

Thoughts on Jinan's Establishment of the National Central City of China's Yellow River Basin

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Abstract: The national central city is not a single existence, and it must be based on the national-level urban agglomeration. At the same time, it must have superior geographical advantages and rich natural resources as the basis for development. Urban agglomeration promotes national central cities; on the contrary, national central cities can also drive the common development of urban agglomerations. During the National People's Congress and National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference this year, Jinan Municipal Government proposed to create a national central city in the Yellow River Basin as the development goal. In this article, the measures taken by Jinan Municipal Government to create the national central city of the Yellow River Basin are put forward, and the impact of the surrounding urban agglomeration on the development of Jinan is pointed out. Meanwhile, the opportunities and challenges that Jinan will bring to the surrounding urban agglomeration by establishing the national central city are elaborated.

Keywords: Yellow River Basin; National Central City; Urban Agglomeration; Opportunities and Challenges

1. Introduction

The Yellow River is the mother river of China. From ancient times to the present, the Chinese nation and the Yellow River are closely linked, and each city also depends on the convenience brought by the Yellow River to grow and become stronger continuously. In September 2019, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the symposium on ecological protection and high-quality development of the Yellow River Basin that the ecological protection and high-quality development of the Yellow River Basin are as important as the coordinated development of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei, the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt, the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta. The Yellow River Basin is an important ecolog-

ical barrier and economic zone in China, and plays an important role in China's economic and social development and ecological security.

On May 12, 2020, Sun Shutao, mayor of Jinan City, put forward in the Government Work Report at the People's Congress of Jinan City. Based on the development status of the central cities in the Yellow River Basin, Sun Shutao pointed out that we will strengthen cooperation with cities along the Yellow River in the fields of infrastructure, industrial development and ecological protection to lead and drive the high-quality development of the Yellow River Basin. Jinan Municipal Government establishes a national central city, and its development direction should be based on the Yellow River Basin and develop cross-river integration, which is based on the national strategy of ecological protection and high-

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quality development of the Yellow River Basin. Therefore, the long-term development of Jinan must be closely linked with the urban agglomeration in the Yellow River Basin.

2. Central urban agglomeration and its development path in the Yellow River Basin

It is necessary to rely on the promotion of the development of urban agglomerations in order to achieve rapid development of a national central city. At the important meeting of the national strategy for ecological protection and high-quality development of the Yellow River Basin put forward in 2019, it was emphasized that the construction of such central cities as Zhengzhou, Xi'an, Jinan and other central cities as the central plains should be accelerated. Therefore, Jinan Municipal Government must rely on the surrounding central city group of the Yellow River Basin to create the national central city of the Yellow River Basin.

The central cities of the Yellow River Basin mainly include provincial capitals and city specifically designated in the state plan, including Xining, Lanzhou, Yinchuan, Hohhot, Xi'an, Taiyuan, Zhengzhou, Qingdao and Jinan. There are not only coastal developed cities, but also cultural cities with deep history, and underdeveloped cities with low economic and population carrying capacity. The development quality of the central cities in the east of the Yellow River Basin is higher than that of the midwestern cities. The differences in social and ecological results of urban development are the main reasons for the differentiation of urban development quality.

The national central city of the Yellow River Basin is not a concept at the national level instead of the regional level. As the leader of radiating and promoting regional economic and social development, deepening high-quality development of regional central cities is the key to promote urban development of the Yellow River Basin in coordination.

The development path of the central urban agglomeration in the Yellow River Basin mainly includes three aspects. First, develop and optimize the city's innovation drive system. Build the innovation R&D and intellectual property rights trading center of the Yellow River Basin mainly in Xi'an and Zhengzhou. At the same time, by

leveraging the advantages of Jinan and Qingdao as the center of Shandong Peninsula market with large-scale and developed entity economy, stimulate market-oriented innovation achievements to spill over to cities with weak innovation capabilities such as Xining, Yinchuan and Hohhot. Second, strengthen the modern industrial system of the city. Therefore, it is necessary to take the manufacturing and financial industries of Jinan and Qingdao as the traction, and Zhengzhou, Xi'an, Taiyuan and Lanzhou in the middle as the transportation hub to connect the eastern and western regions, so as to promote the linkage development of entity economy of all cities. Third, improve the green development system of urban environment. Provinces and municipalities indirectly promote river ecological health system and improve biodiversity by increasing investment in environmental protection funds. At the same time, we must strengthen the guarantee system of urban infrastructure construction^[1].

Jinan, Zhengzhou, Xi'an and other surrounding cities in the Yellow River Basin need to constantly strengthen the close economic links, so that all provinces and cities can develop together to promote the overall strength of the Yellow River Economic Belt. Jinan Municipal Government actively introduces more high-tech industries, comprehensively lays out the urban infrastructure, builds the Yellow River Bridge at multiple points in the city, and also establishes the North High-tech Zone of the Yellow River. Finally, make good use of the geographical position advantages along the Yellow River to optimize the regional spatial pattern and promote the green development of the city.

3. SWOT analysis of the impact of urban agglomeration along the Yellow River on the establishment of Jinan as a central city in the Yellow River Basin

3.1 Advantage

Jinan City is located in Zhengzhou City in the West and Qingdao City in the east, and is not far away from other central cities in the Yellow River Valley. For this reason, the Yellow River Bridge has been built in Jinan City, making full use of the advantages of transportation and location. The central cities of the Yellow River Valley around Jinan are provincial capitals or coastal devel-

oped cities, which can make up for the inherent shortcomings of Jinan's development.

In the urban agglomeration along the Yellow River, Taiyuan, Xi'an and other cities are rich in natural resources, which can meet the demand for natural resources for the development and construction of Jinan City, and at the same time, it has vigorously developed the tourism industry of the city groups along the Yellow River. Xi'an, Hohhot and other cities are well-known tourist cities. Jinan has a deep cultural background, rich tourist resources, as well as some world-famous attractions, such as Turning Springs and Daming Lake. On this basis, increasing the publicity of the city can improve the city awareness of Jinan and bring more financial revenue to the city government of Jinan^[2].

3.2 Disadvantage

Because the urban agglomerations along the Yellow River are a whole and they are relatively competitive, Jinan's own resources will be plundered by other cities in the process of development and communication. If other cities have better development opportunities and salary treatment, it will inevitably lead to talent outflow in Jinan. Jinan is not the most developed city or the city with the most potential for development among the urban groups along the Yellow River. At the same time, Jinan has some disadvantages in geographical location and transportation, so foreign enterprises and key national investment projects will not regard Jinan as the preferred city. In recent years, Qingdao and other cities have witnessed rapid development. An international metropolis has been established in an all-round way. There is fierce competition with Jinan in terms of talents, economy, society, medical treatment, education, science and technology, which is a very unfavorable factor for Jinan's own development.

3.3 Opportunity

If Jinan becomes the central city of the Yellow River Valley, it will drive the city's economic development, provide more jobs and relieve the pressure on talent employment. Economic development will intensify the digital transformation of physical infrastructure, promote the integration of digital and real economy, realize the transformation and upgrading of urban tertiary industry to intelligent industries, and gradually complete the con-

struction of smart cities to mobilize the enthusiasm of private enterprises to invest in digital infrastructure, and also bring more benefits to private enterprises.

3.4 Threaten

In the process of establishing the central city of the Yellow River Basin, Jinan has been under competition and threat from other cities, and there are problems such as heavy dependence of economic development on natural resources, insufficient innovation ability, slow development of traditional industries and immature emerging industries.

Maintaining a reasonable economic development mode is conducive to the efficient and healthy development of Jinan. Measures should be taken to continuously optimize the industrial structure, improve the infrastructure construction, and implement the innovation-driven development strategy so as to promote the diversified development of industries, accelerate the transformation and upgrading of the urban economic structure and promote the smooth and high-quality development of economy.

4. The influence of Jinan's establishment of the central city of the Yellow River Basin on the urban agglomeration along the Yellow River

With the rapid economic development of Jinan, diffusion effect will inevitably occur, which will drive the development of other central cities along the Yellow River and improve the overall strength of urban agglomerations along the Yellow River. In addition, it will play a good role as a core city and closely connect with other cities along the Yellow River urban agglomeration to coordinate development.

However, Jinan has established a national central city in the Yellow River Valley, which may deprive some underdeveloped cities along the Yellow River of their existence. This situation will produce a vicious cycle, which is not conducive to the development of other cities along the Yellow River. However, the development of any big city must be supported by its urban agglomeration. Build a central city of the country, but also think about how to drive the surrounding cities to keep them

growing well.

5. Conclusion and reflection

The construction process of Jinan as a national central city in the Yellow River Basin is as follows^[3].

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| 2017.02 | Shandong Province Shandong Peninsula Urban Agglomeration Development Plan proposed: support Jinan and Qingdao to build national central cities. |
| 2019.01 | Jinan government work report put forward: building a national central city to lay a solid foundation. |
| 2019.03 | 1. Jinan Development and Reform Commission's public bidding on strategic path research and related projects for Jinan to create a national central city. 2. Jinan municipal leaders suggested supporting Jinan to establish a national central city during the two sessions |
| 2019.3.31 | Jinan municipal government will become an emerging city center in 2025. |
| 2020.01.5 | Jinan municipal government proposed: by 2022, the construction of national central city will achieve remarkable results. |
| 2020.1.18 | At the two sessions of the Shandong Provincial People's Congress, the governor of Shandong Province proposed to support the development of Jinan and Qingdao as a national central city. |
| 2020.4.13 | Jinan municipal government promises to implement the <i>Three Year Action Plan for Building Jinan Into a National Central City</i> . |
| 2020.5.12 | Jinan NPC and CPPCC proposed: Based on the development orientation of the central city in the Yellow River Basin, strengthen cooperation with cities along the Yellow River in infrastructure, industrial development, ecological protection and other fields, so as to lead and drive the high-quality development of the Yellow River Basin. |

Table 1. The construction process of Jinan as a national central city in the Yellow River Basin

The author thinks that if Jinan wants to establish a national central city in the Yellow River Basin, the city will rely on other cities in the Yellow River Basin National Central City Group; and at the same time, it will also drive the development of other cities along the Yellow River.

low River. It can be improved and developed in several aspects. First, through fiscal, taxation and financial system reform, the green production mode should be improved, and enterprises need to be encouraged to develop green production mode in the form of tax reduction, financial subsidies and credit preferential treatment. In order to build Jinan into a central city in the Yellow River Basin, further development planning should be determined by water. It should build a modern urban economic system and production and management mode with rich scientific and technological content, controllable water resource consumption and limited ecological environmental pollution to effectively improve the level of green and sustainable urban economic development.

Second, we should actively learn from the construction experience of other central cities in the Yellow River Basin, plan practical development strategies, and make long-term plans for the next few years or even decades, enhance the enthusiasm of enterprises and foreign investment in building cities, and attract various resources to achieve rapid development.

Third, strengthen the hardware guarantee system. Due to historical reasons, there's a long infrastructure construction period and high cost in Jinan. The vigorous development of 5G and artificial intelligence can help Jinan strengthen the hardware guarantee system.

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