The Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments

Multilateral Exchange Platform Leading Grassroots Exchange Among Local Governments From Six Northeast Asian Countries

www.neargov.org
With advances in transportation, information, and communication, and a certain level of international détente, exchange beyond borders is gradually livening up. The era when regionalization is the key indicator to secure national competitiveness and regional development beyond national boundaries is on its way.

With its unlimited potential, the countries of Northeast Asia are closely tied together both geographically and historically. Thus, the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments (NEAR) was founded as a joint pathway to lead exchange and cooperation in the Northeast Asian Region, a region emerging as one of the world’s top three economic blocs in the twenty-first century.

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-nine regional governments from six countries, China, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, Russia, and North Korea, and encompasses over seven hundred 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 the 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

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 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 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 Coordinator

Subcommittee on Economy and Humanities Exchange
(Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea) *
Discuss ways to cooperate and strategies to usher in the era of Northeast Asia where Northeast Asia thrives together through the integration of economy and humanities exchange.

Subcommittee on Educational & Cultural Exchange (Shimane Prefecture, Japan) *
Expedite the establishment of a new network in Northeast Asia through youth exchange projects to deepen mutual understanding and promote friendship exchange, the invitation of traditional art performance groups, and exchange activities with local residents.

Subcommittee on Environment (Toyama Prefecture, Japan) *
Coordinate opinions, discuss detailed implementation methods, carry out joint research, and hold seminars on international environmental protection to implement individual projects on the environment smoothly.

Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention (Hyogo Prefecture, Japan) *
To develop disaster prevention capabilities, implement projects on information and human exchange in order to help deal with different types of disasters by country and region and enhance response capabilities which differ by member regional government.

Subcommittee on Energy and Climate Change (Shanxi Province, China) *
Promote the sharing of energy-related information, encourage technology exchange and cooperation, come up with various exchange and cooperation between member regions, including policy exchange, the sharing of the best practices, etc. to achieve green growth.

Subcommittee on Mineral Resources Development (Magadan Region, Russia) *
Promote joint development through the development of mineral resources and discuss technology exchange regarding the joint development of mineral resources and follow-up control.

Subcommittee on Tourism (Henan Province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China) *
Strive to establish a mechanism for various exchanges and the sharing of tourism information between member regions to promote the tourism industry and contribute to economic prosperity and development in Northeast Asia.

Subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries (Shandong Province, China) *
Establish a development model that is oceans and fisheries environment friendly, strengthen academic exchange and cooperation, develop and protect the ocean, prepare for ocean disasters, and establish an efficient mechanism between member regions in order to promote cooperation and exchange in oceans and fisheries.

Subcommittee on Bio-medical Industry (Chungcheongbuk-do Province, South Korea) *
Discuss ways to develop the bio-medical industry, including life science, the oriental bio-industry, and the medical device industry through establishing networks for exchange and cooperation.

Subcommittee on Agriculture (Jeollanam-do Province, South Korea) *
Promote the exchange of information and technology, including production of eco-friendly agricultural products, joint research on agricultural projects, the development of technology to produce agricultural products, etc., for the stable production and supply of agricultural products.

Subcommittee on Sports (Republic of Sakha, Russia) *
Through sports exchange between member regions, hold youth sports competitions, share ideas to preserve traditional sports, and provide opportunities to promote them.

Subcommittee on Logistics and Transportation (Heilongjiang Province, China) *
Based on Northeast Asia’s geographical advantages and high interest in logistics, vitalize the logistics industry in Northeast Asia and discuss ways to expedite the construction and development of logistics routes.

Subcommittee on International Exchange of Human Resources (Jilin Province, China) *
Carry out projects on dispatching human resources between member regions and come up with an exchange platform based on the deepened exchange and cooperation between member regions in Northeast Asia and the highlighted importance of human resources exchange.

Subcommittee on E-Commerce (Henan Province, China) *
Establish a cooperation mechanism for E-commerce between member regions, strengthen interaction, promote logistics cooperation, and pursue related research and the training of talented individuals.

Subcommittee on Innovation Plus (Hunan Province, China) *
Strive to construct a cooperative body for the growth of science and innovation and a system for product innovation and activation to promote innovation and development of each country in Northeast Asia.

Subcommittee on Youth Policy (Krasnoyarsk Region, Russia) *
Discuss youth policy development of NEAR member regions in order to cultivate a global mindset and achieve strategic management, with the aim of cooperation in the field of youth development of Northeast Asia.

Subcommittee on Traditional Medicine (Shaanxi Province, China) *
In order to promote cooperation, exchange, and valorization of traditional medicine-related fields in Northeast Asia, strive to hold joint seminars, promote exchange between pharmaceutical companies, and plan and implement human resources development projects in the traditional medicine field.
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 roles of regional governments.

Working-level Workshop
The 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
The Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum is a platform for the youths to have better understanding of the region and to become responsible future 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 meetings, and holds the Working-level Workshop, International Forum, Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum, and Youth Contest.

In addition, the Secretariat publishes white papers and annual reports and manages the organization’s online website.