
Issues for the Tumen River Area Development Programme

Susumu Yoshida

WHY HASN'T TRADP MADE GREAT PROGRESS?

The Tumen River Area Development Programme (TRADP) has made certain achievements with the UNDP as leader. However, it has not made as rapid progress as other areas, despite its great prospects. The following are the main reasons for this:

- the necessity of adjusting relations between the central and local governments
- the necessity of adjusting relations with the DPRK
- the absence of Japan's participation
- lack of development investment.

Adjusting relations between central and local governments is an on-going process that needs to improve continuously in the future. The absence of Japan's participation and the lack of development investment go hand in hand. They greatly depend on the adjustment in relations with the DPRK. Therefore, this is the key issue.

FUNDING PLANS

Financing development plans for the Tumen River area include:

- the establishment of a Northeast Asian Development Bank
- the establishment of a special fund in the Asian Development Bank
- the establishment of the Tumen River Area Development and Investment Corporation
- utilization of ODA from Japan (bilateral).

From the Japanese perspective, the establishment of a special fund within the ADB and the use of Japanese ODA seem easier goals.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

The TRADP Programme Management Committee (PMC) was established in 1991. In 1995, it was restructured as the Consultative Commission for the Development of the Tumen River Area and Northeast Asia (Commission) and the Tumen River Area Development Coordination Committee (Committees). An intergovernmental framework has been prepared.

In the non-governmental sector there is the Northeast Asia Economic Forum, which has been held nine times. There is also the Northeast Asia Economic Conference in Niigata, which has been held five times. Local governments on the west coast of Japan organize various meetings and conferences to promote trade with and investment in Northeast Asian countries.

Awareness of the necessity for establishing a permanent international institution has been rising in the region. This institution would have the same characteristics as the track-two in the private sector.

PROJECTS

- Zarubino Port Improvement Project (Russia)
- Khasan Development Project (Primorsky Territory, Russia)
- tourism projects covering two countries
- dredging the Tumen River and creating conditions for the development of fisheries.