

Research into the Mutual Cooperation and Collaborative Development in the Eastern Border Areas of China and Russia

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Summary

China and Russia, through having created their respective economic development strategies in the Northeastern region and the Far East and Eastern Siberian regions, have brought about a huge opportunity for mutual cooperation and collaborative development in the eastern border areas of China and Russia. In particular, in September 2009 both countries ratified the "Program of Cooperation between the Northeastern Region of the People's Republic of China and the Far Eastern and Eastern Siberian Regions of the Russian Federation (2009-2018)" and regarding this program they have shown the direction for future economic cooperation and reciprocal investment in the eastern border areas of China and Russia. Within the program more than 200 projects have been specified including: the upgrading of the infrastructure at customs points; cooperation in the transportation sector; the construction of science and technological industrial parks; joint development and environmental protection of Bolshoy Ussuriysky Island (Chinese name: Heixiazi Island); cooperation on labor in the sectors of agriculture, nomadic herding and construction work contracting; reciprocal cooperation in tourism, the humanities, and environmental protection; and the development of mining.

For the economic development strategies of the Northeastern region of China and the Russian Far Eastern and Eastern Siberian regions, the background to the formulation of the plans and their objectives are very similar, and the concrete measures for the implementation of policy are also alike. Between the adjoining regions, the fundamental elements for cooperation are in place, including differences in the presence of essential factors, and the mutual complementarity in industrial structures. Consequently, it could be said that they have fulfilled the objective conditions toward reciprocal cooperation and joint development in the eastern border areas of China and Russia in sectors such as timber, energy, mining development, science and technology, agriculture, tourism, and international distribution.

In order to promote subsequent reciprocal cooperation and joint development of the Northeastern region of China and the Russian Far Eastern and Eastern Siberian regions measures are required including: "incorporating interregional cooperation, stimulatory measures, and economic development into national security strategies"; "establishing economic cooperation zones in border areas, etc."; "building and strengthening the multilayered links between regions and coordination mechanisms"; and "setting up a sustainable philosophy of cooperation which encourages the realization of reciprocal cooperation and joint development, advancing joint development with the customs points as pivots and turning crisis into opportunity".

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