

24th GTI Consultative Commission Meeting

9 December, 2024

Seoul, Republic of Korea

GREATER TUMEN INITIATIVE **STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR 2025-2029**

1. Introduction

The Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI), born out of the Tumen River Area Development Programme (TRADP), represents an intergovernmental framework for regional cooperation in Northeast Asia (NEA) supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It comprises four Member States: The People's Republic of China (PRC), Mongolia, the Republic of Korea (ROK), and the Russian Federation.

The GTI Strategic Action Plan (SAP) is a foundational document outlining medium-term objectives, concrete actions, and shared visions for economic cooperation among GTI Member States. With the imminent expiration of the latest SAP, it becomes imperative to renew the strategic plan for the ensuing years, commencing from 2025.

The GTI Strategic Action Plan for 2025-2029 (SAP 2025-2029) is the fifth edition. Previous editions include SAP 2006-2015 (endorsed on 2 September 2005 in Changchun, PRC), SAP 2012-2015 (endorsed on 10 October 2012 in Vladivostok, Russian Federation), SAP 2017-2020 (endorsed on 29 June 2017 in Moscow, Russian Federation) and SAP 2021-2024 (endorsed on 16 December 2020 virtually). The forthcoming SAP 2025-2029 represents an updated version of the SAP 2021-2024, integrating innovative ideas and strategies aimed at fostering cooperation among Member States through reciprocity and consensus. The SAP 2025-2029 remains open to updates reflecting the action plans and roadmaps of the respective GTI Boards and Committees.

The primary goal of the SAP 2025-2029 is to sustain and adapt the strategic objectives of the GTI to further amplify effectiveness and efficiency of actions in priority sectors by focusing on their respective competence and resources and implementing sectoral projects to fulfil regional economic cooperation in the region.

2. Common Vision and Strategic Objectives

Common Vision

All GTI Member States share the vision of building a great partnership for common prosperity with their neighbouring countries and thereby promote regional economic integration and sustainable development in NEA through policy dialogue and implementation of projects in priority sectors. Member States are committed to further enhancing the GTI cooperation mechanism to improve its ability to generate practical projects of mutual interest, mobilize financing and engage stakeholders.

Strategic Objectives

All Member States of the GTI collectively pursue the following strategic objectives:

1. Facilitate the revitalization of cross-border transportation infrastructure projects and the establishment of key transportation hubs to bolster economic cooperation and development among Member States in the face of current socio-economic challenges in the NEA region.
2. Revitalize trade and investment collaborations in the NEA region by prioritizing digital transformation and emphasizing paperless trade facilitation
3. Foster digital economy cooperation to bridge the digital divides and harness digital opportunities for sustainable development across diverse sectors
4. Create an enabling environment to encourage and support private sector investment in the region.
5. Promote the NEA region as an appealing global tourist destination, with efforts directed at augmenting cross-border tourist flows, particularly through promoting prospective types of tourism.
6. Institute an effective mechanism for cooperation in energy policies, aiming to eliminate existing barriers to energy trade and adapt strategies to navigate the prevailing economic conditions in the NEA region.
7. Foster collaboration in the agricultural sector, emphasizing sustainable development, to address contemporary challenges and achieve food security within the NEA region, while adapting strategies to the current economic landscape.
8. Explore methodologies to advance environmental sustainability and address environmental challenges.
9. Consider the feasibility of transformation of GTI into intergovernmental cooperation institution on the basis of outcomes of bilateral consultations regarding the main parameters of the said transformation in current global conditions
10. Strengthen cooperation between relevant GTI Boards and Committees and incentivize cross-sectoral activities.
11. Strengthen partnerships with GTI Affiliate Bodies, regional and international organizations.

Principles of Cooperation

The GTI Member States are committed to uphold the following principles of cooperation, in alignment with the ethos of the GTI;

1. Make decisions through consensus, guided by consultation and collaboration with a focus on reciprocity and fairness.
2. Take coordinated actions to address regional development and cooperation agendas, considering the distinctive conditions and priorities of each Member State.
3. Respect the laws of each Member State and adhere to international regulations and standards governing development and cooperation sectors.
4. Facilitate 'fast-track projects' for enabling seamless cooperation across two or more Member States.

3. Sectoral Priorities

The GTI continues to pledge its commitment to engage in cooperation activities in the following priority sectors: Transport, Trade and Investment, Tourism, Energy, Agriculture, Environment, and Digital Economy. The implementation of the SAP will be overseen through National Coordinators' meetings, where the Secretariat will submit regular progress reports for meticulous evaluation. The specific objectives, actions in plan, and expected outcomes for each priority sector are outlined below.

3.1. Transport

Member States reaffirmed the significance of connecting regional transport networks in the NEA region. This task remains a top priority to strengthen cooperation across GTI. The GTI aims to develop and establish a NEA Integrated Logistics Network, connecting major ports, railways, and roads.

Transport	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop cross-border infrastructure and logistics facilities along transit routes - Create a seamless transportation system and efficient logistics - Explore schemes for management and operation of transport routes with multilateral participation and achieve balance between security and efficiency of transport - Increase resilience and adaptation of transport sector to new challenges by implementing modern transport solutions
	Actions in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement bilateral and multilateral cross-border infrastructure projects - Facilitate standardization of rules for maintenance of transport statistics and explore the possibility to organize a mechanism for maintenance of transport statistics under GTI - Work towards identifying and resolving any obstacles that hinder the efficiency of logistics operations in the region. - Strengthen harmonization of standards and technologies and exchange of best practices including on the rules and procedures for seamless transport in GTI Member States - Promote cooperation on supply chains and connectivity, transport digitalization, environmentally friendly transport and develop safe, secure and smart transportation systems - Encourage cooperation between transport universities, development institutions, business community and regional authorities - Support utilization of e-documents for passengers and goods transportation and new digital services for guaranteed data security
	Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connected railway, road, and port networks across the

		<p>NEA region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smooth goods and passengers transportation across GTI Member States with no complications in customs clearance and other administrative procedures - More efficient, sustainable, and resilient transport and logistics networks across the NEA region
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3.2. Trade and Investment

GTI Member States share a common understanding of the significance of trade and investment cooperation for accelerating economic growth. In addition, Member States underscore the importance of cooperation in improving the trade and investment environment and promoting economic recovery in the region, especially in the post COVID-19 era, recognizing the increasing importance of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Continuous measures to increase foreign direct investment are necessary.

Trade and Investment	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement concrete actions to improve the regional trade and investment environment - Enhance intra-regional policy coordination - Strive to eliminate obstacles hindering trade and development - Enhance the openness of trade and investment markets within the region. - Make regional supply chains more stable, resilient, secure, and efficient in the post-pandemic era
	Actions in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jointly promote regional connectivity in supply chains and lower trade barriers and encourage trade promotion activities - Embrace the potential of cross-border e-commerce in the regional trade in goods and services - Explore the opportunities of launching joint pilot projects to promote cross-border paperless trade in the region on a voluntary basis - Simplify and harmonize customs procedures and improve efficiency in customs clearance to reduce cost and time delays for cross-border trade - Refine trade regulations, reduce procedural complexities, and strengthen coordination in the region - Prioritize regional trade and investment policies conducive to Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) - Foster a cohesive environment that encourages private sector collaboration among Member States, facilitating partnerships between business owners. - Encourage the dialogue between public and private sectors including through closer coordination with the NEA Business Association

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance cooperation mechanism to improve GTI's financing ability for regional infrastructure investments - Encourage the exchange of green and wide range of low emission technologies and promote the transition to a low carbon development - Promote various solutions and approaches support green and sustainable trade and investment - Work to increase the share of green and sustainable investments in public sector allocations while encouraging their growth in the private sector
	Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevailing multilateralism and flourishing trade and investment in the NEA region - Efficient and unimpeded regional trade connectivity with resilience and sustainability - Attractive environment to promote trade and investment in the NEA region - Continuous efforts to address climate change and other environmental challenges through trade and investment - Encourage green and low emission technology, green service exchange, green and sustainable investment cooperation, while promoting trade in environmental goods and services

3.3. Tourism

One of the GTI's objectives is to create a favourable environment for Member States to increase the number of inbound tourists from around the world. Due to the constraints in available transportation options, there has been a specific focus on designing multi-destination tour programmes to visit each spot in the respective Member State by maritime transport. Member States are eager to explore prospective types of tourism such as ecotourism and cruise tours in NEA.

Tourism	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise awareness of tourism opportunities provided by GTI Member States - Expand programmes that incorporate multi-destination tourism - Renovate and modernise tourist infrastructure and provide better services at key tourism spots in the region - Establish and promote the GTI regional tourism brand to enhance attractiveness of the region as a single tourism destination - Develop tourist programmes conducive to the preservation and sustainability of the environment
	Actions in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperate with other NEA countries on seashores to promote multi-destination tourism - Harness existing natural sites within the NEA as points of attraction for inbound tourists from across the globe

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage central and local governments to improve tourist infrastructure and upgrade the level of services and opportunities for personalized and unique experience provided in accordance with international standards - Contribute to building partnerships between tour operators of GTI Member States - Conduct capacity-building activities for tourism stakeholders on GTI regional tourism brand development - Organize joint participation of GTI Member States at international tourism fairs to raise awareness of GTI as a single tourism destination - Initiate capacity-building and knowledge-sharing programmes for personnel engaged in tourism business in the NEA region - Encourage cooperation on the prospective types of tourism such as ecotourism and develop instruments for their further promotion
	Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diverse options for tourists to choose from multi-destination tourism plans covering a wide area of the NEA region - Tourism programmes focused on sustainability and environmental preservation - The NEA region becomes a favourable place to visit - Enhanced services and educational level of personnel involved in tourism business - Increased inbound tourism flows to GTI Member States

3.4. Energy

GTI is in pursuit of establishing an institutional framework to provide energy sector consultations and discussions at the administrative level for GTI Member States. This framework is aimed at providing opportunities to Member States to exchange information among governments and private sectors and lay the foundation for mutually beneficial energy sector cooperation within the NEA region. In addition, GTI stands for the common value that cherishes the global environment and strives to promote the use of environmentally friendly energy resources and technologies, including, inter alia, renewables, nuclear, abatement and removal technologies such as carbon capture and utilization and storage, low-carbon hydrogen production, transitional and sustainable fuels, smart grid and grid resilience, enhance energy security and efficiency, and ensure universal energy access.

Energy	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen cooperation in the energy sector, including energy policies - Increase investment activity within the NEA region to mitigate the negative impact of fuel and energy complex organisations' activities on the environment - Foster the collaboration and knowledge-sharing related to the energy sector among Member States
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance energy security and efficiency in the region by strengthening infrastructure and diversifying energy sources. - Facilitate energy access and enhance energy production through development and modernization of energy networks and systems
	Actions in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain the GTI Energy Board as an effective mechanism for cooperation on coordinating regional energy-related policies to ensure access to energy trade, finance and technologies - Provide capacity-building programmes and arrange workshops on the topics of mutual interest, such as clean energy deployment, energy efficiency, renewable energy technologies and auctions - Encourage to support incentives to create and use environmentally friendly and resource-saving technologies for the production, transportation, storage, and use of energy resources - Promote the exchange of information, technologies on mutually agreed terms, best practices regarding the energy sector - Facilitate energy conservation campaigns and encourage individuals and businesses to adopt more sustainable energy practices.
	Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthened regional cooperation in the energy sector - Increased investment activity in the fuel and energy complex - Ensured energy sector resilience

3.5. Agriculture

International cooperation in the agricultural sector is challenging worldwide due to various obstacles. The NEA region has enormous potential for addressing food security through sustainable agriculture sector development that links abundant natural resources, labour force and advanced technologies available. However, several barriers impede agriculture cooperation in the region, including institutional and regulatory barriers in sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards, limited access to affordable financial resources for agricultural investments and domestic protection policies like green trade barriers and other market restrictions for agricultural products. Therefore, GTI's agriculture cooperation aims to achieve sustainable agricultural and rural development while ensuring food security in NEA through regional level policy coordination, technology and knowledge transfer, and mutually beneficial trade and investments;

Agriculture	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support productivity and competitiveness in the agricultural sector through regional cooperation - Facilitate cooperation between key stakeholders in cross-border agricultural trade and cooperation between local governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders to improve the exchange of information on
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		<p>trade, trans-boundary control of plant and animal diseases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote rural development and livelihoods through the integration of primary, secondary and tertiary industry, encourage rural entrepreneurship and innovation - Enhance regional science and technology transfer in the field of agriculture - Strengthen cooperation on food security in the region, particularly in emergencies such as COVID-19
	Actions in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain the GTI Agricultural Committee as an effective mechanism in coordinating agricultural policies in the region - Develop and implement priority projects endorsed by Member States and with resources from the private sectors - Establish a network of NEA Agriculture Development Centres - Build regional and local-level capacity through existing training schemes - Facilitate the streamlining of trans-boundary plant and animal disease control - Promote investments and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in agriculture - Cooperate with GTI Trade and Investment Committee and stakeholders to address barriers to agricultural trade - Establish a network among agricultural science and technology institutions in the region - Share information on food supply and demand - Adhere to a targeted, proportionate and transparent approach consistent with World Trade Organization rules, while avoiding excessive disruption to regional food supply chains - Research and develop food security programmes such as joint production and joint stockpiling
	Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a permanent mechanism to build regional and local-level capacity for agricultural collaboration - Annual increase in cross-border trade and investment in the agricultural sector in the region - Regular agricultural science and technology transfer in the region - Ensured food security in the region, particularly in case of emergencies

3.6. Environment

The GTI promotes environmental sustainability by coordinating actions across the NEA region. It seeks further cooperation among Member States to identify and implement appropriate projects proposed through the corresponding GTI board. Proposals in accordance with strategic objectives are subject to the establishment of relevant policies for preserving and sustaining the environment across the region.

Environment	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take coordinated actions that promote the preservation and sustainability of the regional environment - Formulate responses against any adverse effects caused by environmental challenges, including climate change
	Actions in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance cooperation in commonly agreed prioritized areas, including biodiversity - Jointly support and promote efforts to tackle air pollution - Coordinate actions to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change - Promote and exchange policy and technology on water management - Facilitate policy dialogues by coordinating with the GTI Environmental Board - Investigate and operate relevant projects under the guidance of the GTI Environmental Board - Incorporate environmental priorities into national and local development plans - Enhance public awareness and comprehension of the significance of environmental sustainability - Strengthen the capacity of central and local governments to address environmental issues - Evaluate the environmental impacts of transport, trade and investment, tourism, and energy sectors
	Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced mitigation of adverse effects caused by climate change and adaptation to climate change - Sustainable environment across the region

3.7. Digital Economy

GTI Member States share a common understanding of the importance of the digital economy. Following the GTI Digital Economy Cooperation Roadmap adopted by the 23rd meeting of the GTI Consultative Commission in 2023, continuous measures to promote the digital economy are necessary.

Digital Economy	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foster an open and secure digital environment to enhance trade facilitation, - Bridge the digital divide - Build consumer trust.
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	Actions in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement pragmatic measures, as identified from the GTI Digital Economy Cooperation Roadmap, on trade facilitation including trade digitalization, investment co-operation, inclusive digital transformation, MSMEs co-operation, capacity building, and policy and practice sharing.
	Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote paperless trade and facilitate investment in digital infrastructure, achieve digital connectivity and generate greater benefits for people.

4. Partnerships with Affiliated Bodies

The GTI has valued its partnerships with the Exim Banks Association, the Business Association, the Research Institute Network and the Local Cooperation Committee and will continue to work closely with them. These GTI affiliates are encouraged to undertake cooperative activities in the following areas so that they can further contribute to and support the GTI in a more practical way. The specific objectives, actions in plan, and expected outcomes for each GTI Affiliated Body are outlined below.

4.1 Exim Banks Association (EBA)

The Exim Banks Association seeks to enhance regional economic stability and development by facilitating financial cooperation among GTI Member States' Exim Banks. By coordinating with Member States and leveraging collective expertise, the EBA seek to identify and implement financial projects that support sustainable economic growth.

Exim Banks Association	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop joint financial strategies to address regional economic challenges and explore opportunities - Facilitate the flow of capital and resources to strategic projects in the NEA region
	Actions in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with Member States to identify and evaluate potential cross-border projects that align with regional economic goals and investment priorities - Consider establishing joint financing mechanisms and frameworks to support large-scale infrastructure and trade facilitation projects in the NEA region - Exchange best practices in financial solutions to improve efficiency and effectiveness in project implementation. - Cooperate with relevant GTI Boards and Committees and other Affiliated Bodies to develop policies that encourage financial projects and investment - Encourage GTI Member States' financial institutions and multilateral development banks to engage in activities of the EBA
	Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthened financial collaboration among Exim Banks, resulting in more coordinated and efficient support for regional projects

		- Increased flow of capital to key projects, boosting regional economic development
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4.2. Business Association (BA)

The Business Association aims to expand understanding and promote economic cooperation across priority sectors, primarily trade and investment, among private sectors in the NEA region. It seeks to provide a stable and a flexible cooperation platform based on mutual benefits and reciprocity among private economic organizations of member countries.

Business Association	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribute to economic development in the NEA region - Improve the business environment in the NEA region by addressing bottlenecks that businesses, including SMEs, face in cooperation with NEA countries, relevant authorities and organisations - Develop effective mechanisms of practical project-oriented collaboration and cooperation for business entities representing the NEA countries
	Actions in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand communication channels among BA members, and between BA members and businesses of other NEA countries - Identify mutual trade and investment opportunities for businesses and expand engagement of businesses, particularly in jointly conducted and cross-border projects in NEA - Facilitate the development and implementation of cooperation projects in which BA members are involved and find ways for effective resource mobilization - Enhance awareness of the BA and its members on cooperation opportunities and prospects through active participation in cooperation activities, information sharing, and public-private dialogue under the GTI framework - Cooperate with relevant GTI Boards and Committees and other Affiliated Bodies to develop policies that encourage practical business-led projects - Conduct surveys of companies interested in cooperation within the BA and its members - Strengthening ties between business associations of the NEA by establishing direct ties and dialogue mechanisms and instruments between business circles using the framework of the BA - Encourage the BA to involve in collaboration with relevant international institutions such as the EAEU Business Council
	Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accelerated economic development through enhanced private sector cooperation in the NEA region - Favourable environment for cross-border trade and investment among NEA countries

4.3. Research Institute Network (RIN)

The Research Institute Network supports the advancement of research across NEA by coordinating efforts among research institutions. It seeks to enhance collaboration among Member States to identify and implement research projects. Proposals aligned with strategic objectives are subject to the establishment of relevant policies for promoting regional research and knowledge sharing.

Research Institute Network	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foster regional collaboration in research and innovation - Promote the sharing of knowledge and best practices among research institutions - Support the development and implementation of research initiatives that address regional challenges
	Actions in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jointly support and promote research projects that address key regional challenges - Enhance cooperation among research institutions in priority sectors for GTI and coordinate research activities to leverage collective expertise and resources - Facilitate the exchange of research findings, policy recommendations, and technological advancements - Enhance public understanding and engagement with research findings - Evaluate the impact of research on key strategic sectors - Increase the number of events and meetings (both online and offline) between RIN members - Improve coordination between RIN and relevant GTI Boards and Committees
	Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced regional collaboration in research and innovation - Development and implementation of effective solutions to regional challenges - Improved knowledge sharing and integration of research findings into policy and practice

4.4. Local Cooperation Committee (LCC)

The Local Cooperation Committee itself and its sub-committees act as a governor-level platform to foster economic cooperation among local governments from NEA countries, aiming to achieve mutual prosperity and lay a foundation for NEA economic integration at the local level.

Local Cooperation Committee	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen the capacities of NEA local governments participating in regional economic cooperation - Enhance policy coordination between local and central authorities to synergize development strategies - Identify and implement joint cooperative programs and projects for mutual benefit
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobilize resources and international support for local cooperation activities - Exchange information on local economies and share knowledge on regional development - Encourage favourable regional business environment to attract investment - Promote dialogue, communication and mutual understanding among NEA countries
	Actions in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Host annual LCC Meetings by LCC members including sub-committee meetings - Initiate and implement projects by LCC members, prioritizing regional economic integration, e-commerce/digital trade, and supply chain cooperation - Encourage new members to join LCC and its respective sub-committees - Enhance cooperation with regional and international organizations - Strengthen cooperation with relevant GTI Boards and Committees by inviting local governments to attend their annual meetings and jointly organizing workshops or capacity-building programs
	Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accelerated NEA regional integration through the platform of LCC - Facilitate further economic cooperation among the NEA local governments