

The Factors in China's Formulating of the Large Number of Regional Development Plans and the Problem Points in Implementing Them

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Summary

After China entered the period (2006-2010) of the "11th Five-Year Program", and in particular from 2009, the central government formulated and approved a large number of regional development plans. These regional development plans can be divided into the following five patterns, namely: regional development plans of national strategic importance; integrated development plans for key or model regions; reform and development plans for national-level economic "new special zones"; development plans for zones with specially designated functions; and regional development plans formulated by all levels of local government or the related policy documents. That regional development plans have been formulated in large numbers is the result of the promotion of combining "top-down" and "bottom-up" approaches in administrative management. The objectives of the central government are: the reduction of regional disparities; the maintenance of order in regional development; and the accumulating of experience for the sake of nationwide reform. The objectives of local governments are to acquire support for financing, investment projects and frameworks for land usage from the central government, as well as to advertise them to society as local government achievements. As these regional development plans are not legally binding, and in addition the financial resources for their implementation are to be borne by local governments, many of them will not be fully implemented. As the splendid futures depicted in the regional development plans are not necessarily ones that can be realized, in order to research China's regional economies one shouldn't place importance on regional development plans.

[Translated by ERINA]