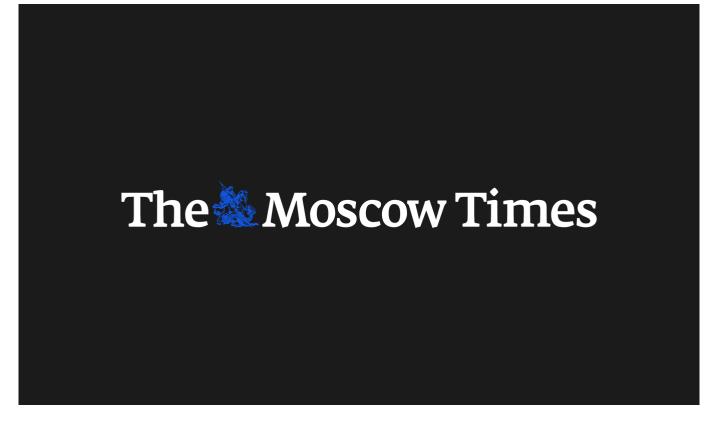


\$700M Far East Casino Complex Planned

By The Moscow Times

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Russian firms will build a \$700-million gambling and entertainment zone in the Primorye region with help from a large Chinese casino operator.

Melco — a company based in Macao, China — and the region's administration signed an agreement at the Far East Investment Congress, the administration said on its website Friday.

The Primorye entertainment complex will have a casino with about 800 gaming machines, 24 VIP and 40 regular tables, as well as a hotel with 110 rooms, Vedomosti reported.

During the first phase, \$130 million will be invested. Chinese companies Summit Ascent and New Crescent will invest \$66.3 million, while \$24.7 million will come from a Taiwanese company, Firich. A Russian company, Pervaya Igrovaya Kompania Vostoka, will contribute \$39 million to the project.

The project's partners already invested \$70 million into the gambling zone as the first

installment of the payments, Oleg Drozdov, a member of the Russian company's board of directors, told RIA Novosti.

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