

The Key Role of the Chamber of Commerce in Supporting the High-quality Development of the Private Economy

Hui Tian*

Office of Shaanxi Academy of Social Sciences, Xi'an 710000, Shaanxi Province, China

*Corresponding author: Hui Tian, sxssky@126.com

Copyright: © 2024 Author(s). This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0), permitting distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is cited.

Abstract: The chamber of commerce is a powerful support to serving the government and managing the non-public economy, which can strongly promote the high-quality development of the private economy in Shaanxi. In recent years, Shaanxi has made multiple overall plans and taken multiple measures to improve the vitality of the development of the chamber of commerce in an all-around way, enabling the high-quality development of the private economy with policy integration and innovation. However, there are still problems in the development of chambers of commerce, such as a lack of public service awareness, lack of institutional norms, uneven levels of development, and lack of unified centralized management. Therefore, this paper puts forward four countermeasures and suggestions. First, clarify the boundary of power and responsibility, and effectively exert the function of the federation of industry and commerce. Second, strengthen the legal guarantee and support of norms and policies. The third is to improve the level of autonomy of chambers of commerce and enhance the development in all aspects. Fourth, build a new type of government-business relationship and continuously improve the market business environment.

Keywords: Chamber of commerce; Association of industry and commerce; Private economy; High-quality development

Online publication: September 27, 2024

1. Introduction

As a social organization and people's organization directly involved in social political, economic, and cultural activities, the Chamber of Commerce is an important platform to promote private enterprises to contribute to the comprehensive construction of a modern socialist country. It has become an indispensable and important carrier and development platform for promoting orderly participation of market players in social governance, resolving conflicts between government and enterprises, promoting reform and innovation of enterprise systems and mechanisms, restricting abuse of government public power, providing employment and entrepreneurship

opportunities for talents, and promoting healthy and high-quality development of the private economy ^[1-2]. The Party Central Committee and The State Council have always attached great importance to the development of chambers of commerce, and have successively issued institutional documents such as the “Opinions on Strengthening and Improving the Work of the Federation of Industry and Commerce under the New Situation”, “Opinions on Strengthening the United Front Work of the Private Economy in the New Era”, “Opinions on Further Optimizing the Business Environment and Reducing the institutional Transaction Costs of market Entities”, to ensure the healthy development of chambers of commerce.

In recent years, all localities have actively explored new models for the development of chambers of commerce, and Anhui Province has issued the “Regulations on the Development of Chambers of Commerce in Anhui Province” to establish and improve the legislative work on the registration and operation of chambers of commerce, management services, and participation in governance to guide the healthy development of chambers of commerce. Wenzhou has implemented the Regulations on the Promotion of the Construction of the “Two Healthy” Pilot Zones, which in multiple dimensions such as factor support, innovation promotion, government services, optimization of the business environment, code of conduct, and supervision and implementation, has detailed standardized the path and way for the development and growth of chambers of commerce, providing a strong legal guide and legislative guarantee for the high-quality development of the private economy ^[3].

Shaanxi closely follows the macro trend, grasps the policy opportunity, adopts multiple measures at the same time and in a comprehensive manner, enhances the development of the Chamber of Commerce in an all-round way, and enables the high-quality development of the private economy with policy integration and innovation. Shaanxi has issued a variety of favorable policies such as the “Implementation Opinions on Accelerating the Reform and Development of Industry Associations and Chambers of Commerce in Shaanxi Province”, “On Agreeing to Establish the Reform and Development Interdepartmental Joint Meeting System of Industry Associations and Chambers of Commerce in Shaanxi Province”, and “Specific Measures for Further Optimizing the Business Environment in Shaanxi Province to Reduce Institutional Transaction Costs of Market Players”, and established a joint meeting mechanism for integrating into the national unified large market. This has deepened the reform of factor markets, streamlined administration, delegated power, strengthened regulation, and improved services. Shaanxi also comprehensively improved its ability to provide online and offline services ^[4]. Shaanxi has improved basic market economy systems such as market access, fair competition, social credit, and property rights protection. Shaanxi protects the property rights of private enterprises and the rights and interests of entrepreneurs according to the laws and regulations. Shaanxi has further optimized the “double random, one open” regulatory platform, improved the normal communication mechanism between government and enterprises, promoted “market efficiency” with “government success”, accelerated the creation of a market-oriented and international first-class business environment under the rule of law, and provided a strong political guarantee and good economic ecology for the development of chambers of commerce and private economy ^[5].

2. The role of the Chamber of Commerce in promoting the development of the private economy is irreplaceable

The Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit economic social organization that is voluntarily organized by

industrial and commercial enterprises to achieve common goals ^[6]. Chambers of commerce are generally divided into private chambers of commerce, grassroots chambers of commerce, remote chambers of commerce, international chambers of commerce, industry chambers of commerce, chambers of commerce affiliated with the Federation of Industry and Commerce, and so on, which undertake organizational functions such as information communication, coordination, consultation, and participation in political discussions and public services. The daily operation of the chamber focuses on serving the growth and protection of the rights and interests of its members, and the basic principle of its work is to promote the development of enterprises and the social economy. As an indispensable bridge and link in the process of communication and cooperation between the government and enterprises, chambers of commerce play different roles in attracting investment, precise poverty alleviation, economic growth, social development, public services, safeguarding the vital interests of chamber members, and promoting high-quality economic and social development ^[6].

In terms of promoting its development, the Chamber of Commerce closely follows the policy and the development needs of the time, innovates working methods, actively improves the institutional setup, equips and strengthens the Chamber of Commerce team, and timely adjusts and enriches the leadership and staff team. The Chamber of Commerce also establishes rules and regulations, improves management, organization, and training services-related systems, and enhances the level of institutionalization and standardization. The Chamber of Commerce provides special fund support, timely builds the Internet+ platform, updates old equipment settings, and continuously improves service level and efficiency. The Chamber of Commerce actively establishes a long-term contact mechanism with the local government, improves the quality of the Chamber of Commerce team, expands and develops business channels, provides opportunities to participate in government services, and plays its strength to promote mutual support and cross-border integration between the Chamber of Commerce organization market and enterprises ^[7].

In terms of serving member enterprises, the Chamber of Commerce builds communication platforms, expands communication channels, and increases communication opportunities to help enterprises solve difficulties. The Chamber of Commerce Actively organizes member enterprises to go global, encourages members to participate in various economic, trade, and business activities, and provides opportunities for learning and growth. The Chamber of Commerce performs extensive investigation and research to have a dynamic grasp of member information, an in-depth understanding of on-site business difficulties, timely summary and analysis, according to the needs of enterprises to provide various services for members, to help enterprises boost confidence, solve problems, overcome difficulties, and promote development. According to the needs of members, the Chamber of Commerce regularly organizes various training, carries out various services such as financial loans, legal rights protection, and enterprise growth, gives full play to the leading role and unity of the Chamber of Commerce, and improve the market competitiveness of its enterprises ^[8].

In terms of promoting economic development, the Chamber of Commerce has set up a platform for economic exchange and mutual assistance to promote its member enterprises to communicate and exchange, share resources, develop together, help each other, and learn from each other. Field visits, study research, policy training, and other ways help enterprises timely and accurately grasp policy changes, improve their ability to apply their qualities, and help enterprises develop and grow. The Chamber of Commerce guides its members to abide by the law and operate with integrity, consciously maintain the order of market competition, actively participate in the construction of a social integrity system, and contribute to creating a good business environment. The Chamber of Commerce actively connects with the government and related enterprises to

attract investment and promote local economic development.

In terms of assuming social responsibility, the Chamber of Commerce has set up the party branch of the Chamber of Commerce to give full play to the political leading role of social organizations, adhere to the publicity of the party's line and policies, promote the development and reform of enterprises, explore entrepreneurship, and constantly strengthen political leadership. The Chamber of Commerce enhances political quality with the help of the Chamber of Commerce branch platform, giving play to the supporting and exemplary role of party members of the Chamber of Commerce to ensure the correct development direction of enterprises. The Chamber of Commerce guides its members to actively participate in public undertakings and contribute their strength to serving social justice and promoting social stability and development ^[9].

3. The issues affecting the high-quality development of the provincial Chamber of Commerce

3.1. Lack of awareness of public service

The Chamber of Commerce is the third sector between government departments and business entities. It mainly relies on non-profit income such as membership dues, private donations, or government grants to carry out daily business activities and service supply. With the increasing management costs such as rent, labor, operation, and maintenance, the daily income of the society may not be able to meet the basic expenses of some chambers of commerce in the province. There are income-generating issues such as charging fees in the city, managing and operating chambers of commerce in an enterprise-oriented and market-oriented way, lacking in public service awareness, and losing the value and attributes of the Chamber of Commerce itself as a "volunteer" in the third sector.

3.2. Lack of institutional norms

Laws and regulations are the highest code of conduct for optimizing resource allocation, strengthening top-level design, conducting macro-control, and promoting the orderly development of the industry. Existing administrative regulations have clarified various administrative matters of chambers of commerce, such as the Regulations on the Registration and Administration of Social Organizations. However, there is a clear lack of rights and obligations for social organizations such as chambers of commerce to participate in social public governance and regulate daily operations and management. In recent years, the province has actively explored and taken the initiative to introduce local regulations regulating the business development, daily management, and operation services of chambers of commerce, which has made a beneficial exploration of the institutionalization and standardization construction of chambers of commerce, but the legal system guarantee for the healthy and orderly development of chambers of commerce is still insufficient.

3.3. Uneven level of development

In recent years, governments around Shaanxi have paid attention to investment and talent introduction, and shown unprecedented support for the remote chamber of commerce. This allows the rapid rise of the remote chamber of commerce linked by family affection and nostalgia. Compared with the rise of the chamber of commerce in different places, the development of the industry chamber of commerce appears to be a semi-stagnant phenomenon, due to the lack of a sense of group development and core figures to lead and government financial support. Hence, most entrepreneurs narrowly think that "peers are friends" would not want to join

the industry chamber of commerce, hindering the development of the industry chamber of commerce. At the same time, the development of grassroots chambers of commerce is also facing many difficulties. The “empty shelf” phenomenon is more serious in some grassroots chambers of commerce because they are not in the more economically developed areas and the development zone, the daily contact is not adequate, the sense of existence is low, the continuity of work is difficult to maintain, and the phenomenon of interruption is serious. The functions of the Chamber of Commerce under the Federation of Industry and Commerce generally depend on the granting and authorization of the government or the Federation of Industry and Commerce, and the focus of work tends to be administrative management, which has shortcomings in the economic services, organizational construction, reform and innovation of the chamber of commerce, and so on.

3.4. Lack of unified centralized management

Due to the differences in the system and mechanism of the management chambers of the Federation of Industry and Commerce at all levels in the province, the lack of an administrative basis for the overall planning, resulted in the lack of scientific planning for the development of chambers of commerce at all levels, the lack of unified leadership and management standards, the lack of effective exchange and cooperation mechanisms between many chambers of commerce, and the insufficient management of the end of the problem of “tight under loose” and “strict under lax”, seriously hindering the effective play of the role of chambers of commerce. At the same time, due to the different centralized management subjects, the registration, business scope, preparation and setting, annual report review, management, and operation of the Chamber of Commerce involve various departments such as civil affairs, the Federation of Industry and Commerce, the Development and Reform Commission, and the public trust, weakening the role of the Federation of Industry and Commerce as the competent department, greatly reducing the regulatory role and efficiency of the chamber of commerce, and the management mode of “strict entry, light supervision.” This is not conducive to the cultivation and development of the chamber of commerce. Third, multi-department joint management sometimes leads to the chamber of commerce being at a loss, struggling to cope with the phenomenon of lack of effective external supervision. Some chambers of commerce themselves lack normative autonomy, causing the disorderly development of chambers of commerce.

4. Important measures to promote the healthy development of chambers of commerce

4.1. Clarify the boundary of power and responsibility, and effectively give play to the functions of the Federation of Industry and Commerce

The administrative model of “one set of teams and two brands” of the Federation of Industry and Commerce makes the federation overly dependent on political rights, more inclined to get closer to the government and understate the social attributes. The excessive dependence on the government leads to the unclear boundary between the Federation of Industry and Commerce and the government Chamber of commerce, showing the tendency of official standards and administration. First, clarify the responsibility positioning of the Federation of Industry and Commerce, straighten out the responsibility setting of the organization of the Federation of Industry and Commerce, abandon the separate administrative management mode, implement the differentiated management system of the administrative chamber of commerce, and implement the chairman responsibility system. The second is to increase the size of the cadre of the Federation of Industry and Commerce, establish

a cadre rotation exchange mechanism, incorporate the assessment of the cadre of the Federation of Industry and Commerce into the unified target assessment scope of government departments at all levels, strengthen the knowledge and theory learning of the cadre of the Federation of Industry and Commerce, and enhance the comprehensive quality and business ability of the cadre of the Federation of Industry and Commerce to serve the chamber of Commerce. The third is to promote the reform and innovation of the work of the Federation of Industry and Commerce, change management thinking, take the initiative to disclose information, introduce participants, break communication barriers, actively carry out joint meetings, organize all kinds of business exchange activities, and achieve positive interaction among participants. Fourth, give full play to the social attributes of the Federation of Industry and Commerce, strengthen the education and guidance of the party-building business of the Chamber of Commerce, and actively strive for the policy support of the government for the development of the Chamber of Commerce. In a planned and purposeful way, promote the rational layout of various chambers of commerce, promote structural adjustment, increase support, and implement the last-place elimination and withdrawal mechanism.

4.2. Strengthen legal protection and strengthen regulatory and policy support

The improvement of supporting laws and regulations is conducive to the healthy development of chambers of commerce. The first is to guide and urge governments at all levels to introduce complete regulations on the management system of chambers of commerce, clarify the basic rights and obligations of chambers of commerce as independent legal persons and social organizations such as property rights and responsibilities, operation, and governance structure, and make clear provisions on the development of chambers of commerce from the aspects of factor guarantee, innovation and development, and government services. The second is to improve the basic organizational structure of the board of supervisors, the board of directors, and the secretariat, clarify the functions, responsibilities, and boundaries of various chamber of commerce organizations, implement the democratic election system, and elect the president of the chamber of commerce who speaks politics, understands the economy, knows government and enterprises, and leads the development of the chamber of commerce. The third is to formulate a mechanism for the transfer of public service functions, open up institutional barriers for chambers of commerce to undertake public services, standardize the code of conduct for government purchase of services, issue normative documents, and actively carry out the pilot work of chambers of commerce to undertake public services, including qualification certification and grade assessment, industry thrift and other public services. This can provide institutional policy support and legal and regulatory guarantees for various chambers of commerce to participate in social services and regional governance. The fourth is to establish a joint supervision and inspection mechanism for all parties, the competent departments, registration departments, and business departments, introduce measures, rules, and regulations for the supervision and management of the organization registration, operation, and maintenance of the Chamber of Commerce, establish a multi-department joint meeting mechanism, provide the whole process and the whole chain supervision and service guarantee work, and provide a strong institutional guarantee for the high-quality development of the Chamber of Commerce.

4.3. Improve the autonomy level of chambers of commerce and promote comprehensive development

Improving the level of autonomy is the internal driving force for the development and growth of chambers of

commerce. The first is to innovate working methods, update outdated operating concepts, abandon backward management methods, establish a scientific and complete operating mechanism and rules of the chamber of commerce, build a well-known chamber of commerce brand, enhance its development strength, broaden the breadth and depth of participation in social governance, enhance the public awareness and social influence of the chamber of commerce, and constantly create a new type of social organization. The second is to establish a scientific chamber of commerce management system, actively introduce the management and operation mode of the top 100 enterprises, and establish a scientific and transparent management system such as internal incentive assessment, talent training, member registration, membership fee management, file training, asset review, procedure, credit commitment, rotation, expenditure, and event planning, and create a good operation ecology. The third is to pay attention to the party-building work of the Chamber of Commerce, adhere to the full coverage of the party-building work, establish the party branch of the Chamber of Commerce, adhere to political learning, improve the party-building work system, strengthen the position construction, create the demonstration brand of the party building and promote the chamber of commerce, explore the new model of “Party building + Chamber of Commerce” service work, and form a good situation for the party building work and the development of the chamber of commerce. The fourth is to promote the entrepreneurial spirit of the chamber of commerce, encourage entrepreneurs to improve their ability, quality, and moral level, maintain market order, and promote the development of the chamber of commerce.

4.4. Build a new type of relationship between government and business, and continuously improve the market business environment

The so-called new model is to clarify the relationship between the government and the market and identify the boundaries of responsibility between the market and the government. On the one hand, financial departments at all levels should set up special funds for the development of chambers of commerce, support chambers of commerce to participate in social public governance, and ensure the orderly release of funds for the purchase of services. On the other hand, the year-end assessment of the Chamber of Commerce is linked to the target evaluation mechanism, and the Chamber of Commerce with different assessment levels is inclined to fund and differentiated rewards. The second is to provide a financial service guarantee, jointly with the financial department of the tax department to provide financial credit insurance, financing loans, tax reduction and fee reduction docking services, establish a “1+N” work mode, ensure the Federation of Industry and Commerce is responsible for docking and liaison, and actively provide preferential tax policies in housing leasing, property management, land use, personnel security, and other aspects. The third is to smooth the orderly political participation and information channels of chambers of commerce, requiring representatives of local chambers of commerce to offer suggestions, participate in political discussions, and participate in the drafting and implementation of relevant policies and systems of government departments. The fourth is to increase the incubation and cultivation of different chambers of commerce, given the local chamber of commerce has low attention, the lack of local information resources, the hollow phenomenon of grassroots chambers of commerce, the low enthusiasm of local chambers of commerce, vicious competition among the industry chambers of commerce, and other problems, to formulate differentiated rectification plans and implementation measures. The fifth is to introduce a business environment evaluation mechanism, take enterprise satisfaction as the guide, and conduct extensive investigation and research on different situations in the implementation process of various policies and measures of governments at all levels in the implementation of the business environment,

adopt sampling surveys, interviews, open investigation, and other working methods, listen to the real demands of chambers of commerce promptly, and solve practical development problems. Hence, this jointly promotes the high-quality development of chambers of commerce and the private economy.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

References

- [1] Lin J, 2023, Research on Problems and Countermeasures of Promoting the Development of Private Economy in Chengdu Federation of Industry and Commerce, thesis, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China.
- [2] Gao YL, 2021, Fostering and Developing Chambers of Commerce with Chinese Characteristics. *People's Forum*, 2021(10): 6–8.
- [3] Yu AN, Jin B, Xu C, et al., 2022, Standard to Promote the Development of Private Economy New Benchmark: Based on the “Two Health” Standard. *Market Regulation and Quality Technology Research*, 2022(04): 38–41 + 50.
- [4] Zhao XX, 2022, Research on Optimization of Development Path of Z District Federation of Industry and Commerce to Promote its Affiliated Chamber of Commerce based on Social Capital Theory, thesis, The Communist Party of China Shandong Provincial Party Committee Party School.
- [5] Bulletin of the People's Government of Shaanxi Province, 2023, Letter of the General Office of the People's Government of Shaanxi Province on Agreeing to Establish the Reform and Development inter-departmental Joint meeting system of the Chamber of Commerce of Industry Associations of Shaanxi Province.
- [6] Yang H, 2022, Research on the Development of Xintai Chamber of Commerce Affiliated to the Federation of Industry and Commerce, thesis, Shandong University of Finance and Economics.
- [7] Fang H, 2024, Build a Condensed Development Chamber of Commerce Platform Together. *Business Review*, July 16, 2024, 5. <https://doi.org/10.28279/n.cnki.ngsdb.2024.000260>
- [8] Jiang R, 2024, Promote the High-quality Development of Industry Associations and Chambers of Commerce Services. *China Society News*, July 31, 2024, 1.
- [9] Wang BJ, 2024, Ningbo City, Zhejiang Province: Industry Associations and Chambers of Commerce Actively Integrate and Serve High-quality Development. *China Society News*, July 16, 2024, 4. <https://doi.org/10.28698/n.cnki.nshhu.2024.000853>

Publisher's note

Bio-Byword Scientific Publishing remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.