

Hebei Provincial Development Strategy

China
Asian Development Bank; Hebei Provincial Government

Issues Hebei is an anachronism in China: a coastal province that has lagged economically for decades, and that is only 30% urbanized. Surrounding Beijing and Tianjin, Hebei has not benefited from economic spillovers from these two metropolitan regions over the last twenty years. Innovation capacities and human capital are weak, and several northern municipalities are state-designated poverty alleviation counties. During a visit to Hebei by ADB's President, ADB agreed to support the preparation of an innovative development strategy for the province, reflecting best international practices, through an Advisory Technical Assistance project.

Approach Chreod and the Shanghai Development Research Center were selected to conduct the TA. The joint team began by conducting detailed sector studies on Hebei of poverty alleviation, environmental management, tourism, investment financing, high-technology industrialization, regional ports development, and urbanization. Relevant international experience was documented for each of these sectors.

A key initial step was the definition of functional economic regions in Hebei, including linkages with the Beijing and Tianjin metropolitan economies. GIS-based regional analysis identified 10 functional sub-regions. The provincial development strategy was therefore prepared at three levels: province-wide strategies; development strategies for each functional sub-region; and strategies for enhancing economic and social linkages between the 10 sub-regions.

Extensive fieldwork and consultations with provincial and local governments and private stakeholders were conducted over a period of 18 months. The team carefully reviewed and re-focused provincial and local development objectives, generated policy options based on exemplary domestic and international practices, and identified specific policy instruments that could most effectively be applied by the provincial government.

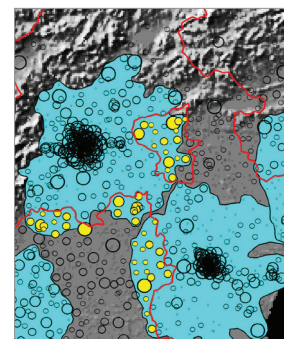
A comprehensive action plan was prepared that outlined specific implementation responsibilities among agencies.

Results The Provincial Development Strategy was strongly supported by Hebei's Vice Governor. The TA was judged by an independent advisory panel to the Ministry of Finance as one of the four most useful ADB TAs in China from 2000-2005.

The PDS was published in Chinese in 2006 by the China Economics and Finance Publishing House. It became the basis for Hebei's Eleventh Five Year Plan (2006-2010).

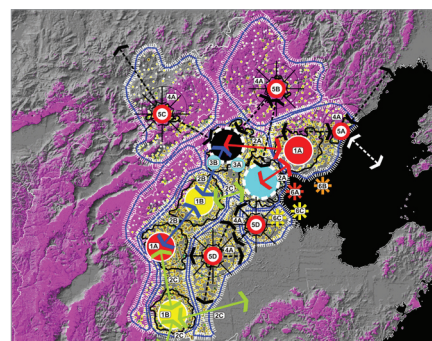


01



02

- 01 Hebei has lagged behind most other coastal provinces
- 02 Development in Beijing and Tianjin has not benefited Hebei
- 03 We recommended 15 key strategies to drive economic and social development in Hebei



03

2003-2005

Client:
Asian Development Bank
Hebei Provincial Government

Chreod's Project Team:
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Project Area Population:
67.5 mn