Urumqi Economic and Technological Development Zone (including Urumqi Export Processing Zone)

Description: Urumqi Economic and Technological Development Zone (Urumqi ETDZ) rated “BBB” by China Knowledge in a research report published today. The area was established and approved by the State Council in August 1994 as a state-level development zone.

The zone has a favorable geographic location. It is 10 km from Urumqi’s downtown area, 2 km from the railway station and 1.5 km from Diwopu International Airport. Wuchang Expressway and National Highway 312 run through the zone.

Urumqi Export Processing Zone (Urumqi EPZ), which has an area of 3 sq km, is located in Urumqi ETDZ. It was established and approved by the State Council in March 2003 as the only state-level export processing zone in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

In 2009, Urumqi ETDZ’s GDP rose 78.04% to RMB 17.5 billion and accounted for about 16% of the city’s total. The value-added industrial output amounted to RMB 12 billion, up 54.87% year on year. The zone’s major industries are machinery, power transmission equipment, new energy, biopharmaceuticals, food and beverages, chemicals, and plastics. That same year, the utilized FDI of the zone reached US$73 million, accounting for 3.3% of Urumqi's total. The total export value of the zone amounted to US$2.35 billion, up 11.36% year on year and accounting for 79% of the city's total.

The zone has attracted nine Fortune 500 companies. By the end of 2009, there were 15 enterprises each with an industrial output of over RMB 100 million. Representative enterprises include Coca-Cola, Kerry EAS Logistics, Carlsberg, LM Glasfiber, Yili, Sany Heavy Industry, and Goldwind Science and Technology.

Urumqi ETDZ has attracted investment from Baotou First Machinery Group, Coca-Cola, and Huadian Xinjiang Power. The total contractual investment reached RMB 15 billion, of which the utilized FDI amounted to US$46 million. Huadian Xinjiang Power Co Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Huadian Group, is the largest power generation company in Xinjiang. It has contracted to build a RMB 5.4-billion thermal power project in Urumqi ETDZ. The plant, which will have annual production capacity of 6 billion kWh, will become operational in 2011.

The latest figures show that in the first half of 2010, the export value rose 25.41% to US$1.16 billion. In the first three quarters of 2010, value-added industrial output of the zone amounted to RMB 11.75 billion, up 54.29% year on year; while the gross industrial output rose by 54.77% to RMB 33.49 billion. The utilized FDI hit US$43.18 million.

Industrial parks rated BBB are considered attractive at an average level. They have less-than-adequate investment conditions and may have some flaws. They may be promising industrial parks but there are uncertainties regarding future development. Most of these are industry specific theme park that caters to fewer industries. There are 60 such BBB rating out of 254 national or municipal-level industrial parks where many are seeking to transform or upgrade its facilities to attract new economy industries.


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