The Unbalanced Development of Qaidam Circular Economy Experimental Area and Its Solution

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Abstract. Qaidam circular economy experimental area (hereinafter referred to as "Experimental Zone") is located in Haixi Mongol and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province. It is an industrial park to promote the development of local industrial economy. Since its establishment in 2005, the park has achieved certain development achievements, while its four sub-parks have also seen huge gaps in historical problems, the establishment time of the management committee, the number of enterprises settled in, location conditions, infrastructure and other aspects, thus leading to a certain degree of unbalanced management development. After many field investigations, this study puts forward some solutions to the imbalance problem in this industrial park, so as to provide some reference for its future planning and development.

Introduction

Qaidam circular economy experimental area is located in the Qaidam basin in Qinghai province, which enjoys the reputation of "cornucopia" due to its rich natural resources. The Experimental Zone is located in the center of Tibet, Xinjiang, Qinghai and Gansu provinces, reaching west to west Asia and south to south Asia. It is an important strategic support point in the western region. This industrial park was approved by the State Development and Reform Commission and other six ministries and commissions in 2005 as one of the first batch of 13 circular economy industry pilot zones[1]. It is also a circular economy industry pilot zone with the largest domestic area, abundant resources, huge development space and the only layout in the minority areas of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

After 13 years of development, this Experimental Zone has built seven major circular industrial chains, including salt lake chemical industry, oil and gas chemical industry, metal smelting, coal comprehensive utilization industry, new energy industry, new material industry, plateau characteristic biological industry[2], in addition to salt and alkali chemical industry, equipment manufacturing, nonmetal smelting, tourism and other industries. Under the leadership of the governments of Qinghai Province and Haixi Mongol and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, the efforts of the administrative committee of the Experimental Zone and the enterprises settled in the experimental zone, the Experimental Zone has achieved remarkable development in many aspects. As an industrial area, the Gross Domestic Product of Haixi Mongol and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in 2018 is 62.527 billion yuan (accounting for 21.82% of Gross Domestic Product in Qinghai Province), ranking second only to Xining, the capital city of Qinghai Province, and providing tremendous endogenous power for the industrial and economic development of Qinghai Province.

Since the establishment of the Experimental Zone in 2005, a management pattern of "one district and four parks" has been gradually planned and formed. The "one district" refers to the Qaidam circular economy experimental area. It is a resource-based and regional demonstration zone for circular economy featuring "low emission and high efficiency". The "four parks" include Delingha Industrial Park, Golmud Industrial Park, Dachaidan Industrial Park and Wulan Industrial Park. Each of the four industrial parks has its own management agencies: Delingha Industrial Park Administrative Committee, Golmud Industrial Park Administrative Committee, Dachaidan Industrial Park Administrative Committee, and Wulan County Development and Reform
Commission (At present, there is no Wulan Industrial Park Administrative Committee). The Qaidam Circular Economy Experimental Zone Administrative Committee in Delingha manages the four parks uniformly.

After 13 years, the development of Qaidam circular economy experimental area has greatly promoted the economic and industrial development of Qinghai province, and has also solved the employment problem of local personnel. What is more, it is worth mentioning that the important salt lake resources in Qinghai province have embarked on a scientific road of comprehensive development and utilization. Many years of hard work have yielded fruitful results. However, from the perspective of comprehensive and coordinated development of the four parks in the first district of the test area, after more than 10 years of development, the four sub-industrial parks in the test area have experienced unbalanced management and development. The better-developed parks have received more attention from the Administrative Committee and the government, as well as preferential policies. Due to the limited funds and efforts, the less-developed parks have not received the attention they deserve and have not been developed in time, thus causing the problem that the imbalance gap among the four industrial parks in the test area is widening.

General Situation of Four Parks in the Experimental Zone

Overview of Delingha Industrial Park

Delingha Industrial Park is located within the jurisdiction of Delingha. It is adjacent to Wulan Industrial Park in the east, Dachaidan and Golmud Industrial Park in the west. The Qinghai-Tibet Railway and National Highway 315 pass through the park and are connected with Dedu Highway and State Road 109. It is located in the center of Qaidam circular economy experimental area.

Delingha Industrial Park is an important green industry and new energy industry gathering area in the Experimental Zone. The core area of the park is 75 square kilometers and consists of comprehensive industrial zone, green industrial zone and new energy industrial zone. Through vigorously implementing the strategy of transforming peripheral advantageous resources and cultivating key industrial enterprises, Delingha Industrial Park has initially formed five major industrial clusters, namely, salt chemical industry, new materials industry, new energy industry, equipment manufacturing industry and characteristic bio-processing industry, and is becoming an important base for deep processing, recycling and comprehensive utilization of resources and industrial economic growth in the eastern part of Haixi.

Overview of Golmud Industrial Park

Golmud was established in 1954, with an administrative area of 119,000 square kilometers. Golmud is the strategic focus of the country to stabilize Tibet and consolidate Xinjiang, the guarantee base to strengthen the construction of southwest border defense, the core area of the national Qaidam circular economy experimental area. Golmud is composed of two unconnected regions, the central city and Tanggula Mountains district. The overall planning area of the central city is 262 square kilometers and that of Built-up area is 50.3 square kilometers. With a total population of 300,000, there are 35 ethnic groups such as Han, Mongolia, Tibet and Hui.

Golmud Industrial Park was born in June 1992. It was the Kunlun Economic Development Zone approved by the provincial party committee and the provincial government. In October 2012, it was upgraded to Economic and Technological Development Zones. In 2013, it became the core area and main battlefield of Qaidam circular economy experimental area. The planned area was adjusted to 120 square kilometers, mainly consisting of 45 square kilometers of Kunlun Mountains's major industrial base and 75 square kilometers of Qarhan’s major industrial base. As the core area and main battlefield of Qaidam circular economy experimental area, a group of industries with distinctive features, perfect system and rapid growth have been formed after years of development, which plays a decisive role in the development of Qaidam circular economy test area.
Overview of Dachaidan Industrial Park

Dachaidan is located in the northwest of Qinghai Province. It is one of the key areas for resource development in Qaidam Basin. Dachaidan is connected to Delingha, about 200 kilometers from Delingha, 732 kilometers from Xining, the provincial capital, 190 kilometers from Golmud. It is the northern gateway of Qinghai Province and the only way to enter the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau from the north.

In 2013, the People's Government of Haixi Mongol and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture approved the "Overall Development Plan of Dachaidan Industrial Park", which is planned to cover an area of 42.76 square kilometers. The park is divided into the three industry Districts, namely Xitieshan Industrial Zone, Yinmaxia Industrial Zone and Dachaidan Industrial Zone. Among them, Xitieshan Industrial Zone is a fine chemical industrial zone centered on the comprehensive utilization and development of metallurgy, lead and zinc tailings and salt lake resources. Yinmaxia Industrial Zone is an energy and chemical industrial zone with the integration and development of salt lake chemical industry and clean utilization of coal resources as its core. Dachaidan Industrial Zone is a chemical industrial zone with salt lake chemical industry and fine chemicals as its core.

Overview of Wulan Industrial Park

The Wulan Circular Economy Industrial Park, relying on the rich coking coal resources in Muli and the sodium resources in Chaqia and Keke Salt Lake, as well as the rich plateau characteristic biological resources in Wulan, Dulan and Tianjun County regions, focuses on the comprehensive development of resources, focuses on the development of coal tar chemical industry, salt chemical industry and characteristic biological industry, radiates and drives the development of Tianjun County, Wulan and Dulan regions, and constructs an important coal tar chemical industry and characteristic biological industry base on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

Wulan Industrial Park, with a planned area of 10.5 square kilometers, It has initially formed an industrial chain of carbonization of coal, tar deep processing and comprehensive utilization of coke oven gas. It is an important coal chemical base in the Experimental Zone and even in the whole province. It is of great significance to the recycling and comprehensive utilization of raw coal resources in Muli Coalfield, and is also an important park supporting the industrial development of Golmud and Delingha Industrial Park.

Analysis on the Unbalanced Development of Four Parks in the Experimental Zone

There is a Big Gap in the Problems Left Over from the History of the Four Gardens

Kunlun Economic and Technological Development Zone existed in Golmud before the establishment of Golmud Industrial Park. After the establishment of the experimental zone in 2005, Golmud Industrial Park was established in Golmud under the unified management of the Golmud Industrial Park Administrative Committee. Therefore, the development of Golmud Industrial Park is based on Kunlun Economic and Technological Development Zone, while there is no mature industrial park in the other three industrial parks before the establishment. All planning and management need to start from scratch. Therefore, this historical problem leads to congenital gaps in the development of the four industrial parks.

There is a Big Gap in the Establishment Time of the Fourth Park Administrative Committee

The Experimental Zone was approved and established by the state in 2005, but there is a big gap in the establishment time of the administrative committee of the four parks. Since the administrative committee of the Experimental Zone was established in Delingha Industrial Park, the administrative committee of Delingha Industrial Park was first established. The management of Kunlun Economic and Technological Development Zone was handed over to Golmud Industrial Park around 2010, the administrative committee of Golmud Industrial Park was established at this time. The
administrative committees of Dachaidan Industrial Park and Wulan Industrial Park were established and put into operation around 2016. The large gap in the establishment time of each industrial park management committee of the four parks has resulted in a large gap in the management experience and ability, which to a certain extent is the cause of the unbalanced development of the four parks at present.

There is a Big Gap in the Number and Strength of Enterprises Settled in the Four Parks

There are 66 enterprises in Delingha Industrial Park, including 7 in Enterprises above scale. There are 491 enterprises in Golmud Industrial Park, 87 of which are in Enterprises above scale. Dachaidan Industrial Park has 22 enterprises in the park, including 10 in Enterprises above scale. There are 53 enterprises in Wulan Industrial Park, including 7 in Enterprises above scale. Judging from the number of enterprises settled in each park, Golmud Industrial Park has the largest number of enterprises, followed by Delingha Industrial Park, and then Wulan Industrial Park. Dachaidan Industrial Park has the smallest number of enterprises settled, and the number of enterprises settled in Golmud Industrial Park is only one tenth of that of enterprises settled in Golmud Industrial Park.

In addition, Kunlun Economic and Technological Development Zone had existed for many years before Golmud Industrial Park was established, and there were 3 listed companies in the whole experimental zone, including 2: Qinghai Salt Lake Industry Co., Ltd. and Zangger Holding Co., Ltd. In addition, many state-owned enterprises such as Golmud Refinery of Qinghai Oil Field Company are pillar enterprises in the economic development of Golmud Industrial Park. Such a gap is self-evident.

There is a Big Difference in the Location Conditions of the Four Parks

The enterprises in Delingha Industrial Park and Golmud Industrial Park set up enterprise management with Delingha and Golmud as the centers respectively, and then set up production lines in the surrounding areas according to the mining rights owned by the enterprises, while Dachaidan Industrial Park takes Dachaidan Town as the center and Wulan Industrial Park takes Wulan County as the center. Therefore, the four industrial parks have a large difference in location conditions during the development process. Parks with higher urbanization development level are relatively more able to retain talents and the cost of enterprise operation is relatively low.

Comparing Golmud Industrial Park with Delingha Industrial Park, although Golmud and Delingha are both municipal units, the urbanization of Golmud is obviously higher than that of Delingha, which is also one of the reasons why Golmud Industrial Park develops fastest and best among the four parks.

There is a Big Gap in Infrastructure Construction in the Four Parks

As far as the construction of the four industrial parks is concerned, the infrastructure construction of Golmud Industrial Park and Delingha Industrial Park is relatively good, and the city's tertiary industry service and the construction of science, education, culture and health are relatively perfect. However, the infrastructure construction of Dachaidan Industrial Park and Wulan Industrial Park is relatively poor, and the capability of factories, equipment and facilities for enterprises to enter and develop is relatively weak. Not only that, this study has learned that some enterprises in Dachaidan are still using coal as their energy power due to problems such as the lack of natural gas pipelines, but also due to problems such as Sparsely populated, many enterprises have very inconvenient transportation on the production line and high transportation costs. However, they have to set up product packaging workshops in Golmud Industrial Park due to problems such as the lack of water and electricity, and the cost is continuously increasing.
Ways to Solve the Unbalanced Development of Four Parks in the Experimental Area

Strengthen Top-level Design to Further Clarify Functional Positioning

Drawing extensively on the successful experience of domestic circular economy pilot areas and combining with the actual situation, we will formulate and perfect local laws and regulations and normative documents on circular economy. The administrative committee of the Experimental Zone will make a unified plan for the four parks, so as to enhance the rigidity of the plan. This will help to break the thinking pattern of dividing an acre into four parts and solve the unfavorable situation that the planning layout is divided into different areas. In the overall planning, the functional orientation of the four parks should be clearly defined, their respective comparative advantages should be brought into play, their own historical traditions, existing foundations and future potentials should be focused, and a joint force for development should be formed. Major issues such as industrial division of labor, city layout, supporting facilities and comprehensive transportation system should be clearly defined.

Strengthen Infrastructure and Help Weak Parks to Develop

If we compare the infrastructure of the Qaidam circular economy experimental area with other industrial parks, there will be a bigger gap. These problems of incomplete development function and insufficient capacity are the key factors restricting the development of the administrative committee of. There are many problems leading to incomplete infrastructure construction, which are mainly solved by increasing capital investment. The government can consider co-financing construction with enterprises in infrastructure construction. For example, Golmud Zangger Potassium Fertilizer Co., Ltd. has established a transportation railway for its production and transportation, but at present this railway is only unique to this enterprise. The administrative committee of Experimental Zone can consider cooperation to share private facilities and increase the utilization rate of resources.

Identify the Problems of Weak Parks

The development of industrial parks and enterprises often complement each other. The main reason for the weak development of the two industrial parks, Dachaidan Industrial Park and Wulan Industrial Park, lies in the fact that some of their enterprises are old enterprises established in the last century. The common problems of these enterprises are small scale, backward technology, old equipment, low efficiency of resource development and utilization, aging of employees, etc. Most of the leaders of these enterprises are men in their fifties and sixties. Most of them have rich and legendary experiences and are the core figures of the enterprises. However, their thinking is relatively conservative and rigid and stubborn to varying degrees.

The transformation of these old enterprises in the Experimental Zone is very weak. Even if these enterprises can still operate, their technological upgrading and transformation efforts are insufficient, and there is a big gap compared with the current leading enterprises in various industries and industries. It may also be precisely because of this gap that the Experimental Zone will be more inclined to enterprises with cutting-edge technology and good development prospects in its work, which has resulted in a vicious circle of backward development of old enterprises and many enterprises are facing bankruptcy.

This study believes that the Experimental Zone should take the lead in organizing cooperation and assistance among enterprises. As far as the current industrial development in Haixi Mongol and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture is concerned, many enterprises are in the relationship between the upstream and downstream of the industrial chain. The Experimental Zone can take advantage of this to promote cooperation between enterprises with strong comprehensive strength and old enterprises. This not only solves the problems of raw material supply and product sales, but also solves the transformation of old enterprises to a certain extent.
Management of the Administrative Committee of the Experimental Zone Inclines to Weak Zone

Although there are problems left over from history due to the unbalanced development of the four industrial parks, as far as the current situation is concerned, the administrative committee of the Experimental Zone focuses on the development of Golmud and Delingha industrial parks. The development of Dachaidan and Wulan industrial parks is lagging behind and slow, and the related functions are not comprehensive.

In order to solve the problem of unbalanced development of the four parks, the Experimental Zone should focus on the development of the core parks. First, it should pay more attention to the Dachaidan Industrial Park and Wulan Industrial Park. Second, it should increase the development investment intensity of the two parks, help introduce relevant talents, retain talents, support local advantageous industries and enterprises, give full play to local resource advantages, and at the same time, it can develop tourism, promote local economic development and perfect urban construction.

Conclusion

After many years of development, the Qaidam circular economy experimental area is facing a lot of challenges while achieving certain development achievements. The development of the four parks will be restricted to a certain extent if they do not receive timely attention. On the basis of analyzing the existing problems, this study proposes targeted solutions to improve the development level of the Experimental Area recycling economy, it is helpful to do the park economy in a comprehensive way.

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