

Construction and Comparative Analysis of Economic and Trade Cooperation Zones Outside China

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Abstract: China's construction of overseas economic and trade cooperation zones is one of the important measures for the Chinese government to promote opening up and strengthen international cooperation. The Chinese government supports powerful enterprises to carry out various forms of mutually beneficial cooperation abroad, so as to promote the common development with the host country. When Chinese enterprises invest in overseas economic and trade cooperation zones, they will attract more enterprises to invest and set up factories in the host countries, which will increase the employment and tax revenue of the host countries, increase foreign exchange earned through export, improve technological level and promote common economic development. This paper aims to explore the characteristics, models and similarities and differences of China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zone construction with similar mechanisms in other countries through comparative analysis, so as to deeply understand China's role in the global economy. The construction of China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones will provide important opportunities for Chinese enterprises to expand the international market and improve their international competitiveness, and also make positive contributions to promoting global economic cooperation and development.

Keywords: China; Construction of Overseas Economic and Trade Cooperation Zones; Comparative Analysis

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1. Introduction

With the deepening of global economic integration, international trade and investment cooperation has become an important force driving economic growth and promoting common prosperity of all countries. As the world's second largest economy, China actively participates in international economic cooperation and strengthens the construction of overseas economic and trade cooperation zones. Overseas economic and trade cooperation zone is a special economic zone established by the Chinese government to promote opening up and international cooperation, aiming to provide a superior investment environment and convenient trade conditions [1], attract overseas enterprises to invest in China, and promote Chinese enterprises to go global.

This paper will compare and analyze the similarities and differences between the construction of overseas economic and trade cooperation zones in China and similar mechanisms in other countries, and deeply explore their characteristics, models and impacts on the global economy. First, we will analyze the strategic significance and background of China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones, and explore their important role in promoting international trade and investment cooperation. Secondly, we will compare the differences between China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones and similar mechanisms in other countries, including Singapore's industrial parks and South Korea's free trade ports, and draw useful experiences and inspirations from them. Finally, we will focus on the characteristics and advantages of economic and trade cooperation zones outside China, as well as the challenges they face and the direction of their future development [2].

Through the comparative analysis of economic and trade cooperation zones outside China, we can have a more comprehensive understanding of their positioning and role in the global economy, and provide important opportunities for Chinese enterprises to expand the international market and improve their international competitiveness. At the same time, the construction of overseas economic and trade cooperation zones has also made positive contributions to promoting global economic cooperation and development. Next, we will deeply study the specific characteristics and models of

China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones, in order to provide useful reference for further promoting the development of China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones.

2. The Background of Economic and Trade Cooperation Zones Outside China

China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones originate from the process of China's opening up to the outside world. In the early days of reform and opening up, China piloted the establishment of special economic zones (such as Shenzhen and Zhuhai) to introduce foreign capital and advanced technology and promote economic development [3]. The successful experience of these pilot projects prompted the Chinese government to further explore new models of opening up, so overseas economic and trade cooperation zones emerged at the historic moment.

The development background of China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones mainly includes the following aspects. First of all, as the world's second largest economy, China's opening-up is an inevitable choice to achieve sustainable development. Through the construction of overseas economic and trade cooperation zones, China can further expand the scope and level of opening-up and attract more foreign investment and technological innovation. Secondly, with the acceleration of global economic integration, countries have promoted regional cooperation and economic and trade liberalization one after another. Moreover, China's industrial transformation and upgrading and scientific and technological innovation need to introduce more advanced technologies and knowledge, and overseas economic and trade cooperation zones can become platforms for innovation and technology transfer [4].

Overseas economic and trade cooperation zones play an important role in China's opening strategy. First, it is an important window and platform for China to open up to the outside world, which can attract overseas enterprises and investors to enter the Chinese market. Secondly, overseas economic and trade cooperation zones can promote Chinese enterprises to go global and actively participate in global economic

cooperation and competition. It can also help Chinese companies expand overseas markets and enhance their international competitiveness. In addition, overseas economic and trade cooperation zones also help promote regional economic integration and common prosperity. By deepening regional economic and trade cooperation, we can achieve complementary resource advantages, integration of industrial chains and market connectivity.

All in all, China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones originated from the pilot experience in the process of opening up to the outside world, aiming to further expand the scope and level of opening up, attract foreign investment, promote trade and promote economic development. In China's opening up strategy, overseas economic and trade cooperation zones have an important position, which can be used as a window and platform for opening up to promote Chinese enterprises to go global and promote regional economic integration and common prosperity.

3. Characteristics of Economic and Trade Cooperation Zones Outside China

The construction of China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones has the following characteristics:

Policy support

The Chinese government has provided positive policy support to overseas economic and trade cooperation zones. For example, special management agencies have been set up to provide a package of services, enhance policy coordination and communication, and promote the development of overseas economic and trade cooperation zones. The government also encourages the implementation of innovation policies in overseas economic and trade cooperation zones to provide more convenience and support for enterprises [5].

(1) Establishment of specialized management agencies: The government is responsible for the planning, construction, operation and supervision of overseas economic and trade cooperation zones by setting up specialized management agencies, such as overseas business agencies or designated departments. These institutions can

efficiently coordinate the resources of all parties, ensure the smooth operation of the cooperation zone, and provide comprehensive services and support for the settled enterprises.

(2) Provision of package services: In order to attract more enterprises to settle in and promote the prosperity and development of the cooperation zone, the government has provided a package of services, including but not limited to investment consultation, market research, project approval, tax planning, legal support, etc. These services have greatly reduced the threshold and risk of enterprises' overseas investment, and enhanced their investment confidence and motivation.

(3) Strengthen policy coordination and communication: the government actively communicates and coordinates with the host country government and relevant departments, strives for preferential policies in taxation, land, employment and other aspects, and creates a good external environment for the development of the cooperation zone. At the same time, the government has also strengthened coordination and cooperation with various domestic departments to ensure the consistency and coherence of policies and provide a strong guarantee for the sustainable and healthy development of the cooperation zones.

(4) Encouraging the implementation of innovation policies: In order to stimulate the innovation vitality of the cooperation zones, the government encourages the implementation of innovation policies in the cooperation zones, such as setting up science and technology innovation funds, supporting the development of high-tech industries, and promoting industry-university-research cooperation. These policies help attract more innovative enterprises to settle in the cooperation zone, form industrial agglomeration effect, and promote industrial upgrading and transformation.

(5) Providing financing support: The government also provides financing support to enterprises in the cooperation zone through policy banks, commercial banks and other financial institutions to solve the problem of capital shortage of enterprises. At the same time, the government also encourages private capital to participate in the

construction and operation of cooperation zones, broaden financing channels and reduce financing costs.

Legal framework

China has formulated a corresponding legal framework for overseas economic and trade cooperation zones. For example, overseas economic and trade cooperation zones can enjoy the policy dividends of pilot Free Trade zones (FTZS), including simplifying administrative approval, relaxing market access, and optimizing the business environment. In addition, China has signed bilateral or multilateral investment promotion and protection agreements with relevant countries to provide legal guarantee for overseas economic and trade cooperation zones.

(1) Policy dividend of pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ)

Simplified administrative approval: Overseas economic and trade cooperation zones can enjoy the policy dividends of pilot Free Trade Zones (FTZS) if they meet certain conditions, including simplifying the administrative approval process and reducing the administrative burden on the establishment and operation of enterprises.

Ease of market access: Cooperation zones usually relax market access conditions to attract more domestic and foreign enterprises to settle in and promote industrial agglomeration and upgrading.

Optimize the business environment: By optimizing the business environment, including improving the efficiency of government services, strengthening the protection of intellectual property rights, and improving the legal service system, we will provide a fairer, transparent and predictable business environment for enterprises in the cooperation zone.

(2) Bilateral or multilateral investment promotion and protection agreements

China has signed numerous bilateral or multilateral investment promotion and protection agreements (BITs) with relevant countries, which aim to protect the legitimate rights and interests of investors and promote investment liberalization and

facilitation. In overseas economic and trade cooperation zones, these agreements also apply, providing legal protection and dispute settlement mechanism for enterprises in the zone.

These agreements usually include investment protection, investment promotion, investment treatment (such as national treatment and most-favored nation treatment), investment dispute settlement and other contents, which help reduce investment risks and improve investment security.

(3) Legislation on cross-border economic cooperation zones

The Chinese government is also actively exploring the legislative work of cross-border economic cooperation zones by formulating relevant laws and regulations to clarify key issues such as the legal status, management mode, rights and obligations of cooperation zones. This will provide a solid legal foundation for the long-term and stable development of the cooperation zone.

Investment Environment

Overseas economic and trade cooperation zones are committed to creating an excellent investment environment and attracting foreign investment. These areas usually have well-developed infrastructure and services, including modern transportation, electricity supply, and communications networks. At the same time, overseas economic and trade cooperation zones also provide high-quality land resources and industrial parks to meet the investment needs of enterprises.

(1) Modern transportation: Overseas economic and trade cooperation zones are usually located in convenient geographical locations and have modern transportation networks, including highways, railways, ports or aviation hubs. These facilities not only facilitate the import and export transportation of enterprise products, but also facilitate the movement of people and the exchange of information within and outside the region.

(2) Power supply: Stable power supply is the basis for the normal operation of

enterprises. The cooperation zone will build reliable power infrastructure to ensure sufficient and stable power support for enterprises and meet their production needs.

(3) Communication network: In the information age, efficient communication network is an important means for enterprises to keep in touch with the outside world and carry out business transactions. The cooperation zone will build advanced communication network facilities, including broadband, optical fiber, mobile communication, etc., to provide enterprises with high-speed, stable and secure communication services.

(4) Land resources and industrial parks: Cooperation zones will provide high-quality land resources and plan industrial parks according to the needs of enterprises. These industrial parks usually have perfect public facilities, environmental protection facilities and supporting services, such as R&D centers, testing centers, and logistics centers, to meet the diversified needs of enterprises.

(5) One-stop service: In order to facilitate the entry and operation of enterprises, the cooperation zone will provide one-stop service, including investment consultation, project approval, registration, tax planning, legal support, etc. These services can greatly reduce the operation cost and time cost of enterprises, and improve the operation efficiency of enterprises.

(6) Policy support: In addition to supporting infrastructure and services, the zone will also provide a series of policy support, such as tax incentives, financial subsidies, financing support, etc. These policies can reduce the investment risk and operating cost of enterprises, and improve the return on investment and competitiveness of enterprises.

Preferential policies

In order to attract more investment and promote economic development, overseas economic and trade cooperation zones usually enjoy a series of preferential policies. For example, preferential tax policies, such as corporate income tax reduction, tariff preference, etc. In addition, support measures for talent introduction and training,

intellectual property protection, and market access may be provided.

(1) Preferential tax policies

Corporate income tax reduction and exemption: Enterprises in the cooperation zone may enjoy corporate income tax reduction and exemption to a certain extent, and the specific extent and period of exemption and exemption shall be determined according to the policies of the cooperation zone. This helps reduce the tax burden of enterprises and increase their profit space.

Tariff preference: In order to promote import and export trade in the cooperation zone, the government may provide tariff preference policies, such as reducing import tariffs and providing export tax rebates. This helps to reduce the trade costs of firms and improve their competitiveness in the international market.

(2) Talent introduction and training

Talent introduction policy: The cooperation zone may formulate special talent introduction policy, such as providing subsidies for talent introduction, solving the employment problems of talents' spouses and children's education, so as to attract high-level talents and talents in short supply.

Training support: In order to improve the skills and quality of employees of enterprises in the cooperation zone, the government or the management agency of the cooperation zone may organize various training activities, including skills training and management training, and provide corresponding training subsidies or fee waivers.

(3) Intellectual property protection

Strengthening IPR protection: The cooperation Zone will strengthen IPR protection, establish a perfect IPR protection system, combat infringement, and protect enterprises' innovation achievements and IPR rights and interests.

Provision of intellectual property services: In order to facilitate enterprises to apply for and maintain intellectual property rights, an intellectual property service

organization may be set up in the cooperation zone to provide one-stop services such as patent application, trademark registration and copyright registration.

(4) Market access support

Easing market access restrictions: In order to attract more enterprises to settle in the cooperation zone, the government may relax market access restrictions and lower the registration threshold and conditions for enterprises.

Provide market information services: The management organization of the cooperation zone will actively collect and analyze market information, provide timely and accurate market information and consulting services for enterprises, help enterprises understand market dynamics and trends, and formulate scientific market strategies.

(5) Other supporting measures

Financing support: The government or financial institutions may provide financing support for enterprises in the cooperation zone, such as loan discount and guarantee services, to solve the financing difficulties of enterprises.

Infrastructure construction: The cooperation zone will strengthen infrastructure construction, including the construction and maintenance of public facilities such as transportation, communication, water supply and power supply, so as to provide a good production and living environment for enterprises.

Legal protection: The cooperation Zone will establish a sound legal service system to provide enterprises with legal advice, legal aid and other services to protect the legitimate rights and interests of enterprises from infringement.

Innovation-driven

Overseas economic and trade cooperation zones focus on innovation-driven development and encourage scientific and technological innovation, research and development cooperation and technology transfer. By introducing advanced technologies and innovative models, we will promote enterprises to enhance their

competitiveness and promote industrial upgrading and transformation and development.

(1) Platform construction: The cooperation zone will actively build scientific and technological innovation platforms, such as scientific and technological R&D centers and innovation incubators, to provide enterprises with one-stop services such as R&D testing, technology transfer and achievement transformation. These platforms help enterprises pool resources, improve innovation efficiency, and accelerate the commercialization process of scientific and technological achievements.

(2) International cooperation: The cooperation zone will also strengthen cooperation with international science and technology organizations and institutions, introduce foreign advanced technology and management experience, promote enterprises to carry out cooperative research and development with foreign research institutions and universities, and improve the technical level and international competitiveness of enterprises.

(3) Industry-university-research cooperation: The cooperation zone encourages industry-university-research cooperation among enterprises, universities and research institutions, and promotes technological innovation and industrial upgrading through co-construction of R&D institutions and joint training of talents. This cooperation mode helps realize resource sharing, complementary advantages, and improve the pertinence and effectiveness of innovation.

(4) Technology transfer service: The cooperation zone will establish a sound technology transfer service system to provide enterprises with comprehensive services such as technology evaluation, technology transaction and technology financing. This will help accelerate the transformation and application of scientific and technological achievements and promote industrial upgrading and transformation and development.

(5) Market expansion: The cooperation zone will actively help enterprises to expand the market and strengthen the contact and cooperation with domestic and foreign markets. By holding product exhibitions, participating in international exhibitions and

other ways, improve the visibility and influence of enterprises, and promote products to the international market. At the same time, the cooperation zone will also strengthen cooperation with domestic and foreign industry associations, chambers of commerce and other organizations to provide more market information and resource support for enterprises.

In short, economic and trade cooperation zones outside China are characterized by policy support, legal framework, investment environment and preferential policies. These characteristics aim to provide a good business environment for overseas economic and trade cooperation zones, attract foreign investment and promote economic development.

4. Modes of Economic and Trade Cooperation Zones Outside China

There are some differences in the mode and operation mode between China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones and similar mechanisms in other countries (such as free trade zones and special economic zones). The following are its key features:

Model of free trade zone

A free trade area is a special economic area based on geographical scope, usually set up in the country, with the aim of achieving trade liberalization, investment facilitation and market openness. Ftas usually promote trade liberalization by reducing tariff barriers, simplifying trade procedures, and easing market access. Overseas economic and trade cooperation zones are set up in overseas countries or regions, focusing more on promoting industrial upgrading, technological innovation and economic cooperation.

Mode of special area

Special economic zones are special economic regions established in China, usually based on cities or regions within a certain geographical range, to attract foreign investment and promote economic development by providing preferential policies and

rich service supporting facilities. Special economic zones usually focus on manufacturing, export processing, financial services and other sectors, focusing on attracting foreign investment and promoting industrial upgrading. In contrast, overseas economic and trade cooperation zones emphasize more on cooperation with overseas countries or regions, and promote economic cooperation and common development of both sides by introducing foreign capital and technology.

Operation mode

Economic and trade cooperation zones outside China are usually jointly established or jointly constructed by the Chinese government and the governments of relevant countries or regions. The operation mode of the cooperation zone can be government-led and operated by enterprises, or jointly managed by the government and enterprises. In the process of operation, the Chinese government usually provides policy support, legal guarantee and service guarantee, while encouraging and guiding enterprises to participate in regional cooperation and economic activities. In contrast, free trade zones and special economic zones are usually dominated by local governments, and are operated and managed under the organization of the government.

All in all, there are some differences in the model and operation mode between China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones and other similar mechanisms, such as free trade zones and special economic zones. Overseas economic and trade cooperation zones focus more on promoting industrial upgrading, technological innovation and economic cooperation, and achieve their goals through cooperation between Chinese and foreign governments. It aims to promote economic cooperation and common development between China and foreign countries or regions.

5. Case Study of Economic and Trade Cooperation Zones Outside China

China-pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

The CPEC is an economic cooperation project jointly promoted by China and Pakistan, which aims to boost the economic development of both sides by improving

infrastructure, energy connectivity, and building industrial parks. The project includes cooperation in ports, roads, railways, energy and other fields. Successful experiences include high-level government support, effective management of project planning and implementation, improved investment climate, and communication and collaboration with local communities. However, CPEC also faces some challenges, such as security issues, policy adjustments, and difficulties in infrastructure construction.

Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

Focac is an important cooperation mechanism between China and African countries, which is committed to promoting economic cooperation and development between the two sides. Focac has achieved remarkable results by building economic and trade cooperation zones, promoting infrastructure development and strengthening personnel training. Successful experiences include high-level government support, complementary resource advantages, pragmatic cooperation mechanisms, and diversified project cooperation. However, FOCAC also faces some challenges, such as political risks, unbalanced trade structure, environmental protection and other issues.

Leizhou Industrial Park, Thailand, Shenzhen

Shenzhen Thailand Leizhou Industrial Park is a comprehensive industrial park set up by China in Leizhou, Thailand. The park was established in 2005 by the Shenzhen Municipal government and the government of Leizhou City, Thailand. The park mainly introduced electronic information, biomedicine, auto parts and other industries, and provided investment preferential policies, infrastructure construction and human resources support and other services. Success stories include intergovernmental cooperation, favorable policies, good infrastructure, and abundant human resources. Challenges include cultural differences, language barriers and market competition.

Dhaka Special Economic Zone, Bangladesh

Dhaka Special Economic Zone of Bangladesh is a special economic zone established by China in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. The zone was established in 2016 with

investment from Chinese companies and support from the Bangladeshi government. The special zone mainly develops industries such as manufacturing, logistics, information technology and service industries. Success stories include government support, preferential policies, good infrastructure and geographical advantages. Challenges include issues such as political risk, funding and talent acquisition.

These case studies show that the successful experience of China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones includes the support and cooperation between governments, the provision of preferential policies, good infrastructure construction, and the full play of geographical and resource advantages. At the same time, the challenges include cultural differences, political risks, market competition and capital and talent introduction. Through in-depth understanding of these cases, it can provide reference and experience for other countries or regions in the establishment of overseas economic and trade cooperation zones.

6. Comparison with Economic and Trade Cooperation Zones in Other Countries

There are differences and similarities between the economic and trade cooperation zones outside China and those of other countries in some aspects. Here's how they compare:

Government support

The economic and trade cooperation zones outside China have received great attention and policy support from the Chinese government, including tax incentives, land supply and administrative convenience. Economic and trade cooperation zones in other countries also usually enjoy government support, but the specific policies may be different.

Geographical location and market scale

As the world's second largest economy, China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones have huge domestic demand markets and good geographical locations, which can attract more international enterprises to enter. And economic and

trade cooperation zones in other countries can also attract investors according to their own geographical location and market scale.

Industry characteristics

Economic and trade cooperation zones outside China usually cover multiple industries, such as manufacturing, logistics, finance, etc., to meet the needs of the global industrial chain. However, economic and trade cooperation zones in other countries can locate different cooperation zones according to their own industrial structure and advantages.

Legal and policy environment

In the construction of overseas economic and trade cooperation zones, China pays attention to the establishment of legal framework and policy environment to protect the rights and interests of investors. Economic and trade cooperation zones in other countries will also regulate the operation of cooperation zones according to their legal and policy systems.

Cultural and human resources

China has a huge talent reserve and rich cultural resources, which can provide diversified talent support for overseas economic and trade cooperation zones. And economic and trade cooperation zones in other countries can also attract investors according to their own cultural characteristics and human resources.

It should be noted that economic and trade cooperation zones in each country differ in terms of development models, management mechanisms and advantageous industries. Therefore, in the construction of China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones, we can learn from the successful experience of other countries, and formulate corresponding strategies and policies in combination with China's national conditions and market demand.

7. Conclusions and Prospects

China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones are an important strategy

actively promoted by the Chinese government, which aims to take advantage of China's huge market demand and superior resources, attract domestic and foreign investors, and build a number of overseas economic and trade cooperation zones with characteristics and competitiveness. These cooperation zones, which cover a wide range of industries, create a favorable business environment for enterprises and promote industrial upgrading and technological innovation by providing policy support, tax relief and other preferential measures.

Looking into the future, economic and trade cooperation zones outside China are expected to achieve greater development. First of all, in the context of globalization, China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones will continue to attract international capital and enterprises, and accelerate the reconstruction and transfer of the global industrial chain. Secondly, as China continues to deepen reform and opening up, overseas economic and trade cooperation zones will become an important platform for Chinese enterprises to go out and participate in global competition. In addition, with the promotion of the Belt and Road Initiative, overseas economic and trade cooperation zones will also play an important role in connecting Asia and Europe, strengthening cross-border trade and logistics cooperation.

In order to promote the healthy development of China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones, the following policy suggestions are put forward:

(1) Strengthen policy support

Continue to provide preferential policies such as tax reduction or exemption, land supply and administrative convenience to reduce business operation costs and attract more domestic and foreign enterprises to participate in the construction of the cooperation zone.

(2) Support innovative development

Increase support for technological innovation and research and development, encourage enterprises in the cooperation zone to carry out scientific and technological innovation, and enhance competitiveness and added value.

(3) Expand cooperation areas

Further expand the industrial layout of the cooperation zone, focus on high-end manufacturing, modern logistics, financial services, digital economy and other high value-added areas, and improve the overall industrial chain level.

(4) Strengthen international cooperation and communication

Strengthen cooperation and exchanges with relevant countries and regions, jointly build an open and inclusive network of economic and trade cooperation zones, and promote resource sharing and mutual benefit.

(5) Enhance talent training and attractiveness

increase investment in talent training and education, cultivate professionals who meet the needs of overseas economic and trade cooperation zones, and provide benefits and treatment to attract talents.

Through the implementation of the above policies and measures, China's overseas economic and trade cooperation zones are expected to further enhance their international competitiveness and influence, and make greater contributions to the high-quality development of China's economy.

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