

# ***Research on Development Issues in Gobi New Cities: A Case Study of Lanzhou New Area***

**Minhui Zhang<sup>1,a,\*</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>*Xinjiang Agricultural University, No. 311 Nongda East Road, Shayibake District, Urumqi, China  
a. 3157465067@qq.com*

*\*corresponding author*

**Abstract:** With the saturation of urban capacity in the old city of Lanzhou, the impetus of the Western Development, reinforcement of Lanzhou's central city's radiating effect, and the drive for transformational development of old industrial cities, the State Council officially approved the establishment of Lanzhou New Area as a national-level new area. This paper focuses on the construction and development issues of Gobi new cities, specifically addressing the case of Lanzhou New Area, while proposing corresponding countermeasures. Through analyzing the relationship between Lanzhou New Area and neighboring cities, as well as the geographical environment, the study identifies key issues hindering the new area's development, including inadequate infrastructure, environmental pressures, and limited radiating scope. In response, the paper presents a series of practical strategies and recommendations aimed at promoting the sustainable development of Gobi new cities represented by Lanzhou New Area.

**Keywords:** Lanzhou New Area, Urbanization, Gobi, Urban Construction

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1. Research Background**

#### **1.1.1. Importance of Studying Gobi New City Construction:**

In the vast northwest region of China, stringent geographical conditions have rendered most areas as possessing a temperate continental climate, characterized by scarce annual precipitation, resulting in unique desert and Gobi landscapes. However, with the progressive implementation of the Western Development strategy, the population in the northwest continues to grow, leading to urban capacities reaching saturation or even over-saturation. Existing urban areas may fail to meet the increasing demands of people's livelihoods in the future, making the construction of new urban areas an inevitable choice. In contrast to the unpredictable desert regions, the geological conditions of the Gobi region appear more stable.

Desert areas exhibit unstable landforms like shifting sands and sand dunes, whereas the geological structure of the Gobi region is relatively stable, offering a stable geological foundation for urban construction and the possibility of infrastructure development. Moreover, the transportation conditions in the Gobi region are more convenient. Its relatively flat terrain facilitates the layout and construction of transportation routes, opening convenient gateways for the city's connection with the

outside world. Despite the relatively arid climate in the Gobi region, compared to desert areas, its climate conditions might be more suitable for urban construction and residents' livelihoods. The temperature fluctuations in the Gobi region are relatively minor, with lower wind speeds, providing favorable conditions for urban construction and residents' lives. Simultaneously, compared to desert areas, the Gobi region relatively boasts abundant water resources. There might be underground water resources in the Gobi region or surrounding rivers, lakes, and other water sources, ensuring necessary water resources for urban construction.

Thoroughly investigating the problems in the construction and development of Gobi new cities can provide valuable references and decision-making bases for future Gobi new city constructions in other regions. The construction of Gobi new cities holds significant importance in promoting regional balanced development, driving economic transformation and upgrading, and strengthening ecological environmental protection. Through rational planning and construction, it is reasonable to believe that the new city in the Gobi will become a new economic growth pole, promoting sustainable development in the western region.

### **1.1.2. Representative Role of Lanzhou New Area as a Case:**

Lanzhou New Area, as a significant case of China's Gobi new city construction, exhibits remarkable representativeness. Its geographical location lies in the Qinqiang Basin in the northern part of Lanzhou City, Gansu Province, endowed with excellent geographical advantages. The area boasts a 4E-level Lanzhou Zhongchuan International Airport, undoubtedly becoming a crucial gateway connecting the northwest region with Central Asia and Europe.

Lanzhou New Area was officially approved by the State Council in 2012, elevated to a national-level new area. After a decade of efforts, reforms, and innovations, Lanzhou New Area has consistently adhered to four major strategic positions: becoming an "important economic growth pole in the northwest region, a significant national industrial base, an important strategic platform for western opening-up, and a demonstration area for undertaking industrial transfer." As an important strategic platform for western opening-up, Lanzhou New Area fully leverages its geographical and resource advantages, continuously strengthening economic and trade cooperation with regions such as Central Asia and Europe, fostering a comprehensive, multi-level, and wide-ranging open new pattern. Simultaneously, as a demonstration area for undertaking industrial transfer, Lanzhou New Area actively undertakes domestic and foreign industrial transfers, promotes coordinated development of industries, and facilitates regional economic coordinated development.

The typicality and demonstrativeness of Lanzhou New Area in urban planning, industrial development, and ecological environmental protection constitute the research's value. By studying and discussing the construction and development issues of Lanzhou New Area, valuable experience and insights can be provided for the development of similar areas.

Therefore, this paper selects Lanzhou New Area as the research object. By analyzing the problems encountered in its construction and development process, corresponding solutions and development suggestions are proposed to provide valuable experiences and insights for Gobi new city construction.

## **1.2. Research Objectives**

This study aims to delve into the problems and challenges faced by Lanzhou New Area in its construction and development and propose corresponding strategies and development suggestions. Through systematic analysis and comprehensive research, the objective is to provide valuable theoretical references and practical guidance for the sustainable development of Lanzhou New Area, facilitating its efficient, livable, and eco-friendly development goals.

Specifically, this research will conduct an in-depth investigation into the current status of construction and development in Lanzhou New Area, identifying problems and bottlenecks in urban planning, infrastructure, and industrial development. Addressing these issues, in conjunction with relevant domestic and international experiences and theories, viable solutions and development strategies will be proposed, offering decision-making support and policy recommendations for Lanzhou New Area's future development planning.

Ultimately, this research endeavors to provide academic contributions and practical impetus for the development of Lanzhou New Area while offering guidance and reference for the development of similar regions.

### **1.3. Research Significance**

#### **1.3.1. Providing Theoretical Support for Sustainable Development of Gobi New Cities**

By conducting an in-depth study of Lanzhou New Area, this paper will reveal the primary problems and causes encountered in the construction and development of Gobi new cities, proposing corresponding solutions and development suggestions. These theoretical achievements can offer critical theoretical support for the sustainable development of Gobi new cities, guiding their planning, construction, and management to ensure their development follows a scientific and sustainable path.

#### **1.3.2. Offering Experience Reference, Facilitating New City Construction in Other Regions**

Lanzhou New Area, as a typical case of Gobi new city construction, its development process and lessons learned hold significant reference significance for new city construction in other regions. This paper will systematically summarize the construction and development experience of Lanzhou New Area, providing beneficial experiential references for new city construction in other regions, avoiding detours, and achieving more efficient and sustainable development.

#### **1.3.3. Promoting Regional Coordinated Development, Supporting National Strategic Implementation**

As a vital development engine in the western region, the sustainable development of Gobi new cities holds significant significance in promoting regional coordinated development and narrowing regional disparities. This paper will provide decision-making references for the sustainable development of Gobi new cities in line with the needs of major national strategies, supporting the smooth implementation of national strategies in the western region.

## **2. The Current Status of Construction and Development in Lanzhou New Area**

### **2.1. Geographic Location and Scope**

Lanzhou New Area is situated in the northern part of Lanzhou City, Gansu Province, positioned at the center of the symbiotic belt of three provincial capital cities: Lanzhou, Xining, and Yinchuan. It is located in the Qinwangchuan Basin, approximately 38.5 kilometers away from the downtown area of Lanzhou. In terms of planned area, the total area of Lanzhou New Area is 1,744 square kilometers. Among these, the core construction land area covers 806 square kilometers, primarily encompassing five towns and one township from the Yongdeng and Gaolan counties. As of now, the resident population in Lanzhou New Area has reached 550,000. [1]

## **2.2. Construction Achievements and Development Trends**

Lanzhou New Area has witnessed rapid momentum in its construction. Over a decade of development, it has transitioned from laying the foundations of urban pioneering to rapid ascension, advancing its industries from initial planning to clustered development. In terms of openness, it has evolved from an inland central zone to an open frontier. Simultaneously, its ecological environment has transformed from barren loess hills to a green ecological oasis. In ensuring livelihoods, it has progressed from basic assurances to quality shared services. The new area's economy has maintained a leading position among national-level new areas for six consecutive years, showcasing robust development momentum and sustained vitality. Furthermore, it has been designated as the site for significant reform pilot projects such as a national sustainable development experimental zone and a national green financial reform and innovation trial zone. Lanzhou New Area has garnered over 20 accolades, including the "United Nations Outstanding Environmental Governance Project Award," "China's Most Valuable Investment and Business Value New Area," "China's Leading Smart City Area," and "Excellent City for Green Development," highlighting its outstanding achievements in environmental protection, economic development, technological innovation, and urban governance. These honors and pilots not only acknowledge the new area's unique position and contributions but also indicate its future prospects teeming with reform and innovation. [2]

## **2.3. Transportation Connections with Surrounding Cities**

During China's "14th Five-Year Plan" period, Lanzhou New Area will bolster its transportation connections with surrounding cities, focusing on expanding bottleneck sections of highways to enhance road capacity and alleviate traffic congestion. Additionally, it will actively promote integration with the Lanzhou-Xi'an urban agglomeration, the Lanzhou-Baiyin metropolitan area, and the Yellow River Basin urban agglomeration. The new area has preliminarily established a multidimensional, high-efficiency, and three-dimensional comprehensive transportation system, including the Uma Expressway, airport access roads, Lanzhou-Qinhuangdao Expressway, G314 National Road, and more. In terms of railways, the Zhongwei-Lanzhou High-Speed Railway and Lanzhou-Zhangye Railway have been completed, while plans include the construction of suburban railways in Lanzhou, Subway Line 5, and a passenger transport eastern loop. [3] Some of these routes connect with the old city area, contributing to the overall development of Lanzhou through two core developmental aspects. [4] Furthermore, leveraging the Lanzhou Zhongchuan International Airport, the new area provides convenient import and export channels for enterprises, fostering international trade development, facilitating the entry and exit of business personnel, and enhancing the new area's international visibility and influence. It has preliminarily established a multidimensional transportation system radiating the northwest region.

## **3. Issues in Construction and Development**

### **3.1. Problems in Infrastructure Construction**

#### **3.1.1. Insufficient Transportation Infrastructure**

Despite considerable scale in transportation infrastructure, the adverse natural environment of the Gobi region and financial constraints impose numerous difficulties on transportation construction in the area. Scarce water resources due to arid climates and loose soil in the Gobi region, prone to sandstorms, require overcoming technical challenges in road construction. Specialized designs and construction methods are essential to ensure safety and durability on terrain like sand dunes, gravel, and saline-alkali land. Consequently, various issues persist, such as lower road grades, visible cracks,

potholes on roads, and some areas still using cement roads without asphalt upgrades. Deficiencies exist in the public transportation system, necessitating improved coverage. In certain areas, the underdeveloped public transportation system and inadequate route planning result in travel difficulties for residents.

### **3.1.2. Lagging Municipal Infrastructure Construction**

Municipal infrastructure serves as a vital pillar for urban prosperity and everyday life. However, at present, compared to the old city area, Lanzhou New Area appears relatively behind in municipal infrastructure construction, imposing constraints on local industrial development. Primarily, issues exist in the water supply system, leading to water instability and inadequate water pressure in some regions due to the arid climate. Secondly, challenges are prevalent in the power supply facilities, with aging lines and occasional power outages in certain areas due to inadequate renovation. Additionally, shortcomings exist in road cleanliness and incomplete greenery, necessitating urgent resolution and improvement.

## **3.2. Significant Pressure on Ecological Environment Protection**

The ecological environment in Lanzhou New Area, influenced by natural geographical conditions and climate factors, is relatively fragile and susceptible to human activity disruptions and destruction. As Lanzhou New Area experiences rapid development, concerns about industrial and domestic emissions, leading to issues like industrial pollution and domestic waste, become increasingly prominent. This may adversely affect local water and air quality. The area might also face historical ecological issues such as land desertification and soil erosion, intensifying the challenge of ecological restoration and governance. Biodiversity conservation in Lanzhou New Area faces mounting pressure with advancing urbanization.

Balancing economic development with biodiversity protection is a significant concern. Additionally, enhancing environmental awareness among businesses and individuals to reduce illegal emissions and ecological harm is imperative. Simultaneously, institutional development and enforcement of ecological environmental protection require further strengthening.

## **3.3. Insufficient Living Facilities Construction**

### **3.3.1. Lack of Educational Facilities**

As an emerging city, Lanzhou New Area's allocation of educational resources has yet to meet the growing demands compared to the old city area. On one hand, there is an inadequate number of schools, leading to a scarcity of educational opportunities, hindering the enrollment of all children. On the other hand, there are concerns about educational quality, stemming from a lack of experienced teachers and education managers, as well as advanced educational philosophies and methods.

### **3.3.2. Inadequate Medical Facilities**

Similar to educational facilities, Lanzhou New Area faces inadequacies in medical facilities. Insufficient medical institutions, relatively outdated medical equipment and technology, hinder the ability to meet the increasing demand for medical services among residents. Moreover, there is a shortage of professional medical staff, necessitating improvement in their professional competence and service quality.

### **3.3.3. Lack of Cultural and Sports Facilities**

Cultural and sports facilities are crucial venues for residents' leisure activities and integral components of a city's cultural spirit. Lanzhou New Area lacks adequate facilities such as parks, libraries, museums, and sports centers, failing to meet residents' needs for cultural and sports activities.

### **3.3.4. Inadequate Commercial Facilities**

As population concentration and urban development escalate, the demand for commercial facilities increases. Lanzhou New Area suffers from issues like a singular commercial center, inconvenience in shopping, and limited choices for dining and entertainment, affecting residents' quality of life and consumption experience.

### **3.4. Lagging Industrial Development**

Lagging industrial development may impede economic growth, competitiveness, employment opportunities, and residents' income levels in the new area. Major industrial types in Lanzhou New Area include advanced equipment manufacturing, green chemicals, new materials, biopharmaceuticals, new energy, big data, and information industries. However, the area lags in industrial foundations, industrial chain support, and industry coordination, leading to relative setbacks in the development of certain industries.

### **3.5. Challenges in Attracting Talent**

Lanzhou faces several challenges in terms of geographical location, economic development level, industrial structure, salary and benefits, education and research resources, urban environment, and cultural ambiance.

Primarily, being in China's northwest inland region, Lanzhou has a comparatively lower economic development level than eastern coastal cities, placing it at a disadvantage in attracting talent. Many professionals tend to gravitate toward cities with better economic development and more opportunities. Furthermore, Lanzhou's industrial structure mainly comprises traditional heavy industries, resulting in a relatively lower demand for high-tech and highly skilled talents. This challenge might hinder Lanzhou in attracting high-tech talents. Additionally, compared to first-tier cities and other developed regions, Lanzhou offers lower average salary levels and benefits, making it less competitive in attracting and retaining talent. Natural environment factors like scarce rainfall, frequent spring sandstorms, and poor air quality, along with limitations in education and research resources, although Lanzhou possesses reputable higher education and research institutions like the Chinese Academy of Sciences Lanzhou Branch and Lanzhou University, it falls short in both quantity and quality compared to first-tier cities. This challenge hampers Lanzhou's ability to nurture and attract high-end talent. Lastly, Lanzhou lacks a relatively in urban environment and cultural ambiance, potentially affecting the choices of some talent, particularly those who prioritize quality of life and cultural atmosphere.

### **3.6. Constraints in Development Due to Capital Investment and Resource Allocation**

Capital investment and resource allocation play significant roles in constraining the construction and development of Lanzhou New Area. Fund scarcity remains a prominent issue, limiting the smooth progression of infrastructure, industrial development, and talent recruitment efforts. Moreover, the long investment return period, high risks, and relatively higher financing costs associated with construction projects in Lanzhou New Area amplify financing pressures and difficulties. In terms of resource allocation, imbalances are a critical issue. Certain crucial areas and key projects do not

receive adequate resource support, resulting in slow construction progress and unsatisfactory outcomes. Simultaneously, influenced by factors such as technological and managerial levels, Lanzhou New Area faces efficiency issues in resource utilization, leading to the wastage of some resources. These factors collectively impede the construction and development of Lanzhou New Area, necessitating effective measures to address these challenges.

#### **4. Strategies for Advancing Construction and Development in the Gobi New City**

##### **4.1. Strengthening Protection and Governance of the Gobi Region**

The ecological environment in the Gobi region is notably fragile, necessitating effective measures to safeguard its natural environment and ecological balance. Implementing strict protection laws and regulations is essential to restrain destructive development activities. Additionally, enhancing ecological restoration and environmental governance, such as vegetation restoration and land pollution control, are necessary measures for protecting the ecological environment of the Gobi region. For Gobi cities, emphasis should be placed on wind prevention and sand fixation. Engineering measures, such as setting up sand barriers to block sandstorms and using grass or stone grids to stabilize the sand surface, prevent desert expansion. Biologically, active ecological construction, including conserving natural vegetation, afforestation, and grass planting, plays a role in wind prevention and sand fixation according to the local ecological environment.

Moreover, organizational and management measures are crucial, requiring adjustments in agricultural structure, rational control of agricultural and pastoral production scales, strengthened environmental awareness through education, establishing monitoring and forecasting mechanisms for sandstorms, and strictly implementing laws and regulations for sand prevention and control. Implementation of these measures not only effectively protects the natural environment and ecological balance of the Gobi region but also injects new vitality into the sustainable development of the new area, constructing an "environmental security moat" for the new area's sustainable development [5].

##### **4.2. Utilizing Regional Industrial and Resource Advantages for Specialized Industries Development**

The Gobi region possesses unique tourism resources that can be leveraged for developing specialized industries. Further enhancement of tourist attractions such as Zhongchuan Town, Qingwangchuan Folk Culture Village, and New Area Flower Sea, coupled with increased publicity, is recommended. Establishing mining parks and industrial zones for exploiting mineral resources while simultaneously developing tourist attractions, tour routes, and high-tech industrial study routes, serves to attract tourists for sightseeing and tourism.

##### **4.3. Formulating Reasonable Urban Development Goals and Strategies**

As a representative new city in the Gobi region, when formulating urban development goals and strategies, Lanzhou New Area must inevitably consider the ecological vulnerability and resource constraints shared by Gobi cities. Gobi cities face dual challenges of ecological environmental protection and economic development. Therefore, Lanzhou New Area must prioritize ecology and promote sustainable development while setting development goals. Simultaneously, the new area should fully utilize the Gobi region's unique resources, such as abundant solar and wind energy, to develop green, low-carbon industries like renewable energy industries. In formulating development strategies, Lanzhou New Area can draw from successful experiences of other Gobi cities, strengthen cooperation with surrounding cities to jointly promote infrastructure construction, and improve

transportation networks for regional coordinated development. Through such development goals and strategies, Lanzhou New Area is poised to achieve a virtuous cycle of economic prosperity and ecological protection in the Gobi region, setting an example for Gobi cities' development.

#### **4.4. Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Coordination**

The development and cooperation strategies of Gobi cities should closely align with their unique ecological environments and economic conditions. While pursuing economic growth, the principle of ecological priority must prevail, ensuring that every economic activity is premised on ecological protection, conducting comprehensive environmental impact assessments, and supporting corresponding ecological restoration measures. Given the scarcity and significance of water resources in the Gobi region, cities should strengthen joint water resource management and technical cooperation, promote joint construction of water facilities, and advocate water-saving technologies. Encouraging sustainable economic development should focus on green, low-carbon industries like renewable energy and ecotourism, shaping a green economic growth model through shared technology and market resources. Improving transportation and infrastructure is not only a prerequisite for economic development but also critical for regional coordination. Therefore, joint planning and construction of transportation routes, energy networks, and other infrastructure are paramount. Considering the ecological fragility of the Gobi, cross-border ecological protection cooperation between cities becomes crucial, establishing ecological protection zones, combating desertification, and preserving biodiversity to ensure regional ecological security. Furthermore, the rich historical culture and natural landscapes in the Gobi region provide enormous potential for cultural tourism industries. Cities can jointly develop and promote tourism resources, creating unique tourism brands together. Lastly, establishing policy dialogue mechanisms and collaboration platforms are essential to strengthen inter-city cooperation and coordination, facilitating exchange of experiences, problem-solving, and jointly propelling economic and ecological coordinated development in the region.

#### **4.5. Promoting Industrial Upgrading and Transformation**

In Gobi cities, a comprehensive industrial analysis is crucial to understand the status, advantages, and shortcomings of their industries. Based on this analysis, scientifically reasonable industrial development plans should be devised, outlining the goals and directions for industrial upgrading and transformation. Driving innovation-led development, enhancing technological research and innovation capabilities, and nurturing emerging industries are recommended. By introducing advanced technology, talents, and capital, the development of high-tech industries and green, low-carbon industries can be promoted, raising cities' industrial added value and competitiveness. Simultaneously, Gobi region cities should focus on the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries. Elevating the efficiency and quality of traditional industries through modern technology and management models toward high-end, intelligent, and green development is advised. This not only prolongs the lifecycle of traditional industries but also lays a foundation for their upgrade. Additionally, optimizing the business environment is crucial. Gobi cities should strive to improve the investment environment, streamline approval processes, reduce enterprise costs, and attract more high-quality enterprises and projects. Simultaneously, strengthening industry-academia-research cooperation, nurturing local talent, and providing robust talent support for industrial upgrading and transformation is essential. Lastly, during the process of industrial upgrading and transformation, Gobi cities must prioritize ecological environmental protection. Upholding the concept of green development, strengthening ecological environment protection and restoration ensures harmonious coexistence with industrial development. In summary, the industrial upgrading and transformation in

Gobi cities require concerted efforts from government, enterprises, and society. Implementing measures like scientific planning, innovation-driven strategies, traditional industry upgrades, improving the business environment, and focusing on ecological environmental protection will infuse sustainable vitality into Gobi cities' industries. For instance, Lanzhou New Area possesses a strong industrial foundation in high-end manufacturing, particularly in advanced equipment manufacturing, petrochemicals, and biomedicine. To further enhance the value chain, Lanzhou New Area should extend and upgrade industrial chains for these industries. As the forefront of Lanzhou's development, it should actively undertake innovative industries, driving traditional industries toward high-end and diversified transformation. Aligning with Gansu Province's circular economy policy requirements, Lanzhou New Area should concentrate on constructing a demonstration zone for the circular economy industry. Through specialized operations and management, this effort can promote sustainable industrial development, making positive contributions to Gansu Province's and Lanzhou's economic transformation and upgrades. Key factors such as industrial planning, policy guidance, technological innovation, and talent cultivation should be emphasized to ensure the long-term competitiveness and economic benefits of Lanzhou New Area's high-end manufacturing and circular economy demonstration zones.

#### **4.6. Pursuing Continuous Policy Optimization and Long-Term Development under Path Dependency**

The interaction between policy and the environment is critical in achieving effective policy innovation. Favorable policies require a suitable environment as support, while this environment, in turn, needs policy guidance and incentives for shaping and nurturing. When policies and environments achieve good alignment, they generate synergistic effects, thereby enhancing policy effects and achieving intended policy goals [6]. Simultaneously, governments must recognize the timeliness of policy innovation. As society progresses and develops, policy innovation must keep pace. Some traditional policies might not yield their intended effects in new contexts; hence, governments need continual policy innovation to ensure alignment with changing macro-environments. Furthermore, the combination of technological and policy innovation is a vital driver of societal progress. Only when governments actively encourage and promote technological innovation alongside policy innovation can they ensure mutual reinforcement and drive societal progress and development.

In the pursuit of policy innovation, governments should guard against potential "crowding-out effects." Policymakers must remain vigilant to ensure that the implementation of various policies does not adversely affect other critical areas, ensuring comprehensive societal development.

Finally, governments must recognize the importance of endogenous power for long-term development. This dynamic is not only derived from policy innovation but also from technological innovation and talent accumulation. Only when government managers truly grasp core technologies and possess independent innovation capabilities can the development of various regions be sustainable, stable, and powerful. During policy innovation, governments need to be wary of the potential side effects of "overtaking in a curve" and ensure that technological innovation and policy innovation progress simultaneously, providing a continuous source of power for enduring societal progress.

Overall, the interplay between the "environment" and "innovation" reminds us that in the process of policy innovation, governments should focus on both policy design and implementation while considering the influence and coordination of the macro-environment. Only when policy innovation is genuinely integrated with the macro-environment can policymakers better unleash the potential of policies, driving sustained development and progress in society [7].

## 5. Summary

Lanzhou New Area serves as an exemplar in the construction of Gobi New Cities. Positioned as a demonstrative project in Gansu Province, it has defined its role and objectives during planning and development. Driven by innovation and committed to sustainable development, it aims to establish a modern, green, and intelligent new city. Notably, the area has further enhanced its infrastructure, including roads, bridges, water and power facilities, and communication networks, providing robust support for rapid urban development. These infrastructure initiatives have not only improved the city's image and quality but have also enhanced residents' living conditions, thereby stimulating local economic development. In terms of industries, Lanzhou New Area emphasizes optimizing its industrial structure and promoting industrial upgrades. Actively attracting high-tech industries, modern service sectors, and green manufacturing projects has injected fresh vitality into the city's development. These projects have not only propelled local industrial growth but have also created numerous employment opportunities, elevating residents' living standards. Focusing on ecological environments, Lanzhou New Area prioritizes green development, striving to create a livable urban environment.

Through initiatives such as constructing ecological parks and green belts, Lanzhou New Area has increased its green coverage, subsequently improving air quality. These ecological projects have not only beautified the urban environment but have also enhanced residents' quality of life. Despite achieving certain accomplishments in the construction of Gobi New Cities, Lanzhou New Area faces challenges such as talent shortages and insufficient funds. Addressing these issues requires joint efforts from the government and various sectors of society to devise more favorable policies and measures, attracting more talent and capital into Lanzhou New Area.

In conclusion, serving as a model for the construction of Gobi New Cities in northwest China, Lanzhou New Area's proactive explorations in infrastructure, industries, and ecological environments offer valuable experiences and insights for other Gobi New Cities. In future development, Lanzhou New Area will continue to play a leading role in demonstration, providing richer experiences and wisdom for the construction of Gobi New Cities through continuous innovation and exploration.

## References

- [1] Lanzhou New Area. *Overview of Lanzhou New Area* [EB/OL]. (2023-10-25)[2023-11-07]. <http://www.lzxq.gov.cn/system/2018/10/25/030000231.shtml>.
- [2] Liu, T., Tian, X., & Cao, Y. *Policy Effect Evaluation of National New Areas on Regional Economic Development—An Empirical Study Based on Double Difference Method*. *Financial and Trade Research*, 2019, 30(06): 24-35. DOI:10.19337/j.cnki.34-1093/f.2019.06.003.
- [3] Guo, J. *Study on Railway Network Layout Planning of Lanzhou New Area*. *Railway Transport and Economy*, 2019, 41(12): 105-110. DOI:10.16668/j.cnki.issn.1003-1421.2019.12.17.
- [4] Cao, Q. *Impact of National New Areas on Regional Economic Growth—Empirical Evidence from 70 Large and Medium-Sized Cities*. *China Industrial Economics*, 2020(07): 43-60. DOI:10.19581/j.cnki.ciejournal.2020.07.014.
- [5] Peng, X., & Liu, J. *Great Strategy, Great Platform, Great Performance: The Role of Western National New Areas Development in New Urbanization*. *Urban Planning*, 2014, 38(S2): 20-26.
- [6] Peng, J., Wei, H., & Li, G. et al. *Location Selection of National New Areas Based on Urban Agglomerations*. *Geographical Research*, 2015, 34(01): 3-14.
- [7] Shang, H., & Liu, J. *Study on the Overtaking of Underdeveloped Areas Driven by National New Areas*. *Studies in Science of Science*, 2022, 40(12): 2194-2204. DOI:10.16192/j.cnki.1003-2053.20211118.005.