

Pearl of Northeast Asia—Yanbian

As the only Korean Autonomous Prefecture in China, Yanbian is situated in the Changbai Mountain area in the east of Jilin Province and along the beautiful Tumen River. 37% of Koreans in China live here. It enjoys the reputations of “Land of Education”, “Land of Soccer”, and “Land of Song and Dance”.



Situated in the center of northeast Asia and Tumen River area, Yanbian has great geographical advantage. The prefecture has a boundary of 768.5 kilometers, along which there are eleven ports and border affairs passageways. Tumen River is the only over water course in China that leads to the Sea of Japan. Yanbian is rich in resources. The prefecture has 3.196 million hectares of forests. It has a reserve of over 50 metal minerals and over 40 nonmetal minerals. Changbai Mountain is the world-renowned treasure house of natural resources and one of the five large natural storehouses of medicinal materials. There are 367 species of wild animals and 2,460 kinds of wild plants. The prefecture has perfect ecology. Yanbian has dense forest, advanced water systems, green mountains, and clean rivers. The forest coverage of the prefecture has reached 80.3%. There are three national nature reserves and five national forest parks. Changbai Mountain has completely preserved ecology and vegetation. In 1980 it was designated as the first “Biosphere Reserve” in China by UNESCO.

Now the international cooperative development of Tumen River is continuously gaining momentum. The State Council has officially ratified *Program of Planning for the Cooperative Development of China's Tumen River Region—with Changjitu as the Pilot of Development and Opening*, which signals that the construction of Changjitu as the pilot of development and opening has become a state strategy. By far Tumen River Region is the only border development and opening area approved by the state. To speed up the cooperative development of Tumen River Region is an important measure to promote the level of border opening and consolidate the prosperity and stability of border regions.



Jilin Province is going all out to build Changjitu pilot opening area, with Huichun as the window and Yanlongtu as the forefront. Meanwhile, the integration of Yanji, Longjing and Tumen is being accelerated. As the only area in the country simultaneously offered three “state-level” preferential policies of autonomous minority nationality area, grand west development, and revitalizing northeast old industrial bases, Yanbian prefecture is embracing a valuable historic opportunity for development.

-- Source: *Yanbian in China*