

Mongolia's Integration into the Eurasian Economic Corridor Infrastructure

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Mongolia's position in Northeast Asia

Mongolia has its place in the current developments of regional cooperation not only due to its location among the two great nations of China and Russia but also because of rising interests in Mongolia from number of nations due to its geopolitical traits and economic relationship between two neighboring nations.

Mongolia had proactively created a "Steppe Road" initiative to support and simultaneously connect to the initiatives promoted by the regional countries, and announced that Mongolia will become a Transit Nation. Steppe Road initiative consists of five pathways: motorways, railways, electricity transmission lines, and gas/oil pipelines.

Mongolia's initiative must be science and research-based, in terms of:

- Infrastructure planning for border points, roads and railways of Mongolia, China and Russia; research and studies for international freight and transportation directions.
- Determination of transport capacity of road and railways up to 2020 under the Economic corridor initiative;
- Conduct planning and investment research for institution for developing transportation network under the Economic corridor initiative;
- Determine the ways to participate in China's OBOR and Russia Trans-Eurasian transportation corridor.

Results of the studies will determine the changes and economic level that Mongolia will achieve. Development of transportation networks under Greater Tumen Initiative will bring economic benefits to numerous industries such as trade and tourism. In addition, Japan-Mongolia's economic partnership agreement brings more opportunities for Mongolia. In summary, Mongolia is at the heart of NEA and an economic bridge connecting Asia and Europe.

Economic Corridors

Mongolia has signed tri-lateral transportation agreement with China and Russia in 2016. Mongolia has been aiming to develop trilateral cooperation. The goal has been successful politically but not as much economically. Mongolia's role in the region is significant but we need to conduct detailed research to clarify the road ahead.

In 2016, trilateral economic corridor program was approved. Trade and transportation network is a key to international economic partnership. For landlocked Mongolia, cooperation with its neighbors and access to seaports through their transportation networks, and planning its transportation networks are critical. Planning and research work results shall be a key to transportation network policy, prioritizing projects, and economic cooperation policies. Government organizations could adopt the research results. Prioritization of key projects will be helpful in efficient management of investment; transportation projects will have greater impacts on other key economic sectors; Mongolia's regional development will be supported. Therefore, we could establish an international research institute based on your rich experience or we could cooperate with ERINA to conduct multi-party research. I will personally be keen to participate and will encourage our ministry to participate in projects that will contribute to sustainable development, integration of regional economic development.