

The Current Status of and Challenges for the Priority Development Zones in the Three Northeastern Provinces of China: Taking Jilin Province as an example

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Summary

The raising of the concept of priority development zones is a major innovation in China's regional policy. Currently, at the same time as the government's active promotion and efforts regarding priority development zones being visible, they are continuing to be a focus of attention in the research sector also.

Jilin Province is located in the middle of the three northeastern provinces of China, and they began tackling the formulation of a priority development zone for that province in 2007. As the work for the formulation of a priority development zone is extremely complicated and comprehensive, however, they are currently still at the stage of trying to advance the formulation work, and it requires a long-term process.

This paper, after first giving an overview of the integral plan for the Jilin Province priority development zone, points out as the principal challenges which the plan is facing: 1) that the fundamental and technical content is a mish-mash; 2) that the substantiation and implementation of the associated policy is complicated; 3) that the relationships for administrative functional burden-sharing are complex; and 4) that the forming of links and coordination with the plans for other projects is complicated.

Regarding the challenges for the Jilin Province priority development zone, as well as there being an undeveloped portion in the priority development zone plan, common to each of the provinces in China's Northeast, there is also a governmental component in China's regional policy and it is not an issue solvable by Jilin Province alone. Consequently, the work to formulate the priority development zone should proceed on a step-by-step basis. It is necessary to do complete and deep-delving research on the various theoretical and political issues in the future. In the long term the making of efforts aimed at radical reform of China's regional policy is important.

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