

The Grand Plan for the Tianjin Binhai New Area and the Developments in and Prospects for the Entry of Japanese Enterprises

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Summary

China's Bohai Sea Rim Economic Region is an area straddling the two major municipalities of Beijing and Tianjin, and the three provinces of Shandong, Liaoning and Hebei. This economic region, as a starting point of the Eurasian Land-Bridge which links China and Europe, passing through Russia from the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, occupies a key position in transportation and distribution in Northeast Asia, is hoped to also have a role as a node connecting to Huanan (south China), Huadong (east China), the Northeast and the Northwest inland area, and is playing a key role in national strategy.

In the regional promotion plan for the Bohai Sea Rim Economic Region, it is Tianjin that is moving forward with the construction of a new-style international manufacturing-industry base, the "Binhai New Area", and aiming to become the center of the economic region and of the Northeast Asian region.

In the first half of this paper we have summarized and examined the history of the development of Tianjin, the changes in development following opening and reform, recent developments and future development plans, and the characteristic features of the inflow of overseas capital in recent years. In the second half, along with a commentary on such things as the grand plan for the Binhai New Area, which received national authorization as a "National Pilot Zone for Overall Reform" and the developments for foreign-investor enterprises, we have surveyed the position of Tianjin in the geographical distribution of investment into China by Japanese enterprises, and the current situation and the future for Japanese enterprises in Tianjin and the Binhai New Area.

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