

# Promoting the Integrated Development of Industrial Revitalization, County Strengthening, and People’s Well-being in Accordance with Local Conditions: A Case Study of Daqing

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**Abstract:** The integrated development of Industrial Revitalization, County Strengthening, and People’s Well-being constitutes a pivotal pathway for breaking down the urban-rural dual structure and advancing Chinese modernization. As a typical resource-based city in Heilongjiang Province, Daqing is currently at a pivotal stage of transformation and development. The county-level economy serves as a vital growth pole for Daqing. County-level industrial development, by stimulating economic growth and raising incomes, offers a powerful avenue for the transformation of resource-based cities. To promote this integrated development in Daqing, efforts should focus on extending industrial chains, fostering industrial clusters, advancing differentiated development of county-level economies, improving benefit-sharing mechanisms, and strengthening policy coordination.

**Keywords:** Industrial revitalization; County strengthening; People’s well-being; County-level economy in Daqing

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## 1. Introduction

The Central Economic Work Conference held in December 2024 called for “promoting the integrated development of industrial revitalization, county strengthening, and people’s well-being in accordance with local conditions, and broadening channels for farmers to increase their incomes by every possible means.” This marked the formal elevation of this integrated development framework to a pivotal policy orientation for coordinating major national strategies. The ensuing Central Rural Work Conference, along with the 2025 No. 1 Central Document, *Opinions of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on Learning from and Applying the Experience of the Green Rural Revival Program to effectively promote Rural Revitalization Across the board*—further specified this framework. They highlighted the central role of developing county-level

industries that improve people's well-being in consolidating and expanding the gains of poverty alleviation and advancing rural revitalization on all fronts. The *Resolution of the CPC Central Committee on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization*, adopted at the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, positioned this framework within the broader context of comprehensively deepening reform. It thus established this concept as an important pathway for breaking down the urban-rural dual structure and advancing Chinese modernization.

The integrated development of industrial revitalization, county strengthening, and people's well-being represents a crucial approach to modernizing national governance and achieving common prosperity<sup>[1]</sup>. It also serves as the cornerstone for breaking down the urban-rural dual structure and fostering economic growth. Its internal logic takes the county-level economy as the fundamental unit of development and industrial growth as the supporting force, thereby extending common prosperity to surrounding towns and villages<sup>[2]</sup>. This aligns closely with the goal of "thriving industries" in the rural revitalization strategy and constitutes an essential pathway for achieving urban economic development and comprehensive rural revitalization.

The county level, as the fundamental unit of national economic and social development, serves as the anchor for realizing this integrated development strategy. It is also a crucial cornerstone underpinning China's stable economic foundation, strong resilience, and great potential. The "14th Five-Year Plan" of Heilongjiang Province explicitly calls for "high-quality development of the county-level economy." In line with this, counties are mandated to fully implement the new development philosophy, aiming to strengthen their economic foundations, improve people's well-being, and expand leading industries that underpin local development. Through these efforts, they are expected to achieve rapid and healthy growth of the county-level economy, thereby serving as a new growth driver and an important pillar for the economic advancement of Heilongjiang Province.

Daqing is a typical resource-based city, currently at a pivotal stage of transformation. The county-level economy serves as a vital engine for the city's overall growth. Therefore, exploring a locally tailored path for the integrated development of industrial revitalization, county strengthening, and people's well-being is of great significance. Such a path helps address the structural problems of Daqing's economy, promote industrial upgrading, advance transformation and development, foster common prosperity, and serve national strategic goals.

## **2. Characteristics of the county-level economy in Daqing**

In recent years, the five districts and four counties under the administration of Daqing have achieved steady and fairly rapid economic growth, though their development paths and priorities have diverged. Overall, the economy of these districts and counties exhibits the following distinct characteristics:

### **2.1. A pattern of simultaneous development of leading and distinctive industries**

Datong District, the only agricultural district in Daqing, has grain and vegetable production and animal husbandry as its leading industries. Building on these strengths, Datong has vigorously developed a greenhouse-based economy and established the "No. 1 Project for Bringing Prosperity to the People" as a distinctive local industry. Dorbod Mongol Autonomous County is endowed with 4.69 million mu of natural grasslands and 1.54 million mu of water surface suitable for green ecological aquaculture. Animal husbandry and fishery serve as

the county's pillar industries and key drivers of its economic growth. Leveraging these advantages, Dorbod has cultivated four distinctive industries—food processing, bioeconomy, oilfield services and chemical industries, and characteristic cultural tourism—to promote the high-quality development of its county-level economy.

## **2.2. A pattern of diversified industrial development**

Sartu District, while advancing its petrochemical industry, has vigorously promoted the tertiary sector, which encompasses commerce, trade, tourism, and e-commerce, thereby establishing a pattern of diversified industrial development. Ranghulu District has leveraged its petroleum resources to develop industries such as oilfield services and furniture manufacturing, and has drawn on its agricultural advantages to build the Yinlang Ranch Third Company Industrial Park. Honggang District has closely aligned its development with the “1357” modern industrial system and is actively fostering industries including equipment manufacturing, the bioeconomy, new energy, new materials, natural gas, modern agriculture, and characteristic cultural tourism.

Zhaoyuan County, leveraging its designation as a national advanced grain-producing county, has fostered animal husbandry, fisheries, green food processing, and the leather industry. At the same time, it has invested heavily in emerging sectors such as new energy and new materials, thereby gradually shaping a diversified and comprehensive industrial pattern. Lindian County, building on animal husbandry as its core industry, has not only promoted the “Two Ten-Billion-Yuan Industrial Clusters” initiative centered on dairy and hog production but also established itself as a national base for commercial grain and field vegetable production.

## **2.3. Full industrial chains driving regional economic growth**

While advancing its petrochemical industry, Longfeng District has vigorously extended the “oil-head and chemical-tail” refining and chemical value chain. By integrating emerging sectors such as new energy and new materials, it has established an integrated petroleum industry chain spanning oil, chemicals, chemical fibers, fertilizers, and plastics.

Datong District, a predominantly agricultural area, has actively expanded deep processing channels for agricultural products and shifted the focus of agricultural returns from quantity to quality. It has encouraged leading agricultural enterprises to spearhead the development of economic entities such as family farms and smallholders, thereby transforming resource advantages into economic benefits and shaping a development pattern characterized by a complete agricultural industry chain.

Zhaozhou County, leveraging its status as a major agricultural county, has developed premium agriculture and vigorously promoted the deep integration of rural industries across the primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors, thereby strengthening its industrial chains.

Lindian County has promoted industrial development by attracting investment to extend, supplement, and strengthen its industrial chains. Its dairy industry has evolved from an initial sole focus on dairy farming to introducing leading enterprises, such as Yili Group, and advancing the deep processing of dairy products, thereby forming a complete dairy industry chain.

## **2.4. Innovation-driven and policy-enabled development model**

Ranghulu District is planning to establish an industrial park and develop innovative industrial clusters in sectors such as oilfield services and furniture manufacturing. It aims to build a distinctive furniture industry cluster led by Qingsen Wood Industry and Caishen Furniture. Moreover, through policy support, the district is optimizing

the business environment, upgrading infrastructure, attracting enterprise investment, and promoting industrial upgrading.

Dorbod Mongol Autonomous County has attracted projects totaling over one billion yuan in investment through preferential policies, focusing on industries such as food processing and the bioeconomy. Meanwhile, by leveraging policy support, leading enterprises, and technological innovation, the county has promoted standardized and large-scale breeding in the goose industry, thereby improving both the efficiency and economic returns of this sector.

### **3. Analysis of bottlenecks and obstacles in the integrated development of industrial revitalization, county strengthening, and people's well-being in Daqing**

#### **3.1. Industrial revitalization dimension**

As a major petrochemical industrial base in China, Daqing's industrial landscape is dominated by oil extraction, the petrochemical industry, and equipment manufacturing, which together form a relatively complete industrial chain. This has produced a spatial pattern centered on the urban area and supported by oil fields, petrochemical production zones, high-tech development zones, and new energy industrial parks. However, Daqing still faces the challenge of unbalanced regional development. Several districts and counties remain dependent on resource extraction, and their industrial structures are relatively undiversified. At the same time, the city's innovation capacity and overall competitiveness are insufficient. Although efforts have been made to develop emerging industries such as new energy and new materials, technological R&D remains weak, and progress has been slow. A significant gap persists between Daqing's technology transfer performance and that of more advanced domestic regions. Moreover, the industrial support system is not yet fully developed, and coordination among upstream and downstream enterprises is inadequate, resulting in a lack of overall industrial competitiveness. In addition, a considerable brain drain further constrains Daqing's industrial development. The loss of talent has delayed innovation in both technology and ideas, hindering the advancement of the industry's overall technical level.

#### **3.2. County strengthening dimension**

Although Daqing has made considerable efforts to promote economic development across its districts and counties and has achieved encouraging results, certain problems persist in the development of the county-level economy.

First, demographic challenges are hindering economic growth in all districts and counties. Population is the cornerstone of economic development <sup>[3]</sup>. However, by 2023, the city's population had dropped by 123,000 compared to a decade earlier, sapping the momentum for economic expansion across these areas. Second, resource depletion and the decline of traditional industries have imposed significant constraints. Currently, most districts and counties depend heavily on oil for their economic development. As a non-renewable resource, oil is subject to gradual depletion, and all districts and counties are facing the challenge of dwindling recoverable reserves. Oil extraction is becoming increasingly difficult, and continued reliance on it to drive economic growth is proving unsustainable. Moreover, agricultural resources and environmental conditions remain unbalanced. The traditional agricultural business model no longer meets the requirements of modern agriculture. Local agricultural resource advantages have not been fully leveraged to build strong product brands, leaving much of the potential brand value untapped. Finally, infrastructure development cannot keep

pace with the demands of modern economic growth. In some districts and counties, the overall environment is poor, and basic infrastructure such as roads and landscaping remains inadequate. Rural areas, in particular, are often characterized by unsanitary and disorderly conditions, which not only lower the quality of life for local residents but also diminish investor confidence and adversely affect future economic prospects.

### **3.3. People's well-being dimension**

In the process of promoting county strengthening across Daqing, the benefits of development have reached the public, yet the efficiency of improving people's well-being remains low. In recent years, all districts and counties have tended to introduce emerging industries as a means of driving industrial upgrading and transformation. However, these emerging enterprises generate relatively few jobs and play only a limited role in raising local employment. Moreover, the skill requirements of most new positions do not align with the existing capabilities of the local workforce, making it difficult for residents to adapt to the demands of these emerging sectors. Furthermore, in the economic development of Daqing's districts and counties, insufficient interdepartmental coordination has led to low efficiency in policy implementation. Policy overlaps occasionally occur, and the operational mechanisms still require improvement, which can easily result in the waste of resources.

## **4. Countermeasures and suggestions for promoting the integrated development of industrial prosperity, county strengthening, and people's well-being in Daqing**

### **4.1. Industrial revitalization dimension**

The oil industrial chain should be actively extended to reduce resource dependence. For oil-dependent counties, leveraging the technical foundation of the Daqing Oilfield, a "Laboratory for New Petrochemical Materials" has been established in collaboration with research institutions such as Northeast Petroleum University. This laboratory focuses on tackling key technologies in areas including high-performance synthetic resins and fine chemicals, thereby extending the industrial chain from "crude oil → petroleum products" to "crude oil → petrochemical raw materials → high-end materials." Moreover, the integration pathway of "oil + new energy" should be vigorously explored. By utilizing oilfield-associated gas to develop the hydrogen energy industry, a network of hydrogen refueling stations can be deployed in Zhaoyuan County and Sartu District to promote the application of hydrogen fuel cell heavy-duty trucks in oilfield transportation scenarios, thereby cultivating "green oilfield" demonstration projects.

Industrial clusters with distinctive agricultural characteristics should be cultivated to enhance added value<sup>[4]</sup>. Agricultural counties need to adopt the "one county, one industry" approach to build competitive clusters. Specifically, Dorbod Mongol Autonomous County should focus on upgrading its dairy industry chain by supporting leading enterprises such as Yili and Yuansheng in developing intelligent pastures while simultaneously constructing a dairy deep-processing industrial park. This park will produce cheese, functional milk powder, and other products, thereby driving the growth of the dairy sector's output value. Meanwhile, Lindian County and Datong District should leverage the greenhouse economy and geothermal resources to develop an integrated model of "cold-climate fruits and vegetables + hot spring picking", register the regional brand "Daqing Cold-Climate Fruits and Vegetables", establish a traceability system for agricultural products, and promote industrial deep processing, thereby increasing the annual income of local farmers.

Diversified economic pillars should be cultivated to reduce dependence on a single industry. For sectors

such as new energy and the digital economy, a “Breakthrough Plan for Emerging Industries” should be implemented. A “New Energy Industrial Park” is to be established, utilizing saline-alkali land resources to deploy 2 GW of photovoltaic power stations. Energy storage battery manufacturers should be introduced to form a “photovoltaic + energy storage” industrial chain. The integration of digital technology with traditional industries should be promoted. In the oilfield sector, digital technologies will enable intelligent monitoring of the entire exploration and production process. In agriculture, a “Smart Agriculture Platform” should be built, large-scale planting bases developed, and water and fertilizer management optimized through big data to increase per-mu yields. Moreover, a “Venture Capital Fund for Emerging Industries” should be established to support small and micro enterprises in fields such as biomedicine and electronic information, thereby actively fostering high-tech enterprises.

#### **4.2. County strengthening dimension**

The differentiated development of county-level economies should be promoted to narrow the regional gap. A “classified assessment—precise support” mechanism should be established. For oil-dependent counties, the assessment focus will shift from economic aggregate to the extension of industrial chains and the proportion of emerging industries. For agricultural counties, the output value of characteristic industries and the income growth of rural residents will be assessed. For counties with cultural and tourism potential, the proportion of revenue from cultural tourism and tourist satisfaction will be evaluated.

An “Action Plan for Tackling Key Problems in Rural Infrastructure” should be implemented to address infrastructure deficiencies and enhance county-level carrying capacity. This plan should focus on improving industrial supporting facilities in agricultural counties, such as constructing cold chain logistics lines for the dairy industrial park in Dorbod Mongol Autonomous County and a supporting storage center for the greenhouse economy in Datong District. At the same time, the development of urban and rural public services should be promoted. A “County Medical Consortium” should be established across the four counties to achieve full remote consultation coverage between municipal and county hospitals. In addition, vocational colleges should be introduced to set up county branches offering specialties in dairy processing and cultural tourism services, thereby actively cultivating skilled personnel to alleviate the talent gap in local industries.

Daqing should actively align with the strategy of “Comprehensive Revitalization of Northeast China” and strengthen industrial cooperation with other cities in Heilongjiang Province, so as to deepen regional coordination and integrate into the provincial development pattern. For instance, a production base for oil equipment components can be established in Daqing to meet the vehicle manufacturing demands of Harbin. In addition, cooperation with Qiqihar can be pursued to develop “wetland eco-tourism routes” that integrate the resources of Zhalong Wetland and Longfeng Wetland, thereby facilitating the sharing of tourist flows.

#### **4.3. People’s well-being dimension**

In response to the mismatch between emerging industries and labor skills, a “Skill Training Center” should be jointly established by the government, enterprises, and vocational colleges to build a diversified employment system and improve the adaptability of the labor force. Institutionalized training courses tailored to the needs of industries such as petrochemicals and dairy processing should be offered to raise the skill-matching rate of the workforce. Meanwhile, enterprises should be encouraged to absorb local labor, with certain subsidies provided to those that employ a specified proportion of rural workers. In addition, flexible employment positions should

be developed—such as tour guide and cleaning posts in cultural and tourism scenic areas—with priority given to households that have emerged from poverty and low-income households, thereby increasing the employment rate of the surplus rural labor force.

The interest linkage mechanism should be optimized to ensure that industrial benefits are shared by the people. The extension of industrial chain benefits to farmers should be promoted. In the agricultural sector, the “guaranteed purchase + dividend” model should be advanced. For example, dairy enterprises in Dorbod Mongol Autonomous County should sign long-term purchase agreements with dairy farmers, stipulating a minimum purchase price and distributing dividends to farmers based on a certain proportion of corporate profits. In the cultural and tourism sector, farmers should be encouraged to invest their housing and land as shares in scenic areas and participate in operational dividends, thereby achieving profit sharing. Furthermore, a “Supervision Platform for Industry Benefiting the People” should be established to regularly disclose the distribution of benefits by enterprises, ensuring that the rights and interests of farmers are protected.

Policy coordination should be strengthened, and implementation efficiency should be improved. A “Daqing Integrated Development Leading Group” should be established, led by the principal leaders of the municipal government. This leading group should coordinate policy formulation across departments such as development and reform, agriculture, and culture and tourism, and create a systematic list of policies to avoid duplication and overlap. Subsidies, training programs, and other support should be accurately delivered to enterprises and farmers through a government app to simplify the application process. Furthermore, a policy evaluation mechanism should be instituted, under which a third-party organization is commissioned annually to assess policy implementation effectiveness. Based on feedback from the counties, policies should then be adjusted and optimized to ensure they precisely meet the needs of industrial revitalization, county strengthening, and people’s well-being. Ultimately, this will enable Daqing to achieve its transformation goals as a resource-based city and become a demonstration city for integrated development characterized by diversified industries, coordinated county development, and improved people’s well-being.

## 5. Conclusion

The integrated development of industrial revitalization, county strengthening, and people’s well-being is an important national strategy. It also serves as a pivotal pathway for breaking down the urban–rural dual structure and advancing Chinese modernization. As a typical resource-based city, Daqing is in urgent need of transformation and development. Drawing on long-term practice, exploring this integrated development path is of great practical significance.

Daqing still faces certain obstacles in the integrated development of industrial revitalization, county strengthening, and people’s well-being. In the industrial revitalization dimension, problems such as heavy resource dependence, a relatively undiversified industrial structure in certain regions, and a serious brain drain remain pressing. In the county strengthening dimension, resources are facing depletion, agricultural resources and environmental conditions remain unbalanced, and infrastructure development requires further improvement. In the people’s well-being dimension, the efficiency of transforming development gains into improved livelihoods remains low.

Therefore, countermeasures and suggestions are proposed across the three dimensions of industrial revitalization, county strengthening, and people’s well-being: extending industrial chains, fostering industrial

clusters, advancing differentiated development of county-level economies, improving benefit-sharing mechanisms, and strengthening policy coordination.

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## Disclosure statement

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