

## YANJI CITY ORIENTATION AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS 21ST CENTURY

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**ABSTRACT:** Yanji is the biggest China Korean inhabited city. Based on a newly finished research project, this paper discusses strategic problems about Yanji towards 21st century. The general point of the authors is that at the beginning of new century, Yanji will play a more important role in Tumen River Delta development, regional economy cooperation in Korea Peninsula as well as Northeast Asia, and it will develop to be an important central city in this area. This paper puts forwards Yanji City's developing goal, urban nature, and urban size, probes its regional orientation, and further probes how to establish The Yanji Urban Economy Cooperation Zone. The authors think that Yanji should depend on its intellect resources and other characteristic resources. Industry development need to pay much attention to modern agriculture, tertiary industry (especially commerce, trade and tourism) and dominant industries, and high-tech industry must give a special care, in order to establish a light industrial structure.

**KEY WORDS:** Yanji; China Korean; city orientation; industry development

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### 1 PRESENT SITUATION

Yanji City is the Capital of Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture (YKAP), the center of whole prefecture politics, economy and culture, and it is one polar of "the golden triangle" in the Tumen River Delta (Yanji, Chongjin, Vladivostok). It is located in the east of Jilin Province and to the North of Changbai Mountain which straddles the border region between China and Korea. It is a frontier city that is 60km directly away from the border between China and Russia in the east, 10km to the border region between China and Korea in the south, and 80km to the Japan Sea. It covers 1350 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 0.38 million, of which Korean is 59.1%.

Since China's reform and open policy was put into

practice in the early 1980s, economy has remained rapidly increasing, and the total economic strength has been built up remarkably. In 1998, its Gross Domestic Production(GDP) amounted to 3.46 billion yuan(RMB), which had increased 11.3 times of 1978. During this period, the average GDP growth rate was 13.7% annually. Per capita GDP was 8926 yuan, which had increased 9.4% per year(Statistical Bureau of Yanji, 1999).

In recent years, Yanji's traffic and communication industry has rapidly developed. Its highway, railway and aviation conditions are good, especially Yanji Airport is the fifth biggest one in the Northeast China, which has 11 domestic airlines and will open international lines to Seoul and other cities in Northeast Asia. Yanji has a capacity of 150 000 inner city telephones,

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per 100 people have 28 telephones. Equipped with better infrastructure, it has become a commerce and trade center in the east of Jilin Province, which actually become a famous huge market to sell Korean commodities, which are mainly traded in from R. Korea and is major in urban and D. P. R. Korea.

## 2 DEVELOPMENT CONDITIONS

### 2.1 Superior Eco-environment and Plenty of Wild Animal and Plant Resources

Located in the Changbai Mountains area, Yanji has a beautiful eco-environment and plenty of wild animal and plant resources. The forest coverage ratio is 76% in whole Yanbian Korea Autonomous Prefecture. The reserves of living wood is 0.35 billion cubic meter. There are more than 1800 kinds of wild economic plants, of which 875 kinds are medical plants, and tens of rare wild animals. Ginseng, pilose antler and marten are the most famous. The famous local products of Yanji include apple-pear, wild pear, high quality rice and famous Yanbian cow etc. Excellent ecoenvironment has become the natural background and fundamental condition to develop an ecological city. And abundant wild animal-plant resources will provide guarantee for the pharmaceutical industry and other characteristic economy.

### 2.2 Location Conditions

Standing in the border area, Yanji is an important conjunction part in Tumen River development and Northeast Asia economy cooperation. With deeply developing Tumen River Delta, Yanji city will become a strong support point. In the Jilin Province urban system planning, Yanji has been oriented as the central city in the east of Jilin Province (Urban Planning and Designing Institute of Jilin Province, 1997), which will strengthen its location superiority. In the future, Yanji is hoped to be a main hinge city in Eurasia land-bridge transportation from Japan Sea to Western Europe. Also, in the railway distribution of the Northeast China, "the East Border Road" has been discussed for long time.

From north to south, this railway line links Jiamusi – Mudanjiang – Tumen – Yanji – Helong – Erdaobaihe – Baishan – Tonghua – Huanren – Guanshui – Dandong. Now, only two reaches, from Helong to Erdaobaihe (about 115km) and from Tonghua to Guanshui (about 230km long), have not constructed. Accompanying with Tumen River Delta development and well changing situation in Korea Peninsula, the East Border Road will be linked up, Yanji will become a key hinge city in the railway, it definitely will consolidate Yanji status as a regional traffic center.

### 2.3 China Korean Characteristics

Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture is the main area inhabited by China Korean. It has 2.18 million people, and Korean is 0.85 million, which amounts to 38.94% of the total population. There are 227 000 Korean residents in Yanji City. For a long time, China Korean has produced special history and cultural tradition with distinctive local style. All can be found in economy, culture, and folk art, sports and so on. After P. R. China was founded in 1949, the central government set up Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, and gave China Korean high autonomous authority. China Korean people have become a beautiful flower in national garden. In the past years, China Korean has made remarkable success in all aspects, by now China Korean is well known all of the world.

It should be pointed out that the special national characteristics play an important role in the social and economic development.

(1) China Korean is readily receptive to new ideas, like to go abroad (mainly South Korea) to exchange. Since 1990, the labor force export has increased annually, and now the total number who have gone abroad is about 50 000, by the end of 1998, there were still 5728 people abroad. Not only did these labor forces can remit back a considerable amount of money to boom the local economy, but also they bring back advanced ideas and technologies, which help Yanji to develop market economy and join into the world economy system in advance. And it is significant that the strong consumption tendency of Yanbian Korean becomes a very

important factor to support local market growth.

(2) By utilizing national relations, Yanji have actively absorbed foreign businessmen to set up factories or social-cultural facilities since it was authorized to be an open city in 1985. The foreign capital have added up to 140 million dollar, there are 278 joint-venture enterprises.

(3) The advantages of national color clearly shows in the cultural resources and tourism resources and so on. The special folk culture, art and sports have become the important contents of the tertiary industry, especially for developing tourism.

(4) In the future, the north and the south of Korea Peninsula will come together to make cooperation in many aspects. Yanji can use its proper national resources to seek more cooperation chances. So Yanji can act a special role in the regional economic cooperation of Korea Peninsula as well as Northeast Asia.

## 2. 4 Intellect Resources

With coming of knowledge economy in 21st century, Yanji should mainly depend on its intellect resources rather than traditional nature resources. By contrast, Yanji has a relative superiority in quantity and proportion of intellect resources. Up to the end of 1998, all kinds of technological personnel had reached 32 000 people, of which professional engineers were 16 400, amounting to 50% of the total. There are 838 technological personnel per 10 000 workers. The famous Yanbian University holds 3330 teachers and workers, of which there are 1153 teachers and researchers, 71 professors, 159 associate professors, 330 lecturers. There are 303 people in the field of natural science, 253 people in project and technology, 378 people in pharmaceutical science, 219 in agriculture science. In addition, there are 515 teachers in ordinary college schools.

## 3 URBAN DEVELOPMENT GOAL AND URBAN ORIENTATION

### 3. 1 Overall Development Goal

In the early 21st century, Yanji City will be constructed to be the biggest central city in the eastern part

of Jilin Province, the important hinterland support point of Tumen River Development Zone. It will play an important role in regional economy cooperation in North-east Asia. Facing to dual market of domestic and abroad, it will quickly adjust industry structure and promote technological level. On the basis of intelligent priority, it will develop knowledge-based industries. It will establish light urban economic system that is mainly light industry and tertiary industry; Depending on the China Korean cultural resources and Changbai Mountain resources, Yanji will become an international tourist city, and will establish an image characterized with "Changbai mountain and river, as well as China Korean culture". By enhancing cooperation relations with nearby cities and towns, The Great Yanji Urban Economy Cooperation Zone will be formed. By the year of 2020 - 2030, Yanji will realize modernization, citizen living level will catch up with the medium developed countries in the world.

### 3. 2 Urban Nature and Urban Size

#### 3. 2. 1 Urban nature

The nature of Yanji City is the capital of China Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, and the central city of China Tumen River Area, the main industries are industry, commerce and trade, tourism.

The connotation of the city nature is as follows:

1) Administration function: The capital of Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture; 2) Economic function: Main sectors are commerce, trade and tourism; 3) Urban image: China Korean culture, Changbai Mountain and river; 4) Regional function: The central city of Tumen River Area of China side.

#### 3. 2. 2 Urban size

According to the Overall Planning of Yanji City (Urban Planning Bureau of Yanji, 2000), the population and land programme are listed Table 1.

Table 1 Planning of urban population and urban land in future

Item	2005	2010	2020
Total population(10 thousand )	45. 5	52	67
Non-agricultural population (10 thousand )	39	45	58
Agricultural population(10 thousand )	3. 5	3	2
Non-inhabited population(10 thousand )	3	4	7
Urban land(km <sup>2</sup> )	38. 7	45. 92	59

## 4 REGIONAL ORIENTATION OF YANJI CITY

### 4.1 Central City in the Eastern Border Region of the Northeast China

In the east frontier of the Northeast China, Yanji is one key city, which is located between Mudanjiang and Tonghua. At present, Yanji acts as the central city of the east Jilin Province. In the future Yanji will play a more important role for the reasons such as Tumen River Delta development, economy and technological cooperation between the north and the south sides in Korean Peninsula.

### 4.2 Administration Center of Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture

Yanji has been the capital of Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture since it was founded in 1952. One reason is that Yanji is located in the center of this area, in which is very convenient to every city and town by train or by bus. Another reason is that Yanji is the biggest Korean inhabited city in China, where has developed a very special local culture, which is different to Korean abroad. Also from future view, Yanji will keep its administration role in this area no matter what the city system changes to be.

### 4.3 Education, Culture and Information Center

Yanbian University is situated in the city, and almost all colleges, research and culture institutes of YKAP are gathered in Yanji, it has a strong education base and dense Korean cultural atmosphere. So in the future Yanji will have a vital education and culture function for all China Korean, and is a center to communicate culture and information with Korean worldwide.

### 4.4 Center of Commerce, Trade and Finance

The economic priority of Yanji is mainly in commerce, trade and finance. From 1978 to 1998, the so-

cial consumer goods retail has grown at a very high-speed rate of 21.53%, which is higher than that of GDP. The value is 3.2 billion yuan, which is 49.51% of YKAP. Also the figure amounted to 9.51% of Jilin Province, which is higher than 8.25% of its population. Even in the Northeast China, Yanji is a very important consumer city, which is famous for selling Korean commodities mainly traded in from R. Korean and D. P. R. Korean. In response to commerce and trade, Yanji is the banking center of YKAP. In the city, there are all kind of banks that can provide very convenient finances services. In 1998, the total value of cash input and output are 20.83 billion and 20.16 billion yuan, which is 41.61% and 36.64% of that of YKAP (Editorial Board of Fifty Years of Yanbian, 1999).

## 5 THE YANJI URBAN ECONOMY COOPERATION ZONE

In the coming future, Yanji will become larger, and its central business district (CBD) function will become stronger than before, so it is necessary to form the Yanji Urban Economy Cooperation Zone. The general framework is that Yanji is the hinterland center, the port city Hunchun acts as the "open door" that faces to D. P. R. Korea and Russia. By setting up this spatial skeleton, Yanji can well organize whole YKAP economic activities.

The Yanji Urban Economy Cooperation Zone is a regional non-government coordination organization, its main function is to administrate and coordinate common affairs such as industry distribution, market administration, infrastructure construction, environment protection, land and water resources distribution etc. Of course this model needs on the basis of a well-developed market system, and market mechanism plays a substantial role instead of planning economy system as before.

Around Yanji City, there are three cities, they are Longjing, Chaoyangchuan and Tumen. They are very near to each other. Chaoyangchuan is almost conjunct with Yanji in the west, Longjing is in the south of Yanji

less than 20km; Tumen is about 50km to the east of Yanji. In the future these four units will become one grouped city, and a new great Yanji city will produce.

The present situation of each city or town is shown in Table 2.

Table 2 The Yanji Urban Economy Cooperation Zone(1998)

Item	The Yanji Urban Economy Cooperation Zone	Yanji	Longjing	Tumen
Total Population(10 thousand)	78.46	38.12	26.57	13.77
Non-agriculture Population(10 thousand)	57.61	32.91	14.49	10.21
Administrative area(km <sup>2</sup> )	5083.51	1350.24	2591	1142.27
Municipal area(km <sup>2</sup> )	75.97	31.67	9.80	34.50
Built-up area(km <sup>2</sup> )	51.91	29.99	7.56	14.36
Gross domestic product(100 million yuan)	51.87	34.63	8.47	8.77
The primary industry(100 million yuan)	2.85	0.77	1.64	0.44
The secondary industry(100 million yuan)	23.53	16.32	3.22	3.99
The tertiary industry(100 million yuan)	25.52	17.55	3.61	4.36
Town (unit)	15	2	9	4

## 6 INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Yanji economy is characteristic of light industry. The ratio of the primary industry, the secondary industry and the tertiary industry is 2.22 : 47.12 : 50.66. In the primary industry, planting and animal husbandry are the main sectors. In the secondary industry, food, textile, nonferrous metal industry are the main sectors, and a large proportion of products are exported to R. Korea, D. P. R. Korea, Japan, Russia and other countries or areas. Conventional tertiary industries such as commerce, retail trade, catering trade and hotel service, are the main sectors.

In the future, Economic growth of Yanji will depend on the growth of the secondary industry and the tertiary industry. Knowledge industry will play an important role. Conventional dominant industries, such as food industry, textile industry, nonferrous metal industry, will be gradually transformed to knowledge-based sectors. New tertiary industries, such as finance, insurance, real estate, consulting service will be developed, and educational, scientific and technical sectors will be industrialized.

### 6.1 Modern Agriculture

Eco-agriculture will be largely developed. Fresh vegetable will be planted in greenhouse for citizen.

Facing Republic of Korea, D. P. R. Korea, Japan and Russia, the export of agricultural products will be expanded. By developing township and village enterprises, modern agriculture will be industrialized.

### 6.2 High-tech Industry

High-tech industry will orient to apply biological technology (especially gene engineering, cell engineering and ferment engineering) to pharmacy and agriculture; to develop information industry, including software, information equipment, information service et al; to develop new type building materials and new type organic materials.

### 6.3 Deep-processing Aluminum Industry

Based on the present condition, facing to domestic and international market, Yanji should adjust product structure, enhance deep-processing aluminum industry. By using advanced technology and equipment, aluminum product quality and quantity will be improved largely.

### 6.4 Local Food Industry

Food industry plays an important role in Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture. The products include

cigarette, beer, beverage, and convenient food. The products are exported to R. Korea, Japan, D. P. R. Korea and Russia. In the future, natural resources, such as wild fruit, edible wild herbs, will be fully utilized, and, non-polluted food should be largely developed.

#### 6. 5 Textile Industry

Textile industry has a special status in Yanji as well as the whole YKAP. One reason is that textile industry can absorb a large number of employees; another reason is that the textile enterprises is mainly owned by joint-investors, the products are exported to R. Korea. So, textile industry will have more opportunities when China joins in WTO. Yanji will adjust product structure, develop cotton textile, linen fabrics and fiber in order to increase quantity of export products. Equipped with computer to improve the level of automation, knowledge concentrated and high value products will be produced in the near future.

#### 6. 6 Pharmacy Industry

Yanji City has favorable conditions for developing pharmacy. There are plenty of wild plants and animals for pharmacy in the area of Changbai Mountain, and Medicine College of Yanbian University will provide a strong technical support. So it should rely on the advantages as well as external investment. Now in this area, pharmacy industry is the main sector of local economy, and has its famous enterprises with their well-known brands. Yanji should actively join the group in a proper way. By using the famous brands, the enterprises can achieve large size, and get more profit. In addition, Yanji can develop gene engineering and biochemical engineering to establish its technical priority in this sector.

#### 6. 7 New Sectors in Tertiary Industry

Yanji is the banking center of YKAP. Future finance should be equipped with modern operational system and information system. And a large number of personnel will be trained to be skillful in international finance. All kinds of financial markets will be constructed.

Insurance, real estate and consulting service are just at the beginning stage, but they have a very broad developing space. Management and administration level of insurance should be improved, service area should be expanded, insurance money should be reinvested to get more profits.

Assessment of real estate should fit to international rules; management and administration should be in response to market changing.

Based on the modernized information network, a well-constructed information market system will provide good function of acceptance, process and service.

Tourist will be the polar industry in the future. Yanji City has strong national color, and has fine touring facilities as well as famous sceneries such as Changbai Mountain, Jingpo Lake and Tumen River. In the future, tourism will develop rapidly due to government tourism strategy; its goal is to be an international tourist city. Overseas visitors, especially from R. Korea, will increase quickly.

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