# The 7th NEAR Association Conference

* **Overview**

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| Periods | September 01, 2008 ~ September 04, 2008 | |
| Venue (Place) | China > Shandong Province | |
| Organized by | China > Shandong Province | |
| Participation | 41 localities from 5 countries | |
| China | Heilongjiang Province, Shandong Province, Henan Province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Hubei Province, Hunan Province |
| Japan | Toyama Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, Shimane Prefecture |
| South Korea | Busan Metropolitan City, Incheon Metropolitan City, Daejeon Metropolitan, Gwangju Metropolitan City, Ulsan Metropolitan City, Chungcheongnam-Do, Jeollabuk-Do, Jeollanam-Do, Gyeongsangbuk-Do, Gyeongsangnam-Do, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province |
| Mongolia | Selenge Aimak, Ulaanbaatar City, Dornod Province, Dornogovi Province, Umnugovi Province, Bulgan Province, Uvurkhangai Province, Bayankhongor Province, Arkhangai Province, Khuvsgul Province, Khovd Province, Uvs Province, Orkhon , Govi-Sumber Province, Darkhan-Uul Province |
| Russia | Republic of Buryatia, Khabarovsk Territory, Irkutsk Region, Sakhalin Region, Altai Territory, Magadan Region |

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| |  | | --- | | **▷ Gyeonggi-do (Korea) will be the host of the 2010 General Assembly.**  **▷NEAR Secretariat will be placed in Gyeongsangbuk-do (Korea) for an extended term of four years.**  **▷ Proposal for the creation of the Subcommittee on Ocean and Fisheries (Coordinator: Shandong Province, China)**  **▷ Proposal for the creation of the Subcommittee on Tourism (Coordinator: Henan Province, China)**  **▷Proposal on Membership Fee (Khabarovsk Territory, Russia) : It was decided that the issue of the introduction of membership fee shall be delegated to the NEAR Secretariat. The Secretariat shall form a "Special Committee on Membership Fee" consisting of one representative for each country who is recommended by regional member governments, come up with a concrete plan and present the agenda for discussion at the next Working Committee Meeting.**  **▷Five regional governments joined NEAR membership.** | |

* **Shandong Declaration**

With 40 regional government members from five countries, including the People’s Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Mongolian People’s Republic and the Russian Federation, which participated in the 7th General Assembly of the Association in the North East Asia Regional Governments held in Shandong Province, the People’s Republic of China on 1-4 September 2008, shall make joint efforts to open a new era of a peaceful, prosperous Northeast Asia based on the following common understanding:

In order to meet the challenge the age of globalization and to promote joint prosperity through the enhancement of exchange between regions, the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments has carried out exchange and cooperation projects in a variety of fields such as economy, environment, culture, disaster prevention, cross-border cooperation, Science and technology, and has achieved significant results since its foundation in 1996.

Based on these results, the General Assembly in Shandong was devoted to a wide-ranged discussion on “building a united Northeast Asia” characterized by a mutual trust, reciprocity and coexistence among members of the municipalities under the theme of “Toward Prosperity through Innovative Cooperation,” and reaffirms its commitment in facilitating the administrative cooperation among members, to the enhancement of influence of the Association with more drawing power and to the enhancement of the crucial role played by the Association in building a peaceful and prosperous Northeast Asia, and hereby proclaims as follows:

1. The Association is determined to build a harmonious Northeast Asia through mutual support, cooperation, and proactive participation of member regions, sharing the values of mutual trust, reciprocity, and coexistence.

2. The Association is committed to achieving the joint development of Northeast Asia through practical, continuous exchange and cooperation by means of building human, physical, and informational networks

3. The Association is committed to building an open Northeast Asia, which welcomes participation of not only member municipalities, but also non-members for the goal of common peace and prosperity.

4. The Association is committed to taking measures in achieving sustainable development, including implementation of environment-friendly policies to proactively respond to environmental issues, including yellow dusts and the reduction of its damage and global warming.

5. Serious discussion was conducted on the agendas aimed in achieving joint prosperity of Northeast Asia and the growth of the Association and the General Assembly reached the agreement on the following decisions:

I. Gyeonggi-Do Province, the Republic of Korea will be the host of the 8th General Assembly to be held in 2010.

II. NEAR Secretariat will be placed in Gyeongsangbuk-Do Province, the Republic of Korea for an extended term of four years from September 2012.

III. The General Assembly approved the creation of a Subcommittee on Maritime Affairs and Fisheries as proposed by Shandong Province, the People’s Republic of China and Shandong Province shall be the Coordinator.

IV. The General Assembly approved the creation of a Subcommittee on Tourism as proposed by Henan Province, the People’s Republic of China and Henan Province shall be the Coordinator.

V. The issue on the introduction of membership fee shall be delegated to the NEAR Secretariat. The Secretariat shall form a "Special Committee on Membership Fee" consisting of one representative for each country who is recommended by the regional government members, shall come up with a concrete plan and present the agenda for discussion on the next Working Committee Meeting.

VI. The General Assembly approves the admission of the five regional governments, including Incheon –, Daejeon –, Gwangju – and Ulsan Metropolitan City of the Republic of Korea and Magadan Region of the Russian Federation as new members of the Association.

The regional government members of the Association at the North East Asia Regional Governments are committed to faithfully implement this Declaration and Agreements with full cooperation.

September 2, 2008