



Abstract

Prospect of South and North Korea Border Region Development Based on the Twin City Model

The purpose of this study is to forecast changes in the border region between North and South Korea, assuming that political and military tensions between the two Koreas are alleviated and exchange and cooperation are activated. The rationale for the outlook is based on the twin city model and examples of close and intertwined economic, social, political and cultural cross-borders. We reviewed the Hong Kong-Shenzhen and US-Mexico borderlands where the twin city development progressed in a relatively similar context with the two Koreas. In the formation of the twin city, the gap between wages and land prices, the situation of natural environment and infrastructure, cultural acceptability and characteristics, political and military relations, and administrative and institutional cooperative relations (governance) were confirmed.

In order to enjoy economic opportunities and jobs in the border regions, border regions usually have a higher population growth rate than other areas. The border city becomes a metropolitan area beyond synchro and twin city, and the ultimately developed borderlands is mega-region. The city twining of border cities will have an important influence on the formation of border cities of South and North Korea. When North Korea is opened, it is expected that significant changes in

level will occur in the border regions between the two Koreas.

First, several immigration gates will be installed. Dorasan CIQ is currently in operation and at least one immigration gate will be installed in each cities as Gimpo, Paju, Yeoncheon, and Ganghwa. In the border town and its back ground, there will be a logistics complex, shopping and tourism and leisure facilities, industrial complexes and bonded areas, and business support facilities. Over time, the functions of the border city will expand into the suburban area.

As in the case of Hong Kong–Shenzhen, the inter–Korean relations also have a low level of division of labor and functional assignments centered on the border region. It will be expanded to the area of professional services and spatially to the background of the border town. This will develop as the backbone of the Korean Peninsula Mega Region, which connects South Korea's Seoul–Gyeonggi –Incheon metropolitan area with North Korea's Pyongyang–Nampo–Haeju–Gaeseong.

Policy-wise, it is necessary to advance the concept of joint development between the two Koreas based on the twin city model. To this end, it is necessary to establish a joint research committee on ‘Korean Peninsular Economic Region’ between the two Koreas. Furthermore, it is necessary to create a think tank dedicated to researching the inter–Korean border region, which is invested by Seoul, Incheon, and Gyeonggi local government, which share the border region. In addition, it is necessary to prepare an institutional foundation and law for the establishment and operation of twin cities bordering the two Koreas.

Keyword

Twin City, City Twining, North Korea, South Korea, Border Region, Hong Kong, Shenzhen, USA, Mexico, Korean Peninsular Mega-region