

# Event Photos



Date	(Wed.) Aug. 7, 2019	Content	Commemorative Photograph
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<p><b>Date</b></p>	<p><b>Aug. 7, 2019 [Wed]</b></p>	<p><b>Content</b></p>	<p><b>View of Conference Hall</b></p>
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<b>Date</b>	<b>Aug. 7, 2019 [Wed]</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Co-hosted by Head of Sakha Republic and Secretary General</b>
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<b>Date</b>	<b>Aug. 7, 2019 [Wed]</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Yakutia 24 TV Appearance</b>
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**[Attachment]**

## **Agreement on the 12th NEAR Working Committee**

The 12th NEAR Working Committee held by Sakha Republic of Russia in August 7, 2019 was attended by 19 NEAR Regional Members from 4 countries such as People’s Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Russian

Federation, and 49 Regional Governments including 30 NEAR Members who submitted a written resolution to exercise their vote.

At the first session of the meeting which followed the opening ceremony there were reports on the major business activities of the NEAR Secretariat, the result of the 12th General Assembly, the outcome of the Subcommittee activities from Toyama and Hyogo Prefectures in Japan, and the result of the Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum. Also, Hunan Province, Shandong Province, Gwangju Metropolitan City, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, and Amur Region of Russia gave a presentation regarding the major interests of regional members.

Sakha Republic suggested giving presentations at the 13th General Assembly in 2020 with regard to investment, export, and tourism on the purpose of business development and economy and trade cooperation between NEAR Regional Governments and the NEAR Secretariat decided to ask for the participation of regional members who were interested.

On the second session, four agendas were brought up such as the suggestion of operation improvement plan for Association events, postponement of membership fee payment time, the appointment of honorary ambassadors, sharing of plans of major Secretariat events, and a collection of Members' opinions. Main contents in accordance with agendas and consideration and resolution of matters are as follows.

## 1. Operation Improvement Plan of Association Events

The aim of the meeting was to improve the problems arising with the quantitative expansion of the Association, such as insufficiency of beforehand tuning of schedule, and fall of the quality of the presentation and discussion caused by relay interpretation.

Firstly, when Association events are held such as General Assembly, Working Committee, Subcommittee, Working-level Workshop, and NEAR International Forum, regional governments organizing should send an official invitation letter at least 3 months ahead after drafting with regard to event period, theme(agenda), and venue and the Secretariat should send this as an official letter to NEAR members instantly after reviewing.

Secondly, Regional Governments hoping to participate in the event should submit an attendance list and relative information to the Secretariat up to 2 months before for the smooth event preparation and process of the organizer.

Thirdly, Regional Governments wishing to give a presentation should hand in presentation materials 1 month before and presentation scenarios 2 weeks before in a bid to make smooth translation · interpretation because the Association events are held in 5 or 6 languages. However, this improvement plan will be recommended without forcibleness because it would be designed for the enhancement of participation rates of the Association events and for smooth events process and adequate communication.

## **2. Deferment of Membership Payment Time**

Although 「Regulations on Membership Fee」 were established and the introduction of the bill was passed at the 11th General Assembly in 2016, considerable members expressed negative opinions regarding the membership payment until now. Therefore, the Secretariat decided to postpone the payment time for the present until an agreement could be formed on the purpose of use and after reliability could be secured regarding budget execution and revised relevant regulations on the membership fee.

## **3. Suggestion on Appointment of Honorary Ambassador per**

## **Regional Members**

The Secretariat decided to appoint NEAR honorary ambassadors in the name of Secretary General if enough qualified figures, selected as opinion leaders, are recommended by the members as a whole to raise awareness of the Association by each country and region.

Honorary ambassadors would be asked to deal with the press, deliver lectures, and participate in international exchange actively to promote NEAR activities under the close cooperation with applicable NEAR members. The Secretariat made a decision to notify to the members of the details including the time to appoint honorary ambassadors, numbers, and term to Regional Governments through an official letter later.

### **4. Sharing of Major Association Events Schedule and Collection of Opinions of Regional Governments in 2020**

The Secretariat released main events plans for 2020 such as the NEAR International Forum, Working-level Workshop, and Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum and stated that it would gather and reflect the NEAR members' opinions actively on the process of events preparation.

On top of that, the Secretariat determined to receive applications until before the 13th General Assembly because no Regional Members expressed a wish to hold the 14th General Assembly at this Working Committee Meeting. Also, the Secretariat reported the details on budget execution of the Secretariat for the first time and NEAR members expressed their gratitude to Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea for bearing management costs entirely since the establishment of a permanent Secretariat.

Regional Governments took the 12 Working Committee as an opportunity to make a resolution to activate the somewhat depressed international exchange of the Association improving management methods of the Association events and to make an effort to raise the profile of NEAR.

August 7, 2019