

Chapter 32 Further Implementing the Coordinated Regional Development Strategy

We will promote large-scale development in the western region, the full revitalization of northeastern China, the rise of the central region, and trailblazing development in the eastern region, and support faster development in regions with unique features, to promote a relative balance in the development of different regions.

Section 1

Ushering In a New Vista in the Large-Scale Development of the Western Region

We will take more robust measures to advance large-scale development in the western region based on more targeted and effective policies. We will continue to implement a number of major ecological projects and take a comprehensive approach to improving the environment of key areas. The western region will integrate its development with the Belt and Road Initiative by stepping up the construction of major corridors for opening up and building tiered inland platforms for opening up. We will boost investment in regional infrastructure, encourage the development of businesses with local strengths, and work to consolidate the achievements of poverty alleviation and improve weak links in education, medical and health services, and other areas related to people's wellbeing. We will advance the development of the Chengdu-Chongqing Economic Belt, promoting it as an important economic and technological innovation center with nationwide influence, a new base for reform and opening up, and a highly livable

environment with excellent standards of living. We will work to develop city clusters in the Guanzhong Plains region and promote cooperation and interaction between the northwestern and southwestern regions. We will support Xinjiang in building large bases for producing, processing, and storing oil and gas, for producing coal, coal power, and coal chemicals, and for generating wind power as well as a major land-based corridor for transporting energy and resources. Tibet will also receive support to develop as a major channel for opening up to South Asia. The protection and development of the area west of the 400 mm annual precipitation line will be promoted.

Section 2

Promoting Breakthroughs in the Revitalization of Northeastern China

Based on the strategic priorities of safeguarding national defense and ensuring food, ecological, energy, and industrial security, we will strengthen policy coordination and strive for key breakthroughs in the region's development. We will speed up the transformation of government functions, deepen the reform of state-owned enterprises, improve the business environment, and vigorously develop the private sector. We will develop the Liaoning coastal economic zone and the Changchun-Jilin-Tumenjiang pilot zone for development and opening up, and steps will be taken to enhance the levels of cooperation and openness between Harbin and Russia. We will accelerate the development of modern agriculture in the region, making it the cornerstone of China's food security. We will strengthen the protection of ecological resources and build strong ecological security barriers in the northern border areas of the country. We will transform and upgrade the equipment manufacturing industry and other traditionally strong industries in the Northeast. We will also foster emerging industries, vigorously develop

winter tourism, ecological tourism, and other distinctive local industries, and build an internationally recognized winter tourist belt. All this will help create a new industrial structure that facilitates balanced development and lead to new competitive advantages. We will roll out more attractive measures for drawing in talent and deepen cooperative partnerships with the eastern region.

Section 3

Opening a New Phase in the Rise of the Central Region

To accelerate the rise of the central region, we will work to build important bases for advanced manufacturing, enhance innovation capabilities in key fields, foster pacesetters for opening up in inland areas, and strengthen efforts to boost green development. We will make advanced manufacturing industries stronger and larger, and foster clusters of mid- and high-end industries along the Yangtze River and the Beijing-Guangzhou, Lanzhou-Lianyungang, and Beijing-Kowloon railways, while also encouraging the allocation and transfer of emerging industries to the region. We will drive the coordinated development of city clusters along the middle reaches of the Yangtze River and accelerate the development of the metropolitan areas of Wuhan and Changsha-Zhuzhou-Xiangtan to turn them into major national growth poles. We will strengthen the foundations for grain production, continue increasing the overall returns and competitiveness of agriculture, and accelerate the development of modern agriculture. We will devote coordinated efforts to environmental protection and restoration and work hard to build ecological security barriers. Steps will be taken to support the joint development of the upper and lower sections of the eco-economic belts along the Huai and Han rivers. We will accelerate the development of corridors and high-standard platforms for opening up in inland areas. We will strengthen public service guarantees,

and in particular, raise the ability to respond to public health emergencies and other major emergencies.

Section 4

Encouraging the Eastern Region to Accelerate Modernization

Giving play to the advantages derived from the pooling of innovation factors, we will see that the eastern region makes faster breakthroughs in its role of leading innovation and encourage it to set the pace in high-quality development. We will encourage the eastern region to foster world-class advanced manufacturing clusters, lead the development of emerging industries and modern services, improve the output efficiency of production factors, and lead the way in upgrading industries. The eastern region will take part in international economic cooperation and competition at a higher level, carve out new advantages for opening up, and take the lead in establishing an all-round open economy. We will develop Shenzhen into a pilot demonstration area for socialism with Chinese characteristics, the Pudong New Area into a leading area in socialist modernization, and Zhejiang into a demonstration area for achieving high-quality development and common prosperity. We will also intensify efforts to build a comprehensive experimental zone for replacing old growth drivers with new ones in Shandong.

Section 5

Supporting the Development of Special Regions

We will adopt a coordinated approach to revitalizing old revolutionary base areas, developing businesses on the basis of local strengths so as to keep alive and carry forward China's revolutionary culture. We will support demonstrations of high-quality development in the former Central

Soviet Area across Jiangxi, Fujian, and Guangdong, and intensify green and innovative development in old revolutionary base areas such as the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region, the Dabie Mountains region, the Zuo and You rivers region, the Sichuan-Shaanxi Base Area, and the Yimeng Mountains region. We will take comprehensive measures to address ecological degradation, protect and restore ecologically fragile areas, and support the construction of the Bijie pilot area in Guizhou Province. We will develop demonstration zones for sustainable development and pilot zones for transformation and innovation in resource-dependent areas, and put in place programs for comprehensively improving areas affected by land subsidence due to coal mining and for transforming and upgrading independent industrial and mining areas. We will help the manufacturing sector in old industrial regions reestablish competitive advantages and set up demonstration zones for industrial transformation and upgrading. Infrastructures in state forestry farms and areas will be improved. A variety of measures will be taken to solve the difficulties people in high-altitude regions face in their work and daily lives. We will also intensify efforts to boost the development of border areas, raise living standards there, promote and consolidate stability in these areas, and improve their working and living conditions. We will improve the urban systems in border areas, support the development of border ports, accelerate the construction of border villages, towns and routes, promote innovative development of border trade, and provide greater targeted support for boosting key border areas.

Box 12
Development of Border Areas

01 Border cities and towns

- Improve the functions of border cities and towns;
- Focus on enhancing the carrying capacity of Manzhouli, Kuandian, Hunchun, Suifenhe, Dongxing, Tengchong, Mainling, Tacheng, and Cocodala.

02 Border villages

- Improve the infrastructure and public service facilities of border villages;
- Build about 200 new border villages;
- Provide border villages with full access to roads, electric power, communications, postal services, and radio and television.

03 Border highways

- Construct Ji'an-Huanren, Hunchun-Quanhe, Lushui-Tengchong, Medog-Zayu-(Yunnan-Tibet) Border, Qinghe-Fuyun-Altay, Bulunkou-Khunjerab, Barkol-Laoyemiao, Erenhot-Saihantala, and other highways.

04 Border airports

- Build Taxkorgan Airport, Longzi Airport, and Suifenhe Airport;
- Relocate the Yanji Chaoyangchuan International Airport;
- Construct about 20 general-purpose airports in border areas.

05 Border ports

- Construct Lizi, Heihe, Tongjiang, and Heixiazi Island ports;
- Upgrade Jilong, Zhangmu, Mohan, Horgos, Alataw Pass, Manzhouli, Erenhot, Ruili, Youyiguan, Khunjerab, Ganqimaodu, Qeh, Turugart and Irkeshtam ports.

Section 6

Improving the Institutions and Mechanisms for Promoting Regional Coordinated Development

We will set up sound mechanisms for regional strategy coordination, market integration, regional cooperation and mutual assistance, and inter-regional compensation. This will enable us to better promote common development among developed and less-developed regions and between the eastern, central, western, and northeastern regions. We will enhance the depth and quality of regional cooperation, and encourage regions that straddle provincial borders to explore and establish new mechanisms for realizing unified planning and management, cooperation, joint development, and shared benefits. We will improve the fiscal transfer payment mechanism for supporting less-developed regions, gradually work toward equal access

to basic public services, and encourage flows of personnel to the western region and remote areas with challenging conditions. We will improve the mechanisms for promoting regional cooperation and balancing interests and support diverse forms of compensation between the upper and lower reaches of river basins, between main grain-producing and grain-consuming areas, and between areas that send out resources and those that take them in. We will also encourage explorations of benefit-sharing models such as joint development zones and “enclave economies.” We will strengthen the sense of community for the Chinese nation, increase support for development in areas with large ethnic minority populations, launch initiatives to raise public awareness of ethnic unity and progress in a comprehensive, thorough, and consistent way, and promote exchanges and interactions between different ethnic groups.