# The 4th Working Committee Conference

* **Overview**

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| Periods | January 12, 2004 ~ January 13, 2004 | |
| Venue (Place) | China > Heilongjiang Province, International Convention Center, Harubin, | |
| Organized by | China > Heilongjiang Province | |
| Participation | 24 regional authorities from 4 countries | |
| China | Heilongjiang Province, Shandong Province, Henan Province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region |
| Japan | Aomori Prefecture, Yamagata Prefecture, Niigata Prefecture, Toyama Prefecture, Ishikawa Prefecture, Fukui Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, Tottori Prefecture, Shimane Prefecture |
| South Korea | Busan Metropolitan City, Gangwon-Do, Chungcheongbuk-Do, Chungcheongnam-Do, Jeollabuk-Do, Jeollanam-Do, Gyeongsangbuk-Do, Gyeongsangnam-Do |
| Russia | Khabarovsk Territory, Kamchatka Region, Zabaikalsky Territory |

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| ▷ Discussion on the establishment of a standing office   |  | | --- | | **▷ Discussion on the confirmation of the qualification of membership**  **▷ Measures for the establishment of a mark of the Association**  **▷ Report on the result of the activities of subcommittees of each member organization**  **▷ Measures for exchanges of talented persons among members**  **▷ Exchange on economy, trade, and environmental protection and measures for the reinforcement of collaboration** | |

* **Agreement**

The 4th Self-Governing Organizations Conference Standing Office was held in Heilongjiang Province, China on January 13, 2004. Twenty-four association member organizations from China, Japan, South Korea, and Russia participated in this conference.

The conference mainly focused on exchange and cooperation between Northeast Asian countries based on peace, friendship, equality and reciprocity. In addition, the common issues such as economy, trade, environmental protection, and standing office establishment as well as other issues were discussed. The representatives of each subcommittee coordinator reported their activities.

Based on the determination of the 4th Self-Governing Organizations Conference general assembly, held in Khabarovsk Territory, Russia in September 2002, the six representatives from Heilongjiang Province (China), Hyogo Prefecture (Japan), Toyama Prefecture (Japan), Gyeongsangbuk-do Province (South Korea), Busan Metropolitan City (South Korea), Khabarovsk Territory (Russia) held a conference in Heilongjiang Province, China on January 12th, 2004 regarding standing office establishment. The six representatives discussed establishment, function, term of the standing office.

The following matters were agreed on the 4th working committee conference:

Ⅰ. Standing Office Establishment

The association office reported the outcome of the working committee’s discussion on standing office establishment during the fourth working committee conference. Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea, introduced a proposal to establish the standing office in Gyeongsangbuk-do Province.

Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, introduced a proposal of function and term of the standing office under the precondition that the association standing office has to be established. Also, it presented a proposal that standing office has to be a four-year term, but at the end of the term, the successive standing office should be selected by the association general assembly.

Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea, introduced a proposal that standing office has to be a six-year term. The representatives for each member organization discussed these two proposals.

Even though function, term, and location for the standing office are not mutually agreed yet, based on Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea, and Hyogo Prefecture, Japan‘s proposals, each member organization’s opinion on the function of the standing office will be collected and the result will be discussed again in the 5th general assembly in September.

Ⅱ. Issues on Association Local Authority Membership Approval

The representative of Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, explained the rule of approval of the association member local authority. According to the association constitution, local governments within Northeast Asia, which participated in the association general assembly, are treated as the association member organization. However, since each nation has a different situation, it is necessary to obtain consent from the member representatives.

Ⅲ. Decision on the Association Flag

Toyama Prefecture, Japan, and Heilongjiang Province, China, presented an idea of deciding the association flag. Two representatives explained the meaning of the proposal. Member representatives discussed this issue and the proposal is passed by voting. The proposal will be decided in the 5th general assembly in September.

Ⅳ. Subcommittee Activities

Each subcommittee coordinator reported their activities in the conference.

1 Environmental Subcommittee

As a coordinator of the environmental subcommittee, Toyama Prefecture (Japan) reported the result of the 5th environmental subcommittee, held in Toyama Prefecture in October, 2003. Fourteen organizations from the four countries of Japan, China, Mongolia, and South Korea participated Toyama Prefecture was elected again as the successive coordinator of the environmental subcommittee in this conference, and its term was prolonged until July, 2005. It also introduced its main activities.

(1) Informational exchange on the Environmental Policy

(Participating Organizations: Japan, Russia local authority.)

(2) Northeast Asian Region International Environment Seminar

(Participating Organizations: Japan, China, South Korea, Russia local authority)

(3) Investigation of floating materials in the east and west coast.

(Participating Organizations: Japan, China, South Korea, Russia local authority)

(4) Investigations of migratory birds in Northeast Asian Region

(Participating Organizations: Japan, China, South Korea, Russia local authority)

The representatives of organizations discussed the future activities and plans. Toyama Prefecture added explanations for 2003 East Sea Environment Paper, which was published in this prefecture.

2 General Exchange Subcommittee

As a coordinator of the general exchange subcommittee, Toyama Prefecture (Japan) reported the result of the 5th general exchange subcommittee, held in Toyama Prefecture in October, 2003. Sixteen organizations from five countries participated. Toyama Prefecture led the discussion on “Cultivating Human Resource Plan,” and presented the following.

(1) Opening of the Northeast Asian Women’s Conference

(2) Developing mutual exchange of the youth in Northeast Asia

3 Disaster Prevention Committee

As a coordinator of the disaster prevention committee, Hyogo Prefecture (Japan) reported its activities. Eleven organizations from three nations organized this committee, and they developed the following activities.

(1) Investigations for preventing of disaster system and information exchange

(2) Reporting experiences from the Hansin Earthquake

(3) Twelve local authorities from China, Japan, South Korea, and Russia shared information about prevention of disasters in the Disaster Prevention Committee Conference, held in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan in July 2002. They presented the future activities and plans.

(a) Collecting and presenting disaster prevention information in Northeast Asian regions.

(b) Organizing panels for investigation, and training them in disaster prevention information that Hyogo Prefecture implements.

4 Economy, Trade Subcommittee

As a coordinator group of the Economy, Trade Subcommittee, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea, reported the issues of the conferences of the Economy, Trade Subcommittee held twice in 2002 and 2003.

The major issues for discussion of the conference of the Economy, Commerce Subcommittee, in which 18 member local authorities from five countries participated in May 2002, are as follows:

(1) Opening of the "North East Asia Corporation Exhibition" It aimed to fortify economic exchanges among member organizations by holding the "North East Asia Corporation Exhibition" as well as the opening of the 6th General Assembly.

(2) The proposal of the constitution of a joint homepage of "North East Asia Electronic Trade" The conference of the Economy, Commerce Subcommittee, in which 18 member organizations from five countries participated, was held in September 2003. An agenda with the purpose of the reinforcement of exchanges among private corporations was introduced.

(a) The exchange and collaboration among member local authorities was strengthened by creating the Investment Promotion Committee with the participation of both the public and private sectors of the Association.

(b) Exchanges among member local authorities were made more concrete and discussions on practical issues were pursued through the joint homepage of the North East Asia economy commerce.

Coordinator local authorities of each subcommittee performed many beneficial activities within the scope of activities of each subcommittee. Exchanges and collaboration among members of the Association were extended through activities held by each subcommittee, and it was considered advantageous to promote the continuous development of the Association.

Ⅴ. Agenda on the reinforcement of exchanges of talented persons among members of the Association

The representatives of members agreed on the reinforcement of exchanges of talented persons among the regions of members of the Association. To undertake exchanges is deemed to be advantageous for collaboration of each local authority in the North East Asia Region, and to promote mutual development and prosperity.

Ⅵ. Agenda on the exchange and collaboration in the areas of the economy, trade, and environmental protection of each member organization of the Association

The initiation of exchanges and collaboration in the areas of economy, trade, and environmental protection became the most important issue in this conference It also reinforced the purpose of the Association. Many representatives of the conference announced the following opinions on exchanges and collaboration in the areas of the economy and trade among local authorities of the North East Asia Region.

1 A representative of Toyama Prefecture, Japan, described current activities centering on a trade exchange center of the Japanese Sea of this prefecture in order to fortify trade and investment in the North East Asia Region.

(1) Offer and collection of information on the trend of the trade and investment environment of the North East Asia Region

(2) Opening of the exhibition consultation participated in by corporations in the North East Asia Region

(3) Support of the exhibition and sales of samples exhibited in the conference that was attended by corporations of the North East Asia Region

2 A representative of Heilongjiang, China, reported on the “Extension of collaborative exchanges and realization of mutual prosperity” in the conference. The representative introduced in detail strategies for re-promotion of old industrial complexes in the three provinces of the North East, executed by Heilongjiang Province, as well as introducing advantageous conditions for economic development of an investment in Heilongjiang Province to representatives of the conference. In addition, this participation brought infinite opportunities of business to foreign investors and businessmen as well as offering many opportunities for the development of Heilongjiang Province. The representative hoped to materialize mutual development with active participation of personnel in the sector of the economy and corporation of each country in the North East Asia Region.

3 A representative from Khabarovsk, Russia, announced in the conference the strengthening of collaboration in border areas and proposed to compose a border area local authority joint subcommittee. In addition, the office applied to be a coordinator organization of this subcommittee, and decided to introduce an agenda for the establishment of a border joint subcommittee at the opening of the 5th General Assembly of the North East Asia Local Authority Association in September.

4 A representative from Gyeongsangnam-do Province, Korea, invited representatives of member organizations to the "2004 Korea International Machinery Exhibition", and hoped to strengthen economic exchanges among member organizations by active participation of corporations in the regions of members of the Association.

5 A representative of Shandong Province, China, introduced current manufacturing complexes of the Shandong Province in this conference. The representative also introduced the 2nd North East Asia Economy Discussion mainly held by small-and-medium businesses in Wehae, Shandong Province, from May 2 ~ May 4, 2004, and "Shandong Province Ecology Construction Higher Discussion and Green Industry Exhibition" held from September 15 ~ 17, 2004, and hoped each member organization would participate in the conferences.

6 A representative of Gangwon-do Province, Korea introduced proposals for propelling economic development of each region by constituting a railroad crossing of the continent that covers North Korea - China- Russia, starting from the most southerly part of Korea and deriving synergy effects for the tourism industry and logistics of neighboring cities.

7 A representative of Jeollabuk-do Province, Korea hoped each member organization would jointly participate in the "World Logistics Exhibition" in 2007, and actively support the exhibition.

8 A representative of Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Korea, introduced proposals on the opening of the "North East Asia Corporation Exhibition" by the chairman of the local authority, as well as the opening of the 6th General Assembly of the Association. Hyogo Prefecture and Toyama Prefecture of Japan determined the location of the 6th circuit office first, and hoped to discuss it again.

Each representative of members proceeded with discussions on the proposals of activities on each item presented in this conference. As the world economy becomes globalized and economic and trade relationships among regions and countries become closer every day, exchange or joint collaboration in the areas of the economy, trade, and environmental protection among the North East Asia Region local authorities will contribute to the prosperity and stability of the North East Asia Region and will promote the mutual prosperity of each region.

Ⅶ. Issues on the circuit office of the next Association

As the circuit office of the Association in this conference, Heilongjiang Province received an application from candidates for the next circuit office of the next Association from each local authority, and it confirmed the opinions of each member. Busan Metropolitan City in Korea applied to attract the circuit office of the next Association in the conference. The conference determined to choose the venue for the next circuit office in the General Assembly in September by collecting opinions from each member organization of the Association and receiving applications from candidates after the conference of the General Assembly of the Association.

Ⅷ. Opening of the 5th General Assembly of the North East Asia Local Authority Association

The General Assembly invited each member organization in the conference, hoped representatives of each member organization would participate in the 5th General Assembly of the North East Asia Region Local Authority Association held in Harubin, Heilongjiang Province, China in September 2004, and wished for the active support and collaboration of each member organization in the course of preparing for the conference.

The above are items agreed at the 4th Working Committee Conference of the North East Asia Region Local Authority Association, and the items agreed will be mailed to each member of the organization in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Russian.