

The Abe Plan and New Possibilities for Russo-Japanese Cooperation in the Far East (Summary)

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In 2007, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe proposed the Initiative for Strengthening Japan-Russia Cooperation in the Russian Far East and Eastern Siberia. This covered eight sectors: energy, transport, communications, environmental protection, health, security, improvements to the trade and investment environment, and the development of intraregional trade. However, the Abe Initiative bore little fruit, for a variety of reasons. In May 2016, Prime Minister Abe held talks with President Putin of Russia in

Sochi and proposed a fresh plan for economic cooperation between Japan and Russia (the Abe Plan). This paper considers the impediments that prevented the full and successful implementation of 2007's Abe Initiative and examines the current efforts to revitalize bilateral cooperation, with a particular focus on the obstacles now being faced.

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