OPEN BORDER TOWNS DEVELOPMENT AS AN IMPLEMENTING INSTRUMENT OF CHINESE “GO GLOBAL” STRATEGY (BY THE EXAMPLE OF COOPERATION IN CHINA’S NORTHEAST AND RUSSIA’S SOUTHEAST TRANSBORDER REGION)

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The essence of “New Chinese regionalism” paradigm in modern globalizing processes is to provide regional and international environment favorable for the PRC’s further peaceful harmonious development and sustainable growth. The Chinese regionalism presupposes establishment of Chinese Regional Order, so called Pan-Sinica regional society, by implementing such peaceful means as economic, ideological, political and cultural strategies. One of them is “Chinese “Go Global” Strategy” realized by means of the complex mechanism of international and interregional cooperation and openness to the outside of the world.

Regional forms of influence are based on PRC’s cooperation with neighboring countries. One of the “stimulators” of regional cooperation was “reform and open-up” policy started in 1978 by Communist Party of China and Chinese Government. As a part of the policy in 1992 Chinese Government initiated the program of border town development.

One of the most significant border towns in the context of interregional cooperation between RF and PRC is considered to be Manzhouli (IMAR). The town has received the status of ‘civilized port of nation-wide importance, it has cultural specificity historically connected with Russia. Regional cooperation between RF’s and PRC’ border towns are analyzed in the paper in the context of specificity of the Chinese border regionalism.

Key words: region, regionalization; transborder regionalism; border town; Peoples’ Republic of China (PRC); Russian Federation (RF); PRC Northeast region; RF Southeast region.

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1. Transborder Regions in Conditions of Globalization and Regionalization

The two main tendencies determining modern development and transformation processes in the world are considered to be globalization and regionalization. These tendencies condition transformation processes not only on global (international) level, but also on national (state) and local levels. Various social communities of different levels try to make their development sustainable and secure to avoid negative influence of globalization. In this context region as a new form of social organization began to play the key role in international and national policies.

The consideration of a phenomenon regionalization is closely connected with the understanding of the term region. The term region is one of the most difficult in modern social science. First, it has different spheres of application, from the general ones – an integration of several countries united under a number of attributes, to very concrete – reflecting social community within local territory. Second, depending on approaches it is possible to speak about international, politological, social-philosophical, geographical, historical definitions. Each of specialized definitions points out those aspects of the notion that refer to the tasks of the concrete discipline. To take into account all major characteristics of a region as a phenomena the researchers of general problems of regionalism use synthetic definitions.

Russian scientists usually point out the so-called region-making factors. They are: natural environment, social integrity, common historical origin, common territory, special form of governing, ethnic culture and common mentality, political system and so on. But today special attention is paid to the cultural factor which is considered to be a spiritual basis of the region-construction process (Klimanov V., 2003; Abramov U. 2001).

It is necessary to solve problems of regionalization, of regional development, its tendencies and prospects, taking into account the basis of originality – culture, special outlook. Culture determines special character of a society, its reserves and prospects of development. Therefore while researching transformational problems of regions in conditions of globalization we should pay special attention to specificity of national culture and its values (Murzina S., 2003).

One of the common mechanisms of region-construction process is international and interregional integration and cooperation. Transborder cooperation is one of the forms of interregional cooperation in various spheres, in some cases it leads to the formation of transborder regions including the territory of neighboring states and functioning according to the plan, taking into account interests of each participant. The main purpose of transborder cooperation is the possibility of establishing special conditions, which determine the activity of the subjects in
order to limit or stimulate their development. Transborder cooperation can stimulate economic development of the formerly backward border areas by means of integration processes, culture, labor exchanges and so on.

In the 90's. XX century many research works were devoted to theoretical understanding of numerous results related to the study of new forms of transborder cooperation and transformation of boundaries. Similar problems of Russian science were highlighted in the works of V.A. Kolosov, N.S. Mironenko (2001), P.Y. Baklanov, S.S. Ganzei (2004). Interest in various scientific disciplines to the study of state borders, transborder structures and processes has led to various interpretations of the concepts "transborder region" and "transborder process".

In Western Europe, along with the transborder economic problems political, social and cultural factors of transborder cooperation are investigated, they are regarded as the main reasons of emerging modern transborder regions. Transborder cooperation is characterized by certain features: 1) the focus of the administration of border areas to solve the practical problems of regular interaction, 2) development of cooperation between regional authorities; 3) development of transborder contacts (economic, political, cultural, social, etc.), which lead to strengthen institutional framework for cooperation, 4) transborder interaction is regulated both by governmental and public institutions.

In Western Europe, transborder area is the definite area, which has common geographical border, history, ecology, ethnic groups, similar economic potential etc., but is shared by sovereignty of countries on both sides of the border. The feature of such regions is the intensity of the internal interactions, sometimes even higher than external.

Transborder region is a certain incorporating interacting economic and social system on both sides of the border. Thus a transborder region is not just an economic entity, but socio-economical and socio-cultural system with its own resources for development based on agreed plans. Therefore, according to M. Perkman (2003), it does not matter whether trans-boundary area is a result of cultural or ethnic unity, common historical roots, existing functional interdependence or identical aspirations of the public, the main factor of its creation is public relations. Thus, the unity of transborder region is defined by shared cultural, ethnic or economic elements, but its unity or difference of social relations within the territory will be based on specific historical process of its development.

This approach is widely represented in Western Europe to define integrative type of transborder region. This type is characterized by high economic interde-
pendence, the formation of the united economic space, common controls, the coordinated development policy of transborder regions.

As for the South-eastern borders of Russia, especially along the border with China they are characterized as another type - the transition from semi-linking to linking (based on classification made by V.A. Kolosov and N. Mironenko (2001)). It can be defined as transformational. The main feature is that transborder area is the contact zone of Slavic and East Asian cultures, i.e. cultural and political boundary between the states. Differences in the system of political governance of the country, cultural features, mentality, history, rates of economic development are particularly clear on both sides of the border.

The border between China and Russia now displays linking functions since the interaction is rapidly developing evolving diverse and various spheres. In the political sphere relations between states became closer under principles of strategic partnership. In economic sphere the rapid development of contacts, resource dependence of economies, the rapid expansion of border trade, establishment of special zones can be outlined. Relations between states are framed under interstate agreements that increase the efficiency of interaction between regional authorities, especially in border trade and tourism business. Economic cooperation within border region largely influences social situation in the regions. There are substantial benefits for population; they are new jobs, cheaper food and goods, etc. This type of cooperation serves additional function associated with the local population in border regions.

Obviously, the definition, that characterizes the transborder region in its Western interpretation, does not fit the real situation prevailing on the border areas of the Russian South-East. Russian scientists define “transborder region” as “the area that covers parts of two or more neighboring countries of socio-economic system with its specific resettlement, employment, infrastructure features, historic, ethnic and cultural traditions”. Thus, typically transborder region is primarily characterized as a socio-economic system. But it would be better to interpret the term as a complex socio-economic and socio-cultural system, composed of such elements as territorial organization, reproduction process, resource potential and socio-cultural environment of the region (Abramov, Abramova, 2007).

The functioning of transborder region is inextricably bound to the phenomenon of "border" culture. "Border" culture is a multiethnic entity that has been developing over many centuries and even millennia as a result of symbiosis - the synthesis of not only closely related, but different cultures. It is a cultural space historically formed on the borders between Christian, Islamic, Buddhist civilizations and includes, in various combinations, many of their elements. Sociocultural environment of transborder region is the area of interpenetration of the cultures.
It forms cultural integrity, able to assimilate various elements of neighboring cultures without destroying them, and identifying potential points of growth.

2. Chinese Border Regionalism. The Role of Open Border Towns in Chinese Transborder Subregions

The essence of “New Chinese regionalism” paradigm in modern globalizing processes is to provide regional and international environment favorable for the PRC’s further peaceful harmonious development and sustainable growth.

The Chinese regionalism presupposes establishment of Chinese Regional Order, so called Pan-Sinica regional society, by implementing such peaceful means as economic, ideological, political and cultural strategies. One of them is “Chinese “Go Global” Strategy” (zhōuchūqū) realized by means of the complex mechanism of international and interregional cooperation and openness to the outside of the world.

“Go Global” Strategy” is the PRC's current strategy to encourage its enterprises to invest overseas. Most nations favour actively attracting inward foreign investment, and would only support outward foreign investment passively. The People’s Republic of China, however, attaches importance to both inward and outward foreign investment. And its strategy for emphasising outward foreign investment is known as “Go Global”.

There are three reasons to justify that emphasis. First, the People's Republic of China has amassed huge amounts of foreign reserves, thus putting upward pressure on the foreign exchange rate of the Chinese currency. Indeed, there have been much demand from the international community for the PRC to float its currency. In order to deflate that demand, the PRC therefore actively seeks to employ its foreign reserves by acquiring assets overseas. Second, the PRC is opening up the domestic market in mainland China as a result of its open door policy, which is further accelerated by its commitments when entering the World Trade Organization. Therefore, the PRC can foresee that world class competitors are now competing for business in the Chinese market, and so the PRC is seeking to equip the domestic firms and their management with international experience so that they can take the competition to the home markets of the foreign nations and so that they can compete better at mainland China’s own domestic market. Third, it is a matter of national pride that the PRC should have world class enterprises.

Chinese “Go Global Strategy” was an effort initiated in 1999 by the Chinese government to promote Chinese investments abroad; to attract inward foreign investment and get an access to world recourses. The Government, together with
the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), has introduced several schemes to assist domestic companies and regions in developing a global strategy to exploit opportunities in the expanding local and international markets.

The programs launched by the Chinese Government have these five key goals: 1) increase Chinese Direct Foreign Investment (FDI); 2) pursue product diversification; 3) improve the level and quality of the projects; 4) expand financial channels with respect to the national market; 5) promote of Chinese companies in world markets.

Nowadays the aims and instruments of the Chinese “Go Global” Strategy has been broadened, and include not only economical, but also political, diplomatic, ideological and cultural mechanisms of Chinese regional policy.

Regional forms of influence are based on PRC’s cooperation with neighboring countries. One of the “stimulators” of regional cooperation was “reform and open-up” policy started in 1978 by Communist Party of China and Chinese Government.

*Chinese transborder regionalism* is characterized by implementation of various forms of transborder cooperation constructed under “reform and open-up” policy by means of “Go Global” Strategy, economical and cultural corridor building, Chinese urban development and so on.

Chinese urban development provides understanding why and how some regions and cities develop with little or no impact of or connectivity to globalization. China has the largest number of cities of different sizes and developmental stages located in geographically and economically diverse regions with uneven physical access to the outside world. Second, while Chinese cities experienced relatively limited change over a long history, they have become considerably more differentiated in growth, functional influence, and international links across regions over the last two decades. Major cities along China’s ‘golden coast’ have boomed, whereas a number of interior or remote border cities have mired in underdevelopment. Even within the prosperous coastal belt, early developers like Shenzhen and other cities in Guangdong and Fujian provinces, which were fairly small and marginal in the past, have raced ahead of the more established port cities like Shanghai and Tianjin, which have since picked up pace and regained their earlier glory (Chen 1998). This sequence and pattern of growing interlocal differentiation stems primarily from the state’s policies of targeting and favoring sets of cities in different regions for fast and focused growth in a staged and incremental fashion (Chen Xiangming. 2006).
This powerful policy regime is only one component of a broader mix of explanatory factors that have contributed to the uneven development of Chinese cities across regions. However, much of the literature has focused on the prosperous Pearl River Delta in Guangdong province by emphasizing the powerful driving force of overseas Chinese investment behind rapid growth and global integration (Hsing 1998, Lin 1997). This neglect of Chinese cities in remote border regions as opposed to near the coastal boundary may have contributed to a narrow and perhaps inflated view that global capital has simply responded to the favorable state policies for and advantaged geographic locations of coastal cities and brought about their rapid growth (Chen Xiangming. 2006).

By not giving sufficient attention to China’s border regions and cities, researches have missed out on the question of if and how foreign investors have reacted to cities of less attractive locations under equally favorable but delayed state policies to stimulate their catch-up. In addition, researches have missed a chance to look at whether and how intra-regional- or trans-local-level conditions unique to border regions may severely limit the local impact of the global economy (Chen Xiangming. 2006).

As a part of “reform and open-up” policy in 1992 Chinese Government initiated the program of border towns development. As a result 14 Chinese towns received the status of open border towns and became the centers of 14 border economic cooperation zones. They are mainly located in land border ports with Russia, Kazakhstan, Korea, Vietnam and Burma.

The program focused on an integrated approach within potentially specific economic (later even on cultural) corridors, to encourage investment in trade, production, tourism, transportation network and other services as well as to solve main socio-economical problems of the border territories. Moreover, regional border corridor provides great opportunity to build closer socio-economic and intercultural relations within transborder regions.

The most colorful examples of Chinese border cities development within transborder regions are the Greater Tumen Subregion (GTS) in Northeast Asia and the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) on mainland Southeast Asia (Chen Xiangming, 2005).

The Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) (originally known as the Tumen River Area Development Programme (TRADP), is an intergovernmental cooperation mechanism in North-East Asia, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with a membership of four countries: People’s Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Russian Federation.
As a result of the Programme the border city of Hunchun, Jilin province (China) has emerged as an important frontier center in the region due to its favorable location. Centrally situated at the trilateral borders of China, North Korea, and the RF. Hunchun has the closest and most convenient access to the railroad and road terminuses near the North Korean and RF borders and through them to all major North Korean and RF ports. Hunchun had a long history as a frontier center for trade with Japan, Korea, and Russia. This prosperous ocean trade ended in 1938 when Japan unilaterally imposed a blockade on shipping on the Tumen River from Hunchun to the Sea of Japan.

In 1988, Hunchun was administratively upgraded from a county to a municipality and allowed by Jilin province to build a special economic zone (SEZ). Following the onset of the United Nations Development Programme–sponsored Tumen River development in 1992, Hunchun was chosen by the central government to be among the first group of officially designated open border cities and allowed to set up China’s first Border Economic Cooperation Zone (BECZ). Bounded for 88 square kilometer and planned for 24 square kilometer, the Hunchun BECZ received infrastructure investment totaling US 150 million dollars from the state. In April 2000, the national government approved the establishment of the Hunchun Export Processing Zone (HEPZ), one of only 15 in China. In February 2001, the national government approved the Hunchun China–Russia Free Market and Trade Zone, with the construction of a huge indoor market hall. The zone offered financial incentives and procedural conveniences including visa-free entry for Russian traders and duty-free exodus of Russian goods taken out of the zone by Chinese traders.

Hunchun has been trying to reach out to the global economy from a geopolitically important but politically unstable and economically underdeveloped part of Asia. While Hunchun has done better than its North Korean and Russian counterparts across the borders, it has not created very beneficial local–global economic links. One disadvantage is its concentration of extractive industries in the GTS as natural and mineral resources for extraction are fixed in space and physical isolation (Bunker 1989). The major barrier to creating global–local economic links for Hunchun and other Chinese border cities in the GTS is the lack of economic complement. This barrier is difficult to overcome because the GTS consists of the poorer and more peripheral regions and cities of three countries. It has severely limited the type and scale of foreign manufacturing investment that has turned out competitive exports from cities in southeastern China (Chen Xiangming, 2006).

The Greater Mekong Subregional Economic Zone (GMS) (2004), so-called "hexagonal economic cooperation", was initiated by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 1992. According to the subregional economic zone concept, the GMS is
categorized into a type of “joint development of natural resources and infrastructure”. It began under the concept of cooperation in the subset of the countries that the Mekong River flows past: Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China.

Sino-Thai strategic economic development within the GMS is viewed as the essential element to promote the GMS North-South economic corridor. Significantly, the attempt by China and Thailand to materialize various GMS projects relates directly to their national economic strategies to propel economic growth and raise the people's standard of living in the frontier areas along the Mekong basin.

China's economic strategy towards the Mekong Subregion in fact was formulated formally in 1984 when China allowed the 27 border districts of Yunnan province to be trading points with her neighbours before the GMS was established. This economic strategy was the result of Chinese economic reform and an open door policy started in 1978 under the leadership of Dang Xiaoping. This was the beginning of China's policy of building economic ties with mainland Southeast.

In addition, promotion of GMS cooperation has coincided with China's present western regional development plan, a major national strategy started formally in 2000. Meanwhile, it is an effective mechanism to distribute income to the remote areas, particularly the border towns. It is obvious that China perceives the benefits of promoting the GMS for her national and provincial economic strategy.

**China's Border Town Development Strategy.** The Yunnan border connects with Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam for a distance of 4,007 kilometers. This area has played a significant role in border trade and foreign investment. The 1984 decision to allow the 27 border districts to establish trade relations with their neighbours was followed by the approval, later that year, of "provisional regulations for the management of 'small volume' border trade", which practically gave full autonomy to local governments to conduct small-volume border trade. (8) Since 1992, there have been 17 border towns ("Kou an" in Chinese) and 92 outlets established in Yunnan province. These border towns were categorized into two types, national level border towns and provincial level border towns.

The national level border towns include: Kunming, Ruili (near Myanmar), Wanding (near Myanmar), Hekou (near Vietnam), Mengla (near Laos). The provincial level border towns are: Daluo, Pianma, Tengchong, Yingjiang, Simao, Jinghong or Chiang Roong (Xishuangbanna), Zhangfeng, Nansan, Menglian, Mangding, Jinshuuihe, Malipo (Sino-Thai strategcial..., 2004).
Overall, the GMS offers an opportunity to promote Yunnan as a gateway for Southwestern China. Meanwhile, it may prove to be an effective mechanism to distribute income to China's remote areas, particularly the border towns. It is obvious that China realizes the potential to accrue substantial benefits for its national and provincial economic strategy if GMS projects are completed.

If to compare transborder cooperation development of the Chinese Southwest region and the Northeast region with the development of the Chinese Western open zones we can see that the last model resulted in more effective and beneficial policy for the country's economy. It depends on various factors such as geographical location, climatic and natural conditions, natural and financial resources, affiliation to sea transport corridors and so on.

3. Open Border Towns Development in Chinese Northeast and Russian Federation Southeast Transborder Region. Manzhouli as a Border Town

In general, borders have served to separate people from others, but sometimes borders have also engendered cooperation. From a governmental standpoint, trans-border co-operation symbolizes peace and close relationships between two states, even possibly between two former enemies. Cooperation can boost economic development and overcome problems of peripheral location, particularly at the regional and local (or urban) levels. Problems of peripherality have often arisen when new borderlines were drawn, thus cutting traditional cooperative networks. Border cities that are located within adjacent states may produce various kinds of cooperative networks. There are two main types of border cities. First, the “paired border cities” are two border towns located in neighboring countries in close proximity to one another, with an international border separating them. Their relationships can range from neutral to competitive. Second, “Twin Cities” refer to two cross-border towns that are in close cooperation. Twin Cities can comprehend two cities whose relationships are characterized by close physical and functional proximity as well as clearly-defined similarities in administration, education, sense of identity and economic functions. In general, the forms and frequency of border city cooperation vary according to the historical evolution of cities, as well as their socio-economic and political positions in relation to other parts of the country (Kosonen R., Xu Feng, Kettunen E., 2006).

In academic research, paired border cities have received considerably less attention than the broader border region cooperation. Most research on border cities has focused on case studies in Europe, while the Chinese border cities have gained less attention. Most of the existing research is focused on the macro perspective, such as border cities as a system, or political relationships of border
towns. Studies emphasizing the micro perspective have been related to cultural communication. In general, regional development is connected to the functional interactions of border cities (Wang and Zhang, 2005). One example is the border area between China and Russia, where cultural interactions and communication are essential in the construction of a paired border city (Yang, 2004). Recent research also includes the work of Du et al (2005) who discussed the constructing of urban systems in border areas in the Xinjiang region. Another limitation is the diverse government institutions and business practices, where the Chinese complex business systems appear as a challenge for foreign actors, which affects cross-border interactions.

The Chinese Northeast region has a 4,325 km borderline with the Russian Southeast, the Chinese side itself having 2 provinces (Heilongjiang, Jilin) and 1 autonomous region (Inner Mongolia) with various ethnic minorities. In China, the generation of cross-border urban networking is a result of political reforms which were initially launched in the eastern coastline in 1978 with the intention to attract export-oriented manufacturing investments, and that were gradually expanded to hinterlands with various industrial bases. The overall aim was to improve national security and economic stabilization, and to balance the disparities between the flourishing coastal China and other parts of the country with considerable local poverty. The Chinese government deepened these reforms in the early 1990s when some border cities were opened with the intention to develop local border trade, prompt economic cooperation, and to enhance cross-border investments, flows of technology, and cooperation in labor issues. Cooperation in border regions was supported by a tax bonus policy. The open border policy was enlarged along with globalization and regional economic unification. The new policy is largely based on enhancing the transport sector, border trade, export manufacturing and cultural interaction.

The Chinese Northeast Border cities were given the mission to enhance regional prosperity with their neighboring border cities, supported by the revitalization strategy of the Northeast China’s old industrial bases in 2002. Based on these, border cities now enjoy more support from the regional level, and have been given a role of social and economic centers in China’s global strategy.

For this study, three pairs of cities along the Chinese Northeastern border with Russian Sotheast are of key importance. They are Haihe (Heilongjiang, China) – Blagoveschensk (Amur region, Russia); Suifenhe (Heilongjiang, China) – Khabarovsk (Khabarovskiy region, Russia); Hunchun (Jilin, China) – Vladivostok (Premorskiy region, Russia); and Manzhouli (Inner Mongolia, China) – Chita (Trasbaikalian region, Russia) selected as research object of the paper. Academic researches devoted to the cooperation between the paired border towns usually
focused on economical approaches while cultural cooperation have gained less attention.

Cross-border location of the Chinese North-eastern region conditioned unique features of its cultural policy. The aims are: 1) to raise the level of cultural development of the backward border regions that are of strategic importance to strengthening relations with neighboring countries; 2) to implement the National program of building cross-border cultural corridor (CCC) (Ryabchenko O.N., 2007), basing on the experience of South-West China. In 1980s South-West regions faced the problem of negative influence of rapid development of foreign trade on local moral climate. Restrictive measures were not enough to solve this problem; the development of cultural sphere was needed. Under the circumstances, in 1985 local government of Jinzhou county, Guangxi province, initiated the idea of building the border "cultural corridor". In 1990 the Guangxi government officially announced the establishment of "Border cultural corridor" that covered seven counties and cities along the main roads near the border.

After successful experiment of Guangxi Province, in 1992 Chinese Ministry of Culture, together with other ministries and departments worked out the project of construction of "Border cultural corridor of 10 thousand li² long". The project included the territory of 9 provinces and autonomous districts, the total length is 22,000 km. Basically, these were areas of old industrial bases of the Northeast, places of residence of national minorities, as well as mountainous and frontier territories, becoming strategically important in the context of “reform and open-up” policy. In 1994, 20 central departments, including the PRC Ministry of Culture, the Publicity Department of CPC Central Committee, State Statistics Committee, confirmed the General Plan of building Chinese Cultural Corridor of border area of 10 thousand li long. The main objectives of the construction of the CCC were declared cultural propaganda, the development of trade and economic activities, tourism, and promotion of national defense. The program of building CCC is to be financed by local budgets with the state funds having supportive role. Each border region must find its own path of building cultural corridor, and must form the capillary system.

In 1994 the project extended to coastal areas, the total length of the corridor, including coastal areas and islands, was 39,000 km (People’s Daily. 2002. 26 Sept.).

² Li is Chinese measure of length (= 0.5 km) The expression "10 thousand li" in this case has symbolic meaning as a symbol of something grand. In China people traditionally believe that the length of the Great Wall is 10 thousand li.
Chinese North-East “Cultural Corridor” included bordering territories of three provinces - Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning.

The border line of Jilin Province, which separates China from Russia and Korea, lies along the Tumen and Yalu rivers. So in 1993 there was approved “The plan of building cross-border cultural corridor of the two rivers”.

Its main task is to create the united trade-economic, cultural and tourist belt of openness to the rest of the world. The total length of the corridor is over 1,400 km. The territory along the border of Jilin Province includes 1 autonomous region, 2 cities, 9 counties, 43 villages and townships, 13 open border ports. The plan involves the reconstruction of the old and establishment of the new cultural institutions, including more than 20 cultural and recreational centers by the end of XX century. Successful implementation of the project and sufficient investment are aimed to improved the situation of the border region. Provincial, local and state authorities invested more than 6.5 million yuan in the development of the cultural programme of Tumen River. In 17 villages six cultural centers with a total area of 7,600 square meters were built, Yalu River five cultural centers were built and 11 ones were renovated with the total area of 12,000 square meters. 9.3 million yuan were invested.

"Cultural Corridor” of Liaoning Province covers 26 counties of six cities - Dalian, Dandong, Jinzhou, Yingkou, Panjin, Huludao, it also includes 333 villages and 8 towns. The main accent in the construction of this "corridor" is done on the development of culture of coastal areas and areas of the residence of national minorities. In recent years, the administration of border cities increased investment in the construction of the corridor. Dalian authorities have invested more than 50 million yuan into renovation and development of libraries, built children's libraries of more than 6,000 square meters. In Dalian, Pantszine, Jinzhou, Yingkou libraries were equipped with computers.

In Heilongjiang Province building of Cross-border cultural corridor started in 1993, after the meeting of the Ministry of Culture devoted to “cross-border cultural corridor” was held here. They decided to approve the plan of CCC construction in virgin areas and defined the priorities: development of mass culture, formation of cultural market, creation of special creative teams and development of publishing. The implementation of this plan in 1996 resulted in about 200 clubs and cultural centers, 578 centers for scientific and cultural activities and the 764 center for creative activity, 90 playgrounds, 36 rural parks for workers and employees. The 110 library contained more than 2.6 million copies of printed materials.

Investments are also aimed at creating cultural centers for the elderly cadres, employees of virgin areas for the construction of recreational centers, plazas and parks. At first 1917 television transmitters, 360 ground stations to receive satellite
television were built. In addition, exchange of experience between leading agricultural enterprises that have achieved success in cultural sphere was initiated.

Under central and provincial governments in Heilongjiang Province there were created special funds to reform the cultural sphere and build “cultural corridor”. The reason is that the province has enormous length of the border area. In the process of CCC construction different organizations, including agricultural enterprises were involved. Particular attention is paid to the development of culture in military garrisons, squads and border posts.

In Heilongjiang province they stressed the intensive study of the culture of neighboring countries - Russia, Korea, Mongolia and Japan. In the province Russian television and radio program, magazines were established. As a part of CCC program Heilongjiang authorities initiated the project “one line – two belts”. They plan to establish “cultural boundary line of 10 thousand li” there; to build a "model industrial zone of Harbin – Daqing – Qiqihar" and cultural belt of landscape tourism, including lakes Khanka – Jinbohu – Yabulu – Jinyuan; to use “the city of border crossings” and villages, and townships along the border to create a spiritual civilization.

Formation of the PCC in China has already given the first positive results, and the state government plans to continue this program. At the beginning of the XXI Century Ministry of Culture, together with other agencies approved "Construction Plan of the Chinese “cultural corridor of border territories of 10 thousand li long” (2001-2010)". According to the plan libraries, culture rooms, equipped to modern standards should be established in every village or rural area; farmers should be able to participate in cultural life. In remote areas automobile cultural groups must operate, it is necessary to pay serious attention to the development of sport and continue to improve the quality of cultural life of the masses.

In future, the leaders of China have set a target to improve the image of Northeast China as a cultural border region, so development of culture becomes the priority. Convincing evidence of the progress made in border regions has become flowering of the cities Heihe, Suifenhe, Hunchun Cities located on the territory of 460 square meters. Population is 150,000 people. Now cities are considered to be one of the most developed in the CCC. The Party committee and government of Heilongjiang took the initiative to turn it into a "Northern Shenzhen" (People's Daily. 2002. Nov. 8).

It is possible to classify the factors forming the phenomenon of intercultural identity in the region of the transborder area. They are: geopolitical location, the system of universal values, similarity of traditional ethnic cultures and so on. The negative factors are: non-uniformity of political development of the countries of
the region, nationalism, weak knowledge of the population of both countries about neighbor cultures.

Objective factors promoting development of transborder intercultural relations between Transbaikalian region and Inner Mongolia are the following: geopolitical location, resource potential, favorable transport circuits. Chinese researchers consider that ethnic-cultural resources of Internal Mongolia are ‘cultural capital’ for development of this region (Li Pin, 2008).

One of the most significant cities of Inner Mongolia in the context of the transborder international cooperation is considered to be Manzhouli City including Hulunbuer region. The city has received the status of ‘civilized port of nation-wide importance’; it has cultural specificity historically connected with Russia. Therefore Chinese government decided to create especial style of Russian-Chinese cultural relations here on the basis of preservation and development of traditional culture. In Manzhouli they develop tourism branch with attraction of resources of national culture.

Manzhouli is the largest land port city on the Sino-Russia border, transit cargo through the land port amounted to 5.95 million tons, transit tourists were 304 500 in 2000. It stands at the joint place of China, Mongolia and Russia, faces to Siberia area of Russia, receives direct support from the Northeast China and Bohai Sea Rim Area, and possesses priorities in geographical location, land port infrastructure, water resources, coal resources, tourist resources and great potentiality in economic cooperation with Russia. The future urban function is a key port on the First Eurasia Continental Bridge. Manzhouli Port will keep its first place between China and Russia land transport, and it is forecasted that the transit amount through Manzhouli Port will go up to 10 million tons in 2005 and 20 million tons in 2010. It will be constructed to be a trade center of the peripheral area extending to Russia and Mongolia, a key export-oriented processing industrial zone supported by industries such as export processing industries, export agriculture, trade services, technology trading and the other service industries. It keeps being a well-known touring city for trade, shopping, sightseeing, vacation, local food, recreation and cultural events. To build Manzhouli Export Processing Industry Zone will improve city economic structure, and the main sectors are organic food processing, livestock products processing, garment and furniture industry. Moreover, Manzhouli Export Processing Industry Zone will eventually be upgraded to be a border free trade zone. The city functional transition will inevitably affect urban spatial restructure and its expansion. The city space transformation will develop as such: one development axis of No. 301 highway paralleling with Bin - Zhou (Harbin - Manzhouli) railway which cuts through central part of Manzhouli City, and links Zhalainuoer District with central city; three urban units including central city, Zhalainuoer District and...
Manzhouli Interchange Trade Zone; cohesion with Aoerjin and Cuogang pastures; regional dual-nuclei structure of Hailaer City and Manzhouli City; and the Manzhouli-Zabaykalsk Free Trade Zone (Zhang Pingyu, Ma Yanji, Yu Zhenhan, 2002).

As for the Russian Southeastern border areas, the weakening of the economic and cultural links in the “center-periphery” system, the erosion of the essence of regional identity led to a divergence in determining priorities of interregional and transborder cooperation, consequently the weakening of their role and participation in transborder regional construction.

The actual configuration of transborder regional economical and socio-cultural space depends largely on the effective policy that can improve socio-economic development of the Southeast Russian border regions; provide civilization and cultural dialogue through the establishment of ‘transborder corridor of promoting Russian culture’.

4. Bibliography


