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Video Conference

GREATER TUMEN INITIATIVE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR [2021-24]

1. Introduction

The Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI), which stemmed from the Tumen River Area Development Programme (TRADP), in an intergovernmental regional cooperation framework in the Northeast Asia (NEA), supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with members of 4 countries: People's Republic of China (PRC), Mongolia, Republic of Korea (ROK), and the Russian Federation.

The member states of the GTI approved the GTI Strategic Action Plan for the years between 2017 and 2020 (SAP 2017-2020) on 29 June 2017 in Moscow, Russian Federation. The preceding document is SAP 2012-2015, which is an updated version of the SAP 2006-2015 that was approved on 2 September 2005 in Changchun, People's Republic of China, all of which focuses on long-term goals, strategies, and common visions of how to cooperate across the member states of the GTI. In 2020, the SAP 2017-2020 is scheduled to expire, therefore it is crucial to renew the SAP for the coming years starting from 2021. As such, a new SAP 2021-2024 is a sequel document of SAP 2017-2020 that incorporates novel ideas and strategies that would enhance cooperation across the member states based upon reciprocity and consensus. The SAP 2021-2024 could be updated to reflect the respective committee's action plans and roadmaps.

2. Overarching Goal, Common Vision and Strategic Objectives

Overarching Goal

The primary goal of the SAP 2021-2024 is to sustain and amend the strategic objectives of the GTI in order to further enhance effectiveness and efficiency of actions in primary sectors by focusing on its respective competence and resource on priority sectors and projects within it to fulfil regional economic cooperation in the future. The SAP 2021-2024 is a sequel document to the SAP 2017-2020 and the SAP 2012-2015, the revised version of SAP 2006-2015, that reaffirms and reinforces the past goals presented in previous SAPs.

Common Vision

Greater Tumen Region (GTR) is the intersection of regional development policies and initiatives of GTI member states. GTI member states are highly encouraged to coordinating policies and expand strategic convergence, promoting open and free trade and investment, financial integration, territorial development, especially in remote and rural areas, and connectivity in institutional and people-to-people dimensions. These activities are in line with achieving comprehensive regional connectivity within GTR.

In particular, all the GTI member states share the common vision of building a great partnership for prosperity with their neighbouring countries. Member states are committed to strengthening cooperation under the framework of the GTI to promote regional economic integration, increase benefit reciprocally, expedite trade and economic growth, and provide apposite conditions for inclusive and sustainable development in the Northeast Asia that encompasses the GTR. The series of actions will accomplish regional cooperation within the Northeast Asia. Member states aim to create a growth pole of the development in the Northeast Asia with specific terms.

Strategic Objectives

All member states of the GTI share specific strategic objectives as follows:

1. Promote the resumption of constructing cross-border transportation infrastructure and establishment of major transportation hubs to support economic cooperation and development between and across member states
2. Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the administrative procedures that transpire across the borders of the member states for smooth transit of goods and passengers
3. Encourage cooperation in the agricultural sector towards sustainable development within the corresponding sector and gain food security in the region
4. Create favourable conditions for trade and investment by private sectors in the region and enhance access to international financial institutions for investment in both public and private sectors
5. Promote the GTR as a globally attractive tourist destination and increase the flows of cross-border tourists in the Northeast Asia
6. Establish an effective institutional mechanism for cooperation in energy policies and eliminate barriers to energy trade
7. Explore methodologies to ensure environmental sustainability with pursuit of profits by economic activities
8. Enhance the level of cooperation across the Export-Import banks (EXIM) of respective member states and develop new channels of cooperation with other financial institutions in the region to mobilise financial resources for projects that aim regional cooperation
9. Encourage cooperation with Research Institution Network (RIN) to establish scientific grounds to stimulate economic growth of member states
10. Strengthen the partnership with Japan and induce the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's participation in GTI framework for cooperation and common prosperity across the Northeast Asia
11. Raise operational capabilities of the GTI for implementation of hard projects and synchronisation of the policies related to regional and sectoral development pursued by each member state
12. Develop a proposal to establish a project office under the framework of the GTI and other related platforms to organise multilateral consultation process regarding projects and agendas that carry high importance
13. Enhance the capacity of the GTI as a centre of economic and political partnership in Northeast Asia not only in the context of the legal transition of the platform but also raising international recognition of GTI's performance
14. Strengthen the partnership with other international organisations/institutions
15. Strive to advance negotiations in a constructive manner to transform GTI into an effective, result-oriented, member-driven intergovernmental economic cooperation institution, and make further efforts to reach consensus on the pending issues.

Principles of Cooperation

The GTI member states shall uphold the following principles of cooperation on the basis of ethos of the GTI;

1. Make decisions based upon rules of consensus via consultation and collaboration with principles of reciprocity and fairness
2. Take coordinated actions to address the agendas in regard to regional development and cooperation in accordance with conditions of respective member state
3. Respect the laws of each member state, observe international regulations where applicable and codes that govern the sectors of development and cooperation
4. Develop 'fast-track projects' to enable seamless cooperation across two or more member states

Developing Partnership

Partnership development constitutes an important channel of fulfilment of the aforementioned strategies and therefore the success of its implementation hinges upon the successful outcomes resulted from member states' cooperation in priority sectors under the framework of the GTI. The GTI is actively engaged in attracting support from international financial institutions, donor countries, private sectors as well as interest parties that are non-member states of the GTI. The GTI further seeks support from the other international organisations, its neighbouring nations in the Northeast Asia and local government within the region in order to carry out jointly designed projects. The GTI is strengthening partnerships of the following types;

1. Partnering with International Organisations

Partnering with international organisations is a means to enhance cooperation, mobilise resources in various types, and attract financial support for economic development that would lead GTI member states to common prosperity. Furthermore, it would raise GTI's capacity by sharing best global practices. The GTI will host dialogues with its international partners on a regular basis in order to increase the number of exchanges and attract more support from the international community for projects initiated by the GTI.

2. Enhancing Cooperation with neighbouring countries of NEA

The GTI acknowledges the need to partner with central and local governments beyond GTR. The GTI is committed to strengthening economic cooperation towards mutual prosperity across the entire Northeast Asia, including Japan and Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

3. Promotion of Public-Private Partnerships

Productive engagement and partnership with private sectors, including potential investors, is a key element to achieving development goals set by the GTI. The private sector is acknowledged as driving force to boost regional economic growth. The GTI, therefore, seeks to create a platform where business entities in the GTR are able to cooperate and to invest projects led by private sectors based upon the support by the corresponding region.

4. Strengthening Cooperation with Local Governments

GTI places huge importance on the engagement of the local governments in Northeast Asia to promote regional economic cooperation by developing the Local Cooperation Committee (LCC) of the Northeast Asia.

The LCC, a platform of cooperation in Northeast Asia at a local level, assists reinforcement of the capacity of local governments in Northeast Asia, enhancement of policy coordination across members of the committee and that between local and central administrations, implementation of joint projects, acquisition of international support for local cooperation initiatives and promotion of exchanges in information and knowledge beyond members of the GTI, which are adjacent states within Northeast Asia. It also aims for building partnerships with private sectors via several means including online platform of the LCC that is open to the public.

5. Enhancing Cooperation with Research Institutions

The GTI has recognised the need to establish a network between the GTI and academic/research centres of the respective member state which has served as a Brain Trust to promote economic cooperation and integration in Northeast Asia as the framework of the GTI is expanding and growing. The Brain Trust has served as a consulting body that would provide policy recommendations on the long-term goals and strategies accordingly and projects that the GTI can initiate by conducting in-depth joint researches. For this purpose, the GTI will;

- Strengthen and expand the scope and extent of the operating the GTI RIN as the major brain trust to the GTI;
- Coordinate with the RIN to consult upon priority projects with the support of the member states and private sector if necessary.

6. Reinforcing Cooperation with Financial Institutions

A new and effective mechanism to mobilise financial resources, whose scarcity has been a lingering impediment to the development of the NEA region, need be addressed by establishing various channels of communication with financial institutions in the region. Bearing this in mind, the GTI will;

- Strengthen and broaden the scope of cooperation across the NEA EXIM Banks Association
- Coordinate with members of the EXIM Banks to pin down several priority projects and consult on them with the support of member states and private sectors
- Generate tangible outcomes and epitomise them as a successful case of a joint-financed hard project.

7. Strengthening Cooperation with NEA Business Association

The establishment of NEA Business Association (NEA BA) was approved in the 19th GTI CC Meeting in Changchun, PRC in 2019 and its operation will be launched very shortly with the purpose of enhancing regional cooperation in business sectors of NEA. The inauguration of the NEA BA is expected to bring business sectors of NEA closer together that would lead to boost economic growth and regional integration of NEA in the long run. For this purpose, the GTI will;

- Lay the groundwork for cooperation between the NEA BA and business enterprises as well as other private sectors based in NEA in order to attract foreign direct investment and spur business activities in the region
- Expand the scope and intensity of the cooperation across NEA BA and the rest of committees of the GTI as well as central/local governments of the member states

3. Refinement of Sectoral Operational Priorities

The GTI continues to pledge commitment to engage in cooperation activities in the following priority sectors; Transport, Trade and Investment, Tourism, Energy, Agriculture and Environment. The specific targets, actions in plan, and expected outcomes are presented below.

3.1. Transport

The member states reaffirmed the significance of connecting regional transport networks within and beyond GTR which covers the entire Northeast Asia. This task has been a top priority to strengthen cooperation across GTI. The GTI in transport sector aims for development and construction of key regional transport corridors that connects major ports, railways, and roads to significantly reduce the transportation costs of shipping cargos and passengers. Specific targets and actions in plan as well as the expected outcomes of the cooperation in transport sector are described below;

Transport	Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop cross-border infrastructure in GTR by establishing physical infrastructures in terms of transport and logistics - Enhance connectivity beyond GTR that covers North and
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		<p>South Korea, China, Russia and Mongolia by constructing railway, road and port networks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove complexities in administrative procedures in terms of cross-border transportation, e.g. customs clearance and lower other non-physical barriers - Develop strategies to provide services in transport and logistics sector that are efficient, secure and sustainable - Lubricate the process of transit transportation and shipment of cargos and passengers in a seamless manner
	Actions in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jointly develop Zarubino port that connects not only GTR but also other neighbouring countries such as Japan to offer intermodal transportation services in the GTR - Address the operation of a pilot project that connects railways across South and North Korea, China, Russia and Mongolia - Encourage to harness channels for political discourse under the framework of the GTI Transport board via intergovernmental meetings, expert seminars and stakeholders' consultation - Design and execute priority projects with the endorsement of the member states and mobilise resources from international financial institutions and private sectors - Identify actions that need be taken by extensive research, studies and prediction based upon them - Provide consultations and introduce best feasible practices to stakeholders - Initiate capacity building and training programmes to raise competence of stakeholders
	Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connected railway, road, and port networks across the Northeast Asia that not only covers GTR but also other neighbouring countries, including Japan and DPRK - Smooth transport of cargos and passengers across GTI member states with no complications in customs clearance and other administrative procedures - More efficient, sustainable transport and logistics networks across the NEA

3.2. Trade and Investment

GTI member states acknowledged the gravity of creating a favourable condition for trade and investment across Northeast Asia. The GTI provides a platform where they can discuss measures to promote trade and investment across borders to stimulate growth of economies in the region. In addition, the GTI are resolute to take coordinated steps to grapple with growing protectionism across the globe as it has become one of the major sources to cause risks and uncertainties of engagement in trade. Lastly, measures to resolve increasing outflow of foreign direct investment. The detailed goals, planned action accordingly as well as expected results of cooperation across GTI member states are stated below;

Trade and Investment	Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take coordinated response against protectionism across the globe - Foster favourable conditions in terms of regulations and relevant policies for trade and investment across GTI that are conducive to economic growth - Make endeavours to increase FDI inflows in GTR - Reinforce the harmonization and simplification of trade and investment procedures in GTI member countries - Strive to eliminate obstacles that hinder trade and development of industries
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage innovations and search for new strategies that would boost economic growth - Encourage collaboration and networks with other committees within GTI framework, especially with Transport sector and EXIM Banks association - Encourage a regular information sharing and capacity building mechanism for all forms of Industrial Parks of the region to strengthen cooperation. - Facilitate information sharing and capacity building mechanism for member states to exchange on FTAs/RTAs issues. - Establish strong and stable relationships with respective government and connect with wider circles of businesses and enterprises of member states to further stimulate trade and investment - Strengthen partnership and cooperation with small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) - Reinforce institutional arrangements that enable financial support to promote development and encourage business activities in the region
	<p>Actions in Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Induce business sectors within the region to engage in projects initiated by newly launched GTI NEA BA and private sector - Establish channels for dialogues to coordinate policies across the member states by the guidance of the GTI Trade and Investment Committee - Host regular trade and investment conferences, seminars and other relevant events before or after intergovernmental meetings and follow up on the outcomes of each and every meeting - Develop a mechanism that involves SMEs in the GTI framework - Discover the barriers that obstructs trade and investment and propose measures to rectify them - Identify priority projects with governments, international financial institutions and private sector - Reinforce the capacity of the stakeholders on cross-border policies and regulations of trade and investment - Expedite the speed of and expand the scope of cooperation in trade and investment sector - Search for options to improve the stream of trade and investment finance - Develop a special platform for the GTI Secretariat, member-state governments, financial institutions and business entities to share their ideas and perspectives on execution of priority projects - Arrange space of dialogues between public and private sector - Develop the mechanism in NEA that enables financial support the operation of the projects
	<p>Expected Outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevailing multilateralism and flourishing trade and investment in NEA - Streamlined administrative procedures that promote trade and investment - Thriving economies with sustainability, full of innovations and increased inflow of FDI in NEA

3.3. Tourism

GTI explores means to create a favourable environment for the member states to increase the number of inbound tourists from all over the world. So far, it has been focusing on designing multi-destination tour programmes visiting each spot in the respective member state by maritime transport due to constraints in options for available transportation. The GTI is committed to render the GTR and adjacent countries into an attractive place and therefore to foster cooperation in tourism sectors according to its strategic objectives as follows;

Tourism	Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand programmes that incorporate multi-destination tourism - Renovate and modernise tourist infrastructures and provide better assistance at key tourism spots in the GTR - Streamline the frontier formalities including visa application by collaboration of investigating feasibility of arranging a common visa application process across the member states - Develop tourist programmes that are conducive to preservation and sustainability of environment
	Actions in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperate with GTI member states as well as prefectures of Japan on seashores to promote multi-destination tourism - Harness existing natural sites within GTR as sources of tourists' spots to attract inbound tourists from across the globe - Build environmentally friendly tourism programmes - Make GTI Tourism Board as the platform where member states and stakeholders can coordinate relevant policies on cross-border tourism which would lead to simplification of frontier formalities and other administrative procedures - Develop new ideas to promote tourism business and new products to attract tourists to the region - Launch pilot tourism programmes by collaborating with local and international enterprises in tourism sectors - Initiate capacity building and knowledge-sharing programmes for the personnel engaged in tourism business of GTR - Urge central and local governments to improve infrastructures for tourism and upgrade the level of services provided in accordance with international standards
	Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full of options for consumers to choose out of multi-destination tourism plans that cover a wide area of NEA - Tourism programmes that aim for sustainability and preservation of the environment - GTR becoming a favourable place to visit - Enhanced services and educational level of personnel involved in tourism business

3.4. Energy

GTI is in pursuit of establishing an institutional framework to provide energy sector consultations and discourses at the administrative level for GTI member states. This framework is purported to provide opportunities to member states for exchange of information among governments of GTI member states and private sectors and lay the foundation for mutually beneficial energy sector cooperation within GTR. In addition, GTI stands for the common value that cherishes the global environment and strives to reduce the negative impact of fuel and energy complex organisations' activities on the environment. The

stated objectives, corresponding action plans and expected outcomes are described below;

Energy	Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen coordination of energy related policies and cooperation in the energy sector - Increase investment activity within GTR - Promote exchange of information regarding the energy sector among member states
	Actions in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain the GTI Energy Board as the most effective mechanism for cooperation on coordination of regional energy related policies - Provide capacity building programmes on the energy sector and arrange workshops where the results of joint studies on this topic can be shared - Promote transparency in managing the institutional environment - Provide incentives to create and use environmentally friendly and resource-saving technologies for the production, transportation, storage and use of energy resources
	Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthened regional cooperation in the energy sector - Increased investment activity in the fuel and energy complex within GTR - Ensured energy sector resilience

3.5. Agriculture

GTI is designing coordinated action to switch conventional methodologies to produce cereal crops as well as other agricultural products into sustainable and environmentally friendly ones. In that sense, GTI endeavours to connect rich natural resources, labour forces, and advanced technologies within the region, where applicable. In addition, GTI acknowledges the changes in the magnitude of crop yields and types of agricultural products that are possibly caused by climate change. The adverse effects of global warming are jeopardising the food security across the region by changing the right condition for harvest such as soil, humidity, precipitation and the amount of sunshine. The plan of action is stated as follows;

Agriculture	Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support regional economic prosperity through policy coordination, joint investment and financing in the agricultural sector and trade facilitation for agricultural products - Search for measures to promote trades in agricultural products - Encourage sustainable management practices in agricultural production by exchanging relevant information and promoting advanced farming technologies and innovation - Contribute to food security in GTR, especially by developing means to produce staple crops in a sustainable manner
	Actions in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance cooperation across GTI member states with strategic actions based upon comparative advantages in agricultural production in the region - Maintain GTI Agricultural Committee as the most effective mechanism in coordination of agricultural policies in the region - Examine and execute priority projects with the endorsement of member states and resources from private sectors - Provide advisory services and introduce best practices in agricultural sector to stakeholders

		- Conduct capacity building and training programmes to enhance the competence of the stakeholders
	Expected Outcomes	- Stable supply of agricultural products - Development of trade in agricultural products - Sustainable management of agricultural production - Ensuring food security of GTR

3.6. Environment

The GTI promotes environmental sustainability within GTR by addressing coordinated actions within the region. It seeks further cooperation across the member states to identify and implement appropriate projects that are proposed through the corresponding GTI committee. The proposals in accordance with strategic objectives are subject for establishment of relevant policies for preservation and sustainability of the environment across GTR. The following plans of action, its purposes as well as expected results are stated as follows;

Environment	Objective	- Take coordinated actions that promote preservation and sustainability of regional environment - Take joint response against any adverse effect caused by climate change or other unidentifiable environmental phenomena
	Actions in Plan	- Jointly support and promote efforts to tackle air pollution. - Take coordinated action to cope with effects caused by climate change - Promote and incorporate policy and technology exchange on water management - Promote policy dialogues by coordinating with the GTI Environmental Board - Investigate and operate relevant projects under the guidance of GTI Environmental Board - Incorporate environmental priorities into national and local development plans - Enhance the public awareness and comprehension of the significance of the environmental sustainability - Strengthen the capacity of central and local governments in addressing environmental issues - Evaluate the environmental impacts upon transport, trade and investment, tourism, and energy
	Expected Outcomes	- Mitigated adverse effects caused by climate change - Sustainable environment across the region