

*A New Model for Sino-Russian Regional Cooperation*¹

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Abstract

Through the implementation of China's "Revitalize the Northeast Policy" and Russia's "Far East and Zabaykal Long-term Development Program", Sino-Russian regional cooperation has become all the closer. Amid calls for a new cooperation model, this document advocates an "Umbrella Model" in Sino-Russian regional cooperation. In the new model, the following are proposed; the promotion from the area of industry of Sino-Russian regional cooperation in trade via the promotion of technological trade; the proposition of a regional concentration of industry within the internationalization which is progressing between China's Northeast region and Russia's Far East; a philosophy of Northeast Asian cooperation which influences the surrounding nations, with China's Northeast region and Russia's Far East as the focal point; and cooperation methods based upon the idea of mutual complementarity. This model recommends there being a scientific development structure which brings the excellence of Sino-Russian regional resources into play.

In the joint communiqués issued at the scheduled reciprocal visits by the leaders of China and Russia in 2004 and 2005, the entry of Chinese businesses into the development of Russia's Far East and Siberia, and the urging of participation by Russian businesses in China's Western Development Initiative and the Revitalization of the Northeast were emphasized. This shows that we have moved to a new stage—in other words, from an initial stage of Sino-Russian trade being simply mutually complementary, to a strategic phase heading toward a dynamic mutual cooperation. In January 2007 the Russian government laid out the "Far East and Zabaykal Long-term Development Program", and in the following three months made a great deal of progress, and this provided room for development and a fresh opportunity for Sino-Russian regional cooperation. At the same time this also brought a demand for a new cooperation model to promote a further level of mutual cooperation.

The author has undertaken research into Sino-Russian regional cooperation for many years, and making full use of what has been built up thus far, taking the existing situation of Sino-Russian cooperation into consideration and giving attention to the vision for the development of cooperation in the Northeast Asian region, advocates the Sino-Russian cooperation model of the "Umbrella Model" to raise the level of Sino-Russian regional cooperation.

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("Research into the Regional Effects of a New Model of Cooperation in Regional Trade between China's Northeast and Eastern Russia")