# The 6th Working Committee Conference

* **Overview**

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| Periods | September 03, 2007 ~ September 06, 2007 |
| Venue (Place) | China > Shandong Province |
| Organized by | China > Shandong Province |
| Participation | 20 localities from 5 countries |
| China | Heilongjiang Province, Liaoning Province, Shandong Province, Henan Province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Hubei Province, Hunan Province  |
| Japan | Toyama Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, Tottori Prefecture, Shimane Prefecture  |
| South Korea | Busan Metropolitan City, Daegu Metropolitan City, Gyeonggi-Do, Chungcheongbuk-Do, Chungcheongnam-Do, Jeollabuk-Do, Gyeongsangbuk-Do, Gyeongsangnam-Do, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province  |
| Mongolia | Ulaanbaatar City, Umnugovi Province, Bulgan Province, Arkhangai Province, Zavkhan Province, Orkhon  |
| Russia | Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Amur Region, Irkutsk Region, Republic of Tyva |

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* **Summary of Chairman**

NEAR 6th Shandong Province Working Committee was held in Jinan City, Shandong Province on September 3, 2007. 80 representatives from 31 regional governments of China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Russia, the Secretariat, and observers have participated in this conference.

The Conference consisted of the Opening Ceremony congratulatory remarks of the, activity reports on the seven Subcommittees and the secretariat of the association, and screening of topics submitted by Shandong Province (China), Gyeonggi-do Province (Korea), Gyeongsangbuk-do Province (Korea), Toyama Prefecture (Japan), Shimane Prefecture (Japan), Kharbarovsk Territory (Russia), and the association secretariat and issues delegated for discussion at the General Assembly. In addition, to exchange accumulated experience on international cooperation and to raise the efficiency, we have hosted the North East Asia International Cooperation Talks where 12 member organization representatives presented their issues.

The details of this conference are as follows.

1. Subcommittees and NEAR Secretariat Activities Report

(1) Subcommittee on Economy and Trade

In December 2006, Gyeongju City of Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Korea held the 7th Subcommittee on Economy and Trade along with the Business Promotion Conference and the Multinational Trade Consulting Conference participated by 35 regional governments from 5 countries. At the Business Promotion Conference, 14 regional governments have expressed their opinions on the topic ‘The Revitalization Method of Northeast Asian Economy and Trade Exchange’ and 66 corporations from 22 regional governments took part in the Multinational Trade Consulting Conference.

The scale of the conference was larger than ever before.

The ‘Economy and Trade Network’, launched in May 2006, is serviced in 5 languages and currently provides information on 6,563 products from 374 companies in 6 countries.

The Business Promotion Conference, held this year by the Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, will be held side by side with the ‘North East Asia International Economic Forum’, co-hosted with the Secretariat. Distinguished scholars and experts of economics will be invited to Daegu Metropolitan City from October 16 to 18.

(2) Subcommittee on Environment

Toyama Prefecture, Japan has investigated the individual projects of the Subcommittee on Environment, organized the results to make out a report and afterwards translated, distributed to the 21 member organizations of the Subcommittee on Environment while posting it on the website of the North East Asia Environment Information Plaza.

The 8th Subcommittee on Environment was held in July 30, 2007. 12 regional governments from 5 countries participated to discuss main topics of the environmental status and issues of each regional government, initiation and progress status of 2007 individual projects, proposal status bulletin on 2008 individual projects, and the question of whether Toyama Prefecture continues to serve as the coordinator of the Sub-Committee.

(3) Subcommittee on Cultural Exchanges

Shimane Prefecture, Japan held the North East Asia International Culture Palette’ from November 3~7, 2006 with the Ji Theatrical Company of Jilin Province, China performing at the Shimane Arts and Culture Center with an audience of one thousand, in addition, performed exchange activities with organizations for the disabled and elementary schools in the prefecture. Shimane Prefecture plans to invite traditional culture and arts organizations of North East Asia this year to conduct mutual exchange between each other.

47 persons from 9 regional governments in 4 countries participated in the ‘2007 Northeastern Asia Wings of Exchange in Shimane’ from August 2~7, 2007. Cuisine exchange and cultural introduction of participating regions, experiencing Japanese traditional culture, and learning of the environment and welfare were the items on the agenda along with home-stay and a variety of parties to promote exchange between members.

(4) Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention

The 5th Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention was held in Hyogo Prefecture from February 13~16, 2007 with 32 persons from 15 regional governments in 5 countries. The conference switched from an ‘Information Exchange Workshop’ to a ‘Participation and Problem Solving Workshop’ and mainly consisted of a workshop to draw up a hazard map, experiencing an earthquake with the quake simulation vehicle, simulated smoke evacuation training, etc. with hands-on learning and training, presentations of advanced example cases along with the investigation of the disaster prevention facilities of Hyogo Prefecture.

(5) Subcommittees on General Exchanges

Toyama Prefecture have conducted research on mutual dispatch of employees, dispatch and acceptance of foreign exchange students and trainees, dispatch of youth to foreign countries and have posted the results in English, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Japanese on the International Sea of Japan Policy Department homepage. Regional governments will work on a plan to strengthen coordination and co-hosting events between each other based on the current events under way. They also plan to receive the various suggestions of participating organizations in search for new problems to solve.

(6) Subcommittee on Cross-border Cooperation

Amur Region originally was to host the Subcommittee on Cross-border Cooperation from August 25 to 28. However, the conference was postponed to April of 2008 due to only 4 member organizations of China, Mongolia and Russia submitting their registration forms. We hope member organizations will actively take part.

(7) Subcommittees on Science and Technology

Gyeonggi-do Province Korea hosted the 1st Subcommittee on Science and Technology Conference from July 23 to 26 at Suwon City’s Advanced Nano Fab Center. The theme was on the ‘Cooperation Methods in the Area of Intra-regional Science and Technology’ with 40 participants from 20 regional governments in 5 countries. 12 regional governments have reported their status of science and technology development and international exchange cooperation methods of science technology along with the adoption of Regional Government Cooperation Plan Agreement to promote science technology cooperation and joint development.

(8) NEAR Secretariat

The following are the programs initiated by the Secretariat.

(1) April 22 to 28, assistance of trade exchange activities of Gyeongsangbuk-do Province and other regional governments

(2) May 15 to 18, invitational working-level workshop of representatives from 32 member organizations 5 countries

(3) Strengthen ties with international organizations such as UCLG, CITYNET, and ANMC21

(4) Assist visit of Korea’s Gyeongsangbuk-do Province Council delegations to China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and promote local council exchange

(5) Publish the newsletter and brochure in 6 languages to reinforce association promotion

(6) Receive 4 dispatch officers from 4 countries to raise operation efficiency and elevate the image of the Secretariat suitable for an international organization

(7) June 30~July 15, 2007, conduct surveys on all association members and announce results

(8) October 17, 2007 schedule to host the North East Asia Economics Forum

(9) October 2007~February 2008, invest one hundred million won to renovate association website

(10) Actively support chair organization, Shandong Province, in hosting the 2007 Working Committee and the 2008 General Assembly.

2. Conference statements, topics review and discussion status

(1) Promote cooperation and development of North East Asia at the working-level

The chairman of the working committee and the vice governor of Shandong Province, Cai Limin, proposed at the Opening Ceremony 3 suggestions to promote cooperation and development of North East Asia at the working-level.

(1) Improve communications and broaden understanding to establish regional cooperation of North East Asia

(2) Promote practical cooperation of North East Asia by reinforcing specialized exchange

(3) Joint construction of a beautiful North East Asia village by strengthening cooperation of environmental protection

(2) Shandong Province will promote extensive cooperation between Northeast Asian regions as the 2008 NEAR 7th General Assembly the momentum.

 (1) Shandong Province will report the master plan and methods of the Northeast Asian Environmental Protection Counseling Conference of the 2008 NEAR 7th General Assembly, listen to opinions from participating representatives and hope for participation of all member organizations to the two events mentioned above.

 (2) Shandong Province has officially requested the establishment of the three Subcommittees Newspaper and Cultural Exchanges, Maritime and Fishery, Tourism Exchange and wishes to take responsibility as the coordinator. They have also agreed to the process of examination at the 2008 General Assembly and brought up for discussion and decision afterwards.

(3) Issues concerning the introduction of Membership Fee policy

Russia’s Kharbarovsk Territory has proposed the introduction of a membership fee policy to reduce the burden of the regional government hosting association events and for the more responsible participation of association activities from member organizations. The proposal was rather specific on the calculation of membership fee amount, usage, and management. In the circumstances of the majority of members deciding to vote for the proposal, it will be presented at next year’s General Assembly; otherwise, it will be reserved for the General Assembly in 2010.

(4) Official request of Korea’s Gyeonggi-do Province to host the 2010 9th NEAR General Assembly

Korea’s Gyeonggi-do Province has hosted the 1st NEAR Science and Technology Subcommittee in July of 2007. They have submitted a written proposal at the Working Committee to host the 2010 General Assembly and after discussions at the committee, will be officially presented and decided at the 2008 7th General Assembly after discussions.

(5) Korea’s Gyeongsangbuk-do Province NEAR Secretariat Retention Proposal

After hosting the Secretariat in 2004, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province has devoted its utmost efforts and support in financing, supplying manpower and aiding in other diverse areas for the proper functioning of the Secretariat. Participating representatives have complimented the great efforts and contributions of Gyeongsangbuk-do for the going concern of the Secretariat and have requested the retention of the Secretariat in Gyeongsangbuk-do Province. The proposal will be presented at the 2008 7th General Assembly and decided after discussions.

(6) Japan’s Toyama Prefecture seeks new coordinator for Subcommittee on General Exchanges

Since the establishment of the General Exchanges Subcommittee in December 2, 1998, Toyama Prefecture has long been the coordinator regional government. Toyama Prefecture for direct participation from as many regional governments as possible to operate NEAR in furthering the activities of the association and also requests that another regional government besides Toyama Prefecture should take responsibility as the coordinator regional government. Regional governments interested in applying for the position should contact the Toyama Prefecture or the NEAR Secretariat by October 26.

(7) New establishment of Subcommittee on Education and Culture at Japan’s Shimane Prefecture

After serious discussions, participating representatives have agreed to the proposal of Japan’s Shimane Prefecture to integrate the Cultural Exchanges and General Exchanges Subcommittees into newly creating the Subcommittee on Education and Culture. In addition, Shimane proposed that if there were no other member organization willing to take responsibility of coordinator, the association should temporarily cease operations of the Subcommittee and leave a term of one year for another regional government to fill the position. If there are no regional governments intending to take charge, this Subcommittee should automatically be abolished.

(8) Issues of Amending the Regulations of the Subcommittee

Subcommittees were limited to 5 according to the 1998 ‘Regulation on the Establishment and Operation of Subcommittees’. After the 2004 Heilongjiang Province General Assembly and the 2006 Busan Metropolitan City General Assembly, the Subcommittees on Cross-border Cooperation, Science and Technology were newly established. Conference representatives have agreed unanimously to pass the amendment on the ‘Regulation on the Establishment and Operation of Subcommittees’ and have added the two Subcommittees listed above.