

The Process of Formulating Regional Development Strategies in China: The case example of Heilongjiang Province

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Summary

China has frequently formulated regional development strategies, yet the process of their formulation has for the most part not been clarified. In this paper, focusing on several regional development strategies within Heilongjiang Province, I examine the theoretical basis and the actual support connected with their formulation, and summarize the formulation patterns for regional development strategies. In addition, I clarify the formulation mechanism for regional development strategies, and examine the roles of government, think tanks, businesses, and the mass media and public.

For the formulation of regional development strategies in Heilongjiang Province it is possible to evaluate the points where the knowledge of government, think tanks, and businesses is put to maximum use to attempt the resolution of the actual and medium- and long-term challenges in Heilongjiang Province. Problem points, however, are also mounting up. For example, the personnel movements of top administrators in local government can have a negative impact on the stability of regional development strategies. Moreover, a great many researchers involved in the formulation of regional development strategies belong to government-affiliated think tanks, and, viewed in academic terms, lack independence. The fostering of private-sector think tanks is becoming a pressing matter. For businesses there is a tendency to place importance on the benefits from the direct subsidies via the putting into effect of regional development strategies.

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