

The status of cross-border regional cooperation

- Centering on the Yanbian region and economic relations with North Korea -

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This paper examines “Tumenjiāng regional economic development” in Northeast Asia. I found that Yanbian, located on the Chinese side of the Tumenjiang region, is receiving the most benefit from “Tumenjiāng regional economic development” and development there is advancing. It is possible that this will be the driving force behind “Tumenjiāng regional economic development” in the future. It is also no exaggeration to say that there has been a trend of North Korea influencing “Tumenjiāng regional economic development” in this region. Given that, I have investigated North Korea’s economic growth from 1965 to 1980, and found that North Korea’s economic growth continued until the 1980s. However, in the 1990s North Korea had negative growth until 1998. It was 1999 when that finally turned around into positive growth. North Korean/Chinese trade has steadily increased since 1999, and the period since 2000 has also seen China driving North Korean trade. This paper investigates Chinese/North Korean economic relations with an awareness of these sorts of issue. It also examines the role that Yanbian Prefecture plays in Chinese/North Korean border trade. It is undeniable that at present the three countries of China, North Korea, and Russia are mainly adopting their own respective models for international development in the Tumenjiang region. However, we must say that a limit on these models has manifested. The new model of cooperation has been set up as the Chinese/Korean Hunchun-Raseon border economic trade zone, and the Chinese/Russian Hunchun-Hasan border economic trade zone has been set up as another model. Through competition between these two models, the two economic trade zones will eventually merge. The author proposes that this will lead to the success of Tumenjiāng regional economic development.