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| Development & Opening-up Research on “Belt and Road” Initiative |
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| **Research background:**“Belt and Road” Initiative is a bridge for China’s establishment and development of cooperative partnership with the countries and regions along the Belt and Road, which makes it a major initiative for international cooperation in the new era. Technological Alliance of research on “Belt and Road” Initiative Development & Opening-up of Zhejiang University, under the guidance of the leading office of “Belt and Road” InitiativeConstruction, aims to satisfy national needs and address major theoretical and practical issues in the development of“Belt and Road” Initiative. Supported by the Research Center of Regional Coordination Development of Zhejiang University and China Academy of West Region Development, the Alliance integrates the interdisciplinary forces of Zhejiang University, including economics, public administration, education, computer science, environmental resources, biomedicineand geography as well as the innovative strength and advantageous resources of state-level research institutes, e.g. Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research of Chinese Academy of Sciences, China Institute of Macroeconomics, Development Research Center of the State Counciland some universities to build an open, interdisciplinaryresearch alliance. The Allianceconducts forward-looking, well-targeted research forthe organic convergence of basic theories, applied theories and decision-making and consulting researches. In June 2017, the Research Center of Regional Coordination Development of Zhejiang University was recognized by the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee as a **national top think tank construction and development unit**.The Alliance, supported by “Belt and Road” Initiative trade and investment databaseand Maritime Silk Road shipping big data, gives full play to the multidisciplinary advantages of Zhejiang University in buildinga holistic system by integrating talent cultivation, scientific research, social services, cultural exchanges and innovation for original and representative academic achievements. Therefore, the Alliance has achieved a lot in five aspects, i.e., discipline development, decision consultation, forward-looking research, data platform and talent team so as to better serve the Belt and Road Initiative. |
| **Main research topics and progress:** In the layout of the research, the Alliance conducts researches in 7 major topics in 3 modules: “Belt and Road” Initiative major strategic plans, “Belt and Road” Initiative key issues and “Belt and Road” Initiative research decision-making support platforms as follows. 1.1 **Research on the major strategic plans of “Belt and Road” Initiativeconstruction**This module is centered around the stipulation of the major strategic plans of “Belt and Road” Initiative construction, which develops the related top-level designs, strategic research and planning of the Initiative.**Direction 1: “Belt and Road” Initiativestrategy implementation research**It focuses on the strategic blueprints and implementation paths of “Belt and Road” Initiative, and the advance planning and in-depth research of the fields that may become strategic priorities in the future.**Direction 2: “Belt and Road” Initiative and regional coordinated development**It focuses on “Belt and Road” Initiative and regional development, infrastructureand interconnectivity, which mainly studies the“Belt and Road” Initiative and the innovation of the joint developmentof the western development system, and the development and opening up of key experimental areas and the preparation of plans. **1.2 Research on the major issues in “Belt and Road” Initiative construction****Direction 3: “Belt and Road” Initiativeeducation and cultural exchanges**It focuses on“Belt and Road” Initiativeculturalexchangesand the cultivation of global talents for “Belt and Road” Initiative. **Direction 4: “Belt and Road” Initiativeinternational trade and maritime cooperation**It focuses oninternational economy, trade, financial, and maritime cooperation, mainly the development of “Belt and Road” Initiative andcross-border e-commerceand financial cooperation.**Direction 5: “Belt and Road” Initiative eco-environmental cooperation**It focuses on the construction of “Belt and Road” Initiative and eco-environment protection and sustainable development, mainly the theory put forward by President Xi Jinping, i.e. “Clean waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets” and “Belt and Road” Initiative construction as well as green Silk Road. **Direction 6: “Belt and Road” Initiative energy cooperation**It focuses on the flow of factors and energy cooperation, mainly the energy cooperation potential and models as well as key cooperative fields between China and the countries along “Belt and Road”.**1.3 Decision-making support platforms of“Belt and Road” Initiativeconstruction** **Direction 7: “Belt and Road” Initiative index research**Based on the construction of the “Western China Data Center”, it focuses on the characteristic indices of “Belt and Road” Initiativeconstruction and the buildingof a platform for “The Trade and Investment Think Tank of the Belt and Road Initiative”. |
| **Members and colleges:****Major leaders:** ZHOU Guping: Director of Research Center of Regional Coordination Development; Dean of China Academy of West Region Development, Zhejiang UniversitySHI Jinchuan: Senior Professor of Liberal Arts, Zhejiang UniversityDONG Xuebing: Deputy Director of Research Center of Regional Coordination Development;Executive Dean of China Academy of West Region Development, Zhejiang UniversitySHEN Manhong: Adjunct Professor of Zhejiang University; President of Ningbo UniversityLIU Weidong: Assistant to Director of Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of SciencesHUANG Xianhai: Dean of School of Economics, Zhejiang UniversityDU Limin: Research Fellow of China Academy of West Region Development, Zhejiang UniversityWU Chunming: Professor ofCollege of Computer Science and Technology, Zhejiang University |
| **Representative achievements:****I. Advisory reports**Many important decision-making advisory reports were written and submitted and key instructions were given by President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang, Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli, and other leaders, e.g. Wang Huning, Wang Yang and Yang Jiechi. More than 40 advisory reports were adopted by ministries and commissions.**II. Major projects**The Alliance has participated in the drafting of several key documents of the Central Committee of the CPC and the State Council, e.g. “Vision and Action to Promote the Construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21stCentury Maritime Silk Road”, “Belt and Road” Initiative Strategic Planning”, and “The Opinions of the State Council on Accelerating the Development and Opening-up of Border Areas”. Besides, it undertook more than 10 research projects related to “Belt and Road” Initiative issued or approved by the State Council and provided over 300 planning and decision-making consultations for governments at all levels, so it has provided intellectual support for“Belt and Road” Initiative.**III. Characteristic index**With the Ningbo Shipping Exchange, the Alliance has undertaken the study on “Maritime Silk Road” indices, a key project in “Belt and Road” Initiative.**“Building Maritime Silk Road Indices with International Shipping Impact” has been written into “The 13thFive-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People’s Republic of China”.** The four route indices were all released in the official website of the Baltic Exchange in October 2015, **listed as one of the major China-UK achievements during President Xi Jinping’s visit to the UK.** In May 2017, the “Maritime Silk Road” trade indices were officially released in Beijing, **listed as one of the achievements of “Belt and Road” Initiative International Cooperation Summit Forum.** The interpretation reports of “Maritime Silk Road” trade indices undertaken by the China Academy of West Region Development, Zhejiang University,have been regularly published on the official website of “Belt and Road” Initiativeon a monthly basis. |