The Economic Leader about Leading the Rise of the Yellow River Basin

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Abstract: The economic leader is the locomotive of the rise of regional economy. The rise of any regional economy is inseparable from the leading role of the economy. The Yellow River Basin is no exception. In recent years, as the north-south development gap widens, the voice of accelerating the rise of the Yellow River Basin is growing. On the Yellow River Basin perspective, in order to speed up its own rise, we must concentrate on building an economic leader and make it the locomotive driving the rise of the Yellow River Basin. Relatively, Shandong is not only a big economic province in the Yellow River Basin, but also the third largest province in China. It is close to the marine outfall of the Yellow River, and its economic strength and geographical advantages are unrivaled. It can be seen that in order to shorten the regional development gap, we must rely on Shandong Province to build an economic leader leading the rise of the Yellow River Basin, so as to promote the rapid take-off of the northwest of North China and even the whole northern region.

Keywords: The rise of the Yellow River Basin; Shandong Province; Economic leader

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Seize the opportune moment of the widening gap between North and south, General Secretary Xi Jinping has put forward the grand conception of ecological protection and high quality development in the the Yellow River River Basin at the right moment, and pointed out the direction for the rise of the Yellow River basin and its coordinated regional development objectively. The rise of the Yellow River Basin is a millennium dream of the Chinese nation and an important shortcut to shorten the development gap between regions, especially between the north and the south, this stage, not only the strong support of the central government and the unity and cooperation of all parts along the Yellow River is needed, but also the leading role of the economy is needed in order to energize the development of the Yellow River Basin. Obviously, relying on Shandong Province, which ranks third in the country and has the strongest economic strength in the Yellow River Basin, it is imperative to build an economic leader leading the rise of the Yellow River Basin.

The Yellow River is the mother river of the Chinese nation and the birthplace of Chinese civilization. For a long time, due to various factors, the development of the Yellow River Basin has lagged behind that of the Yangtze River Basin, which further widens the development gap between the north and the south, and restricts the coordinated development of regional economy and even the rise of China’s economy. In recent years, with the widening development gap between the north and the south, the voice of accelerating the rise of the Yellow River Basin is also growing. Obviously, the rise of the Yellow River Basin has become the key link of China’s economic rise.

In today’s world, the rise of the Yellow River Basin is a huge systematic project, which not only needs the strong support of the central government and the unity and cooperation of all regions along the Yellow River, but also needs the leading role of the economy.

Compared with the Yangtze River Basin, the economic development of the Yellow River Basin is relatively backward, and its economic strength is relatively weak. Not only the proportion of poor and backward areas is relatively high, the construction of urban agglomerations is relatively backward, but also the lack of strong economic leaders leads to the further widening of the gap between the north and the south. For example, in 2020, the per capital GDP of the Yangtze River Basin was 82600 yuan, while that of the Yellow River Basin was only 59000 Yuan, the relative decline of economic status was self-evident. Meanwhile, in the list of top 10 cities in China, is due to Chengdu, which straddles the two major river basins, Shanghai, Chongqing, Suzhou, Wuhan and Nanjing are shortlisted in the Yangtze River Basin, while the Yellow River Basin is not in the top 10, which restricts the development of regional economy. In fact, the rapid development of the Yangtze River Basin, in addition to its relatively solid foundation and the strong support from the central government, as well as its leading role of the economy. It can be seen that the creation and cultivation of economic leaders is indeed an
important guarantee for the rise of the Yellow River Basin. In order to speed up the rise of the Yellow River Basin, we must focus on building the economic leader and enhance the joint force of regional development.

The Yellow River basin can be divided into narrow sense and broad sense. The narrow sense of the Yellow River basin includes 69 States, leagues and cities, 329 counties and banners (cities), covering an area of 795000 square kilometers. In a broad sense, the Yellow River basin includes all administrative regions of nine provinces along the Yellow River, with a total area of nearly 3.6 million square kilometers. At present, the economic strength of these nine provinces and regions and their national ranking are: Shandong (3), Henan (5), Sichuan (6), Shaanxi (14), Inner Mongolia (20), Shanxi (21), Gansu (27), Ningxia (29), Qinghai (30). In fact, only the realization of the rise of the Yellow River Basin in a broad sense can be a real significance for the coordinated development of the region and even the rise of the whole Chinese economy.

Comparatively speaking, among the nine provinces in the Yellow River Basin, Shandong Province not only has superior location, but also ranked third in the country, with the strongest economic strength, and can be called the leader of the Yellow River Basin. First of all, Shandong Province has Qingdao, Yantai, Weihai, Dongying, Rizhao, Weifang, Binzhou and other port cities, closely connecting the marine outfall of the Yellow River, which is the best channel to the sea in the Yellow River Basin. Secondly, there are 15 cities in Shandong that have entered the list of top 100 in China, among which Qingdao (13), Jinan (19), Yantai (24), Weifang (38), Zibo (42) and Dongying (50) have entered the top 50. Obviously, in terms of economic strength and geographical advantages, it is Unrivaled in the Yellow River Basin. In addition, the overall strength of Henan, Sichuan and Shaanxi is also relatively high, but they all ranked behind Shandong, and they all belong to inland areas, lacking channel to the sea. In the era of globalization with the rapid rise of marine economy, it is really difficult for inland provinces and regions, which lack absolute advantage in economic strength, to bear the historical responsibility of leading the rapid rise of the Yellow River Basin. Moreover, for the relatively closed and backward Yellow River Basin, The development of port cities and the opening up of sea passage are more necessary and urgent.

However, compared with Guangdong, Jiangsu and other economically strong provinces, Shandong Province is not only relatively weak in economic strength, but also unsatisfactory in geographical location, and relatively backward in education, science and technology and social development. As we all know, Guangdong is located in the Pearl River Delta, adjacent to Hong Kong and Macao, is the forefront of reform and opening up, and its economic strength is second to none; At the same time, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan, Dongguan and other four cities have entered the top 20 of the country in terms of economic aggregate, among which Guangzhou and Shenzhen respectively ranked the third and fourth in the country,
with outstanding influence; There are four key universities in the province, among which Sun Yat-Sen University ranked among the top 10 in China; In addition, it has at least 20 national, provincial and ministerial Key Research Institute and laboratories. Jiangsu is located in the Yangtze River Delta, adjacent to Shanghai, is also the forefront of reform and opening up, the economic strength of the country’s second; At the same time, Suzhou, Nanjing, Wuxi, Nantong and other four cities have entered the top 20 in terms of economic aggregate, among which Suzhou and Nanjing respectively ranked sixth and tenth in China; There are 11 key universities in the province, among which Nanjing University ranked the top 8 in China; At the same time, it has at least 30 national, provincial and ministerial key research institutes and laboratories. In contrast, Shandong is located in the lower reaches of the Yellow River and belongs to the Yellow River Delta in a broad sense; At the same time, although Qingdao and Jinan are in the forefront of the country, they are only ranked after the 12th and 18th, not in the top 10; There are only three key universities in the province, among which Shandong University, the most powerful, is only behind the top 15, and the other two are behind the top 50; At the same time, there are only more than 20 national, provincial and ministerial key research institutes and laboratories. In addition, in addition to the Confucius Family Mansion, Mount Tai and other cultural sites, the construction of other related facilities also lags behind Guangdong and Jiangsu provinces, and its weak position is self-evident.

Obviously, as a major economic province in the Yellow River Basin and its main channel to the sea, the overall strength of Shandong Province is still relatively insufficient. We must increase policy support and economic support, comprehensively speed up the construction of a strong economic province, and effectively build the economic leader of the Yellow River Basin, so as to lead the rise of the entire Yellow River Basin.

First of all, the central government should attach great importance to the economic development of the Yellow River Basin, and comprehensively increase policy support and financial investment in Shandong Province. The rise of the Yellow River Basin is a grand project of the century, and the construction of economic leaders is an vital part of it. We must attach great importance to it and provide all-round high-quality services for the construction of economic leaders in the Yellow River Basin. On this basis, the relevant departments of the central government should start from the strategic height of the rise of the Yellow River Basin, recognize the strategic position of Shandong Province as the economic leader of the Yellow River Basin as soon as possible, comprehensively increase its policy support and financial investment, and provide a favorable policy environment for its overall strength growth and leading role.

Secondly, based on the Blue Ocean, we should speed up the construction of ports and leading cities to provide high-level channel to the sea for the Yellow
River Basin. Shandong Province has Qingdao, Yantai, Weihai, Dongying, Rizhao, Weifang, Binzhou and other port cities. It is the main channel to the sea in the Yellow River Basin, with internal and external connections, which is the biggest advantage of Shandong Province. Therefore, we must base on the Blue Ocean economy, speed up the construction of port urban agglomeration, make full use of our own advantages, especially the developed overseas trade and transportation network, and vigorously cultivate new overseas cooperation platform, so as to provide a high-level access to the sea for the rise of the Yellow River Basin. At the same time, Qingdao, which is the most powerful port city in Shandong Province and the largest port city in the Yellow River Basin, will be built as a leading city in the Yellow River Basin, speed up its economic strength, focus on strengthening the infrastructure construction of ports, airports, railways and urban transportation, and comprehensively enhance its comprehensive functions, emissive power and driving force, in order to lead the rapid rise and take-off of the coastal port urban agglomeration and the urban agglomeration along the Yellow River.

Third, based on the construction of leading economy, we should make every effort to improve the level of infrastructure construction in the whole province. At present, with the help of the favorable conditions of the high-quality development strategy of the Yellow River Basin, we should continue to promote the construction of ports, airports and other important infrastructure in the Blue and Yellow River Economic Zone and even the whole province, and constantly open up new routes; Improve the railway, highway and other related facilities as soon as possible, build a developed transportation network, increase passenger train number in an all-round way, and vigorously develop inter provincial intercity railway; Accelerate the Rural Revitalization Strategy, promote urban transformation and rural construction, and lay a solid material foundation for the construction of economic leader.

Fourth, speed up the adjustment of industrial structure and constantly optimize the advantageous industrial clusters. As a big economic province, in order to remain invincible in the market competition, it must keep up with the pace of world industrial restructuring, speed up its own structural adjustment, promote the transformation of new and old kinetic energy and upgrade high-energy consuming industries; Focus on marine development, petrochemical, non-ferrous metals, machinery and electronics, ocean transportation, modern logistics, international trade and other fields to cultivate a number of industrial clusters. On this basis, relying on the Yellow River Economic Cooperative Area, the industrial division of labor and economic and technological cooperation with the provinces and region along the Yellow River will be comprehensively strengthened, and the industrial foundation of the economic leader will be comprehensively consolidated.

Fifth, support leading enterprises, enhance the overall strength, and build locomotives leading the rise of the Yellow River Basin. At present, we can choose
30-50 enterprises with the strongest strength to build a group of leading enterprises on this basis, so as to spread a large number of state-owned and private enterprises, and make every effort to improve the development level of enterprises, enhance the economic strength of the whole province, strengthen inter provincial docking and River Basin cooperation, so as to build a locomotive leading the rise of the Yellow River Basin, thus setting off a tide of regional economy with “let a hundred flowers bloom, hundred large ships struggles class”.

Sixth, increase investment in education, science and technology and social undertakings, comprehensively improve the level of regional social development, and give full play to its leading and exemplary role. At present, we should continue to increase investment in education, science and technology and social undertakings, and focus on supporting 5-10 powerful colleges and universities, 10-20 vocational and technical colleges, and more than 50 national, provincial and ministerial key research institutes and laboratories. At the same time, we should vigorously strengthen the construction of libraries, museums, science and technology museums and other related facilities, comprehensively improve the level of regional social development, and create a good social environment for the leading role of the economy.

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