

## **Study on the Location Development of the Tumen River Estuary**

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**Abstract:** Fangchuan Village, Jingxin Town, about 70 kilometers south of Hunchun City, Jilin Province, is only 15 kilometers away from the Tumen River estuary and faces the Sea of Japan across the sea. This is a special delta of Russia, North Korea and China, which has important strategic significance. As the only channel for China to enter and leave the Sea of Japan, the restoration of its right to sea has important strategic significance for the economic and political development of the surrounding areas. This article analyzes the location advantages of the Tumen River estuary in detail from both the subjective and objective perspectives, studies its driving effect on neighboring countries, and combines the relevant conditions of neighboring countries to further clarify its importance and necessity for regional development. Provide references for economic construction and planning.

**Key Word:** Tumen River; Geographical advantage; Estuary; Regional development.

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### **I. Preface**

A port is a window and bridge for a country or region to open to the outside world, and it is an important support for regional economic participation in international division of labor, cooperation, and competition. As a border and coastal province, Jilin Province is located in the geographic center of Northeast Asia. It has unique geographical conditions, making it a role and position that cannot be ignored in regional economic development and transnational trade. However, due to problems left by historical factors, Jilin Province has difficulty going to sea, and the lack of estuaries has always been regarded as one of the factors affecting the further development and opening of the province. Therefore, Jilin Province is advancing the strategy of "borrowing the port and going to sea", building a China-Mongolia-Russia economic belt, building a China-Russia Hunchun-Hassan cross-border economic cooperation zone, and actively seeking port logistics partners for Northeast Asia.

At present, the Chinese government is still negotiating with many countries for the right to sail to the Tumen River estuary, and many scholars have conducted research on the economic construction of Tumen River estuary and international cooperation. This article mainly studies its location advantages, and strives to comprehensively and specifically discuss the necessity and importance of obtaining the sea right of the Tumen River estuary.

### **II. Overview of The Study Area**

The Tumen River area is a border area between China, North Korea and Russia centered on the Tumen River Basin. The Tumen River region is low in elevation, flat in terrain, and mild in climate. The North Korean coast south of the Tumen River is not frozen all year round. These characteristics make the Tumen River area the best port in Northeast China to the Sea of Japan. [1] The closest city to the Tumen River estuary is Hunchun, which is the only border city in China at the border of China, North Korea, and Russia. It is strongly influenced by Tumen River regional cooperation and the Northeast Asian economic circle. The "gateway city" at the estuary of the Tumen River.

### **III. Location Advantage Analysis of Tumen River Estuary**

This article does not use the traditional classification of humanities and natural locations, but focuses on the subjective location advantages and objective location advantages for different subjects. Subjective location means that the subject is the research object itself, and objective location means that the subject acts on other factors, which can be understood as its meaning.

#### **A. Subjective advantage**

##### **Geographical advantage**

Geographically, the Tumen River Basin is the economic activity center of Northeast Asia. It has become a major transportation hub in Northeast Asia because of its many major ports. From the Tumen River

Basin, Russia can enter Europe through the Siberian Railway to achieve Northeast Asia. Connect and interact with Asia and Europe. [2] The Tumen River estuary is the closest estuary in the northeast, located in the northwestern part of the Japanese Sea, and is located at the junction of China, Russia, and North Korea. It can directly communicate with China, Russia, and North Korea. And it is located in the geographic and geometric center of Northeast Asia, it is the connection hub of Northeast Asia hinterland and Europe, and it is also the only water channel in China that enters the Sea of Japan from land. Changchun and Harbin, the capitals of the inland provinces, are the nearest ports to the sea. The east side faces Japan and South Korea across the sea, and the west side can reach Russia through the land bridge. The strategic location is particularly important.

Judging from the advantages of marine resources, the Sea of Japan is a key sea area for China to enter and exit the Northwest Pacific and Arctic regions. The Sea of Japan has a very important military maritime strategic position, whether it is during the war or during the current international turbulence. Having the estuary of the Sea of Japan will greatly enhance China's presence and actual influence in the Sea of Japan. According to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, China has many rights such as navigation, fishing and development of polar resources in the Arctic [3]. Through this estuary, polar resources can be explored more conveniently, which is conducive to the further use of marine resources and the development of sustainable resources. It can share the pressure of other ports and improve their activity and stability.

### **Transportation advantage**

The "Yanbian Prefecture's Implementation of the" Thirteenth Five-Year Plan for Promoting the Border and Enriching the People in Jilin Province "Implementation Plan" states that the transportation network of 5 border counties (cities), including Hunchun and Tumen, should be improved. Actively promote the construction of cross-border bridges on the Jiehe River, continue to promote the Tumen River to go to sea, and ensure and widen external channels. Including the construction of the Tumenjiehe highway bridge, the transformation of the Changchun-Tumen railway, the upgrading of the trunk line between the Fangchuan and Huanhe railways, and other national and provincial trunk lines. The Tumen River Basin will further advance the goal of building a transportation hub in Northeast Asia with Hunchun as the center on the basis of the existing Jitong Railway Junction and other transportation bases.

### **Policy Support**

In 1992, the United Nations Development Program announced the development of the Tumen River Basin, and plans to build it into an international transportation hub and a commercial and financial center, which will benefit the people of Northeast Asia. [2] The 2009 Outline of China's Tumen River Regional Cooperative Development Plan reflects China's intention to actively develop the Tumen River Basin and revitalize the border region's economy. [4] In 2017, China and Russia proposed to jointly build the "Ice Silk Road". China is actively advancing the "Belt and Road" strategy and accelerating the construction of the economic corridor between Heilongjiang, Kyrgyzstan, Liaoning, Inner Mongolia and China-Mongolia-Russia.

### **B. Objective advantage**

The objective advantage of the Tumen River estuary is mainly its driving role.

#### **Drive the surrounding economy**

The Tumen River Estuary, as China's only waterway to the Sea of Japan, plays an important role in maritime trade and the development of the marine economy. A large amount of labor demand, investment, transportation, and industrial construction have also promoted economic and trade cooperation between neighboring cities and countries, and thus boosted regional economic development. Improve our country's radiation capability to Northeast Asia, especially the area around the Sea of Japan, promote cooperation between Pacific Northwest countries, integrate Northeast Asian economies, and enhance China's status and right to speak in the Northeast Asian economic belt.

The Mookoo Bay near the Tumen Estuary is China's closest port to the Arctic route. By using the port to go to sea, develop and use the Arctic waterway, you can enter the "Maritime Silk Road" by land and sea transport, and head east to Japan and South Korea. Crossing the Arctic Ocean westward towards North Europe, the trade market depth was greatly expanded. Actively responding to Tumen River regional cooperation, advancing the construction of Hunchun free trade zone and promoting the "Belt and Road" initiative will have a greater superimposed effect, promote a new round of revitalization of economic and social development in Northeast China, and achieve the goal of promoting high-quality development through opening up. purpose.

### **Northeast Resources Utilization and Economic Development**

The Northeast economy is seriously weakened due to depletion of resources, bottlenecks in locations, and deteriorating population structure. The Northeast region itself faces a series of problems such as labor migration to the province, significant population migration, a more pronounced economic downward trend, and

insufficient economic development. Cooperation in Northeast Asia, like revitalizing the old industrial bases in Northeast China, provides another new possibility for its development. If the Tumen River estuary can be used, it will help break down the bottlenecks in the area and improve the economic structure. The "Maritime Silk Road" and "Coastal International Transport Corridor" meet at the Far East port, forming an arteries of land and sea transport, providing a secure short-distance route for the Northeast region to strengthen its links with Europe. Underdevelopment is no longer a factor restricting the Northeast, and it will help the Northeast develop into an export-oriented economy and a marine economy. In this way, the Northeast can not only drive itself, but also have a radiation effect on the entire Bohai Rim economic circle. Its resource utilization and economic development add vitality to the revitalization of the old industrial base in Northeast China, and thus create a more diverse value chain and a broader cooperation platform.

### **Cultural exchange and talent introduction**

The estuary is the predecessor of the port. The port means traffic, and the traffic must bring trade, and trade not only brings economy, but also culture and talent. Economic and trade cooperation promotes exchanges and cooperation in the field of academic culture. The regions after cooperation will gradually become regionalized. The regions formed after regionalization need to be based on a certain degree of cultural identity. [5] People's spontaneous artistic performances and exhibitions make cultural exchanges more convenient.

Talents can flow with the cooperation of economy, trade and culture, labor talents represented by service industry, handicraft industry, technical talents mainly based on emerging industries such as electronics and internet, investment enterprises mainly based on multinational trade and scientific research and education talents promoted by cultural exchange Was introduced.

### **Political development**

A system of regular meetings between heads of local governments of various countries in Northeast Asia to communicate and dialogue on economic cooperation issues in the region. These include the "Circumstances around the Sea of Japan" [6]. The Tumen River Estuary is undoubtedly China's hub for connecting countries around the Sea of Japan. It has an indispensable position for increasing local government cooperation and then promoting regional cooperation, and provides an opportunity for Northeast Asian countries to establish friendly cities and political cooperation with China.

### **Advantages of the surrounding environment**

Due to its special geographical conditions, the Tumen River estuary is severely affected by neighboring countries. The geographical features, policies, and economic aspects of its neighboring countries have all become the environmental advantages of the Tumen River estuary.

For Russia, in terms of history and geography, Russia has a deep relationship with China, and the Chinese people have a deep relationship with the Russian people. It has been 71 years since China and Russia established diplomatic relations by 2020, and regional economic cooperation has continued to reach new levels. In terms of national policies, (1) Promulgated the "Joint Statement on Docking and Cooperation in the Construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Eurasian Economic Union", and the "China-Russia Joint Statement on the Development of a Comprehensive Strategic Collaboration Partnership in the New Era" and other documents. (2) At the same time, China and Russia are actively deepening cooperation in the field of transportation. The opening of the China-Russia Heihe Highway Bridge and Tongjiang Railway Bridge has further strengthened trade between the two countries. From the perspective of Tumen River regional cooperation: the Tumen River The region is the cooperation area with the fastest progress and the most promising cooperation in Northeast Asia sub-regional cooperation. Russia's Primorsky Krai plays an important role in regional cooperation in the Tumen River. It can meet the needs of China 's Jilin border area to borrow ports and go to sea, and can strengthen the trade partnership between China and Russia. At the same time, the cooperation in the Tumen River region is also one of the more successful cooperation areas for multi-national cooperation in the Northeast Asia region. The cooperation in this region plays a role in promoting the cooperation between Russia and China and other countries in Northeast Asia. And through the cooperative development of the three countries of China, Russia, and North Korea in the Tumen River region, it will promote all-round cooperation in the fields of tourism, politics, economy, and culture in Northeast Asia.

For North Korea, in terms of geography, the Tumen River is 525km (China) and 547.8km (North Korea). North Korea 's estuary has an advantage. The development of Luo Xian and the east coast of the Korean Peninsula can promote North Korea 's economic development. Regional cooperation On the one hand, North Korea is part of the transnational cooperation in the Tumen River region. At the same time, the slowing of the situation on the Korean Peninsula has brought possibilities for the development and prosperity of Northeast Asia. Strong power. The cooperation between China and the Korean Peninsula should strengthen the awareness

of regional symbiosis, build a "Belt and Road" Northeast Asia corridor, and strengthen the China-Japan-Korea FTA negotiation process.

### **Improve international standing**

Opening this large channel of sea-land connections in Northeast Asia is of great significance for achieving the goal of a maritime power, revitalizing Northeast economic development, and improving China's strategic position in Northeast Asia. It will also help increase China's right to speak on Arctic Ocean affairs. In November 2017, when meeting with Russian Prime Minister Medvedev, Xi Jinping pointed out that the construction of the "Belt and Road" and the Eurasian Economic Union are working hard to promote the landing of projects such as the Binhai International Transport Corridor, and jointly carry out cooperation in the development and utilization of Arctic waterways to create "ice Take the Silk Road." "China has launched an important cooperation initiative to jointly build the 'Belt and Road' and co-build the 'Ice Silk Road' with all parties, bringing opportunities for cooperation in promoting connectivity and sustainable economic and social development in the Arctic." [7]

## **IV. Conclusion and Discussion**

The reason why the Tumen River estuary has an important strategic position is not only because of its subjective factors such as its special geographical advantage, but also because of the objective factors of multilateral development after obtaining its right to sea. The Tumen River estuary has unique geographical, transportation, and policy advantages that can promote cooperation among countries in Northeast Asia, strengthen trade between countries, enhance friendship, promote tourism, and stimulate economic prosperity. In short, it has an indispensable role in economic, political, and cultural aspects. In the future, no matter whether the "port" can be used by China through "borrowing the port to the sea" or other methods, China should seize the opportunity to enable the use of energy and resources in Northeast Asia and improve the economic and political structure of the countries surrounding the Sea of Japan 2. Use the "Belt and Road" and "Ice Silk Road" to sing Chinese movements on international platforms.

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