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**Modern efficiency of the cross-border cooperation of China and Russia and the ways of its improvement**

*This article discusses the key issues and variants of international cooperation of Russia and China, as well as the characteristics of cross-border interaction between these countries. It is shown that for the cross-border territories their intensity and type of interaction are characterized. The analysis of volume and structure of export shows the spatial pattern of interaction between the countries and a place of the certain regions. The author focuses special attention on the fact that in the Far East exports are dominated by natural resources, particularly the timber and products made of it. As the indicators of effectiveness of international interaction, the trade turnover per capita in the border areas, the level and rate of growth of productivity of work are discussed. The main focus of improving the efficiency of the cross-border cooperation is the establishment of cross-border umbrella structures on the basis of system-cluster approach and the based choice of four strategies (design, enterprise, network and corporate network) the most appropriate in the specific circumstances.*

**Современная эффективность приграничного сотрудничества КНР и РФ и пути ее повышения**

*В статье рассматриваются основные проблемы и параметры международного сотрудничества РФ и КНР, а также характеристики приграничного взаимодействия данных стран. Показано, что для трансграничных территорий характерны свои интенсивность и тип взаимодействия. Проведен анализ объемов и структуры экспорта, показана пространственная картина взаимодействия стран и отдельных регионов. Автор акцентирует особое внимание на том, что в структуре экспорта Дальнего Востока доминируют природные ресурсы, в частности древесина и полуфабрикаты из нее. В качестве показателей, характеризующих в определенной мере эффективность международного взаимодействия, рассматриваются товарный оборот на душу населения приграничных районов, уровень и темпы роста производительности труда в них. Основным направлением повышения эффективности приграничного сотрудничества выступает создание трансграничных зонтичных структур на основе системно-кластерного подхода и обоснованного выбора одной из четырех стратегий (проектной, корпоративной, сетевой и корпоративно-сетевой) наиболее целесообразной в конкретных условиях.*

***Keywords:*** *international cooperation, border trade, export, cross-border territory, umbrella structure, strategies for creating the cross-border umbrella structure.*

***Ключевые слова:*** *международное сотрудничество, приграничная торговля, экспорт, трансграничная территория, зонтичная структура, стратегии создания приграничной зонтичной структуры.*

The Russian-Chinese trade and economic cooperation is one of the priority directions of interaction of two states. International integration of the countries into the world economic space becomes an extremely important factor of ensuring mutually advantageous, effective partnership between the states, and for an increase in the rates of development of the People's Republic of China it is necessary to strengthen the cross-border economic cooperation with the Russian Federation, including with the Far-Eastern region of the Russian Federation [1, 2]. Form the main legal base of interregional interaction between our countries serve: The agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the People's Republic of China on cooperative principles between the administrations (governments) of the subjects of the Russian Federation and the local government of the People's Republic of China signed in Beijing on November 10, 1997 and the Russian-Chinese agreement on neighborliness, friendship and cooperation signed on July 16, 2001 in Moscow by the President of Russia V. Putin and the Chinese President Jiang Zemin. The agreement is considered for 20 years with the automatic prolongation of validity period for 5 years if any of the sides doesn't express intention to refuse the agreement. There are 25 articles in the agreement which are harmoniously supplementing each other and covering the all main spheres and directions of the Russian-Chinese relations.

Now the value of interstate interaction in a format of sustainable development of the cross-border territories, including on the basis of umbrella structures (special economic zones) amplifies. Generally the international cross-border territory can be formed on two, three border territories from the both countries. The large complete geo-system of regional dimension crossed by the frontier can be the basis uniting them in the single cross-border territory. In this case it is possible to speak about the pair groups of border areas, such as: the Far Eastern, the East-Siberian, the Northeast of China (large boundary economic regions); Buryatia, Zabaykalskterritory, the Amur region, the Khabarovsk, Primorskterritories, the Jewish autonomous region, provinces of Heilongjiang, Jilin, JSC Inner Mongolia (border regions of mezo-level); The Southern Primorsk, Prikhankaysk, Khabarovsk, Mudantszyansk, Ichun, Tszyamusinsk, etc. (administrative and economic regions); Blagoveshchensk-Heihe; Grodekovo-Suyfunkhe; Kraskino-Hunchun, etc. (border municipalities).

Characteristic property of the international cross-border territories of the South of the Far East of Russia and the Northeast China is the different intensity and even the type of their economic use on one and other sides of the border (tab. 1). It leads to different impacts on the structural organization of natural geo-system, to change of the connections between their separate components and to the different ecological consequences and can transfer them to a new type of sustainable development.

*Table 1*

**Indexes of trade specialization of the border regions of the Russian Federation [3, 8]**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Regions of border and coastal trade** | **Partner in border and coastal trade** | **Share in the foreign trade turnover of the Russian Federation, %** | | | | **Share of the border and coastal trade, %** | | | | **Index of the regional and trade specialization** | | | |
| **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| The Amur region | China | 0,06 | 0,06 | 0,08 | 0,08 | 0,71 | 0,58 | 0,84 | 0,91 | 11,0 | 9,58 | 10,07 | 10,15 |
| JAR | China | 0,01 | 0,01 | 0,01 | 0,02 | 0,07 | 0,07 | 0,08 | 0,09 | 11,63 | 10,09 | 10,15 | 10,20 |
| The Primorsk territory | China | 0,81 | 1,02 | 1,05 | 1,12 | 5,49 | 6,47 | 7,21 | 7,92 | 6,79 | 6,34 | 6,82 | 6,97 |
| The Sakhalin region | Japan | 1,82 | 2,04 | 2,10 | 2,11 | 22,95 | 25,51 | 26,10 | 26,15 | 12,61 | 12,48 | 12,52 | 12,63 |
| The Khabarovsk territory | China | 0,31 | 0,34 | 0,36 | 0,39 | 1,92 | 1,85 | 1,90 | 1,93 | 6,12 | 5,4 | 5,78 | 6,10 |
| The FE regions in total | China | 3,28 | 3,74 | 3,78 | 4,12 | 11,12 | 11,7 | 38,23 | 38,71 | 3,39 | 3,12 | 46,34 | 47,05 |

Also in the recent years, as the Far-Eastern researchers notice and the statistics confirms, the tendency of shift of the flows of commodities in the system of foreign trade between Russia and China towards the central Russian regions where the main foreign trade partners of China are located becomes stronger. A cumulative share of the foreign trade turnover with the People's Republic of China considered on the customs authorities where the check points of the Russian-Chinese border (The Siberian customs authority and the Far-Eastern customs authority are located (further – CA)) less than the share of the Central CA. About 16% of the considered turnover with China, in 2010 – about 10% were the share of the border regions of the Far-Eastern CA where passes the most part of the Russian-Chinese border passes (the Primorsk, Khabarovsk, Transbaikalterritories, the Amur region, the Jewish autonomous region) in 2009. The Far East, being the border region, takes only the 4th place. Whereas in the Central CA of the Russian Federation the much bigger goods turnover with the People's Republic of China, than on the Far-Eastern and Siberian CA – in 3,6 and 1,6 times is fixed [4]. Because of the institutional uncertainty statistical observations in Russia of the border trade aren't conducted therefore as the border trade all turnover with the People's Republic of China in the border regions of the Russian Far East is considered. These regions border on the province of Heilongjiang in which the turnover of border trade with the Russian Federation is allocated (there are no other frontiers, except the borders with the Russian Federation in this province) [5]. It should be noted a discrepancy in data of the Russian and Chinese statistics. So, for example, discrepancies in assessment of the border turnover of the province of Heilongjiang and turnovers of the border regions of the FE make from 1,28 times to 1,15 times; distinction in the assessment of business volume of the Russian Federation with the People's Republic of China is varied by from 1,25 to 1,62 times.

The commodity structure of export from Russia to China is characterized by the domination of raw material resources and products, in particular of the fuel - energy resources it is the share to 69,0%, of wood – to 10%. At the same time in the structure of forest export of the Far-Eastern business wood occupies still a big share – 96,0% (tab. 2.), while the share of products of the woodworking industry is extremely insignificant: on the technological spill – 0,5% on timber – 0,01%. In recent years export of the forest products still grows (tab. 3).

*Table 2*

**Structure of the forest export of the FE, 2013 [1]**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Goods position** | **Amount** | **Share, %** | **Cost, mln. dollars.** | **Share, %** |
| Business wood, one thousand m ³ | 11473,7 | 49,0 | 627,9 | 32,0 |
| including: coniferousbreeds | 9598,1 | 41,0 | 489,8 | 25 |
| deciduousbreeds | 1875,6 | 8,0 | 138,1 | 7 |
| Technologicalspill, thousandtons. | 113,0 | 0,5 | 3,2 | 0,2 |
| Timber, t. | 184,0 | 0,8 | 0,1 | 0,05 |
| Othergoodspositions | - |  | 23,8 | 1,2 |
| Wood and products from it in total | - |  | 655,0 | 34 |
| In total | 23244.4 | 100 | 1937.9 | 10 |

*Table 3*

**Export of forest products and the products of processing from the Far East**

**in terms of the raw materials [10]**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2013** | | **2014** | | **2015** | |
| **Volume, m ³** | **Growth %** | **Volume, m ³** | **Growth %** | **Volume, m ³** | **Growth %** |
| 8906021 | 100 | 9161641 | 102,9 | 9283338 | 101,3 |

Today in China the strategy of revival of the old industrial base of the Northeast of China is comprehensively performed that creates especially favorable chances for development of the industry, agricultural industry, the third sector of economy and the social sphere of the province of Heilongjiang, thereby opens the wider space for development the trade and economic and science-technical cooperation of the province of Heilongjiang with Russia, especially with the Far East and Siberia.

The border province of Heilongjiang – traditionally leading partner of the Russian Federation; The autonomous Region Inner Mongolia and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region which also have borders with the Russian Federation yielded in the amounts of the Chinese-Russian trade only to the primorsk and the central administrative subjects having the great preferential conditions. Only 1,7 – 2,2% were the share of the capital Beijing and its rating didn't exceed the 9thposition. At least a quarter of all trade between two countries was the share of the Chinese provinces which spatially are brought closer to the Russian markets. Border business is done through the official check points opened by the corresponding intergovernmental agreement of 1994. Actively boundary transitions function: Mangzhouli – Zabaykalsk, Suifenhe – Pogranichny, Dunin – Poltavka, Hunchun – Kraskino, Hulin – Markovo, Mishan –Turiy horn, Zhaokhe – Pokrovka, Lobey – Amurzet, Heihe – Blagoveshchensk, Mohe – Dzhalinda.

It is possible to estimate efficiency of the frontier cooperation by means of the analysis of its influence on the level of steady social ecological-economic development of the Russian and Chinese "small" areas (or counties) and the "big" regions (provinces, regions or areas) adjacent to the border. The amount of business volume per capita, indirectly reflecting the real incomes of population in Russia above, than in China (fig. 1). However growth of this indicator in the Chinese "big" border regions is higher, than, on the average, across China, and also above, than in the majority of the Russian regions. On the contrary, the business volume grew in the Russian border "big" regions more slowly, than in general across Russia.

*Fig. 1. Business volume per capita People's Republic of China and Russian Federation*

If to compare among themselves "small" border areas, then the benefits of the Chinese border strip become obvious. For example, in 4 of 5 border "small" areas of the Amur region the business volume per capita was even reduced, and only in the regional center grew.

Comparative productivity analysis of work as the main criterion of efficiency of managing in the adjacent regions of Russia and China shows that, first, the performance level in the border regions of the Russian Federation is lower, and, secondly, growth of this indicator in the border regions of China is more considerable [6], and also its differentiation on the Chinese provinces is essential (fig. 2).

*Fig. 2. The level of labor productivity in different provinces in the People's Republic of China*

The interregional and border relations take an important place in the bilateral connections of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China not accidentally. For the Russian territories and the territories of the Far East and the Eastern Siberia China already throughout a long time the main trade and economic partner. It is possible too to tell about the regions of the Northeast of China. Cross-border interaction develops in very many directions. It covers such major spheres as: trade, investments, transport, rational use of natural resources, ecology, tourism, etc. [1, 8]. One of the ways of increase in the efficiency of international cooperation is forming of the corresponding infrastructure. Specific infrastructure of a border-zone is provided by the transport passages of frontier different types of transport; energy transitions; the objects of border and customs control, communication, the objects of service, etc. In this regard the separate border territory can have the considerable transit potential as a factor of creation of the umbrella structure. It should be noted the need of wide use of the potential and resources of a border-zone of the neighboring country, including the natural: land, forest, water, recreational, etc. and also attraction to the different forms of cooperation of the population from a border-zone of one country to a border-zone of another. It is necessary to develop in a border-zone a complete combination of types of activity in the sphere of trade, export-oriented productions, including, and the small enterprises, the companies, productions on proceeding of the import raw materials, semi-finished products, and also the travel agencies and the objects of international tourism; cultural and educational sphere, etc.

We consider that a strategic direction of increase in the efficiency of cooperation of Russia and China is forming and ensuring functioning of the umbrella structures [7, 8].

Speaking about the schematic diagram of forming of the cross-border umbrella structure (further – US), it is necessary to recognize that it is an element and a kernel of future integration institutions that predetermines a possibility of use of the principles of cluster management with the corresponding modification [8, 9]: 1) the US cluster model needs to be performed in the form of the two-single and integrated process of forming the global and local (district) institutions; 2) its implementation in practice shall be based on a combination of corporatization, setization and filling of the last project management and the cluster technologies; 3) cluster technologies are determined by us as the technologies of management and a component of cluster policy, as a system of the instruments and methods which provides and maintains effective coherence of the entities in a single, complete institution; 4) The local US are offered to be created in the points of the greatest investment appeal and competitiveness on the basis of the organization of the district (inter-district) associations of the entities; 5) the balanced scorecard (BS), integrated assessment of the investment appeal and competitiveness of the entities, management of the megaproject, assessment and monitoring of the social, ecological and economic effects of clustering shall become the instruments of strategic cluster sustainability management of the cross-border territory.

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