

Current State of Investment in the DPRK by Companies in the Jilin and Liaoning Provinces (Summary)

LI Shenghua

Associate Professor, School of Economics and Administration, Yanbian University
Collaborative Researcher, ERINA

JIN Haifeng

Associate Professor, School of Economics and Administration, Yanbian University

MU Shu

Master Course Student, College of Integration Science, Yanbian University

In 1991, after the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) promulgated the *Tumen River Area Development Programme*, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as the DPRK) declared the establishment of the *Rajin-Sonbong Free Economic and Trade Zone* in December of the same year and actively began welcoming foreign capital. Following severe constraints on investment in the DPRK for Chinese companies in the 1990s, the new millennium brought gradual increases, with implementation of "going out policy", China's overseas expansion strategy, and strengthened economic and trade relations between the neighbors motivating Chinese enterprise to get more serious about investing in the DPRK. However, the international sanctions imposed on the DPRK in 2017 were in essence the catalyst for a period of stagnation. Thanks to the "Winter Olympic Diplomacy" in 2018, tensions on the peninsula eased, and Chinese companies once again prioritized investment in the DPRK. From March 2018 to June 2019, five summit meetings were held between China and the DPRK, achieving historical changes in relations. During the high-level talks, it was agreed that, "Friendly and cooperative relations between China and the DPRK is a firm policy of both sides," with China stressing its utmost commitment to backing the DPRK's conversion to a new strategic course of economic construction, and solidifying a new era of strategic foundation for China-DPRK economic and trade cooperation.

Keywords: China-North Korea Economic Cooperation, China's FDI in North Korea, Northeast China, Tumen River Area Development Programme, Rason Economic and Trade Zone

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