

The Changes in China-Russia Trade Relations and the New Developments in Border Logistics

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Summary

China-Russia economic relations after the end of the Cold War have been growing closer in the same fashion as political relations. Trade between the two nations has maintained an increasing trend, and as of 2012 China was the largest trading partner for Russia, and Russia the ninth largest trading partner for China.

In recent years particularly, with regard to Northeastern China and Russia's Far East which directly adjoin one another with a border of more than 3,000 kilometers, via the "Strategy of Revitalizing the Old Industrial Bases Including Northeast China" on the Chinese side and the "Program on Economic and Social Development of the Far East and Zabaykalye up to 2013" on the Russian side, policies have been developed to further the development of the respective regions. Both the Chinese and Russian governments have repeatedly emphasized the necessity of promoting economic exchange at the interregional level, and a virtuous cycle is expected where regional development and reciprocal exchange advance in parallel.

From such a background, this paper, along with confirming the changes in China-Russia economic relations in the aspects of trade and logistics in recent years, paints a picture of the new developments in the area of border logistics. More specifically, first we analyzed the trade data for both China and Russia since 2007, and confirmed the structural changes therein. Furthermore, based on the rail transportation data on the Chinese side, we confirmed the changes in cross-border rail transportation. In addition to that we picked out new movements and changes in border logistics, and from among them we undertook analysis centered on the case example of the border city of Suifenhe in particular, and showed the current situation in which systemization is progressing in the transportation of consumer goods, and the future prospects and challenges, etc.

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