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## УГЛУБЛЕНИЕ НОВЫХ ПУТЕЙ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА С РОССИЕЙ ПРОВИНЦИИ ХЭЙЛУНЦЗЯН НА УРОВНЕ ИНДИВИДУАЛЬНЫХ СУБЪЕКТОВ

**Аннотация.** *Цель.* В статье анализируется сложившаяся ситуация и проблемы, а также выявлены приоритетные направления сотрудничества провинции Хэйлунцзян с Россией. *Метод.* В работе использованы методы междисциплинарного и сравнительного анализа. *Результаты.* Провинция Хэйлунцзян играет ключевую роль в продвижении всеобъемлющего стратегического партнерства в деле координации, развития российского Дальнего Востока и Северо-Восточной провинции Хэйлунцзян, развития торговли с приграничным регионом Внутренней Монголии и создания благоприятных возможностей для национальной стратегии, активно превращая при этом «экономический пояс Шелкового пути Восточного моря» (в настоящее время известный как «Шелковый путь Востока») в Национальный план. Хотя структура торговли с Россией по-прежнему является необоснованной, а сотрудничество с Россией сократилось, определенные успехи были достигнуты в строительстве трансграничных инфраструктурных коридоров, в торговле сельскохозяйственных и вспомогательных продуктов, электронной коммерции и в сельскохозяйственном сотрудничестве с Россией. В будущем мы должны продолжать продвигать строительство основных маршрутов в Россию, использовать возможности импорта природного газа из России, а также совершенствовать структуру энергопотребления в провинции Хэйлунцзян. На основе углубления энергетического сотрудничества с Россией Китай будет осуществлять более стратегическое сотрудничество по крупным проектам, активно продвигая сельскохозяйственное сотрудничество с Россией, и поднимет на новый уровень создание китайско-российской платформы электронной коммерции и программ межличностного и культурного обмена. **Область применения результатов.** Результаты исследования могут быть использованы в анализе и прогнозировании приоритетных направлений сотрудничества. **Выводы.** Сделан вывод о том, что дальнейшее развитие отрасли определит следующие направления сотрудничества: энергетика, сельское хозяйство, трансграничная энергетическая торговля, гуманитарные программы.

**Ключевые слова:** провинция Хэйлунцзян, Россия, сотрудничество на уровне субъектов, один пояс и одна дорога.

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## STRENGTHENING NEW WAYS OF COOPERATION WITH RUSSIA OF THE HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE AT THE LEVEL OF INDIVIDUAL ENTITIES

**Abstract.** *The goal.* The manuscript analyzes the situation and the problems that formed, and also defines the priority areas of focus of cooperation of the Heilongjiang Province with Russia. *The method.* We have used the methods of inter-disciplinary and comparative analysis in the study. *The results.* The Province of Heilongjiang plays the key role in promoting a broad strategic partnership in the business of coordination, development of the Russian Far East and the

North Eastern Province of Heilongjiang, and the development of trade with the close to border region of Inner Mongolia, and creating favorable opportunities for the national strategy, actively turning "the economic belt of the Silk Road of the Eastern Sea" (at the present moment known as "The Silk Road of East") in the National Plan. Though the structure of trade with Russia is still unsubstantiated, and the cooperation with Russia has reduced, certain success has been achieved in the construction of transborder infrastructural corridors, in the trade of agricultural and auxiliary products, electronic commerce and in the agricultural cooperation with Russia. In the future we should continue promoting construction of the main routes to Russia, use the opportunities of importing natural gas from Russia, as well as improve the structure of energy consumption in the Province of Heilongjiang. Based on strengthening the energy cooperation with Russia China will work on a more strategic cooperation on big projects, actively promoting agricultural cooperation with Russia, and will raise to a new level the creation of a Chinese-Russian electronic commerce platform and programs of interpersonal and cultural exchange. **The area of application of the results.** The results of the study may be used in the analysis and forecasting of the priority areas of cooperation. **The conclusions.** We have come to a conclusion that further development of the industry will determine the following areas of focus of cooperation: the energy industry, agriculture, the trans-border energy trade, humanitarian programs.

**Keywords:** the Province of Heilongjiang; Russia; cooperation at the level of entities; one belt and one road

**Introduction.** Sino-Russian local cooperation is an important part of the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between China and Russia. It is the main content and support for Sino-Russian comprehensive and pragmatic cooperation and an important reference for the continuous deepening of Sino-Russian relations. In recent years, under the framework of the «One Belt and One Union» docking, Sino-Russian local cooperation has flourished, and more than 130 pairs of cities have established friendly provinces or sister cities [1]. The Sino-Russian local cooperation areas extend from the border port area to the inland and coastal areas. At the same time, the areas of Sino-Russian local cooperation have been continuously broadened, and the achievements of cooperation in key areas have become increasingly prominent. At the beginning of 2018, the heads of state of China and Russia announced in the New Year message that 2018 and 2019 would be the China-Russia local cooperation and exchange years, a series of local cooperation and exchange activities would be held to mobilize the enthusiasm of China and Russia to carry out cooperation and deepen the potential for local cooperation [2].

Heilongjiang Province is the first and the key to participate in Sino-Russian local cooperation, which plays a vital role in China's comprehensive and pragmatic cooperation and in China-Russia local exchanges and cooperation. In February 2018, the opening ceremony of the China-Russia Local Cooperation and Exchange Year was held in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, which highlighted the important position of Heilongjiang Province in the Sino-Russian local cooperation. The momentum of the positive development of Sino-Russian local cooperation has brought new opportunities for Heilongjiang Province to broaden cooperation areas and fields in its cooperation with Russia. At the same time, it also requires Heilongjiang Province to take the opportunity of Sino-Russian local cooperation as an opportunity to enhance the level of local exchanges and cooperation. The level will not only promote the improvement of Heilongjiang's economic but also enable cooperation with Russia, and promote Heilongjiang Province to play a greater role in participating the «One Belt and One Union» docking.

### **Analysis and Discussion**

The Current Situation of Local Cooperation with Russia in Heilongjiang Province.

For a long time, Heilongjiang Province's local cooperation with Russia is mainly based on cooperation with the Russian Far East. Heilongjiang Province and the Russian Far East Amur, Khabarovsk, Primorsky Krai and other border areas have carried out in-depth cooperation in energy, machinery and equipment, forestry, agriculture, electric power, transportation infrastructure and many other fields. Since the conclusion of the Sino-Russian «One Belt and One Union» docking agreement in 2015, the Heilongjiang Heihe Cross-border Bridge and the Tongjiang Cross-border Bridge have started construction, marking a historic breakthrough in the cooperation between China and Russia,

which removes obstacles to integrate Heilongjiang Province into the «One Belt and One Road» and Sino-Russian local cooperation. In November 2017, the Mohe River in the north and the Sino-Russian oil pipeline No. 2 in Daqing in the south were officially completed [3]. The commencement of the Heihe natural gas pipeline has further strengthened Heilongjiang's strategic position in Russia's energy cooperation. The construction of Sino-Russian cross-border parks has established a platform for cooperation between the two sides, and Suifenhe, Heihe, Tongjiang, Fuyuan and other Russian border cooperation zones, and Qiqihar, Daqing and other Russian cooperative parks have created convenient conditions for cooperation in the areas of comprehensive bonded, industrial docking, fruit and vegetable planting, and industrial technology in Sino-Russian local cooperation.

Besides the traditional industry, Heilongjiang Province has achieved great breakthroughs in the weak areas of finance, talents, education, cross-border industrial parks, energy deep processing, law, logistics, cultural industries, by means of numerous advantages of the Russian port. Heilongjiang Province has established nearly 18 economic and trade cooperation zones in the Russian Far East and related states, about 200 enterprises [4]. For seizing the opportunity and development of Vladivostok Freeport, Heilongjiang Province actively participated in the construction of industrial park in Russian Far East, and promoted the development of Russian industrial cooperation to a deeper level and multi-field. In addition, Heilongjiang Province's exchanges and cooperation in the fields of Russian culture and art, humanities, science and technology and the media are also irreplaceable. In recent years, Heilongjiang Province has formed sister cities with many cities in the Far East of Russia; Heilongjiang Province also relies on the Sino-Russian Expo, the Sino-Russian Cultural Collection, the Sino-Russian Cultural and Art Exchange Week, and various platform mechanisms for the Russian Cultural Industry Park in Heilongjiang Province to launch full humanities exchanges and cooperation with the state and territory of the Russian Far East. The media and young people in Heilongjiang Province and the Far East have also exchanged and interacted regularly, which makes great contributions to the friendship between the Chinese and Russian peoples in the construction of «One Belt and One Road» and lay the foundation for the friendly interaction between the Russian Far East and China [5].

#### Heilongjiang Province Promoting the Level of Local Cooperation with Russia

In recent years, the achievements of Heilongjiang Province's cooperation with Russia have been remarkable. However, under the framework of «One Belt and One Road», Sino-Russian local cooperation, as a new catalyst for the in-depth development of China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation, is increasingly valued by all provinces and regions in China. While Heilongjiang Province's local cooperation with Russia is facing a period of development opportunities, it also faces severe challenges such as fierce competition and declining location advantages, which becomes a trend to advance the level of local cooperation with Russia:

It is the need of the development of the national situation. On February 7, 2018, the China-Russia Local Cooperation and Exchange Year kicked off. In the speech of the opening ceremony, President Xi Jinping emphasized that the China-Russia Local Cooperation and Exchange Year would stimulate the enthusiasm of local cooperation between the two countries, tap the potential of cooperation between the two countries, and drive more localities, enterprises and people to join China-Russia friendly cooperation and common development, which provided a stronger driving force for the continued healthy and stable development of Sino-Russian relations. During the China-Russia Local Cooperation and Exchange Year, China and Russia will hold hundreds of events to promote bilateral cooperation, which indicates that the state will provide more policy support and build a broader communication platform. It also requires Heilongjiang Province to enhance its strategic structure, improve its strategic positioning, and incorporate cooperation with the Russian Far East into the framework of Sino-Russian local cooperation. In addition, Heilongjiang Province is the northernmost window for China's opening to the outside world and is the hub node for the Sino-Russian «One Belt and One Union» docking, which also requires Heilongjiang Province to raise the cooperation with the Russian Far East to the height of the country and provides strategic support for «One Belt and One Road» [6].

It is the need of Heilongjiang Province to create a «One Window and Four Districts» positioning. Since the implementation of «One Belt and One Road», Sino-Russian transportation and logistics infrastructure has been developed day by day. Guangzhou, Nanjing, Dongguan, Suzhou, Wuhan, Da-

lian, Shenyang and other places have opened international railway freight trains to Europe or Russia. Russia's «Binhai No. 1» and «Binhai No. 2» international transportation corridors were opened, and Tianjin and other places opened Sino-Russian shipping trains and aviation trains [7]. Those have seriously divided the role and status of the local channel for cooperation in Russia, Heilongjiang Province. In 2017, Heilongjiang Province proposed to promote the development orientation of «One Belt and One Road», which is to «build a window and build four districts»: that is to build an important window for China to open to the north, to build a free trade zone in Heilongjiang (China-Russia) and to develop open pilot zones in key areas along the border, cross-border economic cooperation demonstration zone and logistics hubs for Eurasia [8]. That indicates that Heilongjiang Province will take the initiative to dock «One Belt and One Road», carry out strategic docking with the Russian Far East, participate in the construction of the «China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor», build bridgeheads and hub stations for cooperation with Russia, and accelerate the formation of a new pattern of opening up to the outside world. Under such a strategic pattern, Heilongjiang Province is required to raise the level of local cooperation with Russia and improve its strategic position in the planning and conception of local cooperation with Russia.

It is the need for cooperation with Russia. Heilongjiang Province has a unique geographical advantage in its cooperation with Russia, which used to cover half of China-Russia import and export trade volume. However, with the extension of Sino-Russian local cooperation areas, Sino-Russian transportation infrastructure and logistics channels are constantly improving, which make Heilongjiang Province faces the increasingly fierce competition. The areas participating in Sino-Russian local cooperation includes not only Jilin, Liaoning, Inner Mongolia in the Northeast, but also first-tier provinces and cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Tianjin, and Shenzhen [9]. Especially after the establishment of the Sino-Russian Yangtze-Volga River local cooperation mechanism, the provinces and cities in the Yangtze River Delta actively participate in the Sino-Russian local cooperation. The era of cooperation with Russia in Heilongjiang Province has become a long-standing issue. Now all provinces and autonomous regions across the country have actively engaged in Sino-Russian local cooperation, which inevitably exacerbates the competitiveness of cooperation. In addition, there are many border ports between China and Russia, and there is also a fierce competition in the process of cooperation with Russia. Ports such as Alashankou, Manzhouli and Hunchun have developed rapidly in terms of urban development, port function upgrading and cargo capacity, which have brought certain pressure on the development of Russia's ports in Heilongjiang Province [10]. In addition to the larger ports of Suifenhe, Heihe, Fuyuan and Tongjiang in 15 ports of Russia in Heilongjiang Province, some ports have shown a serious decline in competitiveness in the development competition not conducive to Heilongjiang Province's competition with other provinces and regions, which requires Heilongjiang Province to upgrade its level in participating in Sino-Russian local cooperation and port city construction to build up a competitive advantage in local cooperation with Russia.

**Conclusion.** Heilongjiang Province Promoting the Choice of Local Cooperation Routes with Russia

Local cooperation is a major part of Sino-Russian cooperation. Heilongjiang Province is an important province in which participating the local cooperation between China and Russia. Under the framework of «One Belt and One Union» docking and the Sino-Russian Local Cooperation and Exchange Year, the difficulties and obstacles in the Sino-Russian local cooperation will be gradually digested; the Sino-Russian business environment will continue to improve; bilateral local cooperation will also continue to advance to the central hinterland from the region in the neighborhood adjacent; future Sino-Russian regional cooperation is expected to become a new growth pole for Sino-Russian economic and trade cooperation [11]. As an important window for local cooperation with Russia, Heilongjiang Province should enhance the level of Sino-Russian local cooperation through the following paths to deeply participate in Sino-Russian local cooperation, ensure the superior position in the local cooperation with Russia, and promote the smooth integration of the «One Belt and One Union».

1. Expanding the cooperation area. Heilongjiang Province's cooperation with Russia is mainly in the Russian Far East. The bilateral cooperation mode, cooperation areas and cooperation scale are constrained by the relatively backward economy of the two places and the small population of the

Russian Far East and low market purchasing power. Russia-Siberia, especially in the southern region, has a complete scientific research system, huge scientific and technological research potential, and a well-developed labor force [12]. It has existing national key projects and advanced technology. The Novosibirsk Science and Technology City is an advanced innovation zone integrating science and technology, education and economy. In view of this, Heilongjiang Province should expand its scope of cooperation with Russia by geographical advantage, especially in the context of deepening cooperation between China and Russia in transportation infrastructure, to strengthen cooperation with Europe, Russia and Siberia. On the one hand, it can make up for cooperation with the Russian Far East. On the other hand, it is also possible to participate more fully in the Sino-Russian local cooperation competition

2. Broadening the scope of cooperation. Heilongjiang Province has comparatively superior market competitiveness in Russia in the traditional industries of energy, mechanical and electrical equipment, forestry, and agriculture. Heilongjiang is a big province for energy cooperation with Russia. However, Russia's energy export economy is not a long-term solution. Heilongjiang Province should change its cooperation mode as early as possible, and cooperate in the intensive processing of coal and petroleum, environmental protection and energy conservation, sewage treatment and pollution control. In the cooperation with Russia, mining, agriculture and forestry, we should also explore breakthroughs in intensive processing and innovative technologies. The state and provincial governments, as well as enterprises and individuals, shall jointly build a platform for investment and financing of Heilongjiang Province against Russia. The government, enterprises and the society shall jointly fund the establishment of a special fund for cooperation with Russia, and provide special preferential treatment and financial support for major project cooperation. Taking the Sino-Russian Ice Silk Road cooperation as an opportunity, Heilongjiang Province should speed up scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation with Russia in transportation infrastructure and icebreakers [13]. At the same time, Heilongjiang Province will continue to encourage and help high-tech enterprises to go out, take advantage of the Russian Far East Advanced Economic Development Zone and the Vladivostok Freeport construction and development, participate in the construction of the Russian Far East Science and Technology Park, and promote the scientific and technological fields of both sides. Cooperation is closely related. In addition, Heilongjiang Province should also integrate the Internet + model into all areas of local cooperation with Russia, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of Russia's cooperation in various fields.

3. Improving the level of the platform for local cooperation with Russia. In October 2013, during the regular meeting between the Chinese and Russian prime ministers, Premier Li Keqiang and Prime Minister Medvedev agreed to rename Harbin International Trade and Economic Fair as the China-Russia Expo. The first and second Sino-Russian Expos were held in Harbin in 2014 and 2015. From the third session, the Expos were held by China and Russia in turn, and the Chinese side positioned Harbin as a permanent city [14]. The promotion of Harbin International Trade and Economic Fair to the Sino-Russian Expo not only built a broader platform for Heilongjiang Province to cooperate with Russia, but also consolidated the strategic position of Heilongjiang in Sino-Russian local cooperation. On this basis, Heilongjiang Province should actively apply to upgrade the Sino-Russian cultural collection that has been held for eight consecutive sessions to the national level, and rename it as a more strategic platform such as the Sino-Russian Cultural Expo [15]. Heilongjiang Province should actively build a Sino-Russian cross-border industrial cooperation complex and lay a solid foundation for China's cross-border demonstration zone in Russia. It should also play the role of a think tank and offer recommendations with respect to China-Russia free trade zone in Heilongjiang Province. And Heilongjiang Province should actively declare to become a Sino-Russian cultural industry demonstration zone, Sino-Russian local tourism cooperation demonstration zone, Sino-Russian ice and snow industry cooperation demonstration zone, etc., so as to comprehensively improve the platform basis for local cooperation with Russia.

Enhancing the competitiveness of real estate brands. In the 1990s, Heilongjiang Province's cooperation with Russia was dominated by traditional industries such as equipment manufacturing, mechanical and electrical equipment, agriculture, and energy mining. The competitiveness of light industrial products was insufficient. However, at that time, Heilongjiang Province was the main channel for cooperation with Russia. Sino-Russian merchandise trade was mainly exported to Russia via

Heilongjiang. The disadvantage of Heilongjiang's lack of land products was not obvious. With the development of China-Russia transportation infrastructure in recent years, the channels of Sino-Russian merchandise trade have increased. The disadvantages of Heilongjiang Province's weak product competitiveness and low technology content are increasingly prominent, which seriously restricts its economic and trade cooperation with Russia. Heilongjiang Province must combine the experience of developed provinces with its own reality, improve the technology and equipment for industrial production and processing, and introduce advanced technologies, processes, management and service concepts to build and develop real estate brands. It is necessary to increase cooperation with Russia in new materials, new technologies and new formats to enhance competitiveness in real estate brands and high-tech fields. We should vigorously develop the manufacturing of light industrial products, agricultural and sideline products, grain production and deep processing, and reverse the shortcomings of insufficient real estate brand advantages, so as to ensure that Heilongjiang Province has all-round advantages in local cooperation with Russia [16].

Deepening cooperation with Russian people and culture. Since «One Belt and One Road» initiative was put forward, especially since the implementation of the «One Belt and One Union» docking cooperation concept, strengthening humanities cooperation has become an important part of the comprehensive cooperation between China and Russia. Heilongjiang Province has an absolute geographical advantage in the cooperation with Russia and humanities [17]. It will develop the Russian-Chinese humanities cooperation in a pragmatic, stable and efficient direction, which can enhance the competitiveness of Heilongjiang Province in participating in Sino-Russian local cooperation and promote the communication between China and Russia. Heilongjiang Province has established a cooperative relationship with many universities in Russia. Heilongjiang Province should continue to promote the participation in the humanities cooperation platform with Sino-Russian Engineering University Alliance, the Sino-Russian Economic University Alliance, the Sino-Russian Education University Alliance and the Sino-Russian Comprehensive University, which, on the one hand, can promote technological progress and economic growth of the two countries and promote the deepening of local cooperation between Russia and Heilongjiang and on the other hand, can also promote the exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and Russian youths and the training of young talents in the field of cooperation between Russia and Heilongjiang Province to reserve talents for the sustainable development of local cooperation in Russia [18]. Expanding cultural exchanges can enhance mutual trust and eliminate suspicions between the two countries, and promote further development of scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

In addition, while Heilongjiang Province is developing steadily in the fields of culture, art, education, tourism, sports, youth exchanges, etc., it should continue to explore new modes of cooperation. In particular, efforts should be concentrated in areas where cooperation such as law is relatively weak such as the introduction of the arbitration court model<sup>1</sup> [19]. In the view of the establishment about «One Belt and One Road» Arbitration Institute in Wuhan, it is proposed to establish the Heilongjiang Branch of the «One Belt and One Road» Arbitration Institute in Heilongjiang Province, which is focusing on the disputes arising in the economic and trade cooperation between Heilongjiang Province and Russia. The Sino-Russian Legal Service Center in Suifenhe is improved, and construction of offices of the center at other ports is set up<sup>2</sup>, which can strengthen legal cooperation between the two sides. Taking full advantage of the advantages of port cooperation, the governments of the port cities

<sup>1</sup> Chinese enterprises are facing rising contractual disputes as they are increasing investments in the countries along the route of the «One Belt, One Road» Initiative (OBOR Countries). If they failed to provide dispute resolution terms in the contracts, such disputes would be submitted to the jurisdiction where the disputes arise, and this may incur bigger expenses and cause uncertainties to Chinese investors as they are unfamiliar with the languages and legal systems in such jurisdictions. One way to avoid such trouble is to provide in the contract that all disputes shall be submitted to the Chinese jurisdiction.

To this end, Wuhan Arbitration Commission declared on 26 October 2016 the establishment of «One Belt, One Road» Arbitration Court (OBOR Arbitration Court), the OBOR Arbitration Court will govern disputes related to OBOR, formulate arbitration rules to fairly and efficiently settle disputes, and set up a platform to provide legal services, publish information and discuss issues related to the OBOR projects or contracts.

<sup>2</sup> Heilongjiang province, which borders Russia's far east, has 15 border ports along a border of nearly 3,000 kilometers, with Suifenhe port being the largest. There are many enterprises engaged in economic and trade activities with Russia in these border port cities, but some enterprises don't understand the Russian law. The establishment of the China-Russia Legal Aid Center can provide legal advice to enterprises and legal assistance when there are frictions or have other problems in economic and trade activities with Russia, and it also can promote the healthy development of Heilongjiang province's cooperation with Russia.

and major cities in the Russian Far East set up a platform, sponsored by enterprises, and carry out cultural exchange activities with high public participation, and organize city days, legal days, family days, etc. to promote the folk culture of both sides and to consolidate the private foundation of Heilongjiang province's cooperation with Russia. Only by comprehensively improving the level of local cooperation with Russia, Heilongjiang Province can transform its disadvantages in Russia's cooperation into advantages [20]. Under the background of continuous improvement of Sino-Russian transportation infrastructure construction, it will help build «one window and four districts» and promote the smooth integration of China-Russia's «One Belt and One Union».

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