Together KOREA! With All the Regions

PCRD

Presidential Committee on Regional Development

Republic of Korea

Presidential Committee
on Regional Development

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Presidential Committee
on Regional Development

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works together with all the regions

Redesign Korea!
Reshape regional policy!

Presidential Committee on Regional Development (PCRD) is in charge of regional policies in Korea. As a presidential advisory committee, PCRD is orchestrating regional policies of various government agencies. PCRD consists of 30 members including 8 ministers such as Minister of Knowledge Economy, Minister of Strategy and Finance, Minister of Public Administration and Security, Minister of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs. Also, PCRD has prominent experts and scholars as its members. Chairman Sang-Chuel Choe (Professor Emeritus of Seoul National University) has successfully led PCRD since 2008. Chairman Choe and the committee have been doing their best endeavors to reshape the Korean regional policies towards regional development.

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Message from the Chairman

Presidential Committee on Regional Development is dedicated to regional development.

We aim to have all the Korean people enjoy a high standard of living, and be proud of their regions. We will listen carefully to the voices of residents living in the regions and make every efforts to make better regions.

Paradigm of regional development policy is changing.

Every country in the world promotes globalization as well as localization simultaneously. With current prevailing trend, the role of region becomes more and more important. The leading countries of the world are most likely widening the spatial units of regional policy and promoting cross-border cooperation to strengthen regional competitiveness. Replacing micro-regionalism bound by administrative units, many countries are adopting new regionalism in pursuit of economies of scale and agglomeration.

Every region has its potential for growth.

Nurturing regional growth potential is to strengthen national competitiveness. Every country has rich regions and poor regions. We should consider regional development as an interactive process. Collaborative development is only possible when concession from rich regions and tolerance of poor regions are combined. Korea has serious problems of disparity between the capital region and the non-capital region, and we can not solve this issue overnight. So we should make strenuous efforts impartially and patiently.

We will closely work together with all the regions.

Regional development policy should not merely be a slogan. It should be substantial measures to enhance people's quality of life. Regional competitiveness will be maximized when regions are mobilized by themselves with the support from the central government. Regions with strong economy are indispensable for globally competitive Korea.

Chairman of Presidential Committee on Regional Development

Why reshapes regional policy?

Every country in the world is engaged in global competition

Rather than alleviating regional disparities, strengthening regional competitiveness is vital for national competitiveness. Rather than balanced regional development per se, we should cultivate each region's growth potential as much as possible.

Regional competitiveness is vital to compete with the world

Apart from current administrative boundary, establishing specialized and enlarged economic regions are required. We need to enhance regional competitiveness by utilizing economy of scale and regional specialization so that economic regions can compete with other potent regions around the world.

We intend to achieve inter-regional win-win situation

In Korea, forty-nine percent of total population and fifty three percent of total economic activities are concentrated in the capital region. Our policy goal should not be put on a blindfold equality by which more serious regional conflicts are caused. We have to try for "win-win" development among regions.

Build regions with global competitiveness!

Development of "competitive economic regions"

Shifting away from the domestically balanced regional development policy, we will build regions equipped with real global competitiveness.

Regional development based on specialization

We aim to maximize regional potentials by nurturing regionally specialized industries and businesses.

Decentralization and enhancement of local autonomy

By reinforcing self-governance and accountability of regions, we will promote bottom-up approaches to regional development.

Inter-regional cooperation and collaborative development

We are in pursuit of mutually beneficial development through regional specialization and inter-regional cooperation among regions as well as between the capital region and the non-capital region.

Strategic Framework of Korean Regional Development

New Paradigm of Korean Regional Policy

Principle : Regional development based on specialization, diversification, and concentration

Spatial unit of region : From 16 metropolises and provinces to 5+2 economic regions

Policy goal : Enhance global competitiveness of each economic region

Strategies for regional development

Maximizing growth potential of the national territory

Three-tiered regional development

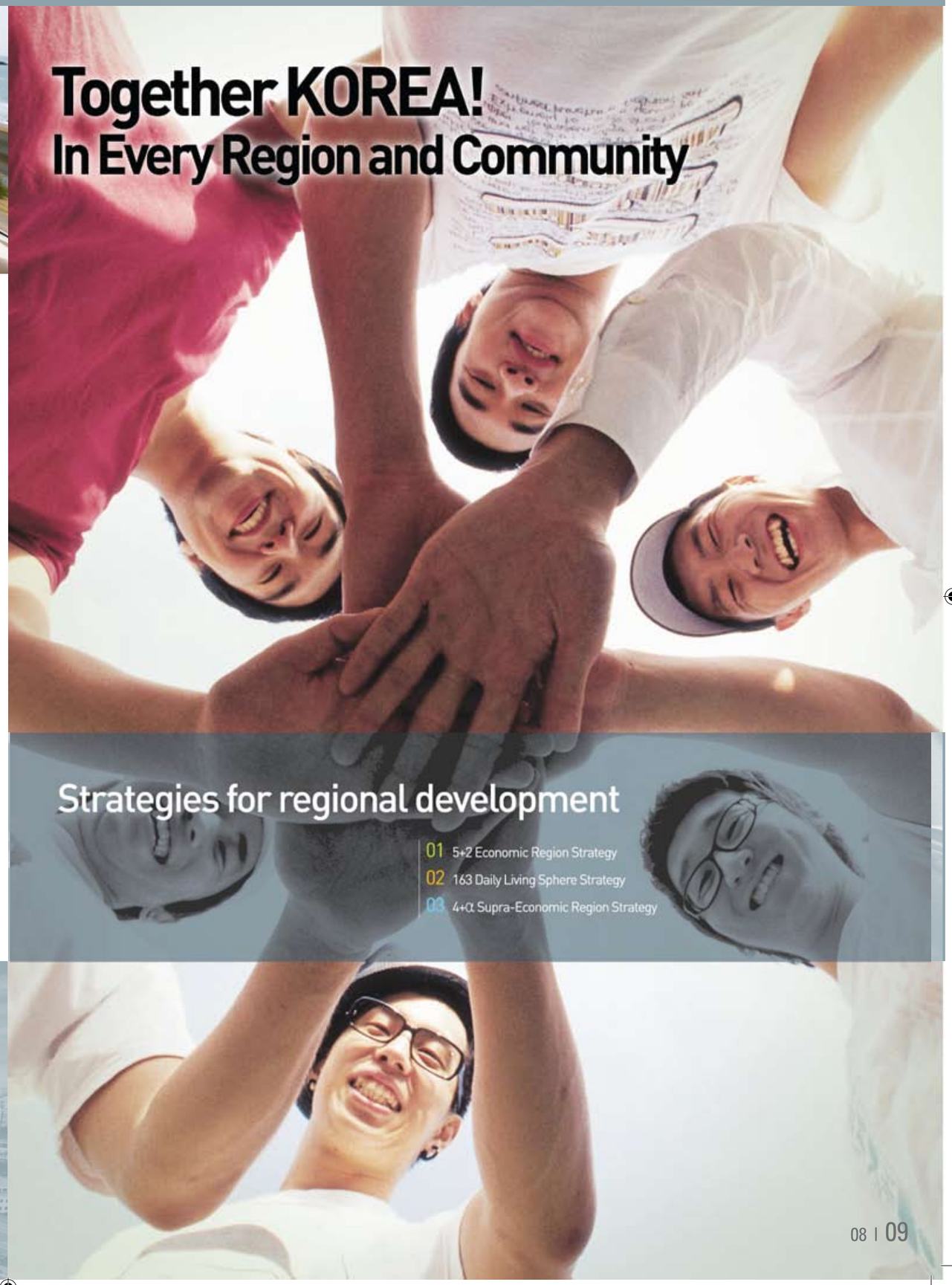
- Daily Living Sphere : micro regional development for 163 cities and counties
  (lower-tier local government)
- Economic Region : re-scoping 16 metropolises and provinces
  (upper-tier local government) into 5+2 functional economic regions
- Supra-Economic Region : 4+α supra-national and cross economic-region development and additional consideration

Nurturing new growth engine and specialized industries for each region

Enforcing decentralization by delegation of administrative and financial authority from the central government to local governments

Symbiotic development of the capital region and the non-capital region

Review and selective rescheduling of the existing regional development projects



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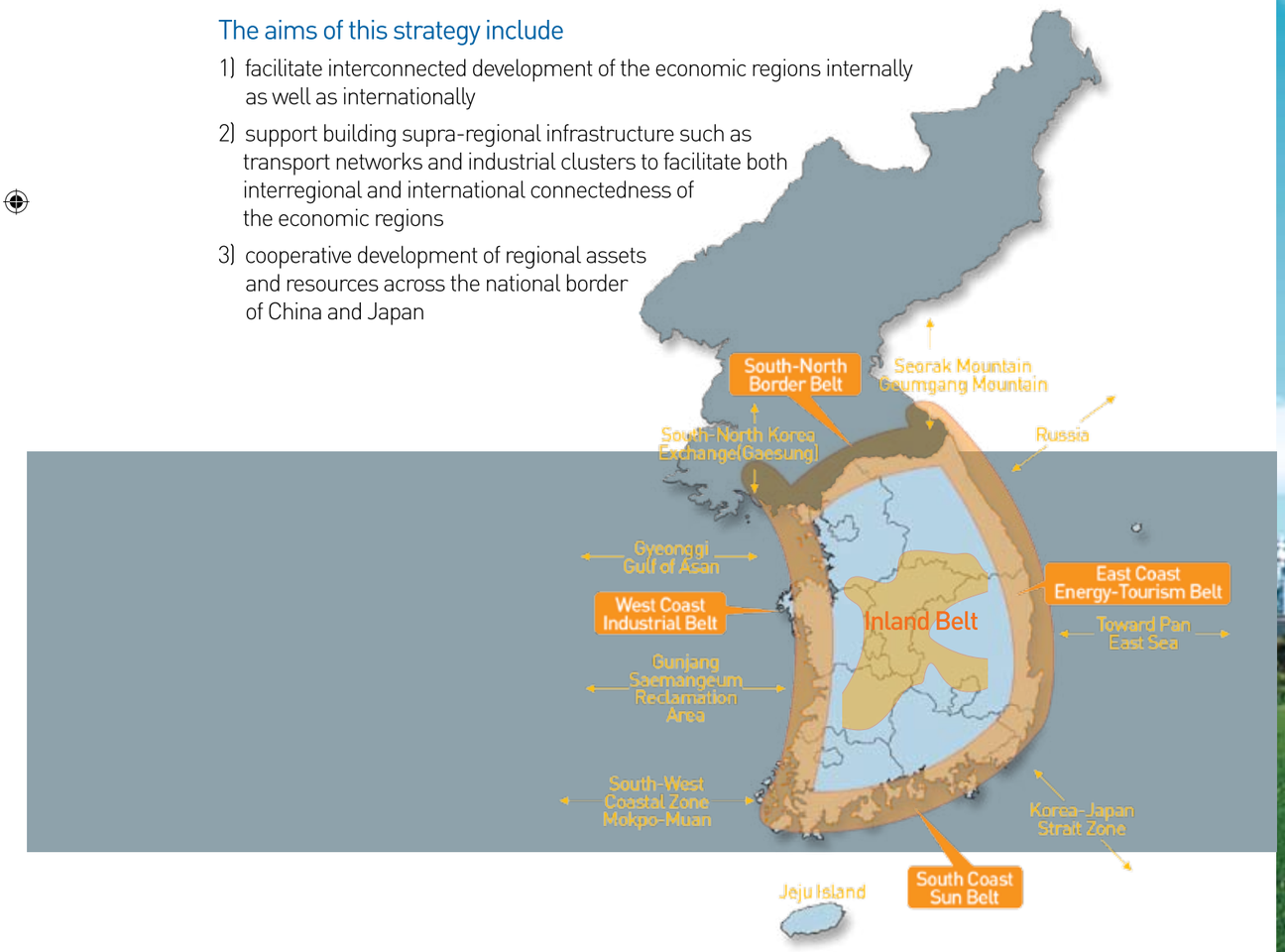
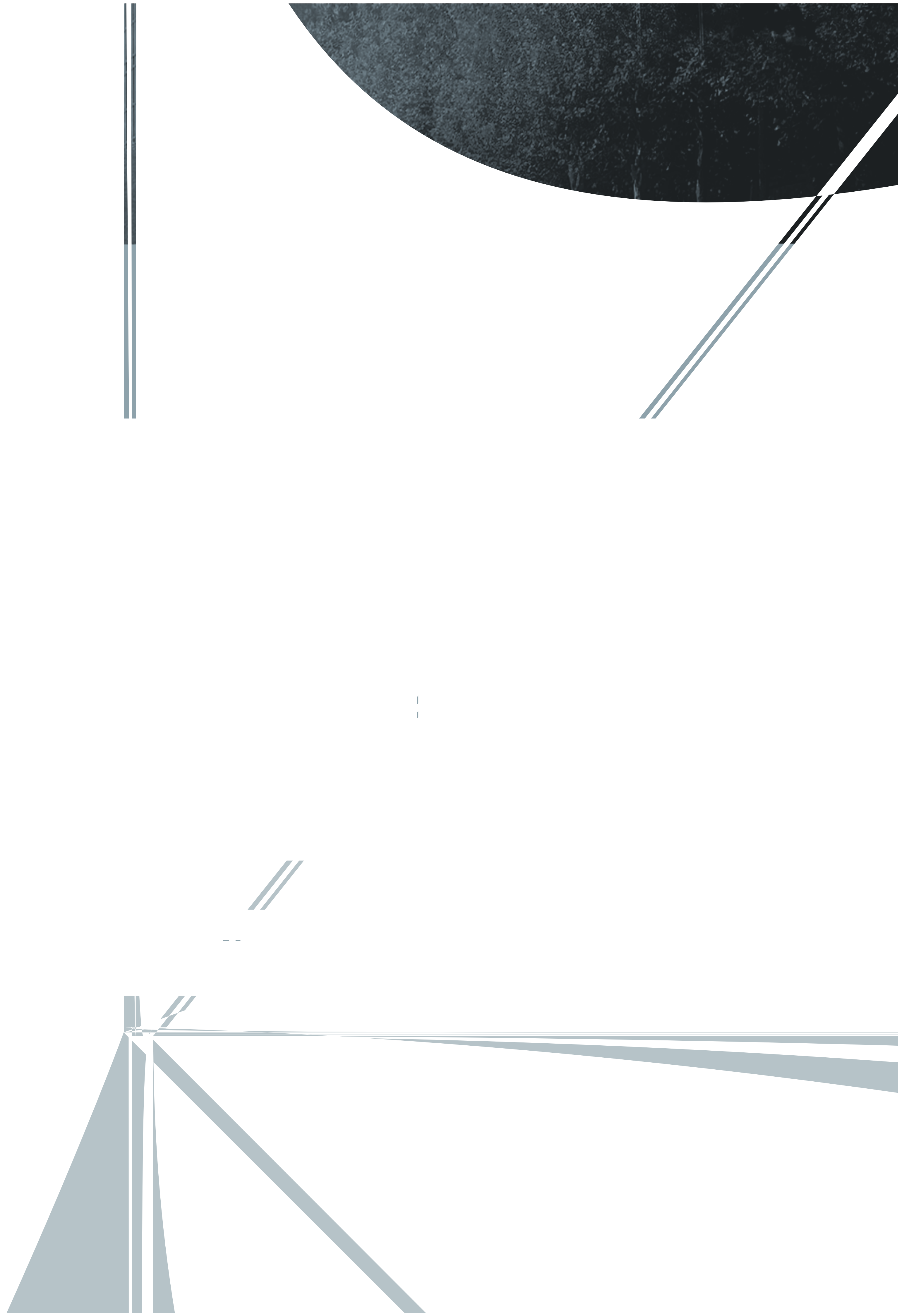
4+α Supra-Economic Region Strategy

This strategy has two purposes.
One is to deal with trans-national dimension of regional development as a peninsula country in the Northeast Asia, and another purpose is to promote collaborative development among economic regions.

It is envisioned as three coastal belts and one border belt (East Coast Energy-Tourism Belt, West Coast Industrial Belt, South Coast Sun Belt, South-North Border Belt along the DMZ).
And additional inland belts are under consideration.

The aims of this strategy include

1) facilitate interconnected development of the economic regions internally as well as internationally
2) support building supra-regional infrastructure such as transport networks and industrial clusters to facilitate both interregional and international connectedness of the economic regions
3) cooperative development of regional assets and resources across the national border of China and Japan