 2 to distribution 1 : 1 : 2 : 2. Moreover, as the rich areas in China are expanding from a few cities to many of its coastal areas as part of this process, the trend of these regional disparities can be regarded as the case suggested by Williamson. Furthermore, in recent years, some of the inner provinces achieved very high growth rates, while growth rates of the richest cities have become relatively lower. In this sense, we can conclude that China's regional income disparity has shifted from the divergence stage to the convergence stage, as aimed by Deng Xiaoping's "get rich first" policy. In other words, China can now be regarded as progressing from an economic growth stage that only focused on the rich to an economic growth stage that focuses on the poor.

Keywords: [regional disparity](#); [convergence](#); [catch-up](#); [Kuznets curve](#); [Theil index](#)

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