

Research on the Coordinated Regional Development and Cooperation Mechanism between the Greater Bay Area and the Eastern, Western and Northern Guangdong Region under the Green Economy Concept

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Abstract: The Greater Bay Area has world-class economic strength and potential, and occupies an important position in China's economic development pattern. At the same time, the Eastern, Western and Northern Guangdong Region (including 11 cities such as Heyuan, Zhaoqing, and Yangjiang), which are located near the Greater Bay Area (GBA), but underdeveloped areas urgently need to integrate into the development of the GBA. With the continuous implementation and deepening of the GBA connectivity construction, the integration of the Eastern, Western and Northern Guangdong Region (EWNGR) into the regional coordinated development and cooperation mechanism of the GBA has become a major practical proposition. This paper is based on the current situation of regional coordinated development between the GBA and the EWNGR in terms of green economy. It explains the problems such as lack of concept of coordinated development, lack of coordinated development system, and insufficient coordinated development talents. Based on this, the paper proposes improvement ideas

Keywords: Green Economy Concept; Greater Bay Area; Eastern; Western and Northern Guangdong Region; Coordinated Regional Development; Connectivity

1. Introduction

In March 2015, the central government of China issued the vision of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and action document, pointing

out that the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area should be built to promote the BRI. In October 2015, the central government of China proposed a new development concept of innovation, coordination, green, openness, and sharing, emphasizing the need to solve the problem of imbalanced development and the issue of harmony between humans and nature in development. The Report of the 20th National Congress of the CPC proposed that promoting green and low-carbon economic and social development is the key to achieving high-quality development. From this, it can be seen that coordinating and promoting green and high-quality development has become a new direction and requirement for China's economic development in the new era. This provides new opportunities and demands for the coordinated development of the GBA and the EWNGR. Therefore, it is necessary to explore the mechanism and path of regional coordinated development and cooperation between the GBA and the EWNGR under the guidance of the concept of green economy, which can provide useful thinking for promoting high-quality development of the two regions.

2. Regional Coordinated Development and Cooperation Mechanism Between the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Eastern, Western and Northern Guangdong Region Under the Green Economy Concept

2.1. Coordination Mechanism of Interests

In the international community, there are independent organizations in the Tokyo Bay

Area, New York Bay Area, and San Francisco Bay Area that coordinate the interests of all participating parties. Therefore, in order to create a green and coordinated development pattern between the GBA and the EWNCR, it is necessary to coordinate and handle the conflicting interests between different regions, as well as between economic construction and green ecology. Each entity aims to build a high-level coordination mechanism with the aim of holistic green development, while taking into account the different benefits of all parties, and leveraging their respective economic and resource advantages to achieve deep level consultation, co construction, and sharing. [1] From the current construction situation, the economic development speed in the EWNCR is relatively slow. We need to continuously strengthen the core and agglomeration effects of the GBA, and also leverage its strong economic, technological, cultural, and educational radiation and influence to revitalize the EWNCR. This can promote the production and transfer of suitable industries in the GBA to the EWNCR.

2.2. Green Economic Growth Mechanism

Green development requires the guidance and drive of advanced technology, leading enterprises, and advantageous industries in the GBA, and the creation of a new "technology bay area". It also requires continuous cross regional coordination and implementation through the construction of a green industry value chain. The green industry value chain aims to achieve sustainable development of the industry, unifying short-term benefits and long-term development, and integrating green development throughout various links and processes throughout the entire industry value chain. The advanced technologies and industries in the GBA provide support for the green economy industry in the EWNCR, while the eastern and northwestern regions provide a huge market and venue for the development of green economy in the former.

2.3. Ecological Compensation Mechanism

Some cities in the GBA have a large proportion of manufacturing and industry, making it difficult to achieve green and low-carbon development. The EWNCR have become a strong support for the construction of green development in the GBA. With the support of

ecological compensation mechanisms, a green and low-carbon transformation path that conforms to the characteristics of each region can be designed and formed, based on the actual industrial layout and main functions of the two regions. This can make the ecological advantages of the EWNCR the economic growth point under the new normal. At the same time, the EWNCR fully tap and leverage their economic advantages, thereby achieving a win-win situation of regional coordinated development and green and low-carbon transformation. [3]

3. An Analysis of Realistic Factors Influencing Green and Coordinated Development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Eastern, Western and Northern Guangdong Region

3.1. Lack of Concept of Coordinated Development

The popularization and implementation of the green development concept in both regions are insufficient. Some enterprises in the GBA still retain the traditional extensive economic growth model, focusing on economic benefits while neglecting ecological and social benefits. This has affected the ecological security and green development of the GBA. The development differences between the two regions are significant, and there is less coordination and communication between them. The concept of green development has not yet become a consensus and guideline for enterprises in both regions.

3.2. Lack of Coordinated Development System

The GBA and the EWNCR have failed to establish a green development synergy system. Taking the rule of law as an example, there are collaborative difficulties in legislation, law enforcement, and judiciary. There are deficiencies in the overall legal framework, difficulties in information communication, and inadequate channels for coordinating and handling environmental safety and economic events between regions. At present, the Chinese government has proposed the development concept and plan for the GBA. However, there has not been sufficient discussion and introduction of coordination and cooperation

mechanisms on how to enable the neighboring and underdeveloped EWNCR to catch the fast train of economic development.

3.3. Insufficient Talent for Coordinated Development

There is a shortage of professional talents in the construction of green economy in the GBA, especially insufficient human resources investment for coordinated development between the two regions. Firstly, there is a shortage of green finance experts. The existing talents in finance or environmental fields generally fail to integrate green finance knowledge and have insufficient understanding of international rules in related professional fields. Secondly, there are relatively few young legal talents in the field of green economy. When faced with economic development practices across regions and different systems, young legal professionals may face obstacles to trade cooperation due to a lack of relevant knowledge and experience.

4. The Practical Path of Regional Coordinated Development and Cooperation between the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Eastern, Western and Northern Guangdong Region under the Concept of Green Economy

4.1. To Establish a New Development Concept and Construct a New Pattern of Green and Coordinated Development

One is to establish a new development concept and achieve the organic unity of ecological civilization and economic civilization. At the same time, we must comply with the requirements of sustainable development concepts and make long-term development plans. This can promote the transformation of economic growth from an extensive model to an intensive model, achieving coordination between economic construction and resource environment; [4] The second is to implement innovation driven development, increase investment in government and enterprise R&D personnel and R&D funds, and create a good research environment. This can help research institutions achieve independent innovation in key areas as soon as possible, and then drive high-quality economic development through technological innovation, achieving industrial transformation and upgrading. The third is to

implement collaborative development. The GBA and different cities in the EWNCR each have their own characteristics and numerous industrial clusters; In the development process of each city, it is necessary to develop in a coordinated manner and create systematic characteristic industries and advantageous brands.

4.2. To Establish a Sound Legal System and Improve Protection Mechanisms

Firstly, industry emission standards and benchmarking systems should be improved. The GBA should implement a target responsibility system, implement new systems and standards, and ensure that enterprises comply with emission standards. Secondly, a unified ecological service trading system should be established in the GBA to further expand the coverage of carbon emission monitoring units and enterprises; At the same time, unified monitoring and management should be carried out on the initial allocation and trading of carbon emissions, energy use, water use, and pollution discharge; [5] Thirdly, corresponding incentive systems should be established. The GBA should provide material rewards and commendations to enterprises that meet carbon emission standards and eco-friendly enterprises, and encourage more enterprises to actively participate in the green economy construction.

4.3. To Implement a Talent Collaboration Strategy and Build a Talent Exchange Platform

The GBA should gather more high-quality talents, break through the restrictions on talent mobility, narrow the differences in talent reserves between regions, and better achieve coordinated development of talents between the two regions. One is to deepen cooperation in education reform in the Bay Area. The GBA should support and encourage cooperation between well-known universities and social enterprises, with the goal of innovative development of social enterprises and the demand for green development talents, to carry out curriculum reform and discipline construction; Universities can offer new majors in fields such as new energy and carbon neutrality, and establish a mechanism for integrating industry, academia, and research to assist in the cultivation of skilled,

knowledge-based, and innovative talents. The second is to promote cross regional talent mobility. The GBA should establish a cross regional talent exchange platform to disseminate and share advanced development concepts, technologies, and experiences to underdeveloped areas. Thirdly, by creating a more inclusive and open social and cultural environment, we can attract more professional talents to enjoy the convenience of both regions and participate in their construction and development.

4.4. To Strengthen Regional Cooperation, Optimize and Expand the Industrial Chain

One is to integrate and allocate resources within the region, achieving synergy and complementarity between different regions. The headquarters of the GBA guides enterprises to transfer and spread elements such as technology, marketing management, market operation, and capital to cities in the EWNGR, and increases the development of resources in the surrounding areas to drive the transformation and upgrading of local traditional industries. The second is to form cross regional linkage among innovation chains, factor chains, and industrial chains. The GBA promotes comprehensive development of the entire region through regional dislocation and collaboration, thereby forming online industrial collaboration and information sharing on a larger scale, and forming an economic interaction pattern driven by the entrepreneurial chain. This can enable the rational allocation of resources to various regions and unleash new development potential in each region. Thirdly, with the GBA as the center, a major opening up channel will be formed that runs through the east and west, connecting the north and south. The GBA should effectively connect with the domestic market and the international market; Taking the "the Belt and Road" as an important opportunity, the GBA will carry out in-depth friendly cooperation with countries along the Belt and Road to enhance the ability of the GBA to participate in high-level competition in the world.

5. Conclusion

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (11 cities including Hong Kong, Macao, and Guangzhou) and the adjacent EWNGR (11 cities including Heyuan,

Zhaoqing, and Yangjiang) can promote a new development pattern of mutual complementarity, support, and progress through regional coordination. Guided by the new development concept, with ecological priority and green development as the basic values, and mutually beneficial cooperation and open interaction as important means, we actively explore the characteristic path of regional coordination, green, and high-quality development between the GBA and the EWNGR. Therefore, it can be said that the EWNGR also play an indispensable role in fully stimulating the potential for innovative development in the GBA, comprehensively enhancing the comprehensive competitiveness of the region, and working together to build a world-class urban agglomeration in the GBA.

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