

New Changes of Northeast Asia Regional Cooperation and Chances and Challenges of Multilateral Environmental Cooperation

Zhigang Da

Institute of Northeast Asian Studies, Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, No.501 Youyi Road, Daoli District, Harbin City, Heilongjiang Province, 150018 China, dazhigang01@126.com

Abstract

Northeast Asia regional cooperation now faces many challenges and risks: bilateral and multilateral entanglements concerning sovereignty and sea power between China and Japan, Japan and South Korea, Japan and North Korea, Japan and Russia; geopolitical security risks brought by the recurrent North Korea nuclear issue; as well as the extraterritorial intervention. At the same time, as one of the world's three largest economies, Northeast Asia's realistic basis and potential in cooperation has also brought about many chances: promoting China-Japan-South Korea FTA Negotiations as multilateral cooperation motivation; deepening interoperable cross-border cooperation as mutual benefit new model; accelerating multilateral environmental protection cooperation as a new breakthrough; strengthening cross-border tourism cooperation as new carrier that accelerate the integration process; implementing the internationalization of local areas as new means to ease tensions. Among the above-mentioned new changes and trend of regional cooperation patterns, a multilateral cooperation that enhances mutual trust, deepens understanding, innovates cooperation, promotes win-win multilateral cooperation in the field of environmental protection is likely to become the valid path that leads to a breakthrough of Northeast Asia multilateral cooperation.