NEAR, the largest interregional cooperative organization in Asia with seventy-seven participating regional governments from six countries, including China, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, North Korea, and Russia, representing 665 million people, was founded to contribute to the prosperity of Northeast Asia and global peace by building exchange and cooperation based on the spirit of reciprocity and equality between regional governments.
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Message
Greetings to the Members of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments.

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Secretariat of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments and member regional governments for their ongoing efforts for the development of the Association.

2017 saw the successful management and execution of several major events which were co-hosted by member regional governments in cooperation with the NEAR Secretariat.

Notably, in September 2017, the 11th NEAR Working Committee and International Forum, which was successfully held in Hunan Province, led to the province becoming the new growth engine of Northeast Asia.

Looking forward to 2018, Hunan Province is due to hold the 12th NEAR General Assembly. The province will do its utmost to prepare the meeting, which will present an ideal opportunity for member regional governments to gather and discuss the methods and means of cooperation, as well as the developmental outlook.

Currently, Hunan Province is implementing a rising strategy that is leading reform and the Open-Door Policy through socialist ideology characterized by China in the era of Xi Jinping. Central China has been established as the hub for the Open-Door Policy.

Hand in hand with other member governments, Hunan Province looks forward to achieving breakthroughs in the formation of communities by establishing cooperative mechanisms and promoting sustainable development and global prosperity throughout Northeast Asia.

December 2017

Xu Dazhe
Chair of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments
Governor of Hunan Province, People’s Republic of China
We wish the members of NEAR every success as we welcome in 2018. As the twenty-first anniversary of the foundation of NEAR, 2017 was a time to reassess the Association. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude on behalf of NEAR to all who are present, for their concerted efforts for the development of the Association over the past twenty years.

Since its founding in 1996, NEAR has become an outstanding international cooperative organization in Northeast Asia, encompassing a population of 665 million people from 77 members in the region. At the 11th NEAR Working Committee held in Hunan Province, China, the first application for associate membership by Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam was approved. Furthermore, through the newly established subcommittees on Transportation and Logistics, International Humanities Exchange, and International e-Commerce, NEAR will strive to provide a wider platform for exchange and grounds for the participation of private sectors.

NEAR plans to extend its activities beyond Northeast Asia to all of Asia. The Association aims to provide a platform for exchange not only among local governments, but also among academics, businessmen, and citizens. To this end, this year, NEAR has made efforts to provide opportunities aimed at strengthening the capacity of member organizations and platforms for practical exchange through subcommittee meetings on Disaster Prevention, Education and Culture, Economic and Humanities Exchange, and Oceans and Fisheries, as well as the NEAR International Forum. For the future leaders of Northeast Asia, NEAR is holding various programs such as the Northeast Asia Youth Leaders Forum and the NEAR Youth Contest.

The NEAR Secretariat will maintain close ties with Hunan Province of China, the 12th Chair of NEAR, to initiate various discussions for the future of NEAR at the General Assembly to be held in 2018. Notably, the Secretariat will provide support for the newly established subcommittees on Transportation and Logistics, International Humanities Exchange, and International e-Commerce to create practical exchange among NEAR members. Your opinions and interest through your ongoing participation in NEAR is greatly valued and appreciated.

Now entering a new phase of maturity, NEAR wishes to build a better future, promoting co-prosperity and peace in the region, working together with its 77 members. We wish all our members great success and prosperity in 2018. Thank you.

December 2017

Hong Jong-kyoung
Secretary-General
Association of Northeast Asia Regional Government
Main Activities of the Association
Getting Ready to Leap Into the Future

I. 11th Working Committee

1. Overview

The 11th Working Committee was held in Zhangjiajie, Hunan Province, China, the Chair of NEAR, from September 25. The meeting was attended by 70 representatives from 27 members from five countries, including 10 from China, 3 from Japan, 11 from the Republic of Korea, 2 from Mongolia, and 1 from Russia, as well as officials from non-member organizations, and related organizations.

2. Meeting Details

The Opening Ceremony was held on September 26 at the Sunshine Hotel in conjunction with the NEAR International Forum and approximately 200 attendees, including Working Committee participants and Forum participants attended the ceremony.

The Opening Ceremony started at 10 am with welcoming remarks by Vice Governor Chen Xiangqun of Hunan Province and congratulatory remarks by NEAR Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoung. Party Secretary Guo Zenggui of Zhangjiajie City and Director Kawai Masahiro of the Economic Research Institute for Northeast Asia (ERINA) delivered the keynote speech.
In the welcoming remarks, Vice Governor Chen Xiangqun said that NEAR would promote further mutual exchange and cooperation among the members for the sake of co-prosperity in the region. Secretary-General Hong stated that NEAR would continue to do its best to operate as a platform for information sharing and promoting cooperation and exchange among regional member governments. Furthermore, the Working Committee would undertake an important role in reviewing the activities of the Secretariat and each subcommittee meeting.

Major Activities of the NEAR Secretariat

First, NEAR Under-Secretary-General Park Chang-soo reported on the major activities of the Secretariat and its participation in various international events and meetings from the 11th General Assembly in Irkutsk to the Working Committee, with the aim of providing support for exchange and cooperation among members. Specifically, the NEAR Secretariat supported the successful holding of the 11th General Assembly, the 2016 NEAR International Forum, and the 2017 Working-level Workshop. He continued his report with details of the 2017 NEAR Youth Leaders Forum, which was initiated last year and the operation and progress made on the activation of NEAR subcommittees. Through the presentation, the associate membership status of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam was announced, followed by NEAR’s efforts to build mutually supportive relationships through various international mechanisms.

Subcommittees and Member Presentations

A report on the activities of the NEAR Subcommittee meetings followed. First, Toyama Prefecture, Japan reported on the subcommittee meeting on the environment and other individual projects. Hyogo Prefecture, Japan presented the 2017 meeting outcomes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention and 2018 meeting plans. Shimane Prefecture, Japan, introduced daily youth exchange activities through the Subcommittee on Educational and Cultural Exchange. Lastly, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea, presented the meeting outcomes of the Subcommittee on Economic and Humanities Exchange, and introduced experiencing Korean culture programs.
During member presentations, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea introduced the ‘Ho Chi Minh City-Gyeongju World Culture Expo’ through a showing of the promotional video. Lastly, Gangwon-do Province, South Korea also showed a promotional video in a presentation introducing the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Main Agendas

At the 11th Working Committee, the following five items were tabled and voted on:
1) Approval of agenda for the next General Assembly; selection of the next chair
2) Approval of Associate Membership of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
3) Revision of the Regulations on the Establishment and Operation of Subcommittees of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments
4) Revision of Rules for Membership Fee
5) Financial Outlook of Membership 2018 and Activity Plan of Membership Fee

As an outcome of the meeting, the Sakha Republic and Magadan Region of Russia applied to host the 13th General Assembly and both applicants will be tabled at the 12th General Assembly. Furthermore, the decision to accept Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam as the first associate member of the Association was passed. Regulations on the operation for the activation of subcommittee meetings were revised, and the establishment of the Subcommittee on Logistics and Transportation by Heilongjiang Province; Subcommittee on International Exchange of Human Resources by Jilin Province; and Subcommittee on E-Commerce by Henan Province were approved. Lastly, Membership Fee regulations were revised so that a two-year period postponing the operation of the membership fee was assumed, and it was decided that the decision on the payment of initial dues would be made at the 12th Working Committee of 2019.
The 11th NEAR Working Committee Declaration

The 11th Working Committee was held on September 26, 2017, in Zhangjiajie city, Hunan Province in China. Representatives and observers of the 27 member regions from five countries, China, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, and Russia attended. 48 members in total voted on the meeting items including 21 members who voted through letter submission.

The 11th Working Committee was held on September 26, 2017, in Zhangjiajie city, Hunan Province in China. Representatives and observers of the 27 member regions from five countries, China, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, and Russia attended. 48 members in total voted on the meeting items including 21 which voted through letter submission.

Before the deliberation of the listed agenda, the Sakha Republic and Magadan Region of Russia applied to host the 13th General Assembly and it was agreed to be decided upon at the 12th General Assembly.

Four items were tabbed including: approval of the application of Ho Chi Minh City as associate member, regulation revisions on the establishment and operation of NEAR Subcommittees, postponement of the operation of the membership fee system; and the financial outlook of the membership fee 2018 and activity plans of the membership fees.

The following is an overview of the decisions made at the meeting:

1. Approval of Associate Membership of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

At the 11th General Assembly held in Irkutsk in September 2016, NEAR adopted its Associate Membership program as amended in its Charter, to extend its scope of cooperation and exchange with regional governments throughout Asia, while preserving its identity.

This September, Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam expressed its interest to join NEAR as an associate member. Out of 77 member regional governments 48 representatives from NEAR members voted in favor of the decision (27 through voting, 21 through letter) to accept Ho Chi Minh City as an associate member. Therefore, as of September 26, 2017, 77 member regional governments from six countries and one associate member form the membership of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments.

2. Revision of the Regulations on the Establishment and Operation of Subcommittees of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments

Opinions from the member regional governments were gathered on the establishment of subcommittees before the revision of the Regulations on the Establishment and Operation of Subcommittees of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments.

The following was suggested and discussed: establishment of Subcommittee on Logistics and Transportation by Heilongjiang Province; Subcommittee on International Exchange of Human Resources by Jilin Province; and Subcommittee on E-Commerce by Hunan Province. Presentations to introduce the overview of provincial governments and the backgrounds to the suggestions of the new subcommittees followed.

The discussions on the establishment of three subcommittees followed, and the representatives from participating NEAR members agreed upon the necessity of cooperation among members. Reflecting the unanimous agreement of the participating members and the decisions sent through letters, the establishment of all three subcommittees was approved, and the revised regulations of subcommittees were tabled as an agenda to be decided on at the next meeting.

Major changes to the revised regulations are for the establishment of the Subcommittee on Logistics and Transportation; Subcommittee on E-Commerce; and Subcommittee on International Exchange of Human Resources. Changes also apply to the abolishment of the Subcommittee on Cross-Border Cooperation; Subcommittees on Science and Technology; and Subcommittee on Women and Children, which lacked applicants for coordinators up to September 2017.

The Subcommittee on Mineral Resources Development and Coordination has been renamed the ‘Subcommittee on Mineral Resources Development.’ Some of the deficiencies in the operation of the current system have been improved and supplemented in order to revitalize the subcommittees, such as the updating of the names of the subcommittees specified in the regulations, and the creation of grounds for the participation of private sectors in subcommittees.

Out of 77 member organizations, 48 voted in favor of the decision (27 through vote, 21 through letter).

3. Revision of Rules for Membership Fee

The 11th General Assembly approved the adoption of the membership fee to create tangible outcomes and make unprecedented leaps, as well as to increase participation and interest of NEAR members in the association and to enhance NEAR’s status as an international organization. (Adopted on January 1, 2017, the fee was due to come into effect at the start of 2018.)

However, according to the Survey on NEAR Membership Fee Management System which was conducted for the purpose of planning the budgets for 2018, more than half of the NEAR members responded that they were not willing to pay membership fees. 72 per cent of the members submitted an opinion that the collecting and running the membership fees shall be postponed for a period of time.

The meeting was extended for sufficient discussion among member organizations regarding the purpose and desirable operation of the membership fee system. In order to form a sufficient consensus on member dues payment among NEAR members, a two-year period postponing the operation of the membership fee was assumed, and the decision on the payment of initial dues would be made by the 12th Working Committee of 2019. Out of 77 member organizations, 48 voted in favor of the decision (27 through vote, 21 through letter).

4. Financial Outlook of Membership 2018 and Activity Plan of Membership Fee

Due to the approval of the postponement of the Operation of the Membership Fee System, the financial outlook of the membership fee 2018 and activity plans of the membership fees were repealed.

3. Side Events

On the evening of September 27, the participants watched a performance of the Tianmen Fox Fairy Show and on September 28, they visited the Zhangjiajie National Forest Park to enjoy the nature and culture of the Wulingyuan Gate.

*1, 2: Please see Appendix for full regulations.
NEAR, the Heart of Exchange and Cooperation in Northeast Asia

II. 2017 NEAR International Forum

1. Overview

The 2017 NEAR International Forum was held at the Sunshine Hotel in Zhangjiajie City, Hunan Province from September 25 to 28, and was co-organized by the NEAR Secretariat and Hunan Provincial Government. It was attended by scholars and business people from 32 member regions of 5 countries, 10 from China, 3 from Japan, 11 from South Korea, 5 from Mongolia, and 3 from Russia.

This year’s forum aimed to seek co-prosperity and development in the region through increased production capacity and enhanced cooperation in the industrial sectors in Northeast Asian countries under the theme, ‘Deepening Production Capacity, Promoting Regional Development in Northeast Asia.’

2. Meeting Details

Opening Ceremony

On September 26, the forum commenced with opening remarks from NEAR Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoung, congratulatory remarks from Vice-Governor Chen Xiangqun of Hunan Province, and Party Secretary Zhenggui Guo of Zhangjiajie City. Then Vice Director Zhou Yue of the Department of Commerce of Hunan Province, Party Secretary Guo Zhenggui of Zhangjiajie City, and Director Kawai Masahiro of the Economic Research Institute for Northeast Asia (ERINA) delivered the keynote speech. This was followed by three sessions, themed ‘International Cooperation in Equipment Manufacturing and Engineering Machinery,’ ‘International Cooperation in Agriculture,’ and ‘International Cooperation on Metallurgy and Mining.’
<Session 1: International Cooperation in Equipment Manufacturing and Engineering Machinery>

In the first session, senior researcher Park Kwangsoon of Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade (KIIET) gave a presentation on ways to cooperate in the Northeast Asian machinery industry. Senior lecturer Ichinnorov Bazarragchaa then gave a presentation on the land transportation of Mongolia, focusing on the current state and trends of the road network, road vehicles, and the establishment of transport corridors.

<Session 2: International Cooperation on Agriculture>

The second session of the forum commenced with a presentation by Senior Researcher Cho Chang-wan from the Gwangju Jeonnam Research Institute, South Korea. The necessity of agricultural cooperation among local autonomous entities in Northeast Asia was emphasized, and the remaining tasks were explained. Director Noov Bayarsukh of the Mongolian Institute of Botanical and Agricultural Sciences gave an overview of the current status of Mongolian agriculture and the need for further development strategy in the area. Lastly Bopp Valentina, Vice President of Science at the Krasnoyarsk State Agrarian University, Russia gave a presentation introducing the agro-industrial complex as the new driving force for international cooperation development.

<Session 3: Cooperation in Mining and Metallurgy>

In the third session, Wang Wang Lin, Vice Dean of the School of Metallurgy and Environmental Studies of the Central University of China introduced the metallurgical industry in Hunan. Ha Yong-sook, Dean of the School of Social Sciences at Keimyung University in Korea proposed a plan to promote economic cooperation and resource logistics in the Pan East Sea Rim. Mr. Baudrecht Toshin Tuk, director of the Mongolian National University of Economics in Mongolia, explained the current state of the Mongolian raw materials market and future prospects. Mr. Bozharko Gregory, Chief Director of the School of Natural Resource Economics at Tomsk Polytechnic University in Russia gave an introduction on the minerals stored in Siberia and Far East region and presented effective and valuable markets of minerals. Finally, Natalia Galaseva, Director of the Northeast Regional Research Institute at the Russian Academy of Sciences, stated the necessity of developing the industry on minerals and raw materials in the Magadan Region and the anticipation of international cooperation in the related fields.

3. Side Events

On the evening of September 27 the participants watched a performance of the Tianmen Fox Fairy Show. On September 28, they visited the Zhangjiajie National Forest Park to enjoy the nature and culture of the Wulingyuan Gate.
Platform for Mutual Exchange to Achieve Co-prosperity

III. Subcommittees

1. Overview

Since the establishment of the Subcommittee on Economy and Trade in 1998, currently 14 subcommittees are in existence as of 2017. In order to revitalize the subcommittees, the Secretariat promoted the combining and abolishment of non-active subcommittees, as well as the transferring of coordinators. As a result, following the decision made at the 11th Working Committee in 2017, subcommittees on Cross-border Cooperation, Science and Technology, and Women and Children were abolished as candidates to fill coordinator positions could not be found. The Subcommittee on Mineral Resources Development and Coordination was renamed the ‘Subcommittee on Mineral Resources Development.’ Furthermore, the Subcommittee on Logistics and Transportation (Heilongjiang Province, China); Subcommittee on E-Commerce (Henan Province, China); and Subcommittee on International Exchange of Human Resources (Jilin Province, China) were established.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subcommittee</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of meetings</th>
<th>Main Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economy &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>Gyeongsangbuk-do Province</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Trade promotion, trade consultation, seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Toyama Prefecture, Japan</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Research into driftage, environment symposium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Prevention</td>
<td>Hyogo Prefecture, Japan</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Improving disaster prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational &amp; Cultural Exchange</td>
<td>Shimane Prefecture, Japan</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Nurturing human resources and vitalizing cultural exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>Henan Province, China</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tourism exhibition and promotion, cooperation forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceans &amp; Fisheries</td>
<td>Shandong Province, China</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>The use of marine resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral Resources Development &amp; Coordination</td>
<td>Magadan Region, Russia</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mining and manufacturing mineral resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy &amp; Climate Change</td>
<td>Shanxi Province, China (Transferred in 2016)</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cooperation system for energy and climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life and Medical Industry</td>
<td>Chungcheongbuk-do Province, South Korea</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Exchange and cooperation of medical industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Jeollanam-do Province, South Korea</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Information and technology sharing on agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>Republic of Sakha, Russia</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
<td>Information and technology sharing on sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics and Transportation</td>
<td>Heilongjiang Province, China</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>Joint forum and exhibition on transportation and logistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Commerce</td>
<td>Henan Province, China</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>International e-Commerce Industry Forum, Business Matching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Exchange of Human Resources</td>
<td>Jilin Province, China</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>Northeast Asia joint-forum on humanities project, information and human resources exchange, cooperative means seeking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Subcommittee Meetings in 2017

15th Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention

1) Overview
The 15th Subcommittee Meeting on Disaster Prevention was held from March 6 to 9, 2017 in Kobe City and Miki City in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. The Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention, a representative subcommittee of NEAR, has met annually since 2002. It aims to build up the capacity of participating organizations for the prevention of disasters and the reduction of resulting damage in Northeast Asia. A total of 25 people from 16 regional governments in 4 countries attended the meeting.

2) Meeting Details
A staff member from the Disaster Prevention Policy Division from Hyogo Prefecture delivered a presentation on the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, reconstruction efforts, and support for disaster risk reduction by Hyogo Prefecture. A time of discussion followed in the presence of representatives from the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and the International Recovery Platform (IRP). The topics focused on human resource development, education, and events for disaster prevention, sharing lessons learned from such catastrophes. The majority of the participants were staff in charge of disaster prevention from NEAR member regional governments, and the meeting was a helpful learning experience on the advanced strategies implemented by Hyogo Prefecture.

3) Side Events
The participants visited the ‘Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution’ and viewed videos documenting the sites and recovery efforts of the Great Hanshin Earthquake and Great East Japan Earthquake Disasters efforts. They also visited the ‘Hyogo Anti-Disaster Center’ and listened to lectures of the lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and experienced a simulation of an earthquake and observed a reserve storehouse. The participants from member regional governments evaluated the site visit, commenting that it had been a valuable experience, providing practical advice and insight.
12th Subcommittee on Economic and Humanities Exchange

1) Overview
The 12th Subcommittee on Economic and Humanities Exchange meeting was held in Andong, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province from August 16 to 18.
The subcommittee first met in 1998 for the economic activation and promotion of commerce. It is a multifaceted series of economic events, where local government officers, company representatives and buyers in Northeast Asia meet to take part in academic discussions and business matching. From 2013, the subcommittee expanded to cover the field of human resources exchange, in accordance with the wider trends in the era of cultural prosperity.

2) Meeting Details
20 member regions and over 50 participants from five countries, Korea, China, Japan, Russia, and Mongolia participated in the meeting. Under the theme, “Industrialization and Globalization of Human Resources and Traditional Cultures,” a keynote speech was delivered by Professor Jung Won-gil from Daegu Haany University focusing on “International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) Yeongyang Yeongyang Firefly Eco Park.” Special lectures included “The Utilization of Local Culture Resources and Urban-brand Marketing Strategy” by Professor Kim Si-Beom from Andong National University, and “Management on Cultural Environment to Create ‘Northeast’ Asian Values,” by Professor Shim Sang-min from Sungshin Women’s University. Furthermore, case presentations on industries and investment circumstances were presented by participating regions.

3) Side Events
Notably, a meeting was held focusing on the experience and exploration of Korean traditional culture, themed Industrialization and Internationalization of Traditional Culture and Human Resources. On the first day, the subcommittee provided hands on Korean culture programs such as Hanji (Korean traditional paper) and metal crafts.
On the second day after the meeting, participants visited Confucian Land. On the last day, participants visited Mungyeong Saejae, an important tourist attraction. They experienced the beautiful nature and culture of Korea, and observed the use of local cultural resources at the Omija (schizandra berry) themed tunnel. The participants greatly
enjoyed the site visit which provided an opportunity to experience a variety of activities.

17th Subcommittee Meeting on Educational and Cultural Exchange

1) Overview
The 17th Subcommittee Meeting on Educational and Cultural Exchange was held from August 18 to 23 in Matsue City, Shimane Prefecture, Japan. Participants from five countries including China, Japan, South Korea, Russia and Mongolia participate annually. The meeting aimed to promote mutual understanding, friendly exchange beyond the boundaries of each region, and to build new networks.

2) Meeting Details
This year, 28 participants from China, Japan, South Korea, Russia and Mongolia participated in the meeting and held active discussions on the measures to be taken in order to protect water quality under the theme, “Environment,” introducing environmental facilities of each country, and referencing relevant cases.

3) Side Events
The participants took part in cultural exchange programs including local home stays, welcome exchange, and various other activities. They also visited local water environment facilities in Shimane Prefecture.
13th Subcommittee on Environment

1) Overview
The 13th Subcommittee on Environment was held on October 12 in Toyama, Toyama Prefecture, Japan. Participants from five countries, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, and Mongolia participate in the meeting biennially. During the meeting, environmental cooperative methods such as joint research are reviewed, and research on individual projects on environmental protection is carried out and the results are shared.

2) Meeting Details
Approximately thirty members from nine member regional governments from five countries, Korea, China, Japan, Russia, and Mongolia participated in the meeting and presented the results of individual projects which were implemented last year. In addition, various programs were proposed in 2018, including "Youth Leadership Training on Environmental Activity in Northeast Asia" and "Environmental Learning and Program Development on the Control of the Arising Refuse," "Coastal Biological Research (Toyama Prefecture)," "Northeast Asia Environmental Poster Contest (Primorsky Region)," and "Shellfish (oyster) Blue Carbon Youth Environmental Educational Experience Program (Gyeongsangnam-do Province)." Furthermore, future subcommittee activity plans and discussions followed.

3) Side Events
On October 13, the day after the main meeting, the participants in the associate organizations held a meeting on refuse management in Northeast Asia. The participants then visited an exhibition room featuring the "Itai-itai" disease ("it hurts, it hurts" disease), its history, and measures to overcome the disease.
5th Subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries

1) Overview
The 5th Subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries was held in Yantai, Shandong Province from November 15 to 17. The meeting was held as the ‘Forum on Innovative Development Demonstration of Marine Economy’ and was followed by discussions among NEAR member representatives and experts in various sessions, ‘Establishment and Development of Ocean Farms,’ ‘Smart Equipment and the Ocean’ and ‘International Maritime Cooperation.’

2) Meeting Details
The meeting opened with congratulatory remarks from Wang Jing, a member of the Yantai Municipal Party Standing Committee, the Vice Mayor of Commerce, and the Secretary-General of NEAR. Then Qu Tan Zhou, Director of the Science and Technology Team of the National Oceanic Department, Han Xu Vice, Chief of Agricultural Affairs Team of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Wu Guoan, Vice Governor of Shandong Province delivered the keynote speech. This was followed by three sessions, themed ‘Marine Ranch,’ ‘Marine Fisheries and Technology Development,’ and ‘International Cooperation in Marine Fields.’

3) Side Events
Participants of the meeting had the opportunity to visit related facilities and companies, including Weihai Sea Farm and CMC Raffles Offshore and Marine Research & Development Center.
A Starting Point for the Future of NEAR

IV. 2017 NEAR Working-level Workshop

1. Overview

The 2017 NEAR Working-level Workshop was held on April 19-21 at the Oriental Hotel, Jeju Island, South Korea for three days. The meeting was attended by over 100 working-level staff from 40 regional governments including 8 from China, 4 from Japan, 14 from South Korea, 13 from Mongolia, and 1 from Russia.

The Working-level Workshop is a platform for working-level staff from NEAR member regional governments to share opinions and build networks. Marking its 12th run, over 900 participants took part in the Working-level Workshop this year.

The workshop started with a report on the main activities of the NEAR Secretariat and an introduction to the key member events. Presentations and discussions on the on-going agendas of NEAR followed. At the meeting, the participants shared ideas enthusiastically and discussed major agendas, including suggestions concerning the coordination of subcommittees and the revision of operational regulations, as well as discussion and review of feedback regarding the usage of the membership fee.
2. Main Activities

Report by the NEAR Secretariat

The NEAR Secretariat gave a report on the Secretariat’s achievements in 2015 and plans for 2016 along with a summary of its main services. In particular, the main events in 2016 included the holding of the 11th NEAR Working Committee, NEAR International Forum, 2017 Northeast Asia Youth Leaders Forum, and the 5th Youth Essay-Art Contest. The NEAR Secretariat requested the active cooperation of the members. Then, the NEAR Secretariat presented the outcome of the coordination of subcommittees on Oceans and Fisheries, Environment, Disaster Prevention, and Educational and Cultural Exchange.

Presentations by Member Regions

Hunan Province, China, the Chair of NEAR, introduced the province and requested the active participation of the member regional governments in the Eleventh Working Committee. Shanxi Province, China gave a presentation on co-development plans through youth exchange, and Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea introduced ‘Medi-City Daegu’. Daejeon Metropolitan City, South Korea presented on the APCS (Asia-Pacific Cities Summit), while Chuncheonbuk-do Province, South Korea gave an introduction on the 2017 Jecheon Bio industry Expo, and Gyeongsangbuk-do Province shared information on the HCMC Gyeongju World Cultural Expo and the participation of the NEAR members. Jeju Special Self-Governing Province promoted the Second UCLG Culture Summit, and lastly Sukhbaatar Province, Mongolia gave an introduction to the province.

Revision Proposal for the Operation of Subcommittees; Adoption of the Membership Fee System; and Amendment of NEAR Charter

At the Working-level Workshop, discussions were held to collect the opinions of working-level officers from each member regional government on the revision of the coordination and operation of subcommittees and the usage of membership fees system. The Secretariat reviewed the opinions of the members thoroughly, made revisions, and gave a report at the Eleventh Working Committee, where the revisions and suggestions were agreed upon.
<Coordination of NEAR Subcommittees>

A number of NEAR member regional governments agreed on the abolition of the Subcommittees on Women and Children and Cross-border Cooperation in accordance with recommendations by the NEAR Secretariat. The establishment of the Subcommittee on Youth Exchange was suggested by Shanxi Province, China. The Subcommittee on Educational and Cultural Exchange by Shimane Prefecture, Japan stressed that a compromised plan was required. Chungcheongbuk-do Province, South Korea, and Selenge Province, Mongolia also suggested that there was a need for to find a way to financially support coordinators for the activation of subcommittees.

<Proposal for the Operation of Subcommittees>

Opinions from Toyama, Hyogo, and Kyoto Prefecture, Japan regarding the proposal for the revision of the regulations on the operation of subcommittees were accepted. A decision was made to make the revisions at the 11th Working Committee.

<Revision of NEAR Charter>

For the usage of the membership fee, NEAR members agreed to conduct a survey upon the usage plans set by the Secretariat. The Secretariat agreed to review the popular opinion that the fee be used to support the subcommittees.

3. Side Events

After the meeting, the participants visited Seongsan Sunrise Peak, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where they were able to enjoy the beauty of Jeju Island.
Northeast Asia: 
The Future We Dream of Together

V. 2017 Northeast Asia Youth Leaders Forum / 5th Youth Contest

1. 2017 Northeast Asia Youth Leaders Forum

1) Overview

The 2017 Northeast Asia Youth Leaders Forum was held from August 6 to 12, in Busan University of Foreign Studies, Busan Metropolitan City, under the theme of ‘Youth, Lead the World with Emotional Intelligence and Convergent Mindsets.’ The forum, open to youths in their twenties including college students, is aimed at helping them grow into future leaders, through cultivating a deeper understanding of Northeast Asia through various programs including team discussion and presentations, special lectures and cultural tours.

At the opening ceremony, NEAR Secretary-General, Vice-President of BUFS, and Ambassador for International Relations in Busan City delivered congratulatory speeches. After the Opening Ceremony, Xu Hai Deputy Dean of the School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Central South University presented a special lecture.

2) Main Activities

At the forum, marking its second run, 98 young people in their twenties from five countries attended. The participants, assigned to 10 different teams, held discussions in English with enthusiasm on each topic while being observed by professors without any translators.
Subtopics of 2017 Northeast Asia Youth Leaders Forum

A. Society
   - Prohibition on the Discrimination against Sexual Minorities and Protection of Human rights
B. Education
   - The Impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution on Education (AI*, Big Data)
C. Economy
   - The Impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution on Occupation (AI* Robot, Occupation)
D. Tourism
   - Solution to the Problems Generated by the Invigoration of Tourism
E. Culture
   - Importance of Crashing the Cultural Boundaries

On August 11, the last day of the forum, representatives from each country gave presentations on each topic. Two professors evaluated the presentations and granted awards to four teams.
3) Cultural Tour

During the forum, the participants had time to explore Busan Metropolitan City. They visited central Busan and its markets, visiting the famous Nampo-dong Street and Jagalchi Market. The participants were able to spend a memorable time together at Haeundae Beach.

Furthermore, on August 9, a talent show was held, and participants presented traditional performances from various countries. Together with a local K-POP performance team, the events presented a great opportunity for the participants to gain deeper insight and understanding into one another's culture.
2. **5th NEAR Youth Contest**

The NEAR Secretariat held the Youth Essay/Art · Poster Contest which is aimed at raising awareness of Northeast Asia among future global citizens, the youth of the region. Under the theme, ‘Let the Culture of Northeast Asia be Known!’ a total of 47 essays from 5 countries were submitted, including 8 from China, 4 from Japan, 12 from South Korea, 1 from Mongolia, and 15 from Russia. In the Art · Poster Contest, a total of 125 entrees from 5 countries submitted pieces to the Art · Poster Contest including 14 from China, 7 from Japan, 33 from South Korea, 5 from Mongolia, and 26 from Russia.

The Grand Award for the essay section was awarded to Shavarin Danil from Krasnoyarsk Territory, Russia, and for the art and poster section, to Myachin Evelina from Tomsk region, Russia.

This year marks the fifth run of the NEAR Youth Contest. The contest increased participation from member regions gave the event meaning and significance. The award-winning art pieces are posted on the NEAR official website.
Excellence Award - Momone Nakata, Takaoka City Municipal Government Secondary School
Toyama Prefecture, Japan
Heritage of Reconciliation

Excellence Award - B.Enkhzul, Kherlen soum 1st School
Khentii Province, Mongolia
Introducing a Local Festival and Tourism in Northeast Asia: Naadam Festival
VI. NEAR Associate Member, Ho Chi Minh City

In 2017, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam became the first associate member of NEAR. Since the adoption of the associate membership system was passed at the last General Assembly, the Secretariat has put much effort into promoting associate membership. A delegation from NEAR visited Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam twice in May and July to promote the NEAR associate membership system. The delegation met with the officer in charge of external affairs and Le Thanh Liem, the Vice-Chairman of the Ho Chi Min City People’s Committee for External Affairs and discussed the advantages of joining NEAR as an associate member, as well as the possibility of expanding Ho Chi Minh City’s external network through NEAR.

Chairman Nguyen Thanh Phong of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, corresponded with NEAR Secretary-General on August 16, 2017 to apply to join NEAR as an associate member. The application of Ho Chi Minh City as an associate member was approved at the 11th NEAR Working Committee held on September 26 in Zhangjiajie City, Hunan Province, China. Ho Chi Minh City may enjoy every right as a NEAR member except for the right to vote for the board members, to be elected, and to vote. With the joining of Ho Chi Minh City as a NEAR associate member at the Working Committee, NEAR expects to extend its scope of cooperation and exchange with regional governments throughout Asia.
## Overview of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

- **Population / Area (2016):** 8.22 million / 2,099km²
- **Administrative Divisions:** 24 districts (19 Urban districts, 5 Suburban districts)
- **Major Industry:** Textile Clothing, Construction Industry
- **GDP per capita:** USD 5,428 (2016)

- Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) is the economic hub of Vietnam and the number one city for consumption, owing to the high rates of foreign investment. Residents of HCMC enjoy the highest average income.
- The labor-intensive industry has grown, and more than 300,000 companies are engaged in high-tech industry, electricity, machining, and light industry.
- Recently, the information technology industry and knowledge-based industry has experienced rapid development, and the city has become the mecca of start-ups in Southeast Asia.

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### Letter of Application for Associate Membership

**CÔNG HOÀ XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA VIỆT NAM**  
Bộ công - Tư pháp - Hậu phục

Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh, ngày 8 tháng 8 năm 2017

Kính gửi: Ông Hong Kong  
Tổng Thư ký - Hiệp hội các Chính quyền địa phương khu vực Đông Bắc Á (NEAR)

Ông Tổng Thư ký thân mến,

Tối xin gửi đến Ông lời chúc sức khỏe và lời chào từ Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh.

Tháng 7 vừa qua, lãnh đạo Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh vui mừng đón tiếp Ông đến thăm và mời thành phố tham gia, trở thành thành viên liên kết của Hiệp hội các Chính quyền địa phương khu vực Đông Bắc Á (NEAR). Thay mặt lãnh đạo thành phố, tôi trân trọng cảm ơn Ông và vui mừng thông báo: Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh mong muốn trở thành thành viên liên kết của Hiệp hội NEAR.

Là đô thị đặc biệt, có sự phát triển näng động và mạnh mẽ nhất Việt Nam, Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh hiện đang phấn đấu trở thành một thành phố có chất lượng sống tốt, văn minh, hiện đại, nghĩa tình; một trong những trường thành phố kinh tế, văn hóa, giáo dục đào tạo, khoa học công nghệ của khu vực. Nhằm đạt được mục tiêu đó, Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh luôn mong muốn được trao đổi và học hỏi kinh nghiệm từ các nước trên thế giới, trong đó có các địa phương trong khu vực Đông Bắc Á. Tôi tin rằng, khi trở thành thành viên liên kết của Hiệp hội, Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh sẽ tích cực tham gia các hoạt động của NEAR, từ đó mở rộng và tăng cường quan hệ hữu nghị và hợp tác với các nước trong khu vực Đông Bắc A.

Tôi chúc Ông Tổng Thư ký sức khỏe, hạnh phúc và thành công. Tôi hy vọng sớm gặp lại Ông tại Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh.

Trân trọng,

Nguyễn Thành Phong
Chủ tịch Ủy ban Nhân dân
Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh
International Cooperative Networking
Delegation from NEAR Secretariat Visits Mongolian Consulate in Busan

On Friday, January 6, the NEAR Secretariat delegation headed by the Director of the Department of International Cooperation visited the Mongolian Consulate General in Busan. The delegation introduced NEAR and held discussions on the future cooperation between the two organizations. All aims of Mongolia have been actively participating in NEAR events and activities, and have gained various information and experiences regarding developed administrative systems.

Delegation from Shimane Prefecture, Japan Visits NEAR Secretariat

A delegation headed by Director Kusaka Junko of Shimane Prefecture visited the NEAR Secretariat on April 18, where a meeting was also held. Director Nam Gun from the Department of Planning and Public Relations said, “As a founding member of the association, the active participation of Shimane Prefecture has been of great assistance to the development of NEAR.” Director Kusaka Junko replied that NEAR was a great platform for international cooperation between the regions in Northeast Asia.

NEAR Secretariat Attends the Second UCLG Culture Summit

The NEAR Secretariat participated in the Second UCLG Culture Summit held in Jeju City, Jeju Special Province, South Korea from May 10(Wed.) to 12(Fri.).

At the summit entitled “Commitments and Actions for Culture in Sustainable Cities” Secretariat staff attended several sessions to benchmark the events operation and interact and network with governmental officers.

NEAR Secretariat Delivers Special Lecture ‘Understanding International Society’ for Local Students

Foreign staff from the NEAR Secretariat met with local students on May 23 at Pohang I-dong High School.

The NEAR Secretariat gave an introduction on the background of NEAR and representatives from Toyama Prefecture, Japan and Krasnoyarsk Region, Russia, delivered presentations on the geography and the economy, society, and culture of the two regions in both Korean and English.
NEAR Secretary-General Visits IGA of Kyung Hee University

On June 8, NEAR Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoong visited the Institute of Global Affairs (IGA) of Kyung Hee University to discuss exchange and cooperation between the two organizations and shared opinions regarding the development of NEAR.
Previously, the NEAR Secretariat and IGA held a joint International Forum under the theme, ‘Disaster and Governance in Northeast Asia’ in November 2015, Seoul.

NEAR Secretary-General Meets with the Ambassador of Vietnam

On June 8, 2017, NEAR Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoong visited the Embassy of the Social Republic of Vietnam in Seoul and met with Ambassador Nguyen Vu Tu. Secretary-General Hong introduced NEAR and its activities. He also shared that NEAR would like to invite Ho Chi Minh City as the first associate member of NEAR and asked for the support of the Embassy of Vietnam.
Ambassador Tu said that the Embassy would offer its support so that regional governments in Vietnam may participate in the various activities of NEAR to increase the levels of exchange with NEAR member regional governments.

NEAR Secretary-General Visits TCS and Discusses Cooperative Plans

On June 8, 2017, Secretary-General of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments (NEAR) Hong Jong-kyoong visited the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS), and discussed NEAR’s development plans, as well as potential joint projects between the two organizations.
The Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) is an international organization established with a vision to promote peace and common prosperity among the central governments of the Republic of Korea, and the People’s Republic of China.

Special Lecture Held for NEAR Secretariat Staff

The NEAR Secretariat held a special lecture to strengthen staff members’ capacity on June 13. Professor Ha Young-seok, Dean of the School of Social Science at Keimyung University, gave a special lecture under the theme, “Economic Cooperation and Revitalization of Resources and Logistics in the East Sea Rim.” Professor Ha emphasized that “NEAR, which includes the core region of the East Sea Rim, should play a role not only as a regional cooperative entity but also as a center for economic and logistical cooperation among Northeast Asian cities.”
NEAR Secretary-General Visits Heilongjiang Province

NEAR Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyong visited Harbin City, Heilongjiang Province, China in June 2017, and attended the opening ceremony and formal dinner for the China-Russia Fair. He also attended the Belt and Road International Forum for Heilongjiang Comprehensive Revitalization on the morning of June 15(Thur.), to deliver a presentation on the cooperation between NEAR and Heilongjiang Province for external economic development. After the opening ceremony, an MOU signing took place. He met with the Vice Governor Hao Hui Long of Heilongjiang Province and discussed the joint development plans for Heilongjiang Province and regional governments in the Northeast Asia.

Secretary-General Yang Houlan of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat Visits NEAR Secretariat

A delegation from the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat headed by the Secretary-General Yang Houlan visited the NEAR Secretariat on July 4. The delegation visited Pohang City Hall and the Pohang City Council where meetings were held with Mayor Lee Kang-duk and Chairman Moon Myung-Ho, arranged by the NEAR Secretariat. The delegation then visited Gyeongju Yangdong Village.

NEAR Secretariat Holds a Special Lecture on Logistics in Northeast Asia

The NEAR Secretariat invited Professor Ham Beom-hee from Nanjing University of Finance and Economics and held a special lecture titled “Background and Role of Exchange and Cooperation Among Regional Governments in the East Sea Rim.” The professor presented the status of logistics in China, Japan, Mongolia, Russia, North Korea and GIS countries, and the appropriateness and necessity of the cooperation of the entities of the region over and hour and thirty minutes. In this regard, the role of NEAR is also very important to Northeast Asian regional municipalities. Professor Ham also emphasized, “Regarding the fact that 600km/h express trains have been developed, 500km/h in Japan, the era of ‘Railway Leads, Road Follows’ will soon come. Moreover, if Korea is united and the Korean peninsula will be treatable in a single day, policies on logistics shall be prepared.”

Vice-Mayor Choi Woong of Pohang City Visits the NEAR Secretariat

NEAR Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoung met with Vice-Mayor Choi Woong of Pohang City who visited the NEAR Secretariat in July 2017 where discussions on the cooperation schemes with Pohang city were held. Secretary-General Hong mentioned the official announcement of the new opening of the Subcommittee of Logistics and Transportation from Heilongjiang Province, China. He added that Pohang City in cooperation with Gyeongsangbuk-do Province may utilize the subcommittee for the development of the East Sea Rim. Vice-Mayor Choi said Pohang City, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, and the NEAR Secretariat will continue to work together closely.
Secretary-General Visits Japan, Discussions Held on Establishing Cooperation Channels

A delegation headed by Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoung visited Japan in June and July. The visit was to establish a cooperation channel between the NEAR Secretariat and the Korean Consulate General in Japan, and to visit NEAR member regional governments and affiliated research institutes. The delegation met with the Consul General of Niigata, visited the Economic Research Institute for Northeast Asia (ERINA), and held meetings with the representatives of Niigata International Association and the director Kawai Mashahiro of ERINA and delivered an official letter at the 2017 NEAR International Forum as a special speaker. The delegation met with the Consul General of ROK in Nagoya, the Consulate General of ROK in Sendai, and attended a dinner meeting with executives of the Japan-Korea Friendship Association in Aomori Prefecture. Lastly, they visited Aomori Prefectural Office.

Promotion of NEAR Associate Membership

A NEAR delegation headed by Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoung visited the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Korea in July and met with the newly appointed Ambassador Vitaly Fen. At the meeting, Secretary-General Hong introduced the activities of NEAR and NEAR Associate Membership, which was approved at the 11th General Assembly in Irkutsk, Russia last year. Secretary-General then requested the ambassador to recommend regional governments in Uzbekistan which may be interested in NEAR. The delegation later met with Kim Young-ho, currently the Chair Professor of the Academy of Korean Studies and former minister of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy, over a formal dinner to listen to his recommendations regarding the development of NEAR. Professor Kim is a contributor to the establishment of NEAR.

NEAR Secretary-General Meets with Deputy Secretary of Ibis Friendship Cooperation Forum

NEAR Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoung met with Deputy Secretary of Commerce Chinju of the Korea-China-Japan Ibis Friendship Cooperation Forum on July 24(Mon), 2017. Secretary-General Hong remarked that the efforts made by the Association of Korea-China-Japan Friendship Cooperation Forum to strengthen friendly relations between the three countries also aligned well with the founding spirit of NEAR. Secretary-General Hong added that he would consider participating in the forum.

NEAR Secretary-General Visits Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and Phnom Penh, Cambodia

A NEAR delegation headed by Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoung visited Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam and Phnom Penh, Cambodia to promote associate membership in July. In Ho Chi Minh City, the delegation met with Le Thanh Liem, the Vice-Chairman of the HCMC people’s committee for external affairs and visited the Consulate-General of Republic of Korea in HCMC and met with Consul-General Park Noh-wan. The delegation also visited Cambodia and met with Ambassador Kim Won-jin of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and held a meeting with Suos Yara, a parliamentarian of the ruling party, the Cambodia People’s Party, and the vice chairman of the International Affairs Committee, to introduce the activities of NEAR and consulted with regional governments in Cambodia with regards to joining NEAR as associate members.
NEAR Secretariat Delegation Visits Hunan Province for Preliminary Discussions

A delegation headed by Director Lee Won-choon of the Department of International Cooperation visited Changsha and Zhangjiajie cities of Hunan Province, the current Chair of NEAR, from July 26 to 28. Liu Qifeng, Vice Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of Hunan Province, China, and Zhou Yu, Deputy Director of the Commerce Office, and Liu Ge’an, Deputy Secretary of the City Party, participated in the meetings.

NEAR Secretariat Attends the Economic Cooperation Forum of CEOs in Northeast Asia 2017

Nine NEAR Secretariat staff members, including the Secretary-General, participated in the Economic Cooperation Forum of CEOs in Northeast Asia 2017 which was held in POSCO International Center located in Pohang City, Gyeongbuk-do Province, on July 29 (Sat.) 2017 under the theme of “Cooperation and Development Plan among the Major Cities in the Pan East-Sea Era.” 15 cities from seven countries including NEAR member nations such as China, Russia, Japan, and Mongolia attended the forum. Representatives of the municipal governments of the NEAR member regions such as Sergei Ovchinikov, the head of the Khasan municipal district, Russia delivered a presentation at the forum.

Deputy Director of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China Visits NEAR Secretariat

A delegation headed by Deputy Director Bai Yuzhen of the Foreign Affairs office from the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China, the 9th NEAR Chair, visited the Secretariat Office on July 29, 2017. The delegation met with NEAR Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoung and delivered a congratulatory message from the governor of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, and extended an invitation to the Secretary-General for the China-Arab States Expo 2017, to be held in Yinchuan, Ningxia, in September.

Meeting with Governor of Shimane Prefecture

A delegation headed by Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoung met with Governor Zenbei Mizoguchi of Shimane Prefecture. At the meeting, Secretary-General reiterated the importance of the exchange and cooperation among the youth in Northeast Asia for co-prosperity and peace in the region and expressed his gratitude to Governor Mizoguchi for his continual efforts regarding youth exchange despite the recent diplomatic friction among countries in Northeast Asia. Governor Mizoguchi responded that he would continue to make efforts for co-prosperity among the neighboring countries.
NEAR Secretariat Attends the TCS Farewell and Welcome Reception 2017

A NEAR Secretariat delegation headed by Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoung attended the TCS (Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat) Farewell and Welcome Reception held in Grand Ballroom, Four Seasons Hotel in August. NEAR Secretary-General Hong delivered a farewell message to the outgoing TCS Secretary-General Yang Houlan and a congratulatory message to the newly appointed Secretary-General Lee Jong-heon. Secretary-General Hong expressed his opinions regarding the need for the two organizations to continue to build further intensive cooperative relationships.

NEAR Secretary-General Visits Hunchun City to Establish Subcommittee on International Human Resources Exchange

A delegation headed by Secretary-General Hong Jong-Kyoung visited Hunchun City in the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Region, Jilin Province, China in August. The delegation discussed the establishment of the Subcommittee on International Exchange of Human Resources which will be suggested by Hunchun City through Jilin Province. During the visit, the delegation headed by Secretary-General Hong held a meeting with Piao Cheng Zhe, a member of the Municipal Committee and organization director and Oh Hyeon-chul, the Vice Mayor of Hunchun City to discuss the proposed subcommittee. After the meeting, the delegation visited the Hunchun Posco Hyundai International Logistics Center, backed by Posco and Hyundai.

NEAR Secretary-General Delivers Congratulatory Remarks at the Second Trilateral Local Governments’ Cooperation & Business Meeting

Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoung attended the Second Trilateral Local Governments’ Cooperation & Business Meeting between China, Japan, and ROK held in Changchun, Jilin Province, China. The Trilateral Local Governments’ Cooperation & Business Meeting was initiated by Jilin Province, China, Tottori Prefecture, Japan and Gangwon Province, Korea. The meeting followed the Eleventh China-Northeast Asia Exhibition held from August 31(Thur).

NEAR Secretary-General Visits Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region

A delegation headed by Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoung visited Yinchuan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China to attend the China-Arab States EXPO 2017. Secretary-General discussed plans related to NEAR with Vice Chairman Cai Guoying of the Ningxia Communist Party of China Central Committee in September. He also met with Communist Party Secretary Shi Taifeng of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region at the Welcoming Reception. Secretary-General attended the Opening Ceremony of China-Arab States EXPO 2017, and congratulated the organizers on the successful event. The China-Arab States EXPO, is the largest international biannual event held by the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.
Meeting between NEAR Secretariat and Mongolian Member Representatives

A NEAR delegation headed by Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoung, visited Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in September and held a meeting and formal dinner with representatives of NEAR member regions in Mongolia. During the meeting, the delegation introduced various NEAR activities to the Mongolian representatives and requested their active cooperation. The meeting was hosted by Secretary-General Hong who briefed NEAR's major events such as Working Committee, and International Forum scheduled to be held this September. Furthermore, the 2017 HCMC – Gyeongju World Culture Expo, scheduled to be held in November in HochMinh City Vietnam, was introduced and an invitation letter from the Governor Kim Kwan-yong of Gyeongsangbuk-do Province was delivered.

Meeting between NEAR Secretary-General and NEAR Chairman

NEAR Secretary-General Hong Jong-Kyoung visited Changsha City of Hunan Province in September, and held talks with the NEAR Chairman, Governor Xu Dazhe of Hunan Province, China. Secretary-General delivered a message of appreciation for the efforts of Hunan Province and Zhangjiakou City for the successful holding of the Working Committee meeting and International Forum and briefed Chairman Xu Dazhe on the outcomes of the Working Committee. The Chairman responded that he appreciated the NEAR Secretariat and requested their active cooperation for next year's General Assembly. Furthermore, Hunan Province stated that it would continue to participate and support NEAR for prosperity and peace in Northeast Asia.

Meeting between NEAR Secretary-General and Head of the Sakha Republic

NEAR Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoung met with the Head of the Sakha Republic, Yegor Borisov on October 9(Mon.). Secretary-General Hong visited the Republic of Sakha, a prospective candidate for the next Chair of NEAR and discussed the role of NEAR in economic cooperation in Northeast Asia.

NEAR Secretariat Attends the First Korea-China-Russia Northern Economic City Council and 2017 Eurasia Urban Forum

The NEAR Secretariat visited the First Korea-China-Russia Northern Economic City Council and 2017 Eurasia Urban Forum held in Busan on October 18 and 19 2017, respectively. Participants from Busan Metropolitan City, Heilongjiang Province, Jilin Province and Vladivostok City and members of the business sector were present at the meetings and explored means of economic cooperation through the expansion of logistics exchanges and the revitalization of routes in Northeast Asia.
NEAR Secretary-General Attends Premiere of Sakha Republic Produced Documentary Film at BIFF

On October 19, the NEAR Secretary-General Hong Jong-kyoung visited the 22nd Busan International Film Festival and attended the premiere of the documentary film ‘24 Snow,’ produced in the Sakha Republic. He then participated in the reception in the evening, and delivered congratulatory messages on the successful premiere. Secretary-General Hong participated in the luncheon with Mr. Vasiliev Vladimir, head of the Department for External Relations of the Republic of Sakha and Ms. Sawin Saradan, head of the Sakha Cinema Club.

Introduction of NEAR to Delegations from Six Northeast Prefectural Assembly Members in Japan

The NEAR Secretariat held a meeting to introduce NEAR and its activities to a delegation comprising of prefectural assembly members of six prefectures in northeast Japan, on their visit to the Gyeongsangbuk-do Provincial Government office in November 2017. This meeting was attended by the NEAR delegation, headed by Under-Secretary-General Park Chang-soo; 12 assembly members from Aomori, Yamagata, Akita, Miyagi, Fukushima and Iwato Prefecture, and Ryu Changsoo, Deputy Consul General of ROK in Sendai.

NEAR Secretariat Participates in the Opening Ceremony of the HCMC-Gyeongju World Culture EXPO 2017

The NEAR Secretariat participated in the Opening Ceremony of the HCMC-Gyeongju World Culture EXPO 2017. The Expo was co-organized by Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, the first NEAR chair and home to the NEAR Secretariat, and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, the first associate member of NEAR. The Opening Ceremony was attended by 12 guests from NEAR member regions including governors and vice-governors from Khentii Province, Hovd Province, Uvs, and Dornod Province in Mongolia, and a representative from the Office of the Sakha Republic in Beijing, China. Furthermore, 15 traditional dance performers from Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China performed celebratory performances.

NEAR Secretariat Workshop 2017

The NEAR Secretariat Workshop was held in December in Busan, the hub of logistics in Northeast Asia. At the workshop, staff meetings were held over three sessions to discuss the development of NEAR and activity plans for 2018. In particular, secretariat staff shared opinions to seek out ways to increase active participation of NEAR members. The Secretariat also listened to a lecture by Professor Cho Sang-hyun of the Department of Distribution and Logistics from Dong-eui University, titled ‘Road and Belt Initiative and New Northern Policy’ and took part in the Q&A session.
The Secretariat
1. The Establishment of the Secretariat

The establishment of a secretariat with a four-year term was agreed upon at the 6th General Assembly held in 2004 at Heilongjiang Province in China, and the hosting of a standing secretariat that serves consecutive terms, suggested by Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea was approved, with the operating budget funded by Gyeongsangbuk-do Province. Moreover, at the 9th General Assembly held in 2012 in Ningxia, China, an agreement was signed to take a giant step forward from the term-based, standing secretariat, to having a long-term secretariat in Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Korea. This enabled consistency and continuity in the operation of the Secretariat.

2. Organization of the Secretariat

The Secretariat is divided into the Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General in the form of two Departments: the Department of Planning and Public Affairs and the Department of International Cooperation. The secretariat body includes administrative staff and foreign staff from China, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, and Russia, and experts on each country and field.

3. Budget

The annual operating expenses are around USD 1 million (KRW 1.1 billion / 6 million yuan / 120 million yen). 70 percent is covered by Gyeongsangbuk-do Province and the rest by Pohang city, South Korea.

4. Main Activities

1. Budgeting and budget execution;
2. Documentation of plans, annual reports, and accounting reports;
3. Organizing and conducting exchange programs for the development of the organization;
4. Liaison and coordination among members;
5. Operational support for meetings and the decision-making process of General Assembly, Working Committee, and Subcommittees;
6. Network-building among local research institutes; and other functions deemed to be necessary.
7. Promotion and Public relations; Miscellaneous
5. Secretariat Staff

Secretary-General
Hong Jong-kyoung

Deputy Secretary-General
Park Chang-su

Director
Department of Planning and Public Relations
Nam Gun

Director
Department of International Cooperation
Lee Won-choon

Manager
International Cooperation Team I
Park Sung-min

Manager
International Cooperation Team II / Expert on Russia
Choi Ju-hwa

Expert on China
Piao Lijing

Seconded Official from China (Jilin Province)
Yu Miaomiao

Expert on Japan
Lee Myung-eun

Seconded Official from Japan (Toyama Prefecture)
Harada Noritsuna

Expert on Mongolia
Lkham Khishigjargal

Seconded Official from Mongolia (Khentii Province)
Tseveendorj Baigalmaa

Seconded Official from Russia (Krasnoyarsk Region)
Shaimaer Antonina

Administrative Officer
Kim You-jin

Officer (External Relations)
Jung En-young

Officer (Planning and Public Relations)
Son Il-young
Appendix
Charter of the Association of the Northeast Asia Regional Governments

Preamble

In the spirit of reciprocity and equity, representatives of regional governments in the Northeast Asian Region, which has unlimited potential to contribute to the international community, have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish co-development in the region and, at the same time, to contribute to world peace by promoting exchange and cooperation in all fields of administration, economy, and culture. Accordingly, to accomplish these noble aims, the representatives have agreed to the present Charter of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments.

Chapter 1 Name and Purposes of the Association

Article 1 (Name) This organization shall be named as “the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments” (hereinafter referred to as “The Association”).

Article 2 (Purposes) In the spirit of reciprocity and equity, “The Association” has the purposes of pursuing joint development of the Northeast Asian Region and, at the same time, contributing to world peace by building trust on mutual understanding through the establishment of networks for exchanges and cooperation among member governments.

Article 3 (Agenda) “The Association” shall perform the following clause:
1. Regularly hold the Conference of Northeast Asian Regional Governments (The General Assembly)
2. Collect and distribute information on economic and technological development within the region.
3. Support and execute projects related to exchange and cooperation.
4. Review projects pertinent to accomplish the purposes of the Association

Chapter 2 Scope and Rights & Obligations of Members and Others

Article 4 (Membership scope) The members of the Association shall be the regional governments of People’s Republic of China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and Russian Federation, which have agreed to the purposes of the Association and obtained the approval of membership by the General Assembly. The membership is open to other regional governments, and will be effected by a decision of the General Assembly (revised on September 27, 2016).

Article 4-2 (Associate Membership Scope) The associate members of the Association shall be the regional governments of countries located in Asia excluding the Northeast region, which have agreed to the purposes of the Association and obtained the approval of membership by the General Assembly (newly enacted on September 27, 2016).

Article 5 (Rights and Obligations of Members) Members shall have the rights to participate in various projects and activities performed by the Association, and have the obligations to comply with the provisions stipulated in the Charter.

Article 5-2 (Rights and Obligations of Associate Members) Associate Members do not have the right to vote and are not eligible to run for election as addressed in Article 7 and Article 9 Clause 1 of Rights and Obligations of Members (newly enacted on September 27, 2016).

Chapter 3 Organization and Functions

Section 1 The General Assembly

Article 6 (Structure and Operation) The General Assembly is the supreme legislative body of the Association, which consists of heads of member organizations, and is held biennially (revised on September 27, 2016).
Article 7 (Executives) The General Assembly shall be given due authority to appoint executives to positions specified below:

1. The General Assembly shall designate one person as the chair who represents the Association. The head of the regional government, which holds the General Assembly, shall ex officio become the chair of the General Assembly. The chair’s term of office ends on the last day of the General Assembly (revised on 28 October, 2010). However, when the chair cannot represent the Association, the deputy representative of the regional government shall act as the chair on behalf of the representative.

2. Each country shall have an auditor. Auditors shall administer accounting and audits, and be elected at the General Assembly. The auditor’s term of office is as stipulated in clause 1 of Article 7. (revised on September 27, 2016)

3. On the decision based on the regulations of membership fee, the right to vote and be elected stated in clause 1 for chair and clause 2 for auditor can be restricted (newly enacted on September 27, 2016)

Article 8 (Functions) General Assembly shall perform the following clauses:

1. Resolution of member and associate member admission and dismissal (revised on September 27)
2. Determination of membership fees
3. Amendment of the Association Charter
4. Determination of termination and liquidation of the Association
5. Determination of the venue for the Secretariat
6. Appointment of auditors
7. Approval of budget, project plans, settlement of accounts
8. Approval of the regulations of the Membership System (newly enacted on September 27, 2016)
9. Determination of agendas related to the next General Assembly
10. Determination and execution of business plans of the Association
11. Other functions deemed to be necessary

Article 9 (Resolution) Decision-making of the General Assembly shall be made as follows:

1. Each regional government member shall have one vote. However, the right to vote may be restricted in certain situations as determined by the rules of the Membership Fee System. (revised on September 27, 2016)

2. The particulars specified under clause 1 or 5 of Article 8 shall be resolved by a majority of the members present and a two-thirds majority of the members voting. (revised on September 27, 2016)

3. The particular specified under clause 6 or 11 of Article 8, shall be resolved by a majority of the members present and a majority of the members voting. (revised on September 27, 2016)

Section 2 Working Committee

Article 10 (Organization and Operation)

1. The Working Committee consists of director-general level senior administrative staffs nominated by the head of each member regional government. The chair of Working Committee shall convene a meeting more than once every year.

2. The chair of the Working Committee shall be the vice head of the chair local government.

3. The chair of the Working Committee reports the result of the meeting to the General Assembly.

4. For smooth operation of individual projects and other works, a separate sub-committee or sub-committees for each field of work may be organized as a supporting organization for the Working Committee with the approval from the General Assembly. (newly enacted on September 1998)

Article 11 (Functions) The Working Committee shall perform the following clause.

1. Discussion of business plans and individual projects
2. Documentation of annual reports and audit reports
3. Coordination of opinions among members
4. Determination of the establishment of sub-committees (composition, functions and operations / newly enacted on September 1998)
5. Determination of issues delegated by the General Assembly to the Working Committee
6. Other functions deemed to be necessary

Section 3 The Secretariat

Article 12 (Organization and Operation) The Secretariat is a standing body of “the Association.” Each member government may set up a liaison body if necessary. The term of the Secretariat is 4 years, and may be extended by the decision of the General Assembly.

Article 13 (Executives and staff) The Secretariat shall have the following executives and staff:
1. The Secretary-General shall be one person. The Secretary-General shall be recommended by the head of the member regional government where the Secretariat is located and be appointed by the Chair of the Association.
2. The executives and staff of the Secretariat shall be comprised of government officials dispatched by “the Association” in principle. However, when it is deemed necessary by the Secretary-General, it can be constituted in a separate way after receiving approval from the chair of the Association.

Article 14 (Functions) The Secretariat shall perform the following clause.
1. Budgeting and budget execution
2. Documentations of business plans, annual reports, and accounting reports
3. Liaisons and coordination among members
4. Execution of decisions made by the General Assembly and the Working Committee
5. Other functions deemed to be necessary

Article 15 (Finance)
1. The accounting of the Secretariat shall be treated as special accounting, and its operations shall be covered by membership fees and other miscellaneous income.
2. Accounting shall temporarily be carried out in accordance with the following clauses:
   1) Members shall be obliged to pay membership fees.
   2) All expenses incurred by holding the General Assembly and the Working Committee shall be covered and shared as follows:
      ① Half (B) of the total expenses (A) shall be borne by the regional government hosting the General Assembly.
      ② As to the other half (C=A-B), the rest of the regional governments shall share the amount (C/D), which is equally divided by the number of the regional governments of the Association, excluding the host of the conference (D).
      ③ In the event that the number of regional governments actually participating in the General Assembly is less than D, the balance shall be borne by the regional government hosting the conference.
      ④ In the event that a member regional government is unable to bear a significant portion of the expense due to unavoidable circumstances such as natural disasters, the expense to be borne may be partially reduced to a reasonable level based on the agreement of other member regional governments.
      ⑤ During the General Assembly, the regional government which proposed to host the next General Assembly shall submit tentative accounting of expenses for organizing the General Assembly and the Working Committee.
   3) The operating expenses of the Secretariat shall be borne by the member government which hosts the Secretariat.
   4) Expenses for other individual cooperation projects shall be covered by the member government which proposed those projects. However, based on agreement, they may be shared among participating members which desire to join the projects.

Section 4 Associated Supporting Organizations

Article 16 (Establishment) Aimed at contributing to the development of the Northeast Asian region, each member regional government may establish a supporting organization (hereinafter referred to as “Supporting Organization of the Association”) to support the activities of the Association (newly enacted on September 1998).
Article 17 (Registration)
1. In the event that a member regional government establishes a Supporting Organization of the Association, it can register the organization by submitting application (newly enacted on September 1998).
2. The Supporting Organization of the Association shall report its activities to the Association (newly enacted on September 1998).

Chapter 4 Final Provisions

Article 18 (Effectuation) This Charter shall take effect from the 27th of September 2016. (newly enacted on September 27 2016)

Article 19 (The Scope of Members) The founding members of the Association consist of regional governments, which attended the General Assembly in 1996 and agreed to the basic spirit of the Association.

Article 20 (Language) This Charter shall be written in English and in the languages of the countries where the member regions belong. Original copies of which shall be kept at the archive of the Secretariat and copies of which shall be kept by each member. (revised on October 28, 2010)

In faith whereof, the representatives of the regional governments, who were given the due authority from each member government, have signed the present Charter of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments in Gyeongju City, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Republic of Korea on the 12th day of September, 1996.

Supplementary Provision
This Charter shall take effect from the 21st of October 1998.

Supplementary Provision
This Charter shall take effect from the 12th of September 2002.

Supplementary Provision
This Charter shall take effect from the 8th of September 2004.

Supplementary Provision
This Charter shall take effect from the 28th of October 2010.

Supplementary Provision
This Charter shall take effect from the 22nd of October 2014.

Supplementary Provision
This Charter shall take effect from the 27th of September 2016.
Regulations on the Establishment and Operation of Subcommittees of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments

(Establishment) October 21, 1998
(Partial Revision) September 4, 2007
September 2, 2008
October 28, 2010
July 19, 2011
September 11, 2013
September 26, 2017

The present regulations stipulate rules regarding establishment and operation of subcommittees in accordance with Clause 4 of Article 11 of the Charter of NEAR.

Article 1 (Establishment)
For smooth operation of individual projects or tasks (hereinafter referred to as “Individual Projects”) proposed at conferences of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments, subcommittees shall be established for each field of work.

Article 2 (Name and Working Area) The names of the subcommittees shall be as follows:
1. Subcommittee on Economy & Humanities (revised on September 11, 2013)
2. Subcommittee on Environment
3. Subcommittee on Educational and Cultural Exchange (integrated on September 2, 2008)
4. Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention
5. Deleted
6. Deleted
7. Subcommittee on Oceans and Fishery (September 2, 2008)
8. Subcommittee on Tourism (September 2, 2008)
10. Subcommittee on Energy and Climate Change (October 28, 2010)
11. Deleted
12. Subcommittee on Life & Medical Industry (July 19, 2011)
13. Subcommittee on Agriculture (July 19, 2011)
14. Subcommittee on Sports (September 11, 2013)
15. Subcommittee on Logistics and Transportation (September 26, 2017)
16. Subcommittee on E-Commerce and Subcommittee on International Exchange of Human Resources

Article 3 (Functions)
1. Each subcommittee reviews and discusses methods to materialize and realize project plans by coordinating opinions among regional governments in order to promote effective execution of “Individual Projects” led by member regional governments which initiated them.
2. Each subcommittee shall report the results of the review and discussion on “Individual Projects” proposed by regional governments to the Working Committee.

Article 4 (Structure)
Each subcommittee consists of directors of local government divisions who have interest in the field that each subcommittee is responsible for.

Article 5 (Operation)
1. An elected member regional government (hereinafter referred to as “Coordinator”) shall be in charge of liaison, coordination and operation of each subcommittee.
2. The office term of a “Coordinator” is two years, and it can be reelected. Upon request, a subcommittee can be
co-operated with co-hosting coordinator. (revised on July 19, 2011)
3. In principal, the operation of a subcommittee shall be based on telecommunications such as postal mail and fax.
4. Each subcommittee should convene once a year for a meeting or NEAR-related activity during its term as coordinator. (revised on July 19, 2011)
5. The coordinator should endeavor to allow as many participants from NEAR member regional governments to participate in the subcommittee meeting.
6. If necessary, Working Committee can conduct evaluations on subcommittee’s operation. (July 19, 2011)

Article 6 (Participation)
1. All member regions are eligible to participate in a subcommittee. (revised on July 19, 2011)
2. For efficient operation and practical outcomes of each subcommittee, the coordinator may invite specialists, experts or business persons from NEAR member regional governments.

Article 7 (Expenses)
Expenses for the operation of each subcommittee shall be borne by the “Coordinator.” In the event of a Sub-Committee meeting being convened, expenses for transportation and accommodation shall be covered by participating regional governments, in principle.

Article 8 (Relation to the Secretariat)
Each “Coordinator” shall send updated information of the subcommittee to the Secretariat, which shall distribute the documentation to the rest of the regional governments. (revised on July 19, 2011)

Article 9 (Revision of Regulations)
Revision of the present regulations shall be decided by the Working Committee.

Article 10 (Effectuation)
These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on 11 September, 2013 (revised on September 11, 2013)

Supplementary Provision
These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on October 21, 1998.

Supplementary Provision
These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on September 4, 2007.

Supplementary Provision
These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on September 2, 2008.

Supplementary Provision
These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on October 28, 2010.

Supplementary Provision
These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on July 19, 2011

Supplementary Provision
These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on September 11, 2013

Supplementary Provision
These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on September 26, 2017
Regulations on Membership Fee System

[Enforcement September 26, 2017]
(Establishment) September 28, 2016
(Partial Revision) September 26, 2017

Article 1 (Purpose)

This regulation seeks to prescribe matters related to the management and operation of the membership fee and its usage.

Article 2 (Principles of Accounting)

Accounting shall be conducted by the principles below.
1. The Secretary-General shall maintain transparency and reliability of the accounting process by submitting objective and evidential documents.
2. The Secretary-General shall disclose information on the operation of the membership fee when requested by the members.
3. The Secretary-General shall manage the membership fee effectively.

Article 3 (Fiscal Year)

The fiscal year of the Association shall be from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

Article 4 (Responsibilities in Accounting)

The Secretary-General shall take responsibility for the management of the entire process related to the membership fee.

Article 5 (Membership Fees)

The membership fee shall be applied in accordance with the following clauses:
1. Each member shall pay an annual fee of USD 1,000.
2. The membership fee shall be in the currency of the country where the Secretariat is located, and the fee shall be paid by April 30 of each fiscal year. A new member shall pay the fee starting in the year after its membership has been approved.
3. Membership fees can be adjusted at the discretion of the General Assembly depending on the economic status in regard to Article 1.

Article 6 (Regulation of Member Rights)

The right and eligibility to vote and the rights of members listed in the in Article 9 (1) can be restricted when a member fails to pay the membership fee more than twice. However, the member whose rights have been restricted may regain full rights in the fiscal year when payments are resumed.

Article 7 (Execution)

The fund shall be used for the development and projects of NEAR to meet the common goals of the members. The Secretariat shall collect the opinions of the members when selecting projects that require funds.
Article 8 (Composition of the Committee)

The Association shall form and run a Review Committee in accordance with the paragraphs below.

1. The Review Committee consists of one representative of each member country which has seconded a staff member to the Secretariat at the director-general level or director level. In the case of the Republic of Korea, the committee member shall be other regions than Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, which is hosts the Secretariat.
2. The term of the committee shall be limited to the duration of the secondment of a staff member who has been seconded from his/her country.
3. The Chairman of the committee shall be elected among the committee members.
4. The operation of the committee shall be carried out by the Secretariat for its effectiveness.
5. The Chairman of the committee shall hold a meeting more than once a year. However, if the conditions for a meeting are unavailable, the meeting can be replaced by written forms.
6. The Review Committee meeting shall be eligible to be held with the presence of more than half committee members and decisions shall be passed with more than half yes-votes of the participating committee members.

Article 9 (Budget Planning for Fee Conduction)

The Secretary-General shall draw up and submit a general budget plan for the following year to the review committee for approval by June 30.

Article 10 (Deliberation and Decision)

The Review Committee shall be formed and operated in accordance with the paragraphs below.

1. When the financial plan has been submitted by the Secretary-General, the Review Committee shall review the plan and submit it as the agenda of either the Working Committee or the General Assembly held in that year for approval.
2. The fiscal plan shall be approved at least one month before the General Assembly or Working Committee takes place.

Article 11 (Execution of the Membership Fee)

1. The budget and fiscal plan shall be executed under the responsibility of the Secretary-General in accordance to the approval by the General Assembly or the Working Committee.
2. In cases where extra budget is required, under permission by the Chairman, the Secretary-General shall use the budget required. Approval of the extra budget shall be approved afterwards at the General Assembly or Working Committee that year.

Article 12 (Accounting Inspection)

1. The Secretary-General shall prepare and communicate to auditors periodical financial reports by May 31 every fiscal year.
2. Auditors shall submit audit reports and comments to the Secretariat a month before the meeting of the General Assembly or Working Committee is held, and the reports shall be approved at the meeting.

Article 13 (Appointment and Term of Auditors)

The election and term of auditors shall follow Article 7 (Executives) and Article 8 (Functions) of the Charter.

ADDENDUM

Article 1 (Date of Entry Into Force)

These Articles shall enter into force on January 1, 2017. (However, the membership fee payment date shall be decided at the 12th Working Committee, 2019.)