

Conceptual Approaches on the Development of the Territory of the Republic Kazakhstan

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1 ABSTRACT

Several major changes in political and economic organization of the country happened during the formation of the sovereignty of the Republic of Kazakhstan. State administrative and territorial units were integrated, while the capital city was moved from Almaty to Astana. The Head of the state has proclaimed long-term development Strategy of the country - Kazakhstan 2030 for realization of which there is a need to modernize a town-planning basis and generate new long-term town-planning policy.

According to the Government program on forced industrial-innovative development of the Republic of Kazakhstan the Agency for construction, housing and utilities of the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter – Agency) has been charged to develop the General Scheme of the organisation of the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter – the General Scheme). For independent Kazakhstan this kind of planning document at the level of national scale is being developed for the first time. Within the limits of the development of the General Scheme how the country is organised and should be developed will be considered, while taking into account major sustainability goals. The Agency has founded special town-planning institute responsible for the development of the General Scheme - Astana branch of “KazREIECA” RSE (hereinafter – the Institute).

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Description

The General Scheme of the organization of the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan is a planning project containing long-term vision of territorial development and rational organization of the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It takes into account regional and world processes, the role of the regions in social and economic development of the country.

2.2 The purpose and tasks of the development of the General Scheme

The purpose of the development of the General Scheme is an improvement of quality of people’s life, sustainable development of Kazakhstan.

The tasks of the development of the General Scheme (according to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “About architectural, town-planning and construction activity in the Republic of Kazakhstan”, article 42):

Maintenance of state regulation of the system of population settling down and distribution of industrial forces;

Establishment of the status, appointment and character of the use of territories taking into account the administrative and territorial division of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

Coordination of inter-regional and interbranch state interests under the programs of social and economic development.

2.3 The structure of the General Scheme

Key points covered within the limits of the development of the General Scheme includes the following questions:

Major principles of population settling down and distribution of industrial forces in accordance with positions of strategic and economic planning;

Substantive provisions of rational management of environmental and economic activities, development of industrial, transport, engineering, social and recreational infrastructure of republican level;

Basic measures on improvement of ecological conditions in regions, preservation of territories with minerals, valuable landscape and objects of historical and cultural heritage, etc.

2.4 Expected results from the development of the General Scheme:

The complex planning analysis of the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

Formation of principles of comfortable residing of the population on territories of the country;

Creation of conditions for increased interaction of central and local executive bodies in terms of rational organization of the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

Development of offers on rational use of resources, overcoming of both economic and social disproportions and increase of social and economic interrelations between regions of Kazakhstan;

Formation of a long-term town-planning policy on the basis of the balanced placing of productive forces and population settlement in the Republic of Kazakhstan territory.

3 INITIAL VARIANTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT VECTORS

3.1 Brief description of the internal features of the organisation of the territory of Kazakhstan

Massive work on collection, analysis and evaluation of the territory of the state has been undertaken within the limits of the development of the General Scheme.

The analysis of world experience of strategic spatial organization and internal features of the organization of the territory of Kazakhstan, influencing the choice of further development direction have been studied to define possible development vectors of the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan is more than 2,7 million square kilometers with population of 16 million people. Low density of population at 6,2 people per square kilometer, as well as non-uniformity of settlements across the regions should be marked.

The considerable part of territories of South, South-East and East Kazakhstan with the area of 450 thousand square kilometers is covered by the zone with high seismic activity of magnitude 7 or larger where about 7 million people live. Thus, 19 cities, including Almaty, where almost 1,6 million people live, is within the most dangerous area with seismicity magnitude 9 or larger.

Climate biological efficiency is 4-5 times lower than in developed countries due to the adverse environmental conditions. It is possible to name all Kazakhstan as risk agriculture zone (the amount of precipitation varies from 200 to 500 mm a year which is considerably lower than the norm), except for southeast region. Mid-annual amount of precipitations in the basic agricultural areas of USA and Great Britain varies from 600 to 2000 mm, in France – from 600 to 1000 mm. Moreover, desertification processes and uncontrolled migration from countryside to the cities are observed.

A number of experts asserts that Kazakhstan is threatened by total power deficiency, especially in the Southern region. Necessity of power saving demands new, more effective studies of general layouts of the cities and settlement systems as a whole. One of ways of power saving is to increase the general compactness and intensify use of the territory, optimize its functional zoning, etc.

3.2 Brief description of the best international planning practices suitable for Kazakhstan

Spontaneous migratory processes the state should take under control. In USA and Italy, for example, organized migratory processes (tax privileges, favorable investment climate etc.) became a push for economic development of territories.

Similar countries to some signs with Kazakhstan, such as Canada and Australia have concentrated their efforts on narrow environmentally favorable territories. “Urbanization axis of Canada” is the strip, across the border of the USA, occupying the space of 170 thousand sq km where more than a half of population of the country concentrated at the distance of 1200 km. As a result Canada as huge as Russia with the considerably less population thanks to the reasonable organization of the territory gives repeatedly bigger gross product per capita in comparison with Russia or Kazakhstan.

It is necessary to bring territorial structure of the economy in accordance with market structure, to concentrate efforts to the economic complexes which have high enough potential for quality manufacture.

3.3 Preliminary brief analysis of possible development concepts of the territory Kazakhstan

Analyzing the territory of Kazakhstan, the central part, is basically presented by focal settlement systems influenced by extracting character of manufacture. The general decline of manufacture, outflow of the population and discomfortable climate are observed. The central zone with little use for high-grade life, but having high resource potential, is mostly suitable for rotational development method.

Top “northern belt” stretches from East Kazakhstan to Uralsk city where industrially-developed centers of the country are located. Lower so-called «southern belt» has favorable environmental conditions.

Proceeding from the aforementioned preconditions, examples of world planning practice and, taking into account that in the basis of the spatial organization the Forecast scheme of territorial-spatial development of the country until 2020 (hereinafter – the Forecast scheme) is placed, which is comparable to an offered vector of the development of Kazakhstan, the following conceptual model of the organization of the territory the of Republic of Kazakhstan is produced.

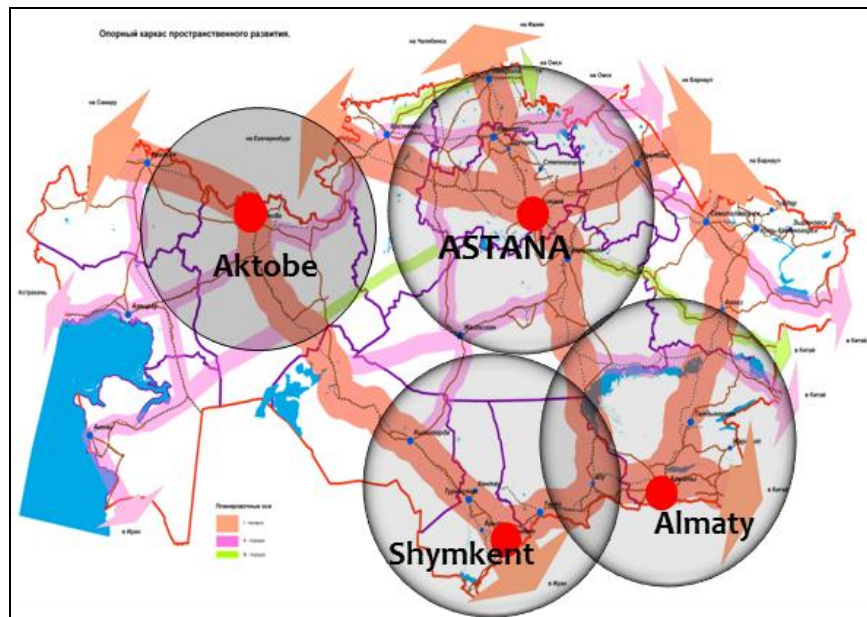


Fig. 1: Development vector according to the Forecast Scheme.

Key "base points" in the Forecast scheme, are offered to be the cities of Almaty, Astana, Shymkent and Aktobe which organically correspond to the considered structure: cities of Almaty and Shymkent are located in so-called “southern belt”, and the cities of Astanas and Aktobe – in “industrial belt” (Fig.1).

Taking into account specialization of the belts, it is necessary to develop intensively corresponding spheres of the national economy in these zones.

In a “southern belt” there is a need to develop agriculture with a full cycle of manufacture from cultivation and storage before processing and release of finished goods. For the given region there is a need to develop such spheres as tourism, public health services, sport, study, science and certain industries.

In “northern belt” development accents should be transferred on intensive industrial development of territories. Planned manufactures should be located as close as possible to “development points” and consider specialization of the territory. Taking into account the neighbourhood of the given region with the adjacent states – Russia in the north and China in the east, it is necessary for the Kazakhstan to develop those manufactures and technologies which allows participation in planned rapid development of Siberia, Far East and Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

Agriculture specialization should be guided by environmental conditions of the region, costs reduction and increase of the productivity of manufacture. It is necessary organize the development of engineering-transport infrastructure of the belts to optimize communications and logistics with subcentres which can become regional centers.

Existing urban settlements are subject to radical reconstruction and optimization to the sizes optimal for accommodation settlement and reductions of municipal costs. There is a need in the given process to differentiate each large industrial center, taking into account industrial, social and economic situation.

Strengthening of the border territories can become another development vector for the Republic of Kazakhstan since over 80% of all population of Kazakhstan lives there. During the analysis of the border territories, it is necessary to allocate 4 groups (Fig.2) of resources influencing the organization and preconditions of their development:

At the level of natural resources these are:

Transboundary water, conditions and desertification.

At level of demographic resources these are:

Transboundary migration and the innovative environment.

At level of infrastructural resources these are:

Transport and border object infrastructure.

At level of economic resources these are:

Transboundary economic integration and trade.

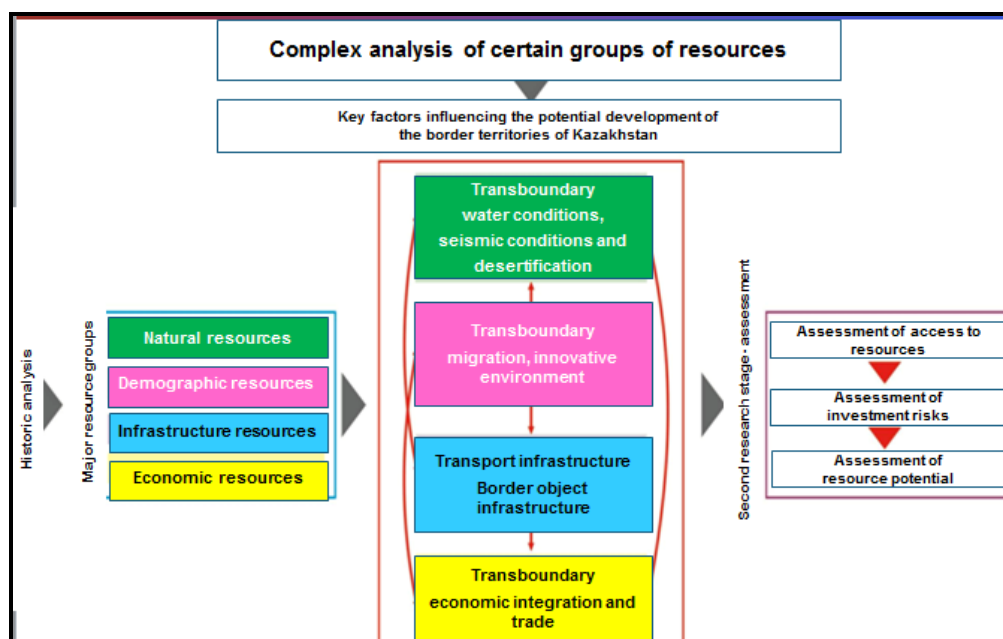


Fig. 2: Complex analysis of certain groups of resources influencing the development choice of the border territories of Kazakhstan.

4 CONCLUSION

Offered development variants of strengthening of the border territories and also active development of “southern” and “northern” belts can become one of the vectors of the organization of the territory of Kazakhstan. After fuller analysis of the initial data, development of different planning variants there can be specifications in the offered concept, and, probably, new conceptual approaches to the organization and development of the territory of the country will be developed. Sustainable and rational organization and development of the territory should become basic principles at the definition of development vector of the country.

Planning development stage of the General Scheme on formation of variants of the organization of territory of Kazakhstan will be undertaken in 2012, including:

Improvements of a demographic situation and regulation of migratory processes, an urbanization and a suburbanization;

Perfection and development of the settlement systems;

Perspective development of productive forces;

Transport-communication and engineering infrastructure;

Improvement of ecological condition of the territory of Kazakhstan and another.

Massive work needs to be undertaken on a way to achievement of effective organization of territory of the country, sustainable development of the entire Kazakhstan. Town-planning science in the world has already developed enormous experience and our task is to shift this positive world practice adapted for the conditions of our country, on the Kazakhstan soil.

5 REFERENCES

- LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN “About architectural, town-planning and construction activity in the Republic of Kazakhstan”, July 16, 2001.
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