

Mechanism and Path of Empowering High Quality Economic Development in Western Regions with New Quality Productivity

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Abstract

New quality productivity is an inherent requirement and important focus for promoting high-quality development. As an important part of the national economic system, the western region can promote industrial transformation and upgrading by developing new quality productive forces according to local conditions, enhance scientific and technological innovation capabilities, and optimize the allocation of production factors. Based on the coupling and coordination relationship between new quality productivity and high-quality regional economic development. On the basis of analyzing the mechanism and difficulties of empowering high-quality economic development in the western region with new quality productivity, this article proposes a practical path to promote high-quality economic development in the western region.

Keywords

New Quality Productivity; High Quality Economic Development; Western Region; Mechanism of Action; Practical Path.

1. Introduction

In April 2024, General Secretary Xi Jinping, when presiding over the symposium on promoting the development of the western region in a new era, stressed that "we should develop new quality productivity in line with local conditions, explore and develop modern manufacturing and strategic emerging industries, lay out and build future industries, and form new momentum for regional development".[7]With the development of a new round of industrial and technological revolution, the world has entered a development trend and characteristics of multi-point integration, cross cutting, and breakthrough driven by technological innovation and disruptive technologies. The western region is a underdeveloped area in China, with complex natural conditions, weak economic foundation, relatively backward infrastructure construction, and insufficient endogenous driving force for industrial transformation and upgrading. Therefore, exploring the mechanism of empowering high-quality economic development in the western region with new quality productivity is of great significance for the sustainable development of the economy and industries in the western region.

2. The Mechanism of Empowering High Quality Economic Development in the Western Region with New Quality Productivity

Clarifying the intrinsic mechanism of new quality productivity and high-quality regional economic development is the key to achieving high-quality economic development in the western region. On the basis of technological innovation theory, industrial structure theory, and human capital theory, driven by technological innovation. The coordinated role of the three mechanisms of leading industrial transformation and regulating production factors, working together to promote high-quality economic development in the western region.

2.1. Leading Mechanism for Industrial Structure Upgrading: A Key Force for High-quality Economic Development

New quality productivity aims to promote high-quality development and build a modern industrial system. Guided and supported by core leading industries and digital technology, utilizing the multiplier effect of leading industries, integrating relevant and potential industries, continuously promoting new industries, new formats, and new models, driving industrial integration to develop in depth, assisting in the optimization and upgrading of industrial structure, and injecting strong impetus into a new round of high-quality economic growth. At the same time, we will focus on strategic emerging and future industries such as new generation information technology, high-end equipment manufacturing, biomanufacturing, and quantum information, grasp cutting-edge productivity, unleash development potential, form new quality productivity, and leverage its empowering and quality enhancing role to provide key assistance for the high-quality development of the economy.

2.2. Technological Innovation Driven Mechanism: The Fundamental Driving Force for High-quality Economic Development

New quality productivity is an advanced productivity driven by technological innovation and in line with the new development concept. From the perspective of the process of technological innovation, technological innovation plays a role in a certain link and integrates into the entire production process, breaking through spatial and organizational boundaries, gradually showing openness and sharing characteristics, optimizing the allocation and structure of innovative resources, and improving their allocation efficiency. From the perspective of the innovation ecosystem, new quality productivity promotes the integration and effective connection of physical and non physical entities. Based on the spillover effect of technological innovation, the content and methods of innovation subjects change, giving birth to new innovation organizations and forming diversified innovation subjects. And the internal and external environment of innovation undergoes systematic changes, entering the innovation stage from production factors to organizational forms and then to the entire innovation ecosystem. Ultimately, new quality productivity will provide strong impetus for the entire innovation process and innovation ecosystem, promoting high-quality economic development.

2.3. Adjustment Mechanism of Production Factors: The Core Force for High-quality Economic Development

New quality productivity, as a new form of productivity, can combine traditional factors with modern digital technology by overlaying, extending, and expanding their functions. It can also increase the value of factors, improve production and input efficiency, adjust and optimize the structure and proportion of factor inputs, and promote high-quality economic development. Among them, labor force is a production factor with "subjective initiative". On the one hand, the education level of workers continues to improve, their cultural quality is increasingly enhanced, and their labor skills are constantly accumulating and optimizing. On the other hand, the development of digital information technology has endowed labor with the characteristics of "digitalization and intelligence", which not only enhances the value of labor, but also improves production efficiency and labor efficiency, giving rise to new forms of production. Power has injected new impetus into the high-quality development of the economy.

3. The Realistic Dilemma of Empowering High-quality Economic Development in the Western Region with New Quality Productivity

The western region has unique resources and geographical advantages in the development of new quality productivity. In recent years, the western region has also actively explored and

formed multiple national level strategic emerging industry clusters and advanced manufacturing industry clusters, such as the intelligent connected new energy vehicle industry cluster in Chongqing, the electronic information and equipment manufacturing industry cluster in Chengdu, and the electronic information and aerospace industry cluster in Xi'an. We have also achieved certain results in emerging industries, such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, drones, and nuclear technology applications in Sichuan, which will grow by over 20% in 2024. At the national hub node of Guizhou's integrated computing power network, the world's first 400G computing power channel delivers "digital blood" to artificial intelligence enterprises in the east. The western region has achieved significant results in the development of new quality productivity, especially in industrial transformation and upgrading, cultivation of emerging industries, and technological innovation. However, the lack of momentum for industrial development, weak support for technological innovation, and shortage of high-level talents still constrain its high-quality development.

3.1. Insufficient Momentum for Industrial Development

Firstly, the economic scale of the western region is relatively small, and although the per capita regional GDP has continued to grow in recent years, the total economic output is still lower than that of the eastern region. In 2023, the GDP of the western region will account for 21.5% of the national total, but the gap in per capita GDP compared to the eastern region is still significant. This gap is not only reflected in the total amount, but also in the speed and quality of economic development. The overall economic foundation of the western region is still relatively weak, and the development momentum is insufficient. In addition, the number of high-tech enterprises per 10000 people has long been at the bottom of the four major economic zones, rising to 0.9 per 10000 people by 2021, far below the national average. This indicates that there is still a significant gap in the cultivation of innovation entities in the western region. Secondly, the industrial structure in the western region is dominated by traditional industries, and industrial development mainly relies on heavy industries such as coal and petrochemicals, as well as light industries such as papermaking, food, and textiles. The modern agriculture, new industry, and modern service industry systems have not been fully constructed, the transformation of industrial structure has not been smoothly completed, and a modern industrial system with regional comparative advantages has not yet been formed.

3.2. Weak Technological Innovation Capability

The insufficient technological innovation capability in the western region is mainly reflected in two aspects: first, the overall innovation capability needs to be improved. According to the "China Regional Science and Technology Innovation Evaluation Report (2024)", most provinces in the western region, except for Chongqing, are located in the rear of the country. Half of the region, therefore, the overall innovation capability of the western region is relatively weak. Secondly, there is a lack of regional collaborative innovation. From a regional perspective, the distribution of innovation resources in the western region is extremely uneven, with the majority concentrated in a few cities and universities. For example, as a province with abundant scientific and educational resources, Shaanxi has abundant universities and research institutions, but these resources are mainly concentrated in Xi'an, and innovation resources are relatively scarce in other regions. This imbalance phenomenon is widely present in the western region, which has a constraining effect on the improvement of innovation capacity in the entire region.

3.3. Shortage of High-level Talents

The key to promoting high-quality economic development lies in talent. With the development of technology, the western region has seen a significant increase in talent compared to the past, but it is still negative. And the distribution of talents in the western region is still uneven, such

as Chongqing and Chengdu, which are important cities in the western region and have the highest total talent resources. In 2023, the total number of talents in Chongqing will exceed 6.347 million people, including 1.62 million high skilled talents, ranking first in the western region. According to the 2024 release The "List of Talent Demand for Key Industries in the Western Region" shows that the demand for high-level talents in the western region is constantly increasing, covering multiple strategic emerging industries such as new generation information technology, biotechnology, new materials, and new energy. In order to attract and cultivate high-level talents, the western region government has introduced a series of relevant policies. For example, Chengdu Science City has established a talent pool worth 1 billion yuan special funds for development have successfully introduced 864 high-level talents of various types in the past year. However, despite these measures, the shortage of high-level talents still exists.

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4. The Practical Path of Empowering High-quality Economic Development in the Western Region with New Quality Productivity

4.1. Developing Characteristic Advantageous Industries and Accelerating the Transformation and Upgrading of Industrial Structure in the Western Region

One is to develop characteristic industries according to local conditions. The western region has abundant natural resources and unique geographical conditions, which should be fully explored and utilized to develop industries such as characteristic agriculture, ecotourism, and mineral resource processing. For example, Wenshan Prefecture in Yunnan Province, relying on Sanqi resources, has formed a complete industrial chain integrating planting, processing, research and development, and sales, becoming a "golden signboard" of the local economy. The second is to promote the development of industrial clusters. Combining the industrial foundation and resource endowment of the western region, integrating upstream and downstream resources of the industrial chain, building industrial clusters, promoting the overall competitiveness of the industry, and focusing on the development of strategic emerging industries such as new energy, new materials, biomedicine, and high-end equipment manufacturing.

4.2. Improve the System of Technological Innovation and Cultivate New Driving Forces for the Development of the Western Region

Firstly, strengthen the reform of the system and mechanism for scientific and technological innovation. Fully leverage the advantages of the new national system and combine it with the practical situation in the western region. Based on the current situation, we should construct a scientific and technological innovation system that is in line with the development of the western region according to local conditions. According to the layout of the industrial chain, innovate the chain and promote the deep integration of scientific and technological innovation achievements with industrial development. Establish a diversified investment mechanism, encourage the western region to increase local fiscal technology expenditures, guide financial institutions to establish specialized institutions for serving technology-based enterprises, and support technological innovation in the western region through central guidance of local technology development funds. Secondly, deepen cross regional technological cooperation. Establish a sound science and technology cooperation system between the eastern and western regions, support the establishment of science and technology innovation cooperation mechanisms between the western and developed eastern regions, and promote the orderly flow of innovation factors across regions. Relying on the unique geographical conditions and advantages of the western region, we will deeply participate in the construction of the "the Belt and Road", increase scientific and technological cooperation with countries along the line, and encourage and support enterprises to set up overseas research and development centers.

4.3. The Core Force of Combining "Attracting, Nurturing, and Retaining" to Cultivate the Development of New Quality Productive Forces

The core subject of promoting the development of new quality productive forces is high-quality talents. We need to coordinate the cultivation of local talents and the introduction of high-end talents through internal and external integration, form a joint force, and jointly build a high-quality talent team. On the one hand, actively cultivate local innovative talents. Guided by the needs and realities of industrial development, we will conduct in-depth research on talent demand in enterprises, accurately connect with domestic universities and research institutes, optimize talent training programs in universities, and increase local talent training efforts. On the other hand, actively introducing high-level talents from both domestic and foreign sources. We will deepen the reform of the talent mechanism, strengthen cooperation with countries along the Belt and Road, and focus on introducing talents in relevant fields in combination with the Western Development Strategy and the construction of the "the Belt and Road". Adhering to the core concept of respecting talents, respecting labor, and respecting creativity, we will implement more open, proactive, and effective talent policies to comprehensively stimulate the innovative potential of all types of talents.

5. Conclusion

As a key force to promote high-quality economic development, new quality productivity is of great significance to the realization of economic transformation, upgrading and sustainable development in the western region. Through a systematic study of the mechanism, practical dilemma and practical path of new quality productivity to empower the high-quality economic development of the western region, this paper finds that the new quality productivity provides a strong impetus and new ideas and directions for the high-quality economic development of the western region through three aspects: the leading mechanism of industrial structure upgrading, the driving mechanism of scientific and technological innovation and the adjustment mechanism of production factors. By deeply tapping the resource advantages of the western region, accelerating the transformation and upgrading of the industrial structure,

improving the scientific and technological innovation system, and optimizing the environment for talent development, we can effectively promote the implementation of new quality productive forces in the western region and help the western region achieve high-quality economic development. In the future, the western region should further strengthen policy support and guidance, give full play to the enabling role of new quality productivity, actively explore new models and paths suitable for its own development, and contribute to the high-quality development of the national economy.

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