

Hebei to establish special development zone around Beijing

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Hebei Province invited officials, experts and scholars, including those from the Beijing Municipal Planning Commission to take part in discussions on Nov. 11 about creating an "economic circle around Beijing."

According to Hebei Province's suggestions about industrial development in the economic circle around Beijing, 13 counties, cities and districts including Zhuozhou and Laishui will be included in the economic circle planning scope because they are close to Beijing and have convenient transport.

"The overall idea to establish an economic circle around Beijing is to establish a special economic development zone within nearly 1,000 kilometers around Beijing," Zhao Yong, member of the Standing Committee of the Provincial Party Committee and executive vice governor of Hebei Province, said on Nov. 11.

The resolution was passed at the plenary session held by the Hebei Province Party Committee last week, and Hebei will gather strength from 70 million people of the entire province to carry out the establishment of an economic circle around Beijing as the first part of its strategy.

Zhao said that the special development zone will include three new towns to the east, south and north of Beijing and seven medium-sized cities, which have a population of more than 300,000 people to establish a totally-enclosed city zone around Beijing. The special zone will be given more preferential policy support than that of Shenzhen. Zhao disclosed that they will take examples from Tokyo and Seoul to formulate overall and special plans, which will be finished before the end of January 2011.

Wang Fei, vice director of the Beijing Municipal Planning Commission who participated in the session, said that Beijing is currently facing 10 challenges and the population in the city center has exceeded 10 million. Moreover, there is also pressure from transportation, water and land resource shortages.

Wang said that the Beijing Municipal Party Committee and Municipal Government have made it clear that Beijing will not become the "best capital," by itself and the ultimate way to solve this problem is to depend on overall regional development.

By People's Daily Online
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