**Geography**

- **tumen** – “hundred thousand”
  - Forms part of the border between China and North Korea and between Russia and North Korea
  - 521 km long
    - Third longest river in Korea
    - 17 km: North Korea and Russia
    - 504 km: North Korea and China
- Source of conflict or cooperation in North-East Asia

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**History**

- Served as a refugee crossing by North Koreans into China
  - 1990s famine
- Shallow and narrow
- Heavily polluted by factories in China and North Korea
  - Pulp and paper mills in China
  - Paper mills and an iron mine in North Korea
- Major tourist attraction

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**TRADP**

- Tumen River Area Development Programme (TRADP)
  - Regional cooperation
  - Economic development
  - Environmental management
  - Created in 1995
  - Supported by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
  - China, North Korea, Russia, South Korea, and Mongolia
  - 20 year project costing $80 billion
  - Create free economic zone for trade and investment
  - Rajin-Sonbong Economic Special Zone (Rason)
  - Very little cooperation and environmental progress
In 2005, the Changchun Agreement continues the program for another 10 years:
- Extension of boundaries
- Involvement of private sector
- Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) - "Intergovernmental cooperation mechanism in North-East Asia"
  - Regional stability
  - Economic cooperation
  - Sustainable growth
- China, Russia, South Korea and Mongolia
- 4 development sectors
  - Energy
  - Trade and Investment
  - Transportation
  - Tourism

GTI

Involvement of private sector
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Greater Tumen Region

China
- 4 provinces involved in the GTI region
  - 2 million km²
  - 131 million people
- Benefits
  - Northern economy underdeveloped compared to eastern coastal regions
  - Desire for a port in the northeast to connect them to the Sea of Japan
- In November 2005, China signs 50 year agreement to develop Port of Rajin
- Issues
  - Air and water pollution and deforestation in the region already
  - China continues to discharge pollutants into the Tumen River
  - Neighboring countries worry that China will dominate projects and the Greater Tumen Region

Russia
- Primorsky Territory is the largest economy in Far East Russia and in the GTI region
  - 165,900 km²
  - 2.2 million people
  - Potential for development of coal mining, ship building, and transport industries
  - Currently, 90% of industries are privately owned
  - Largest exporter of oil and gas and third largest exporter of steel and aluminum
  - Rich in natural resources
- Trans-Siberian Railway (TSR)
  - Shortest route between East Asia and Europe
  - Major route for cargo shipping from Japan
- Benefits
  - Need financing and help building infrastructure to access resources in Siberia
- Issues
  - Far-easter Leopards and Siberian Tigers near extinction
  - Fear that resources will be overexploited (timber, oil, gas, and coal)
  - Concerns regarding China continuing to discharge pollutants
  - Primorsky Territory is far from politically-active Moscow

North Korea
- No longer a member country
- Rajin-Sonbong Economic Special Zone (Rason)
  - 746 km²
  - 150,000 people
  - Rich in natural resources
  - Expanse of fertile lands
  - Potential to develop ports, shipping manufacturing industry and tourist industry
- Benefits
  - Help combat severe economic problems due to large-scale military spending
  - End economic isolation
  - Low land cost and tax incentives to attract investors
- Issues
  - Nuclear issues
  - Lack of compromise with neighbors
  - Difficulties to give up some territory for the joint use of the project
- Currently, Port of Rajin is less than 10% utilized
- GTI is looking to develop Zarubino port in Russia instead

South Korea
- Eastern ports in South Korea make up the GTI region
  - 765 km²
  - 3.6 million people
  - Potential to increase tourism and shipping industry
  - Dependence on exporting manufactured goods, such as semiconductors and computers
- NEA Ferry Route
  - Connect Japan, Russia, and South Korea in a triangular route
  - Container transport and ferry services
- Eventually to include North Korea
- Benefits
  - Offer more efficient transportation and shipping connections
  - Increase tourism
  - Provide access to Russia’s natural resources to combat South Korea’s limited natural resources
- Issues
  - Relations with North Korea
Mongolia

- 3 provinces in Eastern Mongolia make up the GTI region
- 287,600 km²
- 223,000 people
- Sparsely populated, but underdeveloped region
- “One of the largest undisturbed steppe ecosystems in the world”
- Natural resources: oil, coal, copper, and uranium
- Economy relies heavily on neighbors
- Purchases petroleum products and electric power from Russia
- China receives ¾ of Mongolia’s exports

Benefits
- Export products through Tumen transport corridor
- Increase tourism
- Increase economy and decrease poverty in the region

Issues
- Habitat is crucial for survival of white-tailed gazelle
- Taiga forest in northern Mongolia and Siberia have slow regeneration

Trade and Investment

- Make the region more attractive to investors
- Building partnerships between governments and the private sector

Current Projects
- Establishing the Trade Facilitation Committee
- Facilitate regional trade and cooperation between member countries
- Upgrading manufacturing equipment industry and focusing on sustainable growth in northeast China
- Increase involvement from private sector and international investors
- Regional cooperation in Asia

Energy

- Establishment of GTI Energy Board (2007)
- Improve energy security and move towards cleaner energy
- Increasing energy demand, especially in China
- Russia is the only energy exporting country

Current Projects
- Education and training programs
- Tumen River Area Power Transmission “Ring”
- Uranium Development in Mongolia and electricity export to China
- Primorsky Oil Refinery

Transportation

- Minimize border crossing problems and improve transport
- Tumen River transport corridor
- Provide China with an east-west transport corridor
- Improve access to Mongolia

Current Projects
- China-North Korea road and harbor project
- Resolving issues with Hunchun-Makhalino Railway
- Railway feasibility study (Mongolia to China)
- Development of Zarubino port (Russia)
- NEA Ferry Route

Tourism

- Establishment of GTI Tourism Council (2009)
- Increase international visitors to the GTI member countries by 10-15% each year (2006)
- Asia-Pacific region is the second most visited region in the world

Current Projects
- Sustainable development of Mt. Baekdu in the Changbai Mountains
- Develop tourism in Eastern Mongolia
- Tourist trips from Beijing, China to North Korea (April 2010)

Environment

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (December 1995)
- “cooperation in protecting the environment of the Tumen Region and hinterland”
- GTI cannot enforce any proposals
- Established GTI Environment Board (2007)

- Environment cooperation
  - Environmental Impact Assessments for GTI projects
  - Standardize statements and create a shared network to communicate between countries
  - Feasibility study on Tumen River Water Protection
  - Water pollution from industrial emissions - 95% of pollutants from Chinese sources
  - Deforestation
  - Survey of endangered species, including Siberian Tiger and Far-eastern Leopard

- Tumen River water quality (Class V) unfit for municipal use (Jilin Province Environment Protection Board)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Should there be a push to include North Korea as a member country, when oftentimes they refuse to cooperate? Can GTI move forward without North Korea?</td>
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<tr>
<td>GTI and the MOU do not have any enforcement powers regarding the environment. With many private sector companies investing in projects, could there be potential problems with exploitation of resources, land, and wildlife?</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP does not want to be involved in environmental issues, only intergovernmental relations.</td>
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<td>Will the goal of economic development be enough to force the member countries to cooperate? Can issues like climate change allow the countries to come together?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What actions can be taken to make sure China does not dominate the GTI projects?</td>
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