

The Potential for the Promotion of Heilongjiang Province's Economic and Trade Cooperation with Japan in the "One Belt, One Road" Strategy

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Summary

The "One Belt, One Road", at the same time as being a major strategy for China's opening-up to the outside world, is also a major strategy for domestic regional opening-up and development. Under the "One Belt, One Road" strategy, the "China–Mongolia–Russia Economic Corridor, and Longjiang Land and Sea Silk Road Economic Belt" (hereinafter abbreviated to "Longjiang Silk Road Belt") was graded up to a national strategy, and Heilongjiang Province became a front line and central region for the country's opening-up to the outside world. In one analysis, if the intent of the "One Belt, One Road" strategy is said to be development toward the west, the "Longjiang Silk Road Belt" is adjacent to the Far Eastern region which has the greatest potential for development within Russia, and to both the developed countries of Japan and the ROK, and is considered to provide a favorable foundation and the conditions to develop multilateral cooperation with the nations on the Sea of Japan rim.

Then under the "One Belt, One Road" strategy, how will the situation be for Heilongjiang Province's cooperation with Japan, will there be leeway for leveling-up, and in which sectors will there be potential to go on furthering cooperation? During the time of the Second China–Russia Expo in 2015, the "High-Level Forum on the Construction of the China–Mongolia–Russia Economic Corridor–Longjiang Land and Sea Silk Road Economic Belt" was held in Heilongjiang Province, government officials, experts, businesspersons, and media representatives from Mongolia, Russia, Japan, and the ROK were invited, and the future prospects for Heilongjiang Province's policy and the current situation for the promotion of economic and trade cooperation were examined. The experts participating in the forum offered the positive opinion of there being opportunities in the "One Belt, One Road" strategy for the nations of Northeast Asia, including Japan, and one scholar also expressed the idea that for Heilongjiang Province's economic development the key would be upgrading the construction of distribution routes.

In this paper, I take the awareness of the issues to date, and summarizing the current research outcomes, I would like to begin from the trends in Heilongjiang Province's economic development, the progress of opening-up to the outside world, and the actual situation for economic and trade cooperation with the outside world. Then I would like to analyze the opportunities and deficiencies in advancing Heilongjiang Province's cooperation with Japan under the new circumstances, and explore the directions to take.

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