NEAR is a cooperative organization which strives to achieve mutual development and cooperative exchange between local governments consisting of states, provinces, prefectures, aimags, and metropolitan cities from six countries including the People’s Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Mongolia, and the Russian Federation.

Since NEAR’s establishment in 1996, its membership has grown to seventy-eight regional governments from six countries, China, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, Russia, and North Korea, and encompasses over six hundred and sixty million people. NEAR facilitates exchange and works in partnership with five observer regional governments, three international cooperative regional organizations, the Assembly of European Regions(AER), the Regions of Climate Action(R20), and International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives(ICLEI), and regional professional research institutes. Furthermore, NEAR was joined by its first associate member, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

The Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments

Goals and Principles

Article 2 of NEAR Charter 1

“In the spirit of reciprocity and equity, the Association has the purposes of pursuing co-development of the Northeast Asian Region while contributing to world peace by building trust on mutual understanding through the establishment of networks for exchanges and cooperation among member regional governments.”

NEAR Inaugural General Assembly 1996

The First NEAR Working Committee Meeting 1997

With advances in transportation, information, and communication, and a certain level of international délinee, exchange beyond borders is gradually evening up. The era when regionalization is the key indicator to secure national competitiveness and regional development beyond national boundaries is on its way. Northeast Asia is an area that has historically and geographically close relations along with unlimited potential. The Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments(NEAR) was founded as a joint pathway to lead exchange and cooperation in Northeast Asian Regions becoming one of the 21st century’s three economic pillars in the world.
Goals and Principles

Vision

To pursue the co-development of Northeast Asian regions and to contribute to world peace

Mission

- To facilitate the exchange and solidarity of Northeast Asia through the sharing of knowledge and experience, and participation by young people as partners in regional growth
- To find practical ways for co-prosperity through providing balanced growth strategies, expertise, and information
- To contribute to reinforcing international competitiveness through international cooperative networks expanding partnerships that meet its values

CORE VALUES

NEAR pursues

- Reciprocity & Equity
- Trust & Respect
- Exchange & Cooperation
- Peace & Prosperity

Organization

General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme legislative body of the Association, which consists of heads of member regions, and is held every two years. The General Assembly amends the charter, plans projects, and approves member admission.

Working Committee

Consisting of director-general level senior officials of the member regional governments, the Working Committee reviews matters delegated by the General Assembly, project plans, and individual projects, and decides the relevant matters with the establishment and integration of the Subcommittees.

Subcommittees

The Subcommittees are supporting bodies of the Working Committee and are organized, in each area, to aid local development. Each Subcommittee has a coordinator region that is in charge of liaison and operation.

Secretariat

The Secretariat holds and gives operational support for the General Assembly, the Working Committee, and Subcommittees; manages the NEAR International Forum, the Working-level Workshop, and NEAR Youth Leaders Forum; publishes NEAR News, Annual Report, and white papers; and manages the DB and website.
Activities

General Assembly
The General Assembly decides on the admission and expulsion of NEAR members and associate members, the membership fee, the amendment of the Association Charter, the dissolution and liquidation of organizations, the election of the auditor; the budget settlement and approval of project plans, approval of articles, setting up of the operating regulations of the membership fee, determination on holding the next General Assembly, and the decision making and enforcement of each project plan of the Association.

Working Committee
The Working Committee decides upon the discussion of project plans and individual projects, the preparation of the annual report and the financial report, the coordination of opinions among the member regional governments, the establishment of Subcommittees, and matters delegated by the General Assembly.

Subcommittees
As supporting bodies of the Working Committee, Subcommittees are organized and operated in each area to support the efficient implementation of individual projects and tasks proposed by the NEAR meetings.

*Subcommittee Coordinator

- Subcommittee on Economy and Humanities Exchange
  (Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea)
  Discuss strategies and plans for cooperation to open the era of co-prosperous Northeast Asia through mutually integrating economies with humanities exchange

- Subcommittee on Educational & Cultural Exchange
  (Shimin Prefecture, Japan)*
  Promote establishment of a new network in Northeast Asia through a youth exchange project to deepen mutual understanding and friendship exchange, the invitation of traditional art performance groups, and exchange activities with residents disaster prevention ability

- Subcommittee on Environment
  (Toyama Prefecture, Japan)*
  To efficiently implement individual environmental projects, carry out joint research, international environmental seminars, and international environmental protection seminars

- Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention
  (Hyogo Prefecture, Japan)*
  Implement projects to exchange information and human resources to supplement each member region’s different capacity to cope with different natural disasters with the aim of improving disaster prevention ability

- Subcommittee on Energy and Climate Change
  (Shanxi Province, China)*
  To prepare for technology exchange and measures to tackle climate change, promote technology exchange in energy-related projects among member regions for green growth, including policy exchange

- Subcommittee on Mineral Resources Development and Coordination
  (Baguaan Region, Russia)*
  Promote mutual development through mineral resources development and coordination and discuss exchange technologies in mineral resources co-development and follow-up control

- Subcommittee on Tourism
  (Henan Province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China)*
  Establish a long-term and efficient tourism mechanism by promoting tourism industry development, sharing tourism information, exchanging tourism, and promoting cooperation among local tourism agencies

- Subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries
  (Shandong Province, China)*
  Establish an environmentally friendly development model in oceans and fisheries, facilitate academic exchange and cooperation, develop and protect oceans, prepare for ocean disasters, and establish an efficient mechanism among members to enhance exchange and cooperation in oceans and fisheries

- Subcommittee on Bio-medical Industry
  (Chungcheongbuk-do Province, South Korea)*
  Establishing networks for exchange and cooperation, discuss plans for co-development of bio and medical industries, including life science, oriental bio industry, and the medical device industry

- Subcommittee on Agriculture
  (Jeollanam-do Province, South Korea)*
  Promote the exchange of information and technology related to agriculture, such as production of environmentally friendly agricultural products, joint research in agricultural projects, and the development of technology for agricultural products in order to produce and provide safe products

- Subcommittee on Sports (Republic of Sakha, Russia)*
  Hold youth sports festivals through sports exchange among member regions and provide the opportunity to promote traditional sports and preservation plans for sports

- Subcommittee on Logistics and Transportation
  (Heilongjiang Province, China)*
  Promote the invigoration of the logistics industry of Northeast Asia based on geographical advantages and accessibility, and carry out discussions on the high interest in logistics of Northeast Asia, particularly in the development of logistics route

- Subcommittee on International Exchange of Human Resources
  (Jilin Province, China)*
  Promote a place of exchange and a mutual exchange of human resources between NEAR member regional governments as a result of the highlighted importance of human resource exchange

- Subcommittee on E-Commerce
  (Henan Province, China)*
  Promote the construction of international e-commerce cooperation mechanisms between NEAR members, strengthening of interaction, encouraging logistics cooperation, and pursuing related research and human resource development

- Subcommittee on Innovation Plus
  (Hunan Province, China)*
  Endeavor to pursue innovative development of each Northeast Asian country through the growth of scientific and innovative development cooperation systems, product innovation, and activation systems

- Subcommittee on Youth Policy
  (Krasnoyarsk Region, Russia)*
  Established for cooperation in the youth development field, it carries out discussions on youth policy development for young NEAR members in order to cultivate a global mindset and achieve strategic management

- Subcommittee on Traditional Medicine
  (Shanxi Province, China)*
  Endeavor to plan and implement a human resources development project in the traditional medicine field to promote exchange among pharmaceutical companies, and to hold joint seminars for cooperative systems and exchange and invigoration in subjects relevant to the field of traditional medicine
Programs

International Forum
Gathered by expert groups for co-prosperity in Northeast Asia, the International Forum seeks practical solutions to the problems that member regions in Northeast Asia face and discusses the role of regional governments.

Working-level Workshop
Working-level Workshop provides an opportunity to efficiently promote projects by discussing the plans for exchange and cooperation among member regions and the sharing of their experiences.

Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum
Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum is a platform for the youths to have better understanding of the region and to become future responsible leaders through various sessions of discussion and exchange.

Youth Contest
The Youth Essay Contest gives young leaders of the future a vision for co-prosperity and development, and exchange and cooperation in Northeast Asia.

The Secretariat

At its founding, NEAR adopted a circulating secretariat, and in 2005 a standing secretariat was established in Pohang, Gyeongsangbuk-do, South Korea.

The organization consists of two departments: the Department of Planning and Public Relations and the Department of International Cooperation.

Foreign staff from member regional governments of the People’s Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, and the Russian Federation work alongside experts on each nation.

The Secretariat supports General Assembly meetings, Working Committee meetings, and Subcommittee, and holds the Working-level Workshop, International Forum, Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum, and Youth Contest.

In addition, the Secretariat publishes white papers, annual reports, and the NEAR News, as well as managing the organization’s on-line pages.
NEAR is a cooperative organization which strives to achieve mutual development and cooperative exchange between local governments consisting of states, provinces, prefectures, aimags, and metropolitan cities from six countries including the People’s Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Mongolia, and the Russian Federation.

Since NEAR’s establishment in 1996, its membership has grown to seventy-eight regional governments from six countries, China, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, Russia, and North Korea, and encompasses over six hundred and sixty million people. NEAR facilitates exchange and works in partnership with five observer regional governments, three international cooperative regional organizations, the Assembly of European Regions(AER), the Regions of Climate Action(R20), and International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives(ICLEI), and regional professional research institutes. Furthermore, NEAR was joined by its first associate member, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

The Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments

Goals and Principles

“*In the spirit of reciprocity and equity, the Association has the purposes of pursuing co-development of the Northeast Asian Region while contributing to world peace by building trust on mutual understanding through the establishment of networks for exchanges and cooperation among member regional governments.*”

NEAR Inaugural General Assembly 1996

The First NEAR Working Committee Meeting 1997

With advances in transportation, information, and communication, and a certain level of international détente, exchange beyond borders is gradually evening up. The era when regionalization is the key indicator to secure national competitiveness and regional development beyond national boundaries is on its way. Northeast Asia is an area that has historically and geographically close relations along with unlimited potential. The Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments(NEAR) was founded as a joint pathway to lead exchange and cooperation in Northeast Asian Regions becoming one of the 21st century’s three economic pillars in the world.
Goals and Principles

**Vision**
To pursue the co-development of Northeast Asian regions and to contribute to world peace

**Mission**
- To facilitate the exchange and solidarity of Northeast Asia through the sharing of knowledge and experience, and participation by young people as partners in regional growth
- To find practical ways for co-prosperity through providing balanced growth strategies, expertise, and information
- To contribute to reinforcing international competitiveness through international cooperative networks expanding partnerships that meet its values

CORE VALUES
NEAR pursues
- Reciprocity & Equity
- Trust & Respect
- Exchange & Cooperation
- Peace & Prosperity

Organization

**General Assembly**
The General Assembly is the supreme legislative body of the Association, which consists of heads of member regions, and is held every two years. The General Assembly amends the charter, plans projects, and approves member admission.

**Working Committee**
Consisting of director-general level senior officials of the member regional governments, the Working Committee reviews matters delegated by the General Assembly, project plans, and individual projects, and decides the relevant matters with the establishment and integration of the Subcommittees.

**Subcommittees**
The Subcommittees are supporting bodies of the Working Committee and are organized in each area, to aid local development. Each Subcommittee has a coordinator region that is in charge of liaison and operation.

**Secretariat**
The Secretariat holds and gives operational support for the General Assembly, the Working Committee, and Subcommittees; manages the NEAR International Forum, the Working-level Workshop, and NEAR Youth Leaders Forum; publishes NEAR News, Annual Report, and white papers; and manages the DB and website.
**Activities**

**General Assembly**
The General Assembly decides on the admission and expulsion of NEAR members and associate members, the membership fee, the amendment of the Association Charter, the dissolution and liquidation of organizations, the election of the auditor, the budget settlement and approval of project plans, approval of articles, setting up of the operating regulations of the membership fee, determination on holding the next General Assembly, and the decision making and enforcement of each project plan of the Association.

**Working Committee**
The Working Committee decides upon the discussion of project plans and individual projects, the preparation of the annual report and the financial report, the coordination of opinions among the member regional governments, the establishment of Subcommittees, and matters delegated by the General Assembly.

**Subcommittees**
As supporting bodies of the Working Committee, Subcommittees are organized and operated in each area to support the efficient implementation of individual projects and tasks proposed by the NEAR meetings.

*(Subcommittee / Coordinator / Details of Subcommittee)*

**Subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries** *(Shandong Province, China)*
Establish an environmentally friendly development model in oceans and fisheries, facilitate academic exchange and cooperation, develop and protect oceans, prepare for ocean disasters, and establish an efficient mechanism among members to enhance exchange and cooperation in oceans and fisheries.

**Subcommittee on Bio-medical Industry** *(Chungcheongbuk-do Province, South Korea)*
Establishing networks for exchange and cooperation, discuss plans for co-development of bio and medical industries, including life science, oriental bio industry, and the medical device industry.

**Subcommittee on Agriculture** *(Jeollanam-do Province, South Korea)*
Promote the exchange of information and technology related to agriculture, such as production of environmentally friendly agricultural products, joint research in agricultural projects, and the development of technology for agricultural products in order to produce and provide safe products.

**Subcommittee on Sports** *(Republic of Sakha, Russia)*
Hold youth sports festivals through sports exchange among member regions and provide the opportunity to promote traditional sports and preservation plans for sports.

**Subcommittee on Logistics and Transportation** *(Heilongjiang Province, China)*
Promote the invigoration of the logistics industry of Northeast Asia based on geographical advantages and accessibility, and carry out discussions on the high interest in logistics of Northeast Asia, particularly in the development of logistics route.

**Subcommittee on International Exchange of Human Resources** *(Jilin Province, China)*
Promote a place of exchange and a mutual exchange of human resources between NEAR member regional governments as a result of the highlighted importance of human resource exchange.

**Subcommittee on E-Commerce** *(Henan Province, China)*
Promote the construction of international e-commerce cooperation mechanisms between NEAR members, strengthening of interaction, encouraging logistics cooperation, and pursuing related research and human resource development.

**Subcommittee on Innovation Plus** *(Hunan Province, China)*
Endeavor to pursue innovative development of each Northeast Asian country through the growth of scientific and innovative development cooperation systems, product innovation, and activation systems.

**Subcommittee on Youth Policy** *(Krasnoyarsk Region, Russia)*
Established for cooperation in the youth development field, it carries out discussions on youth policy development for young NEAR members in order to cultivate a global mindset and achieve strategic management.

**Subcommittee on Traditional Medicine** *(Shanxi Province, China)*
Endeavor to plan and implement a human resources development project in the traditional medicine field to promote exchange among pharmaceutical companies, and to hold joint seminars for cooperative systems and exchange and invigoration in subjects relevant to the field of traditional medicine.
International Forum
Gathered by expert groups for co-prosperity in Northeast Asia, the International Forum seeks practical solutions to the problems that member regions in Northeast Asia face and discusses the role of regional governments.

Working-level Workshop
Working-level Workshop provides an opportunity to efficiently promote projects by discussing the plans for exchange and cooperation among member regions and the sharing of their experiences.

Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum
Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum is a platform for the youths to have better understanding of the region and to become future responsible leaders through various sessions of discussion and exchange.

Youth Contest
The Youth Essay Contest gives young leaders of the future a vision for co-prosperity and development, and exchange and cooperation in Northeast Asia.

The Secretariat
At its founding, NEAR adopted a circulating secretariat, and in 2005 a standing secretariat was established in Pohang, Gyeongsangbuk-do, South Korea.

The organization consists of two departments: the Department of Planning and Public Relations and the Department of International Cooperation.

Foreign staff from member regional governments of the People’s Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, and the Russian Federation work alongside experts on each nation.

The Secretariat supports General Assembly meetings, Working Committee meetings, and Subcommittee, and holds the Working-level Workshop, International Forum, Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum, and Youth Contest.

In addition, the Secretariat publishes white papers, annual reports, and the NEAR News, as well as managing the organization’s on-line pages.