

The Evolution of Northeastern China's "One Belt, One Road" Cooperation and Northeast Asian International Cooperation

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Since Chinese President Xi Jinping raised the outline of "One Belt, One Road" (the strategic concepts of the "new Silk Road economic belt" and "21st century maritime Silk Road") in Kazakhstan and Indonesia in September and October 2013, in a little over three years the theoretical explanation and prior implementation has been carried out, and the "One Belt, One Road" construction has achieved remarkable step-by-step results, including the foundation of the Silk Road Fund, the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the landing of bilateral agreements, and the expansion of international production capacity cooperation.

As important constituent parts of "One Belt, One Road" are that northeastern China: has a geographical situation of being strategically positioned facing national borders and the sea; is promoting cooperation via land and sea with the Russian Far East; is putting in place and upgrading rail routes to Russia and the regional rail network; is constructing Eurasian high-speed transportation corridors; has opened the Eurasian Land Bridge to the west; has made alignments with Japan, the ROK, Southeast Asia and the coastal provinces; and especially in the constructing of the China–Mongolia–Russia Economic Corridor, has a unique position, its dovetailing points are high, and its potential is great.

The economic growth of northeastern China has slowed, its growth potential is poor, its external demand has fallen, contradictions have deepened, it is approaching a bottleneck where the degree of difficulty of revitalization is increasing, and its incorporation into national cooperation for "One Belt, One Road" is deepening; participating in the "China–Mongolia–Russia Economic Corridor construction guidelines" project cooperation will probably become an important support for promoting a new all-out revitalization of the Northeast.

The three northeastern provinces are also proactively participating in the "One Belt, One Road", recovering their economic position with all forms of strategic cooperation within that project, making it an important handhold to get out of difficulty, increasing the scale of trade, strengthening investment and loan mechanisms, promoting firms' expansion overseas, speeding the construction of cross-border routes, planning the design of free trade zones, and emphasizing several positive changes in sectors including culture and tourism cooperation.

Simultaneously, at the same time that northeastern China is being incorporated in the "One Belt, One Road" strategy, it is utilizing its many advantageous situations, such as its territorial and geographical position and history with adjoining Northeast Asia and culture, and in a situation where complex changes and uncertain bilateral and multilateral factors are suddenly increasing in the territorial respect in the Northeast Asian region, it is proactively expanding diversified cooperation at the local government level, it is planning new mechanisms in bilateral and multilateral cooperation with such countries as Russia, Japan, the ROK, and Mongolia, and is achieving a series of advances.

Surveying the future, it will be necessary for northeastern China to: realize a new path for revitalization across the board; exercise the advantage of the strategic combining of the provinces; make a steady alignment of various strategies, including the China–Mongolia–Russia Economic Corridor construction under the ongoing "One Belt, One Road"; activate the power of endogenous development at the same

time as effectively activating the vitality of development from outside; expand Northeast Asian cooperation and promote a new round of supply-side reform for the old industrial base; expand cooperation with Japan and the ROK; expand the new environment for developing externally; and bring about the emergence of new aspects driving socioeconomic development on the wheels of both “One Belt, One Road” and Northeast Asian regional cooperation.

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