

The Heavy Industry of Qiqihar in Heilongjiang Province and the Forming of a Food Base

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Summary

Qiqihar, located in the frontier area of China's Northeast, is currently facing a period of very dramatic progress. There are four background matters which prompt this.

First, there is the heavy-industrial base which was established from the 1950s. The formation anew of such a heavy-industrial base is not easy. The contraction of large, heavy industries as a global trend is a cause for concern, and the significance is great that this kind of sector was formed in Qiqihar. In the future its playing of a new role within the industrialization of Northeast Asia is anticipated.

Second, there is the transforming of the wilderness of the Northeast into a superb grain belt. The area of Qiqihar's arable land has grown to almost half that of the total for Japan. Furthermore, it appears to be expanding. Concerning this production of agricultural and livestock products, however, new large-scale management, etc., has been commenced, and the food-processing business also has begun a new sudden increase. The expansion of foreign-investor enterprises into this food-processing sector is also becoming apparent, and Qiqihar's agricultural and livestock industries are taking on a new hue. In particular in Qiqihar's case, because development had lagged, the concern about soil pollution, etc., is low, and with the rising interest in the global food "confidence and safety" of recent years it is attracting attention.

Third, Northeast Asia is approaching a time of new exchange, and the locational conditions which Qiqihar is bound to have through being a frontier area are changing greatly. Rather than that, within the exchange of areas such as China, the Russian Far East and Mongolia, its future continuing centrality is hoped for.

Fourth is probably the existence of the people who have raised up the borderlands to this level. What should be called, as it were, a frontier spirit has deeply permeated people's hearts.

Such kinds of favorable elements have built up, and Qiqihar's stepping forward into a new era is anticipated.

[Translated by ERINA]