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### Appearance and Appliance of the Twin-Cities Concept

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**Abstract.** The article is devoted to the city pair of Blagoveshchensk (Russia) and Heihe (China) – the only city pair in Russian-Chinese borderland that describes itself with the twin-cities concept. The article reconstructs the history of appearance of the twin-cities concept in Russian-Chinese borderland and questionnaires collected in the cities in question the paper examines spatial characteristics of the concept and its practical execution in the Asian context. Exploring the extent of the concept applicable to Russian-Chinese border cities, the author concludes that cooperation between the cities is implemented through bilateral annual events in various spheres (culture, education, sport, etc.) and the participation of region's/city's representatives, not in a form of direct people-to-people or institutional cooperation. The main drawback of Blagoveshchensk and Heihe relations. While planned character of joint events stable and predictable, it also keeps Russian-Chinese cooperation at a low level. To become a necessary part of everyday life of the cities, it is necessary to create conditions for the development of cooperation.

[Conference Paper](#) (PDF, 1846 KB)

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