

THE CHENGDU-CHONGQING ECONOMIC CIRCLE: HOW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DRIVE COOPERATION AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

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Launched in 2020, the Chengdu-Chongqing Economic Circle (CCEC) is China's newest growth pole, targeting innovation, market integration and dual circulation. Though its gross domestic product jumped by RMB2.3 trillion (US\$320 billion) in five years to RMB8.6 trillion—comparable to the Netherlands—and its 98.5 million population exceeds Germany's, the CCEC faces challenges such as overlapping industries, weak innovation platforms and talent retention risks. Chengdu and Chongqing now host world-class clusters in electronics, autos, biopharmaceuticals and aerospace. Backed by RMB400 billion in central investment, the CCEC pioneers cross-provincial infrastructure, fiscal innovation and joint governance, in alignment with national strategies such as the Belt and Road Initiative. However, compared with China's coastal regions, the CCEC has a weaker economic foundation and less institutionalised cooperation, emphasising regional balance, infrastructure and industrial transfer. Addressing administrative inefficiencies and reform inertia is crucial. This requires institutional building, industrial upgrading and enhanced regional coordination to support long-term, sustainable development.

(Click on the link to read the above in [Chinese](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#))

Chinese:

成渝地区双城经济圈：地方政府如何推动协同与产业战略

成渝地区双城经济圈于 2020 年启动，是中国最新的增长极，着力推动创新、市场一体化和“双循环”。过去五年，其地区生产总值增加 2.3 万亿元人民币（约合 3200 亿美元），达到 8.6 万亿元人民币——规模可比荷兰；总人口达 9850 万，超过德国。然而，该经济圈仍面临产业同构、创新平台薄弱、人才留驻风险等挑战。成都与重庆已形成电子、汽车、生物医药、航空航天等世界级产业集群。在中央财政 4000 亿元人民币资金支持下，成渝在跨省基础设施、财政创新与联合治理方面先行先试，并与“一带一路”等国家战略相衔接。不过，相较于中国沿海地区，成渝地区双城经济圈的经济基础较弱、合作机制制度化程度不足，并且更强调区域均衡、基础设施和产业转移。破解行政低效与改革滞后至关重要。这需要通过制度建设、产业升级以及区域协同提升，来实现长期可持续发展。

French:

LE CERCLE ÉCONOMIQUE CHENGDU-CHONGQING: COMMENT LES GOUVERNEMENTS LOCAUX MENENT LA COOPÉRATION ET LA STRATÉGIE INDUSTRIELLE

Lancé en 2020, le Cercle économique Chengdu-Chongqing (CCEC) est le tout nouveau pôle de croissance de la Chine, axé sur l'innovation, l'intégration des marchés et la circulation duale. Son produit intérieur brut a augmenté de 2 300 milliards de RMB (320 milliards de dollars US) en cinq ans pour atteindre 8 600 milliards de RMB — un niveau comparable à celui des Pays-Bas, et sa population de 98,5 millions d'habitants dépasse celle de l'Allemagne. Toutefois, le CCEC est confronté à des défis tels que la superposition des secteurs industriels, la faiblesse des plateformes d'innovation et des risques de rétention des talents. Chengdu et Chongqing abritent désormais des pôles industriels de rang mondial dans l'électronique, l'automobile, le biopharmaceutique et l'aérospatiale. Soutenu par 400 milliards de RMB d'investissements centraux, le CCEC est pionnier en matière d'infrastructures interprovinciales, d'innovation fiscale et de gouvernance conjointe, en cohérence avec des stratégies nationales telles que l'Initiative de « la Ceinture et la Route ». Cependant, par rapport aux régions côtières chinoises, le CCEC dispose d'une base économique plus faible et d'une coopération moins institutionnalisée, mettant l'accent sur l'équilibre régional, les infrastructures et le transfert industriel. Il est crucial de remédier aux inefficacités administratives et à l'inertie des réformes. Cela nécessite un renforcement institutionnel, une montée en gamme industrielle et une coordination régionale accrue afin de soutenir un développement durable.

Spanish:

EL CÍRCULO ECONÓMICO CHENGDÚ-CHONGQING: CÓMO LOS GOBIERNOS LOCALES IMPULSAN LA COOPERACIÓN Y LA ESTRATEGIA INDUSTRIAL

Lanzado en 2020, el Círculo Económico Chengdú-Chongqing (CCEC) es el nuevo polo de crecimiento de China, orientado a la innovación, la integración de mercados y la doble circulación. Aunque su producto interno bruto aumentó en 2,3 billones de RMB (320.000 millones de USD) en cinco años hasta alcanzar 8,6 billones de RMB —comparable a los Países Bajos— y su población de 98,5 millones supera a la de Alemania, el CCEC afronta retos como la superposición industrial, plataformas de innovación débiles y riesgos de retención de talento. Chengdú y Chongqing albergan ahora clústeres de clase mundial en electrónica, automoción, biofarmacéutica y aeroespacial. Con el respaldo de 400.000 millones de RMB de inversión central, el CCEC es pionero en infraestructura interprovincial, innovación fiscal y gobernanza conjunta, en consonancia con estrategias nacionales como la Iniciativa de la Franja y la Ruta.

Sin embargo, en comparación con las regiones costeras de China, el CCEC tiene una base económica más débil y una cooperación menos institucionalizada, con énfasis en el equilibrio regional, la infraestructura y la transferencia industrial. Abordar las ineficiencias administrativas y la inercia reformista es crucial. Esto requiere construcción institucional, modernización industrial y una mayor coordinación regional para sustentar un desarrollo sostenible a largo plazo.

Executive Summary

1. In 2020, China launched the Chengdu-Chongqing Economic Circle (CCEC) to drive regional growth, stimulate high-quality development and innovation, unify the market and support national strategies, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, while strengthening the domestic market amid US-China tensions.
2. Over the past five years, the CCEC has advanced economic growth, industrial development, intergovernmental cooperation, technology, infrastructure and international market expansion.
3. Sichuan, Chengdu and Chongqing have jointly advanced the CCEC through collaborative governance, cross-sector agreements and institutional innovations, backed by strong central funding and policy support to drive regional integration and development.
4. Chengdu and Chongqing governments have also individually formulated plans to strengthen their advanced industries. Chengdu, for instance, has introduced a five-year plan for electronic information, equipment manufacturing and modern service industries, and policies to boost technological innovation.
5. Meanwhile, the Chongqing government has launched multiple initiatives to reinforce its traditional strong industries. It has placed particular emphasis on developing key sectors such as new energy vehicles, software and internet, advanced materials, equipment manufacturing and biopharmaceuticals.
6. Their collaborative and individual industrial efforts have yielded significant progress in major industrial cluster development, joint research and development platforms, transport connectivity, international engagement and better-integrated public services.
7. Compared to China's other economic cooperation areas, the CCEC has a weaker economic foundation, less institutionalised cooperation and distinct priorities. While

the Yangtze River Delta Integration Area focuses on innovation, market integration and global competitiveness, the CCEC emphasises regional balance, infrastructure, industrial transfer and urban-rural integration.

8. The CCEC strategy faces challenges including overlapping industrial structures, weak innovation synergy, a shortage of major innovation platforms, difficulties in attracting and retaining talent, and inadequate institutional openness.
9. To fully unlock the potential of the CCEC, deep-rooted issues such as administrative barriers and slow reform processes must be addressed through institutional building, standardised practices, industrial upgrading and stronger regional coordination efforts.