### Analysis of Utilization of Foreign Direct Investment in China

Zhao Yufei<sup>1</sup> and Cai Li<sup>2</sup>

#### Abstract

With the development of the globalization, foreign direct investment (FDI) has become a hotspot in the Chinese economy which accelerates the progress of science and technology as well as the adjustment of the industrial structure of China. The paper points out the status quo of utilization of FDI in China, including scale of FDI, source of FDI, using FDI by region and industry and the import and export of foreign-invested enterprises of China. Finally, the paper points out some suggestions about how China makes better use of FDI, including promoting the regional coordinated development and optimizing the industrial structure of FDI.

**JEL classification numbers:** F21 **Keywords:** Foreign direct investment, FDI, China, Policy

#### **1** Introduction

It has lasting for nearly 35 years since China's reform and opening up policy was enforced. China has made breakthroughs in using FDI which has had a far-reaching and significant impact on China's economic development. China is one of the countries which have absorbed the largest amount of foreign investment in the world. As the goal transfers from quantitative expansion to quality enhancement, China need evaluate the efficiency of FDI utilization in depth. As an important carrier for the international industrial transfer, the contradictory operation and trends of FDI will have a thorough influence on China's economy.

In March 2013, Ministry of Commerce of China released Guidance of Ministry of Commerce on Foreign Investment Attraction in China in 2013, stating "Affected by the financial crisis, the recovery of the global economy is still slow and remains sluggish.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>International Business School, Dalian Nationalities University.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Corresponding author, International Business School, Dalian Nationalities University.

Article Info: *Received* : August 28, 2013. *Revised* : September 30, 2013. *Published online* : November 30, 2013

Though China's economy develops faster than the global economic recovery, multinational companies are still optimistic about the prospects of long-term investment in China, China still faces increasing prices of factors of production, tight land supply and structural shortage of labor supply." In this way, Ministry of Commerce of China pointed out that, "In 2013, China should grasp the basic connotation of win-win, multivariate balance, safe and efficient open economy accurately under the domestic and international situation. China should insist on opening wider to the outside world, improve the comprehensive advantages and effectiveness of FDI utilization as well as promote the introduction of foreign capital, technologies and talents."

In this circumstance, this paper not only analyzes the current situation that China utilizes FDI, but also proposes some countermeasures and suggestions on boosting the coordinated development of FDI and China's economy.

#### 2 The Situation of Utilization of FDI in China

#### 2.1 The Amount of Utilization of FDI

GDP not only reflects the economic situation of a country, but also embodies the country's strength and wealth, therefore it is recognized as the best indicator to measure a country's economy. The share of FDI in GDP can presents the general trend of FDI utilization of a country. Table 1 illustrates GDP and the actually used FDI in China since the reform and opening up policy was implemented. Since the reform and opening up policy was carried out, the FDI used by China actually has increased with the rise of GDP year by year. Particularly, in 1992 and 1993, the used FDI saw the fastest growth rates 152.13% and 149.95% respectively. Of course, in the recent years, the growth rate reduced. The growth rate in 1999 was 11.31% lower than 1998, the growth rate in 2005 saw a decrease of 0.5% compared with 2004, the growth rate in 2009 fell down by 2.56% from 2008, the growth rate in 2012 was 3.7% less than 2011. In addition, the share of FDI in GDP showed an upward trend from 1990s, hitting the peak 0.78% in 1993. Since 1993, the share has tended to decline, touching the bottom 0.22% in 2012.

	1		llion)	T	
Year	Actually Used FDI	Year-on-Year Growth Rate of Actually Used FDI(%)	GDP	Year-on-Year Growth Rate of GDP (%)	Proportion of Actually Used FDI to GDP(%)
1979-1984	41.04	-	31993.8	-	0.13
1985	19.56	-	9016	-	0.22
1986	22.44	14.72	10275.2	13.97	0.22
1987	23.14	3.12	12058.6	17.36	0.19
1988	31.94	38.03	15042.8	24.75	0.21
1989	33.92	6.2	16992.3	12.96	0.20
1990	34.87	2.8	18667.8	9.86	0.19
1991	43.66	25.21	21781.5	16.68	0.20
1992	110.08	152.13	26923.5	23.61	0.41
1993	275.15	149.95	35333.9	31.24	0.78
1994	337.67	22.72	48197.9	36.41	0.70
1995	375.21	11.12	60793.7	26.13	0.62
1996	417.26	11.21	71176.6	17.08	0.59
1997	452.57	8.46	78973	10.95	0.57
1998	454.63	0.46	84402.3	6.87	0.54
1999	403.19	-11.31	89677.1	6.25	0.45
2000	407.15	0.98	99214.6	10.64	0.41
2001	468.78	15.14	109655.2	10.52	0.43
2002	527.43	12.51	120332.7	9.74	0.44
2003	535.05	1.44	135822.8	12.87	0.39
2004	606.3	13.32	159878.3	17.71	0.38
2005	603.25	-0.5	184937.4	15.67	0.33
2006	630.21	4.47	216314.4	16.97	0.29
2007	747.68	18.64	265810.3	22.88	0.28
2008	923.95	23.58	314045.4	18.15	0.29
2009	900.33	-2.56	340902.8	8.55	0.26
2010	1057.35	17.44	401202	17.69	0.26
2011	1160.11	9.72	472881.6	17.87	0.25
2012	1117.16	-3.7	519322	9.82	0.22

Table 1: GDP and the Amount of Utilization of FDI in China, 1979-2012. (USD 100 million)

"-" stands for data not available.

Source: Department of Trade and External Economic Relations Statistics, China National Bureau of Statistics, *China Trade and External Economic Statistical Yearbook*, China Statistics Press, Beijing, 2012.

#### 2.2 Utilization of FDI by Source

At present, more than 160 countries and regions, especially Hong Kong, have invested in Mainland China. Table 2 reflects top 10 sources of FDI in China. Hong Kong accounts for over 60% of FDI in China. In addition, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, the United States, South Korea, Germany and the Netherlands invested more in 2012 compared with 2011. In particular, the investment of Taiwan nearly increased by about 4%.

	2011			2012			
Rank	Country (Region)	Actually Used FDI	Share (%)	Country (Region)	Actually Used FDI	Share (%)	
1	Hong Kong	705.00	60.77	Hong Kong	712.89	63.81	
2	Virgin Islands	97.25	8.38	Japan	73.8	6.61	
3	Japan	63.30	5.46	Singapore	65.39	5.85	
4	Singapore	60.97	5.26	Taiwan	61.83	5.53	
5	South Korea	25.51	2.20	USA	31.3	2.80	
6	USA	23.69	2.04	South Korea	30.66	2.74	
7	Cayman Islands	22.42	1.93	Germany	14.71	1.32	
8	Taiwan	21.83	1.88	Netherlands	11.44	1.02	
9	Samoan	20.76	1.79	UK	10.31	0.92	
10	Mauritius	11.39	0.98	Switzerland	8.78	0.79	
Total Amount of Actually Used FDI in China		1160.11	100		1117.16	100	

Table 2: Utilization of FDI in China by Country or Region (Top 10), 2011-2012. (USD 100 million)

Source: Department of Trade and External Economic Relations Statistics, China National Bureau of Statistics, *China Trade and External Economic Statistical Yearbook*, China Statistics Press, Beijing, 2012.

#### 2.3 Utilization of FDI by Form

In the current years, China mainly utilizes FDI by form of wholly foreign-owned enterprises. Table 3 concludes utilization of FDI by form in 2011 and 2012. Foreign-owned enterprises accounted for more than 70%, equity joint ventures occupied nearly 20%, while contractual joint ventures took a small proportion with more than 2% in 2012 and less than 1.5% in 2011.

	2011		2012			
Form	Amount of Actually	Share	Amount of Actually	Share		
	Used FDI	(%)	Used FDI	(%)		
Wholly Foreign-owned	928.39	80.32		78.8		
Enterprise	720.37	00.52	877.02	70.0		
Equity Joint Venture	214.15	18.19	217.06	19.16		
Contractual Joint Venture	17.57	1.49	23.08	2.04		
Total Amount of Actually Used	1160.11	100		100		
FDI in China			1117.16	- 50		

Table 3: Utilization of FDI in China by Form, 2011-2012. (USD 100 million)

Source: Department of Trade and External Economic Relations Statistics, China National Bureau of Statistics, *China Trade and External Economic Statistical Yearbook*, China Statistics Press, Beijing, 2012.

#### 2.4 Utilization of FDI by Industry

Table 4 stands for the sector distribution of FDI in China in 2011. From this table, only almost 1.8% of FDI in China was used in primary industry, while 48% of FDI was applied to secondary industry (wherein, almost 45% of FDI was used for manufacturing sector) and over 50% of FDI was invested in tertiary industry (in which real estate industry used more than 23% of FDI).

Table 5 shows the industrial distribution of FDI in China within a decade. The proportion of FDI in primary industry was very small, only hitting the highest 2.4% in 2001. More than 75% of FDI was invested in secondary industry in 2005. Tertiary industry used over 50% of FDI in 2011. Also, it can be seen that the proportion of used FDI in secondary industry in China declined year after year during a decade, while the proportion in tertiary industry in China increased year by year.

Sector	Actually Used FDI	Share (%)
Total	11601100	100
Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Husbandry and Fishing	200888	1.73
Mining	61279	0.52
Manufacturing	5210054	44.91
Production and Distribution of Electricity, Gas and Water	211843	1.82
Construction	91694	0.79
Transport, Storage and Post	319079	2.75
Information Transmission,	269918	2.32
Computer Services and Software	209918	
Wholesale and Retail Trade	842455	7.26
Hotel and Restaurants	84289	0.72
Financial Intermediation	190970	1.64
Real Estate	2688152	23.17
Leasing and Business Services	838247	7.22
Scientific Research, Technical Service and Geologic Prospecting	245781	2.11
Management of Water Conservancy, Environment and Public Facilities	86427	0.74
Services to Households and Other Services	188357	1.62
Education	395	0.0034
Health, Social Security and Social Welfare	7751	0.06
Culture, Sports and Entertainment	63455	0.54
Public Management and Social Organizations	66	0.00056
Total	11601100	100

Table 4: Utilization of FDI in China by Sector, 2011. (USD 10 000)

Source: Department of Trade and External Economic Relations Statistics, China National Bureau of Statistics, *China Trade and External Economic Statistical Yearbook*, China Statistics Press, Beijing, 2012.

	Actually Used FDI				
Year	Share in Primary Industry (%)	Share in Secondary Industry (%)	Share in Tertiary Industry (%)		
2001	2.40	73.70	23.90		
2002	1.90	74.60	23.50		
2003	2.00	73.50	24.50		
2004	1.90	73.20	24.90		
2005	1.80	75.80	22.40		
2006	1.00	61.70	37.30		
2007	0.80	61.20	38.00		
2008	1.20	57.30	41.50		
2009	1.59	55.62	42.79		
2010	1.81	50.94	47.25		
2011	1.74	48.05	50.21		

Table 5: Utilization of FDI in China by Industry, 2001-2011.

Source: Department of Trade and External Economic Relations Statistics, China National Bureau of Statistics, *China Trade and External Economic Statistical Yearbook*, China Statistics Press, Beijing, 2012.

#### 2.5 Imports and Exports of Foreign-funded Enterprises in China

Foreign-funded enterprises provide products and services for both of the domestic market of China and the international market. Like domestic enterprises of China, foreign-funded enterprises are also engaged in import and export of China. Since the reform and opening up policy was adopted, foreign-funded enterprises have exerted a certain impact on import and export of China. Table 6 demonstrates imports and exports of foreign-funded enterprises in China since 1980. The import and export value of foreign-funded enterprises climbed year by year. Their contribution to China's total import and export value increased from 0.11% in 1980 to 58.86% in 2006. However, the contribution declined from 2006 to 2011. The proportion of the export value of foreign-funded enterprises in China's total export value rose to 58.3% in 2005 from 0.05% in 1980, and then dropped to 52.43% in 2011. The proportion of the import value of foreign-funded enterprises in China's total import value ascended from 0.17% in 1980 to 59.7% in 2006, and then fell to 49.59% in 2011.

			(05D10,0	00)		
Year	Value of Imports and Exports	Share of China Imports and Exports (%)	Value of Exports	Share of China Exports (%)	Value of Imports	Share of China Imports (%)
1980	4265	0.11	824	0.05	3441	0.17
1981	14322	0.33	3235	0.15	11087	0.50
1982	32929	0.79	5287	0.24	27642	1.43
1983	61837	1.42	33036	1.49	28801	1.35
1984	46815	0.87	6894	0.26	39921	1.46
1985	236080	3.39	29670	1.08	206410	4.89
1986	301234	4.08	58203	1.88	243031	5.66
1987	433027	5.24	120809	3.06	312218	7.23
1988	820313	7.98	245642	5.17	574671	10.40
1989	1370937	12.28	491320	9.35	879617	14.87
1990	2012012	17.43	781379	12.58	1230633	23.07
1991	2895425	21.34	1204725	16.75	1690700	26.50
1992	4372689	26.42	1735619	20.43	2637070	32.72
1993	6707037	34.27	2523717	27.51	4183320	40.24
1994	8764715	37.04	3471297	28.69	5293418	45.79
1995	10981858	39.10	4687587	31.51	6294271	47.65
1996	13711016	47.30	6150636	40.72	7560380	54.46
1997	15262121	46.94	7489986	40.98	7772135	54.59
1998	15767938	48.67	8096189	44.07	7671749	54.70
1999	17451127	48.39	8862766	45.47	8588361	51.83
2000	23671390	49.91	11944121	47.93	11727269	52.10
2001	25906106	50.83	13321810	50.06	12584296	51.67
2002	33023948	53.20	16998509	52.21	16025439	54.29
2003	47216996	55.48	24030598	54.84	23186398	56.17
2004	66304033	57.43	33859184	57.07	32444849	57.81
2005	83163864	58.49	44418252	58.30	38745612	58.71
2006	103625950	58.86	56377905	58.18	47248045	59.70
2007	125516381	57.67	69537077	56.98	55979304	58.55
2008	140992118	55.01	79049270	55.25	61942848	54.69
2009	121747895	55.15	67207409	55.93	54540486	54.22
2010	161708545	54.37	86222882	54.65	75485663	54.06
2011	185989874	51.07	99522704	52.43	86467170	49.59

Table 6: Imports and Exports of Foreign-funded Enterprises in China, 1980-2012. (USD10,000)

Source: Department of Trade and External Economic Relations Statistics, China National Bureau of Statistics, *China Trade and External Economic Statistical Yearbook*, China Statistics Press, Beijing, 2012.

### **3** Recommended Policies for Improving Using FDI in China

# **3.1** Promoting Coordinated Development of Using FDI in Domestic Regions of China

China government should vigorously encourage eastern China to speed up innovation development, industrial transformation and upgrading, boost modern service industry, R & D and high-end manufacturing sectors to attract more FDI.

Central and western regions of China should exert their advantages, revise and implement Catalogue of Advantageous Industries for Foreign Investment in Central and Western Regions to advocate foreign investors to invest in labor-intensive industries which meet environmental requirements, as well as push forward the upgrading and transformation of traditional industries. The construction of industrial transfer demonstration zones in central and western regions of China should be conducted in an orderly manner. The cooperation between eastern, central and western development zones should be strengthened.

The approval and registration procedures for the transfer of foreign-invested enterprises from eastern regions to central and western regions should be simplified. The barriers to the inter-regional flow of foreign investment should be cut down and the process of the industrial transfer should be prompted.

Chinese government need speed up the construction of border and cross-border economic cooperation zones, support the cooperation between National Economic & Technological Development Zones and Border Economic Cooperation Zones, and support the industrial parks in Tibet and Xinjiang should be backed up solidly.

#### 3.2 Making Full Use of FDI to Optimize Industrial Structure of China

In accordance with the global trend of industrial development and the goal of optimizing the industrial structure in China, Chinese government need encourage foreign investors to invest in modern agriculture, high-tech, advanced manufacturing, energy saving and environmental protection, new energy, modern services and other fields The effects of China's supporting policies for strategic emerging industries should be realized. The FDI in high-tech and high-end sectors should be introduced. China need not only continue to inspire multinational companies to set up regional headquarters, financial centers, centers of shared services, operation centers and other functional agencies in the country, but also advocate them to found Asia-Pacific headquarters and global business headquarters herein to reinforce FDI management. Chinese government need guide foreign investors to develop new formats of production services based on Cloud Computing, Logistics Alliance Network and other emerging technologies, and further open the services in health care and create jobs and stimulate the domestic consumption by FDI and take advantage of FDI to develop vocational skills training and improve the quality of labor force. "Arrangement for Closer Economic and Trade Relations between Mainland China and Hong Kong & Macao and Cross-Strait Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement" should function as the breakthroughs of opening up service industries among Hong Kong, Macao and Mainland China. Chinese government need further push forward the construction of Shenzhen Qianhai Modern Service Industry Demonstration Zone, Zhuhai Hengqin New Zone, Guangzhou Nansha New Zone, and Fujian Pingtan Comprehensive Experimental Zone.

#### 3.3 Energetically Ameliorating Domestic Investment Environment of China

Chinese government should intensify water conservancy construction, meliorate energy supply environments, improve the efficiency of resources utilization, make more efforts to introduce foreign investment in new energy production. China should deepen the reform of the economic system, and advocate the fair competition between foreign and domestic enterprises in order to improve the overall quality of utilization of foreign investment. China should regulate and boost the development of development zones, and accelerate the construction of border cooperative zones and improve the foreign exchange management of foreign-invested enterprises.

Due to the new situation and features of FDI, Chinese government should analyze international investment rules, common practice and experience so as to further improve foreign investment laws, regulations and policies as well as deepen the foreign investment management system. China should insist on the administration according to the law, implement Foreign Investment Online Business System as well as formatted examination and approval process, to heighten the efficiency and transparency of governmental administration. Chinese government need emphasize the awareness of service, pay close attention to the changes in operating environments of foreign-invested enterprises, consolidate the corporation complaint mechanism, and help enterprises solve operating difficulties in China. Furthermore, China should protect the legal rights of Chinese and overseas investors in accordance with the law, and strengthen intellectual property right protection and law enforcement, and create a suitable atmosphere for technology introduction and R & D innovation.

## 3.4 Encouraging Foreign Investors to Participate in China's Innovation-driven Development Strategy

Chinese government need make comprehensive and objective evaluation on the experience of using foreign capital to advance innovation under the conditions of opening up, publicize national support policies for scientific and technological innovation. On the basis of the national innovation-driven strategy, China should consolidate the policies for the development of foreign-funded R & D centers and prompt foreign-invested enterprises to introduce advanced technology and high-end talents, countenance them to collaborate with Chinese research institutions and enterprises to develop and promote technologies jointly and urge foreign investors to invest in scientific and technological intermediaries, innovation incubators and other public scientific & technological service platforms. Besides, Chinese government should support senior personnel and top talents to gather in innovation demonstration zones, simplify examination and approval procedures to facilitate their development. Local competent commercial administrations should cooperate with governmental departments actively and strive to create sound working and living environments for introduced talents.

5. Strengthening FDI Management System of China

China should perfect National Security Review System on merger and acquisition of foreign investors, make local competent commercial administrations understand their responsibilities and improve Monitoring System on merger and acquisition Projects of Foreign Investors. Chinese government need carry out special investigation on FDI, evaluate its role in China's national economy and social development comprehensively, and intensify the statistical work on FDI, guarantee authority and preciseness of statistics,

and prevent false information and blind comparisons. Chinese government should perfect Foreign Investment Management Information System, and build up early warning, approval monitoring and operational monitoring systems. China should strengthen Foreign Investment Scientific Evaluation System. Some effect assessment indexes should be added, such as employment, technology utilization, research and development and energy consumption. According to the demand of Chinese enterprises for the internationalized operation, China should modify the procedures for merger and acquisition of foreign investors.

#### 4 Conclusion

By scale, FDI which is utilized by China actually has gone up year by year. The proportion of FDI in GDP of China showed a upward trend before 1990s, while it has descended after 1990s. Compared with other major countries in the world, the share of FDI in GDP in China is smaller relatively.

By source, about 60% of FDI in China has been from Hong Kong, and nearly 30% of FDI has been from Japan, South Korea, Britain, USA and Taiwan in the past two years.

By region, the FDI in China mainly flows to East and South China, such as Jiangsu, Guangdong, Shanghai and Zhejiang provinces where more than 50% of the FDI in China is used, while North and West China absorbs a small proportion of FDI relatively.

By form, China mainly utilizes FDI by the form of foreign-owned enterprises. Foreign-owned enterprises have accounted for more than 70% of FDI, equity joint ventures have occupied nearly 20%, while contractual joint ventures have taken a small proportion of FDI in recent two years.

By industry, FDI mainly concentrates on secondary and tertiary industries (especially manufacturing and real estate sectors). In the early 21st century, 70% of FDI was invested in secondary industry, while less than 24% of FDI in tertiary industry. However, in the recent ten years, a declining proportion of FDI has been used in secondary industry, a rising proportion has been applied to tertiary industry. In 2011, more than 50% of FDI was utilized in tertiary industry instead of secondary industry.

By imports and exports, the import and export value of foreign-funded enterprises in China has climbed year by year since the reform and opening up policy was implemented, contributing more and more to the total import and export value of China. The contribution of import and export of foreign-funded enterprises hit the peak nearly 60% of China in 2006. In spite of a decline after 2006, the contribution has still remained at about 50%.

For better use of FDI, China should balance sources of FDI, coordinate the development of regions where FDI used, optimize the industrial structure through FDI, greatly improve the domestic investment environments, encourage foreign investors to participate in China's innovation-driven development strategy, promote the introduction of foreign capital, technologies and talents, strengthen FDI management, as well as perfect the foreign investment scientific evaluation system.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** This research is supported by National Social Science Foundation of China (11BMZ043), the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities of China (ZJ12RWZD010, ZJ12RWQN018) and Sun Bird research project of students of Dalian Nationalities University.

#### References

- [1] Department of Trade and External Economic Relations Statistics, China, National Bureau of Statistics, *China Trade and External Economic Statistical Yearbook*, China Statistics Press, Beijing, 2012.
- [2] Wu Shengxian, Fang Hua, An empirical Analysis of the Scale and Influencing Factors of Foreign Investment Utilization in China, *Finance and Economy*, 10, (2013), 69-71.
- [3] Cao Lili, Pei Ling, Demonstration and Optimization of China's Foreign Investment Utilization, *Foreign Investment in China*, **280**(1), (2013), 22-23.
- [4] Luo Ming, Characteristics and Future Prospects of China to Attract Foreign Investment, *Foreign Investment in China*, **272**(17), (2012), 62-63.
- [5] Xue Xuandeng, The Strategic Adjustment of China's Utilization of Foreign Investment, *Review of Economic Research*, **200**(48), (2012), 27-28.
- [6] Zhang Wenguang, Yang Huancheng, Yin Zongping, Effect of China's Foreign Direct Investment Policy on Economic Growth, *Journal of Beijing Normal University(Social Sciences)*, **232**(4), (2012), 136-146.