

## The Tumen River Development and Northeast Asian Cooperation

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### 1. Introduction

In the near future, Northeast Asia will probably become the center of and the leading driver of the global economy. That is to say, the Tumen River development was proposed over 20 years ago, the countries involved held a series of ministerial-level meetings on eight occasions, they consulted on and examined items for cooperation, a shared awareness of many development issues was achieved, and they undertook several endeavors at the same time.

In August 2009, the Chinese government announced the "Cooperation and Development Planning Outline of the Tumen River Area of China: Setting Changjitu [Changchun–Jilin–Tumen] as the Development and Opening-up Pilot Area". After this, at the same time as the new Tumen River development started up, it has drawn the attention of the world once again.

### 2. Tumen River Development Strategy

- 1) The background to China proposing the Changjitu development project
- 2) The characteristic features of China's Changjitu Development and Opening-up Pilot Area strategy
- 3) The key content of China's Changjitu Development and Opening-up Pilot Area
- 4) The core objectives of China's Changjitu Development and Opening-up Pilot Area

### 3. The New Search for Northeast Asian Cooperation

In 2009, the second-round Tumen River development promoted by the Chinese government was the implementing of the Changjitu development strategy primarily under a bilateral China–DPRK, China–Russia and China–Mongolia cooperation model. In particular, the joint China–DPRK development of Rason City will probably give Northeast Asian multilateral cooperation an important reference basis. At the same time, it has important significance for future Northeast Asian cooperation.

In August 2009, the new economic cooperation between China and the DPRK beginning with the Changjitu strategy has shown results already visible in the promotion process in the past four years, yet there are still many issues which have to be resolved. Currently, for China and the DPRK there are great differences in various areas, including legal systems, economic systems, and property right systems, and they face many difficulties in future cooperation, but if they resolve problems rationally with a coping plan by means of firm belief and wisdom, I believe the expected outcomes will be achieved. I hope that enterprises from the nations of Northeast Asia concerned and from other countries of the world will participate in this, and that it will be possible to realize the expected aims in the near future.

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