

NEAR
**THE ASSOCIATION OF
NORTH EAST ASIA
REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS**

2019
ANNUAL REPORT



The Association of North East Asia Regional Governments



The Association of North East Asia Regional Governments

Annual Report 2019

The Association of North East Asia Regional Governments (NEAR)..... was founded for the purpose of pursuing mutual development of the region of Northeast Asian and contributing to world peace by establishing networks for exchange and cooperation between regional governments based on the spirit of mutual benefit and equality to build trust-based relationships.

It is the largest interregional cooperative organization in Asia with seventy-eight participating regional governments from six countries, China, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, North Korea, and Russia, embracing 66 million people.



NEAR The Network of Arctic Research
The 12th NEAR Working Committee
August 6-8, 2019, Yakutsk, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia
12-е заседание Рабочей комиссии АРАССВА
6-8 августа 2019, Якутск, Республика Саха (Якутия), Россия

NEAR The Network of Arctic Research
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Message



Message



Dear Members of the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments (NEAR)

Regions and local governments play a very important role in the modern international society agenda. Furthermore, regional cooperation is one of the primary ways in which to develop relationships between countries. NEAR was founded in 1996 to promote cooperation and development between Northeast Asian countries. It is my expectation that NEAR will contribute to the further development of Northeast Asia.

The Sakha Republic (Yakutia), which is a chair member as well as a founding member, puts emphasis on the enhancement of international cooperation and friendly relations between NEAR regional members.

The major events held by the NEAR Secretariat and each regional member were greatly successful in 2019. Notably, the 12th NEAR Working Committee Meeting where opinions were exchanged regarding the cooperation and development plans of Northeast Asia and the first Subcommittee on Sports where discussions were held regarding the fostering of children's and traditional sports were successfully carried out in Yakutsk.

As a chair member, the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) not only supports reinforcement and expansion of cooperation between Northeast Asian regions but also shares the philosophy of NEAR and is ready to participate actively.

At the 13th General Assembly which will be held in the second half 2020, I wish to discuss in depth reciprocal cooperation and development plans of Northeast Asia.

I wish each NEAR member happiness and tremendous success in all the international projects carried out with professionalism and responsibility.

December 2019

Chair of the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments, Head of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia)

Aysen Nikolaev



The Secretariat of the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments (NEAR) wishes you tremendous success in every endeavor in 2020. In addition, I would like to express our deep appreciation for your support and cooperation for the Association's development in 2019.

I have committed myself to strive to enhance the international position and solidarity of the Association which holds 78 regional members from 6 countries since my inauguration as the fifth secretary general last May. However, the Secretariat has received feedback that there has been a decline in cohesion since the Association has doubled in size since its inception in 1996 with 29 regional members from 4 countries.

I have found that the principal cause lies in the insufficient communication caused in part by different political structures and systems and a lack of endeavor by the Secretariat to compensate for this. Therefore, I have made a concerted effort to improve this problem at a Secretariat level.

At the 12th Working Committee Meeting held by Sakha Republic (Yakutia), I suggested that NEAR regional members organizing exchange events should present the agenda and schedule at least two months prior to international events after forming sufficient consensus among members. Furthermore, I made public detailed operating expenses of the Secretariat for the first time, proving transparency as an international organization.

Following my inauguration, for six months I paid courtesy calls on 12 regional members: six in China, two in Japan, two in South Korea, and two in Russia to discuss active communication methods between NEAR members and the Secretariat. I also visited five prefectures of Japan, including Kumamoto and Miyagi Prefectures to engage new members.

In particular, the Secretariat has made every endeavor to enhance NEAR's reputation as an international organization due to its relatively low recognition despite being launched 23 years ago. The Secretariat conducted interviews with local press frequently during visits to regional governments and distributed report materials actively to the press. As a result, the Secretariat obtained excellent results with a four-fold increase in the coverage of NEAR activities in newspapers and broadcasting channels compared to in 2018. In addition, starting this year, we plan to construct human networks appointing honorary ambassadors to each regional member to promote NEAR.

This year, the 13th General Assembly will be held in Sakha Republic (Yakutia), the chair of the Association. As NEAR's biggest international exchange event is held every two years, we would like to ask for the enthusiastic participation of each member. The Secretariat will make further efforts to ensure internal stability of international exchange events including the International Forum, Working-level Workshop, and Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum.

In the new year, I would like to ask for your active participation in returning to the founding principles of the Association to achieve the common prosperity of the regional governments of Northeast Asia based on the spirit of mutual benefit and equality.

December 2019

The Association of North East Asia Regional Governments (NEAR)

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе

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- II. 크루즈 산업 현황과 동향
- III. 우리나라 크루즈 여건과 발전전략
- IV. 결론

NEAR International Forum on Cruise Tourism NEAR 크루즈관광 국제포럼

Cruise Tourism in the New Era of Northeast Asia

19.2.21



A large audience is seated in a lecture hall, viewed from behind. The audience members are seated in rows of chairs, facing towards the front of the room. The room has a high ceiling with curved architectural elements and several speakers mounted on the walls. The entire image is overlaid with a teal color. The text "Main Activities of the Association" is written in a white serif font in the upper right area of the image.

Main Activities of the Association

Ready for a New Leap

I. The 12th NEAR Working Committee

1. Overview

The 12th Working Committee Meeting was held at the Sakha Convention Hall situated in Yakutsk City, the Sakha Republic (Yakutia). There were 79 attendees from the NEAR Secretariat and 19 Member Regional Governments from 4 countries: China (6), Japan (3), South Korea (7), and Russia (3).



2. Main Content

<Opening Ceremony>

At the opening ceremony of the 12th Working Committee held on Wednesday, August 7, there was an opening address from the prime minister of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) in Russia, Vladimir Solodorf, and a congratulatory speech from NEAR Secretary General, Kim Ok-chaе. Next, the Minister of the Department of Foreign Relations & National Business of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Kirillin Gavril, gave a presentation titled, 'The Investment and Tourism Potential of Sakha Republic (Yakutia).'

<Working Committee Session I>

In the first session of the Working Committee, which was held after the opening ceremony, NEAR major activities were reported.

Report on NEAR Major Activity

First, the NEAR Secretariat reported the progress results of major business in 2018 and the progress plans and current state of main activities in 2019. Subsequently, in the NEAR subcommittee Activity Report, Toyama Prefecture, Japan gave an activity report on the Subcommittee on Environment and the current situation of the implementation of individual projects in 2019. In addition, Hyogo Prefecture in Japan shared an activity report on the 17th Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention and Next Hosting Plan. Next, Krasnoyarsk Region, Russia, gave a report on the activity results of the 'NEAR Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum 2019' which was held in BIRYUSA campsite in Krasnoyarsk Region together with co-hosts, the NEAR Secretariat and the Krasnoyarsk Region.

Presentations from Representatives of NEAR Members

Hunan Province promoted the strengths of Hunan Province and suggested the building of a cooperative e-commerce system between members as the coordinator of the Subcommittee on E-Commerce. Shandong Province in China introduced the province and asked for the active participation of members in the 6th NEAR Subcommittee on Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. Also, Gwangju Metropolitan City, South Korea gave a presentation on the theme, 'Human Rights City and Gwangju, and Global Cooperation,' and Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea introduced the plans to host the 13th NEAR Subcommittee on Economy & Trade and Gyeongju World Culture EXPO. Lastly, Amur Region had a time of publicity titled, 'Amur Region: Prospect of



cooperation between Northeast Asian nations.'

< Working Committee Session II >

The prime minister of the Republic of Sakha, Prime Minister Vladimir Solodorf, and NEAR Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе presided over the meeting. At the second session of this meeting, operation improvement plans of the association activities were introduced, postponement on membership fees, and plans for the appointment of honorary ambassadors by each regional member. Also, the original agenda set by the Secretariat was passed in favor of the majority including 30 regional governments which exercised their voting rights in writing. In conclusion, an agreement was announced and the meeting was closed.

Main Agenda

The following four bills and two reports were placed and approved in the 12th Working Committee Meeting.

- 1) Bill 1 : operation improvement plans of the association activities
- 2) Bill 2 : postponement on membership fees
- 3) Bill 3 : plans for the appointment of honorary ambassadors by each regional member
- 4) Bill 4 : sharing of plans on main events of the Secretariat in 2020 and collecting feedback
- 5) Report 1 : bids for the 14th chair member
- 6) Report 2 : details of the Secretariat's budget execution in 2018

At this Working Committee, the Secretariat suggested operation improvement plans for Association events and these are set to become operation methods in future Association events. It was decided that payment would be postponed for the present time. In addition, the Secretariat decided to appoint opinion leaders suggested by regional governments as NEAR honorary ambassadors. They released the Secretariat's main events plans for 2020 and reflected member opinions. Meanwhile, the Secretariat determined to receive applications until before the General Assembly in 2020 because no regional members expressed a wish to hold the 14th General Assembly at this Working Committee Meeting. On top of that, the Secretariat reported the details on the 2018 budget execution of the Secretariat for the first time. The Secretariat has been the sole bearer of management costs since 2005 when Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea supported the permanent Secretariat.

3. Additional Events

After the meeting ended, the representatives of regional governments took part in a local tour of UNESCO-registered Lena Pillars Nature Park, prepared by the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) the next day, on Thursday,



Agreement on the 12th NEAR Working Committee

The 12th NEAR Working Committee which was held by Sakha Republic of Russia in August 7, 2019 was attended by 19 NEAR Regional Members from 4 countries: 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 presentations 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.

During the second session, four agendas were raised: the suggestion of operation improvement plan for Association events, postponement of payment of membership fees, the appointment of honorary ambassadors, sharing of plans of major Secretariat events, and a collection of members' opinions. Main content in accordance with agendas, consideration, and resolution of matters are as follows:

1. Operation Improvement Plan of Association Events

The following agreements were made to improve the problems with the quantitative expansion of the Association such as the lack of prior coordination of agenda and schedule, and the lack of presentation and discussion content due to relay interpretation. First, when Association events are held such as General Assembly, Working Committee, Subcommittee, Working-level Workshop, and the NEAR International Forum, organizing regional governments should send an official invitation letter at least 3 months in advance with regard to the event period, theme (agenda), and venue. The Secretariat should send this information as an official letter to NEAR members immediately after reviewing.

Second, 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.

Third, regional governments wishing to give presentations should hand in presentation materials 1 month before and presentation scenarios 2 weeks before the event in a bid to aid 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 is 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, a considerable number of 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 the Appointment of Honorary Ambassador by Regional Members

The Secretariat decided to appoint NEAR honorary ambassadors in the name of Secretary General to raise awareness of the Association. All members are to submit names of qualified persons and recommend them 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 the members of the details including the time to appoint honorary ambassadors, numbers, and term to regional governments through an official letter at a later date.

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 during the process of events preparation.

Additionally, 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 all management costs since the establishment of a permanent Secretariat.

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

Center of Cooperation and Exchange of Northeast Asia, NEAR

II. NEAR International Forum 2019

1. Overview

The NEAR International Forum on Cruise Tourism 2019 was held from February 20 to 22, 2019 at the POSCO International Center. The forum was hosted by the NEAR Secretariat and co-organized by the International Cruise Industry Research Institute and Gyeongbuk Policy Institute. The forum was attended by 300 attendees including 7 attendees from 3 Chinese regional governments, 5 attendees from 1 Japanese regional government, 30 attendees from 6 Korean regional governments, 5 attendees from 3 Russian regional governments, 20 guest speakers, representatives from cruise companies, travel agencies, enterprises, and local participants.

Various ways for practical cooperation methods for activation of cruise tourism were discussed in the forum which was themed 「Activation of Northeast Asian Cruise Tourism」.

2. Major Content

Opening

The forum progressed with an opening greeting by NEAR Secretary General Hong Jong-kyoung, a welcoming speech by Deputy Governor of Economy Division of Gyeongsangbuk-do Province Jeon Woo-hyun, congratulatory speeches by Chairperson of Gyeongsangbuk-do Council Jang Kyung-sik, Mayor of Pohang Lee Kang-deok, Mayor of Gyeongju Joo Nak-young, Consul-General of the Russian Federation in Busan Gennady G. Ryabkov, and a keynote speech by Chief Director of Korea Maritime Institute Hwang Jin-hoi. The forum was divided into two sessions which were themed, 'Strategy for the Improvement of Cruise Tourism Industry of Northeast Asia' and 'Method for Connection between Cities for the Activation of Northeast Asian Cruise Tourism.'

During the sessions, the appeal and characteristics of the cruise industry and ways to revitalize the cruise of Korean East Sea Rim were discussed.



Session 1: Strategy for the Improvement of the Cruise Tourism Industry of Northeast Asia

In the first session, Research Director of International Cruise Industry, Kim Jong-nam, chaired the session and the discussions

covered the topics, 'Method of Approach for Effective Port Sales and Marketing Cases of a Port of Call' by Gojima Hiroshi, Chief of International Exchange Division of Port Promotion at Maizuru in Japan, and 'Kamchatka, the Center of Cruise Tourism of Coastal Zone in the Northwestern Pacific Ocean and the Eastern Arctic Area' by Svetachev Aleksander, Planning Director of Programming of Diligang-Kanchatka. Co., and 'Suggestion for the Current Situation and Cooperative Methods of Shanghai Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal in China' by Peng Zhao yun, Assistant of General Accounting Department in Shanghai Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal. There were a total of six debaters including Deputy Director in charge of cruises in Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Gang Gyeong-taek, Director of Pan Star Cruise, Yoo Da-jong, Secretary General of the Association of Cruise Medical Tourism in Busan, Choi Jae-hyung, Manager of Japanese · Korean Office of Silversea, Itogawa Yusuke, Manager of Japanese · Korean office of Costa Cruise. Co., Hamaoka Souich, and Director of Bureau on Sport · Tourism · Youth Policy of Sakhalin Region, Natalia Pakholkova.

In this session, case studies of the cruise tourism industry like the Port of Maizuru in Japan, the Port of Shanghai Wusongkou in China, the Port of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky in Russia, and the Port of Busan in Korea were introduced and policy proposals for the development of the Pohang cruise industry were discussed.

Session 2: Methods for Connection between Cities for the Activation of Northeast Asian Cruise Tourism

In the second session, Kim Jun-hong, Chairman of Gyeongbuk Policy Institute, chaired the session and the discussions covered the topics, 'Current Situation of Pohang and Suggestions for Common Cooperative Methods' by Lee Hee-yong, Professor at Yeongnam University, 'Present State of Maizuru of Kyoto Prefecture in Japan and Suggestions for Collaborative Plan' by Mishima Osamu, Director of Port in Kyoto Prefecture, 'Expansion of the Northeast Asian Cruise Market' by Kvint Kristina, Head Consultant of Tourist Development Division of Tourism Bureau in Sakhalin Region, 'Infrastructure for Cruise Tourism in Pacific Russia, Product Development and Promotion on New Cruises Along the East Sea and the Adjacent Sea' by Nagornyi Valerii, CEO of Vladivostok Sea Cruise Terminal.

Director of Gangwon-do Maritime Tourism Center Lee Byung-seong, Deputy Department Head of Lotte Tourism Jang Woo-seok, Head of the Association of Jeju Cruise Industry Im Young-chul, and Prof. of Pohang University Gang Myung-soo attended it as debaters.

In this session, short, medium, and long-term cruise tourism development plans of Pohang, Maizuru, Vladivostok, Gangwon-do Province were discussed.

3. Additional Event

Before and after the topic presentations and discussions, participants visited Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Pohang, Gyeongju, and Yeongil Bay there they had a meeting with ship companies, travel agencies, and toured cruise attractions of Pohang and Gyeongju areas. This provided an opportunity for practical exchange and cooperation related to cruise tourism.



A Place of Mutual Exchange for Joint Development

III. Subcommittee

1. Overview of Subcommittee

Since the Economic and Trade Subcommittee was formed in 1998, 17 subcommittees have been operating biennially or annually as of 2019.

Composition and Major Activities by Subcommittee

Subcommittee	Coordinator	Year of Establishment	Number of Hosts	Major Activity Area
Economy & Trade	Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea	1998	13	Trade promotion, trade consultation, seminar, etc.
Environment	Toyama Prefecture, Japan	1998	14	Investigation of drifts, environmental symposium, etc.
Disaster Prevention	Hyogo Prefecture, Japan	1998	17	Disaster prevention, disaster prevention improvement
Educational & Cultural Exchange	Shimane Prefecture, Japan	2002	18	Human resource development, cultural exchange, etc.
Tourism	Henan Province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China	2008	2	Tourism exhibition & Promotion, cooperation forum
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	Shandong province, China	2008	6	Utilization of marine resources, etc.
Mineral Resources Development & Coordination	Magadan Region, Russia	2010	4	Mineral resources mining and processing, etc.
Energy and Climate Change	Shanxi Province, China	2010	2	Energy and climate change cooperation system, etc.
Bio-medical Industry	Chungcheongbuk-do Province, South Korea	2011	1	Medical industry exchange cooperation, etc.
Agriculture	Jeollanam-do Province, South Korea	2011	2	Agriculture related information and technology exchange
Sports	Republic of Sakha(Yakutia), Russia	2013	1	Sports-related information and exchange
Logistics and Transportation	Heilongjiang Province, China	2017	-	Logistics exhibition and cooperation forum
E-Commerce	Henan Province, China	2017	-	International e-commerce industry forum, corporate matching, etc.
International Exchange of Human Resources	Jilin Province, China	2017	1	Northeast Asian talent project cooperation forum, Information on human resources and sharing of human resources, and exploring cooperative measures
Innovation Plus	Hunan Province, China	2018	-	Information and exchanges for science, product and cultural management innovation
Youth Policy	Krasnoyarsk Region, Russia	2018	-	Youth policy and youth support information and exchange
Traditional Medicine	Shaanxi Province, China	2018	-	Traditional medicine information and exchange

2. 2019 Holding Subcommittees

The 17th Subcommittee Meeting on Disaster Prevention

1) Overview

The 17th NEAR meeting of the Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention was held from March 5 to 7, 2019 at Kobe and Miki in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. The Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention is a representative NEAR Subcommittee and it meets annually to reduce the impact of disasters in Northeast Asian regions through strengthening the capacities of the persons in charge of disaster prevention among member regional governments. The meeting was attended by 30 representatives from 16 member regional governments in four Northeast Asian countries. Delegations from the NEAR Secretariat, including Kim Young-hee, Director of the Department of Planning and Public Relations, also participated and offered their encouragement.

2) Main Content

Persons in charge of disaster prevention presented on recovery process, efforts in various sectors, and action and future support of remaining tasks as well as an overview of the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake which covered the subject of 'Hyogo Prefecture's Information System on Measure for Disaster Prevention.'

In addition, there were questions and answers and exchanges of opinions on disaster prevention measures with case presentations from China, South Korea, Mongolia, and Russia.

3) Additional Events

Participants viewed a video about the site and recovery scene of the Great Hanshin earthquake and the Great Sendai Earthquake and visiting the 'Future Center of Human and Disaster Prevention.' In addition, attendees listened to lectures on lessons for disaster prevention from the Great Hanshin earthquake and experienced a real-time disaster situation at Hyogo Wide Anti-Disaster Center. They also toured a stock storage. Furthermore, the participants toured the Nojima Fault Preservation Museum, which preserved and exhibits the Nojima Fault which became exposed on the surface after an earthquake.



The 18th NEAR Subcommittee on Educational · Cultural Exchange

1) Overview

The NEAR Subcommittee on Educational · Cultural Exchange was held at Matsue in Shimane Prefecture, Japan. The meeting was attended by 24 participants from four Northeast Asian countries: China, Japan, South Korea, and Russia. Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе also participated in the opening ceremony and offered a message of encouragement. This subcommittee aims to build a new network of mutual understanding and friendship across the countries.

2) Main Content

Participants toured facilities related to forest conservation for six days. They experienced a nature trail at Furusato Forest Park and fulfilled missions such as cooking rice using bamboo. They exchanged their views and experiences during the missions.

3) Additional Events

Attendees of the meeting participated in cultural exchange activities such as local homestays, welcome exchange meeting, and traditional culture experience.



The 1st Subcommittee on Sports

1) Overview

The 1st subcommittee meeting on Sports was held in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia on August 6, 2019. This subcommittee on Sports was held at the Sakha Convention Hall situated in Yakutsk city. The meeting was attended by 31 attendees from 8 member regional governments from 4 countries including China (4), South Korea (1), Japan (1), and Russia (2).

2) Main Content

This meeting was hosted by the First Deputy Minister of Sports of the Sakha Republic, Cherdonov Semen and NEAR Secretary General Kim Ok-chae. The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) acted as coordinator and suggested tours of traditional sporting events by regional members. At the following presentations from regional governments, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region mentioned the dissemination and development of traditional sports of ethnic minorities and the importance of international sports exchange business, and Toyama Prefecture mentioned the importance of international cooperation through sports and case introduction on high school student oriented international sports in Toyama Prefecture.

3) Additional Event

Before holding the meeting, the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) introduced traditional sports such as Mas Wrestling and Hapsagai, and attendees of the meeting experienced traditional games of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia).



The 13th Subcommittee on Economy & Trade

1) Overview

The Subcommittee on Economy & Trade was held in Andong, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea from August 22 to 24. 58 participants of 19 NEAR member regional governments from China, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, and Russia attended the meeting. In particular, Governor of Gyeongsangbuk-do Province Lee Cheol-woo delivered the opening remarks and participated in the opening ceremony, and Secretary General Kim Ok-chae also gave a guest speech.

2) Main Content

There were special lectures and plenary and keynote lectures given by experts. The theme of the meeting covered the regionalism of Northeast Asia and cross-border cooperation, following case presentations from participants of regional governments by country.

3) Additional Event

After the meeting, the participants attended a cultural performance by the Gyeongsangbuk-do Provincial Dance Company and banquet. The next day, the participants toured the major attractions of Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, and they had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Korean culture through experiencing traditional culture.



The 14th NEAR Subcommittee on Environment

1) Overview

The 14th Subcommittee on Environment was held at Toyama City in Toyama Prefecture on November 14. The biennial subcommittee meeting was attended by participants from China, Japan, and Russia. Connections between regional governments were made, individual projects were reviewed, performance reports were given, and mutual information was exchanged to carry out environmental preservation measures for Northeast Asian regions. Also, Secretary General Kim Ok-chae and delegations from the NEAR Secretariat attended the meeting, and Secretary General Kim gave a message of encouragement.

2) Main Content

9 participants from 5 regional governments from China, Japan, and Russia attended the meeting and gave presentations on the implementation results of individual projects were also conducted. In addition, opinions were exchanged and consultations between NEAR members took place regarding individual project proposals and future environmental subcommittee activities plans. Furthermore, there were presentations on advanced environmental measures and active information sharing by Liaoning Province and Primorsky Territory.

3) Additional Event

On the next day of the meeting, the participants attended the 'Northeast Asia Area Drift Measures Staff Meeting' and inspected related facilities later.



The 6th Subcommittee on Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

1) Overview

The 6th forum of the NEAR Subcommittee on Maritime Affairs and Fisheries was held at Weihai, Shandong Province from December 4 to 6. It was attended by approximately 400 participants from three NEAR regional members, consul generals, press, scholars, public officers, and company representatives. The Subcommittee on Maritime Affairs and Fisheries is held every two years to promote cooperation and exchange in the maritime fishery field of Northeast Asia.

2) Main Content

The welcoming speech was given by Weihai Mayor and Deputy Secretary, Zhang Haibo, and congratulatory address was given by NEAR Secretary General, Kim Ok-chae, who announced the opening of the meeting. Keynote speeches were given by experts such as Deputy Head of Trade Faculty of Shandong University, Yang Lin, Researcher of Northeast Asian Studies, and Kim Yong-hwan, Chief Researcher of Marine Industry Research Institute for East Sea Rim in South Korea. In particular, Shandong Province announced the installment of the secretariat of the Subcommittee on Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and a trade center of fishery products at Weihai. A signboard hanging ceremony was held and attended by NEAR Secretary General Kim Ok-chae, Vice Governor of Shandong Province Yu Guo-an, and Mayor Zhang Hai-bo.

Next, topic presentations followed. They were divided into two sessions titled, 'Marine Life and Health Food Industry in Transition and Upgrade,' and 'The Role of Smart Technology for Offshore High-End Equipment Development'.

3) Additional Event

Participants inspected related facilities and enterprises such as Yandunjiao, Shandong Lanrun Weilangu Marine Technology Co., Ltd., and Shawo Island National Ocean Fishery Base.



Starting Point of the Future Design of NEAR

IV. Working-level Workshop 2019

1. Overview

The NEAR Working-level Workshop 2019 was held at Hyundai Hotel in Gyeongju, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea from April 24 to 26 for three days. This workshop was attended by approximately 100 working-level staff from 39 NEAR regional governments from 7 Chinese regional governments, 4 Japanese regional governments, 11 South Korean regional governments, 14 Mongolian regional governments, and 3 Russian regional governments. (* 19 attendees from China, 12 attendees from Japan, 18 attendees from South-Korea, 27 attendees from Mongolia, and 4 attendees from Russia)

The Working-level Workshop is a place for working-level officials of NEAR regional governments to gather to exchange opinions on NEAR activities and to form a human network between regional governments. This year is the fourteenth workshop, with a total of 1,100 participants.

This workshop started with major business reports from the NEAR Secretariat, introductions on main events from regional governments and was followed by discussions on NEAR issues. Later, there were active discussions by working-level staff from regional governments and various opinions were gathered with regard to the operation of the membership fee and its usage, a major issue of the Association.



2. Major Activities

Report on the main business of the Secretariat

The NEAR Secretariat reported on 2018 business results and major work plans for 2019. The Secretariat introduced the 12th NEAR General Assembly and various subcommittee activities such as major achievements in 2018 and the 12th NEAR Working Committee and subcommittee holding schedules as major promotion tasks in 2019. Also, the 2019 NEAR International Forum, Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum, and the 7th Youth Art Contest plan were announced and the Secretariat asked for active cooperation and participation.



Presentations from Regional Governments

Heilongjiang Province in China requested the active participation and cooperation of the regional governments as a promotion on a holding schedule of the Subcommittee on Logistics and Transportation, the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region promoted the regional government concerned, and Shandong Province promoted the holding of Subcommittee on Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

Toyama Prefecture in Japan reported on the activities and presented their holding plans of the Subcommittee on Environment, Hyogo Prefecture reported on the activities of Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention and next holding plans, and Shimane Prefecture reported on the activities of Subcommittee on Educational · Cultural Exchange.

Daegu Metropolitan City in South Korea promoted specialized local cultural tourism resources.

Bayankhongor Province and Khentii Province in Mongolia attracted the interest of other participating regional governments through the promotion of regional government concerned, and the Republic of Sakha(Yakutia) in Russia asked for active participation from other regional governments, promoting holding of Working Committee 2019 and Subcommittee on Sports, and Krasnoyarsk Region promoted BIRYUSA Youth Forum and NEAR Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum respectively.



Discussion on Main Agenda

This Working-level Workshop provided meaningful time to gather opinions from working staff of each regional governments regarding the 'membership fee system' which is a major issue, 'activation methods of new subcommittees,' and 'suggestions on opinions on the desirable management method and purpose and use of the membership fee.'

<Desirable management method and purpose and use of the membership fee>

According to the payment period of the initial annual fee which was decided in the 12th Working Committee in 2019, the desirable management method and purpose and use of the membership fee was discussed, and various opinions from the working staffs of each regional government were discussed. Therefore, the Secretariat was required to conduct further review, and in case the Secretariat needs to carry out an opinion survey of each member, it would be conducted at a later date.



<Activation methods of new subcommittees>

As discussions are needed on concrete and practical methods for the management and activation of new subcommittees, regional governments formed a consensus on the opinion by the Secretariat that coordinator regional governments shall report project plans for the term to the General Assembly or to the Working Committee.

3. Additional Event

A night tour of sites including Donggung Palace, Wolji Pond, and Cheomseongdae of Gyeongju, a host place was conducted on April 24. On April 25, participants experienced the life of a classical scholar at Seoak Seowon and they were introduced to the culture of Korean classical scholars.

Also, participants had a rare opportunity to experience the cultural and tourist resources of beautiful Gyeongju firsthand, and they visited the East Palace Garden and Bird Park on the last day, April 26.

By introducing unique Korean traditional cultural resources and helping the Chinese, Japanese, Mongolian, and Russian participants to experience Korean culture, the workshop endeavored to help the participants to understand the different cultures of each country.



Future of Northeast Asia Dreaming Together

V. Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum 2019/ The 7th NEAR Youth Art Contest

1. Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum 2019

1. Overview

The Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum 2019 was held at a BIRYUSA camp site in Krasnoyarsk Region, located in central Siberia from July 9 to 15. It was themed, 'Historical Exchange and the Future of Northeast Asia.'

'Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum 2019', which was co-hosted by the NEAR Secretariat and Krasnoyarsk Region, was held to instill a global mindset in the youth of the region who would be in charge of the future of Northeast Asia and help them grow into responsible leaders through mutual cooperation.

This forum, which was organized by the NEAR Secretariat, celebrated its fourth run and was held in Russia for the first time at the request of Krasnoyarsk Territory, which has been running camps focusing on youth policy since 2006, and it consisted of lectures, discussions, presentations, and a culture night event.

Kim Ok-chae, Secretary General of NEAR and Aleksandr Uss, Governor of Krasnoyarsk Region participated in the opening ceremony and gave a celebratory message. Secretary General Kim called all those present to be main players of Northeast Asia in the 21st century, the era of peace, through the cultivation of tolerance based on an understanding of cultural diversity and mutual respect.



2. Main Activity

Approximately 60 participants of 21 NEAR Regional Governments from five countries, China, Japan, Mongolia, Russia, and South Korea, attended the forum. The forum consisted of lectures on different subjects, group discussions, and presentations. Beginning with a lecture provided by the Director of the Bureau of Foreign Relations, Olga Korosteleva, participants listened to lectures given by professionals in various fields like 'Sustainable Development and Regional Development Strategy in Northeast Asia,' 'Trade and Economic Development Cooperation in Northeast Asia,' 'Sustainable Global Management Strategy in Northeast Asia,' and 'Sustainable Economic Development and Entrepreneurship in Northeast Asia.' Afterwards, participants divided into five teams and took part in discussions and presentations according to the topics and assignments.



3. Cultural Exchange

The participants had time to understand mutual cultures by interacting with more than 600 local participants who attended the 'All Russian Forum,' of BIRYUSA. Vladimir Putin, the President of the Russian Federation, encouraged attendees to enjoy the forum giving a celebratory message through an autograph letter. Participants socialized through sports activities such as archery, trampoline, volleyball, etc. and enjoyed 'Culture Night,' participating in events like 'Mr. & Miss BIRYUSA Contest.' Furthermore, they exchanged and understood other's cultures through a talent show which was prepared by each participant.



2. The 7th NEAR Youth Art Contest

The NEAR Secretariat is holding an art contest to promote cultural exchange among the youth in Northeast Asia through works of art such as paintings.

This year, 170 art works were submitted by five countries: 47 from China, 4 from Japan, 4 from South Korea, 19 from Mongolia, and 96 from Russia. The works focused on promoting NEAR and introducing the cultures of NEAR regional members.

As a result, 'Exploration of Pteridophyte', a watercolor by Kirillova Ekaterina, a student of Tomsk Children's Art School No.2 of Tomsk Region in Russia, was awarded the Grand Award. Students from Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region of China, Uvs Province and Selenge Province of Mongolia, and Krasnoyarsk Region of Russia were awarded the excellence award.

The NEAR Youth Art Contest, which was celebrated its seventh run, was a meaningful event due to more active participation from the regional members than in previous years. Prize-winning works were introduced on the NEAR homepage and are expected to be exhibited from early 2020 at cultural centers in Andong and Pohang City, South Korea.



Grand Award - Tomsk Children's Art School No.2, Tomsk Oblast, Russia, Kirillova Ekaterina

Title: *Exploration of Pteridophyte*



Excellence Award - Ningxia Yinchuan Lingwu Gifted School, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China, Ma Ruiying
Title: *Velocity of China*



Excellence Award - Sukhbaatar Province, Selenge Province, Mongolia, Amar
Title: *Memorable Local Festival*



Excellence Award - Special-purpose Education Center,
Krasnoyarsk Region, Russia, Terekhova Irina
Title: *Day of a Festival*



Excellence Award - Uvs Province Comprehensive
School No. 1, Uvs Province, Mongolia, Batsukh
Tsend-Ayush
Title: *Memorable Local Festival*



International Cooperative Networking



NEAR Secretariat Holds 「NEAR International Forum on Cruise Tourism」 on Thursday, February 21

The 2019 NEAR International Forum on Cruise Tourism was held on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at the POSCO International Center. It was themed, "Cruise Tourism in the New Era of Northeast Asia."

The forum was attended by about 300 participants, including Vice Governor Jeon Woo-hyun covering for Governor Lee Cheol-woo, Chairman Jang Kyung-sik of the Provincial Council, Mayor Lee Kang-deok of Pohang City, Mayor Joo Nak-young of Gyeongju City, and internal and external experts of the cruise business sector from NEAR member regional governments from four countries.



NEAR Secretariat Attends 「the 17th Subcommittee Meeting on Disaster Prevention」

A NEAR delegation headed by Director Kim Young-hee of the Department of General Affairs and Public Relations attended the 17th Subcommittee meeting on Disaster Prevention which was held from March 5 to 7, 2019 in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. The meeting was attended by 30 representatives from 14 member regional governments including Hyogo Prefecture from five countries: China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, and Russia. The subcommittee meeting has been held annually since 2002, and is organized by the coordinator, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. Every year, Hyogo Prefecture discloses knowledge on disaster prevention which was used to overcome the hardships caused by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (January 17, 1995) to NEAR member regional governments.



NEAR Secretary-General Visits Dornogovi Aimag, Mongolia

NEAR Secretary-General Jong-Kyung Hong visited Dornogovi Aimag in Mongolia from March 19 to 20, 2019. The Secretary-General's party held face-to-face talks with Dornogovi Province Governor Tumurtogoo Enkhtuvshin at the Government Office Building of Dornogovi Aimag on Tuesday, March 19. They discussed cooperative exchanges between Dornogovi Aimag and Korean member governments.



「NEAR Working-Level Workshop 2019」 Held in Gyeongju, Gyeongsangbuk-Do Province

The NEAR Working-level Workshop 2019 was held at the Hyundai Hotel in Gyeongju from April 24 to 26 for two nights and three days. Approximately 100 working-level staff from five NEAR regional governments participated in this workshop.

The morning of Thursday, April 25 began with a welcoming speech by Secretary-General Jong-kyoung Hong and a congratulatory address by Deputy Mayor of Gyeongju, Yeong-seok Lee. The workshop consisted of business reports from the NEAR Secretariat, result reports of each NEAR subcommittee including China, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, and Russia, as well as presentations on the future plans and promotion projects of NEAR members. In the afternoon, discussions followed on the guidelines for the appropriate management and use of membership fees and activation plans for newly established subcommittees.



Inauguration of the 5th Secretary General of the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments (NEAR), Kim Ok-chaе

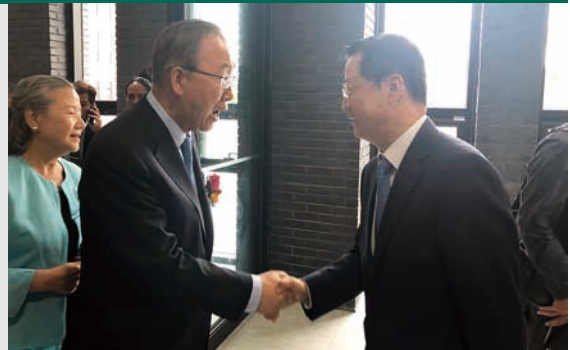
Kim Ok-chaе was inaugurated as the 5th Secretary General of the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments (NEAR). Secretary General Kim stated that in spite of the political and diplomatic conflicts in the region, interregional exchange between local governments has been steady since NEAR's establishment. He also mentioned that NEAR would continue to strive for the formation of a community in East Asia that transcends political structures and ideologies through fruitful cooperation. Secretary General Kim graduated from the Korea Military Academy (38th year) and served as the First and Second Secretary and as the Counselor and Minister to the Korean Embassy in Japan. He completed his duties as the 17th Consul General of the Korean Consulate General in Fukuoka, Japan, which marked an end to a public career spanning 36 years. In retirement, Secretary General Kim taught at the International Education Center of Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea as a visiting professor.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Attends Opening Ceremony for the Institute for Global Education at Handong Global University

NEAR Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе attended the opening ceremony for the Institute for Global Education (IGE) which was held at Handong Global University on Monday, May 27. There, he exchanged greetings with notable participants such as the eighth Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon and President of Handong Global University, Chang Soon-Heung.

The IGE is the first educational institute established for the purpose of providing global citizens an education program as part of a basic solution to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN effectively. Meanwhile, Handong Global University and the Secretariat of NEAR signed an MOU for the globalization of local youth in April last year. Since then, they have established cooperative relationships such as the co-hosting of the Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum in August last year.



NEAR Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Attends 「2019 Jeju Forum」 from Wednesday, May 29 to Thursday, May 30

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе and two members of the NEAR Secretariat participated in the 2019 Jeju Forum for Peace & Prosperity and exchanged greetings with important figures including the organizer and Governor of Jeju, Won Hee-ryong.

The forum, themed, "Asia towards Resilient Peace: Cooperation and Integration," consisted of 70 sessions and approximately 7,000 participants. Among the attendees were the former President of Austria, Heinz Fischer, the former Prime Minister of Australia, Malcolm Turnbull, and the former Prime Minister of Japan, Yukio Hatoyama.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Attends the 「2019 Economic Cooperation Forum of CEOs」 on Saturday, June 1

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе participated in the 「2019 Economic Cooperation Forum of CEOs in Northeast Asia」 on Saturday, June 1. The forum was hosted by Pohang City, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province. There, Secretary General Kim exchanged greetings with important figures including the Mayor of Pohang, Kang-deok Lee, the former Minister of the Interior and Safety, Boo-kyum Kim, and the Ambassador of Thailand, H.E. Singtong Lapisatepun, and observed the forum.

The forum which was themed "New Challenges and the Future of Pohang: The Hub of Economic Community of Northeast Asia" was attended by heads of local governments of major Northeast Asian countries and experts in various fields such as economy, commerce, tourism, and logistics. They discussed a wide range of suggestions and cooperative methods for development and cooperation within Northeast Asia.



NEAR Secretariat Attends 'Russia Day' Celebrations on Monday, June 10

The Manager of International Cooperation Team, Ju-hwa Choi and two members of the NEAR Secretariat attended celebrations for Russia Day which were hosted by the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Busan on Monday, June 10 at the Haeundae Grand Hotel, Busan. Consul Generals in China, Japan, and Mongolia and relevant persons from Busan, Ulsan, and Gyeongsangbuk-do Province participated in this event.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Attends 'The 30th Harbin International Economic and Trade Fair (HTF)', on Thursday, June 13 to Saturday, June 15

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе and his party visited Harbin from June 13 to 15 to attend the 30th Harbin International Economic and Trade Fair (HTF) held in Heilongjiang Province in China from June 14 to 19. On Friday, June 14, Secretary General Kim and his party participated in the welcoming banquet hosted by Governor Wang Wentao.

Also, on Thursday, June 13, Secretary General Kim took part in the welcoming banquet hosted by Vice Governor Sun Dong Sheng, after holding a meeting with him. There, Secretary General Kim expressed his deepest gratitude for Heilongjiang Province's active participation in NEAR activities. Meanwhile, HTF, which is celebrating its 30th run this year, enjoyed great success with 39 countries and 1764 enterprises taking part this year.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Visits Northeast Asia Research Institute, Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, China on Friday, June 14

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе and his party held a meeting with Chief Da Zhigang and visited the Northeast Asia Research Institute in Heilongjiang Province after attending the 30th Harbin International Economic and Trade Fair (HTF) which was held in the province on Friday, June 14.

Chief Da Zhigang asked Secretary General Kim to give a speech and requested the NEAR Secretariat's participation at the International Tourism Forum held in Heilongjiang Province this September alongside a detailed explanation on scholarly activities of the institute. Secretary General Kim expressed his opinion on the reinforcement of close cooperation between NEAR and the Northeast Asia Research Institute using this platform for association in future.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Visits NEAR Chair, the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Russia on Friday, June 28 to Sunday, June 30

A delegation from the NEAR Secretariat headed by Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе held a meeting with the current NEAR President and Head of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) Aysen Nikolaev. He also attended the Ysyakh Festival, the biggest folk festival in the region, and gave a celebratory speech on behalf of the overseas visitors attending the event.

Head of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Aysen Nikolaev, requested the support of the NEAR Secretariat to encourage NEAR members to take part in the NEAR Working Committee Meeting in August and the thirteenth General Assembly which will be held next year. Secretary General Kim promised that the Secretariat would make an effort in response to Head Nikolaev's request, and also explained the endeavors to reform the Secretariat since his inauguration.



NEAR Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Visits the Japanese Consulate General in Busan on Thursday, July 4

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе visited the Japanese Consulate General in Busan to give an inaugural address and met with Consul General Hisashi Michigami on Thursday, July 4. He also requested the active participation of existing Japanese regional governments as well as support on the subject of new membership.

Consul General Michigami commented on the passive stance of Japanese regional governments with regard to exchange between regional governments of Japan and Korea. Furthermore, he stated that regardless of the political and diplomatic conflicts between the two central governments, he promised active cooperation in agreement with the founding spirit of NEAR for the sake of enhancing mutual exchange and cooperation between the two countries.



Delegation from Shaanxi Province Visits NEAR Secretariat on Wednesday, July 10

Eight members of a delegation from Shaanxi Province, including Wang Fei, the chief delegate and Deputy Secretary General of Shaanxi Provincial Party Committee, visited the NEAR Secretariat on Wednesday, July 10.

Deputy Secretary General Wang Fei announced that Tong Chuan of Shaanxi Province will hold the first Subcommittee on Traditional Medicine and requested the active support of the NEAR Secretariat. He also expressed his wish to enhance exchange between NEAR regional governments through this opportunity.



「Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum 2019」 Successfully Held in Russia from Tuesday, July 9 to Sunday, July 14

The 2019 Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum which was co-hosted by NEAR Secretariat and Krasnoyarsk Territory was held at a BIRYUSA camp site in Krasnoyarsk, which is located in Siberia. Sixty attendees from twenty-one NEAR members from five countries and six-hundred local Russian youths participated in the forum.

The forum, which is organized by the NEAR Secretariat, celebrated its fourth run and was held in Russia for the first time at the request of Krasnoyarsk Region, which has been running camps focusing on youth policy since 2006. It consisted of lectures and discussions on a variety of topics concentrating on nurturing a global mindset among the young leaders responsible for the future of Northeast Asia.



NEAR Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Holds Meeting with Governor of Shimane Prefecture Maruyama Tatsuya on Friday, August 2

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе and NEAR expert on Japan, Son Mi-kyoung, visited Japan from Thursday, August 1 to Saturday, August 3 where they met with Governor Maruyama Tatsuya who won the Shimane Prefecture Governor elections in April of this year. Secretary General Kim expressed his gratitude to Shimane Prefecture for their active participation in various NEAR events since the establishment of NEAR in 1996 in which the prefecture played an important role as a sponsor. Opinions on current issues such as the selection of the 14th Chair Regional Government were also exchanged. Governor Maruyama expressed his support for NEAR and continued commitment to the founding ideals of NEAR which encourage exchange and cooperation between regional governments regardless of conflicts between central governments. In addition, Secretary General Kim promoted the role of NEAR through the interviews with major Japanese media such as NHK-TV and Asahi Shimbun.



「2019 NEAR Subcommittee on Educational & Cultural Exchange」Held in Shimane Prefecture from Friday, August 2 to Wednesday, August 7

The event, “Wing of Exchange in Northeast Asia, Shimane,” held as a part of the NEAR Subcommittee on Educational & Cultural Exchange in Shimane Prefecture, was hosted by Matsue, the capital city of Shimane Prefecture from August 2 to 7. 24 university students from four countries including China, Japan, Korea, and Russia attended.

At a congratulatory speech of the opening ceremony held on Friday, August 2, Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе requested that the attendees play a leading role in guiding Northeast Asia into peace and prosperity in the twenty-first century by cultivating the spirit of generosity through the mutual understanding of history and culture of neighboring countries.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Interviewed by Yakutia TV on Tuesday, August 6

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе made an appearance on Yakutia TV, one of the biggest press companies in the Republic of Sakha, and gave an interview explaining the mission and role of NEAR in detail on Tuesday, August 6. This interview was broadcasted on the “Interview of Current Issues” of “Yakutia 24,” a program dealing with current issues. It was broadcasted twice in the morning and evening for ten minutes on Wednesday, August 7. Secretary General Kim answered questions on the background surrounding NEAR’s establishment in 1996, the current state of member regional governments, the qualifications for becoming a NEAR member, the founding ideology and aim of NEAR, and the role of the Republic of Sakha in this Working Committee Meeting. He also provided an introduction on the first Subcommittee on Sports meeting, roles of the NEAR Secretariat, prospective problems, and presented a message for citizens of the Republic of Sakha.



The First Subcommittee on Sports Held at Yakutsk, the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) on Tuesday, August 6

The first subcommittee meeting on Sports was held at the Sakha Convention Hall situated in Yakutsk city on Tuesday, August 6. The meeting was attended by representatives from 8 member regional governments from 4 countries including China, Korea, Japan, and Russia. The Republic of Sakha acted as the coordinator to ensure that the meeting progressed smoothly.

Wrestling was introduced at the meeting and the Sakha Republic expressed hopes that each NEAR Member would discuss developmental strategies in a bid to foster and propagate traditional sports. Meanwhile, the NEAR Secretariat decided to carry forward traditional sporting events suggested by the Republic of Sakha on the assumption that interested member regional governments would participate and present documents in advance to all NEAR members.



The 12th Working Committee Meeting Held at Yakutsk, the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) from Tuesday, August 6 to Thursday, August 8

The 12th Working Committee Meeting was held at Yakutsk City, the Republic of Sakha on Wednesday, August 7. There were 79 attendees from the NEAR Secretariat and 19 Member Regional Governments from four countries. At this meeting, international exchange events of member governments were introduced and follow-up discussions were held on plans to improve the operations of NEAR events, postponement on membership fee of members, and plans for the appointment of honorary ambassadors by each regional member. In conclusion, the original agenda set by the Secretariat was passed in favor of the majority including 30 regional governments which exercised their voting rights in writing. Furthermore, the NEAR Secretariat presented the total operating expenditure provided by the Gyeongsangbuk-do Province of the Republic of Korea in support of the permanent Secretariat since 2005 and detailed budget contents of the Secretariat in 2018 for the first time. Lastly, although there were partial improvements in the relay interpretation since the Secretariat responded to feedback by providing details to interpreters in advance, the Secretariat has become aware of the necessity of exploring basic solutions once again as the capacity of the interpreters greatly affect the effectiveness of the meetings.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Participates in Northeast Asia Cooperation Round-Table Conference Held at Jilin Province, China on Thursday, August 22

Secretary General Kim delivered a congratulatory speech at the first Northeast Asia Cooperation Round-Table Conference as a representative of NEAR and the co-host of the conference which was held in Changchun, Jilin Province, China at the 12th China-Northeast Asia Expo from Tuesday, August 20 to Thursday, August 22. The Round-Table Conference was held successfully and the theme was "The Promotion of Mutual Trust and Cooperation for the Creation of a Better, Brighter Future for Northeast Asia." Eighteen NEAR member regional governments from six Northeast Asia countries, including Hamgyeongbuk-do Province and Rasun Special City and Consul-Generals of each country in Shenyang, attended the conference. At this conference, a joint statement including the decision to hold the next conference in 2021 was adopted.



The 13th Subcommittee on Economy & Trade Held in Andong, South Korea from Thursday, August 22 to Saturday, August 24

The 13th Subcommittee on Economy & Trade was held in Andong, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea from August 22 to 24 with Gyeongsangbuk-do Province acting as coordinator. Nineteen NEAR member regional governments from five countries including China, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, and Russia attended the meeting. At a plenary session held on Friday, August 23, Governor of Gyeongsangbuk-do Province Lee Cheol-woo gave an opening address. Next, congratulatory messages were given by the Chairman of the Provincial Assembly Jang Kyung-sik, NEAR Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе, and Consul-General of the Russian Federation in Busan Gennady G. Ryabkov. NEAR Members gave case presentations following a special lecture given by the Korean specialist on the topic of the future of Northeast community formation.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Attends 'The 14th International Forum of Northeast Asia Tourism (IFNAT)' in China from Friday, August 30 to Sunday, September 1

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе took part in 'The 14th International Forum of Northeast Asia Tourism (IFNAT)', which took place in China from August 30 to September 1. The forum was held by Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Sciences which signed an MOU with NEAR in June 2017. The forum continued with keynote speeches, an introduction to various tourism products from around Northeast Asia, and presentations and discussions involving experts on the theme, "Northeast Asia International Tourism, New Era, Opportunities and Development." More than 100 participants including government and academic personnel and experts from the tourism industry from China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, and Russia attended the forum. During the forum, Secretary General Kim took the opportunity to exchange opinions with President of Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Sciences Dong Wei Jun on methods for cooperative reinforcement with the NEAR Secretariat and the Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Sciences. In addition, Secretary General Kim introduced the role of NEAR through an interview with Heilongjiang Provincial TV.



NEAR Delegation Led by Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Attends International Exchange Event Hosted by Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе and a delegation from the NEAR Secretariat took part in the 4th China-Arab Fair and the 2nd Ningxia International Friendship City Forum held in Yinchuan from Wednesday, September 4 to Saturday, September 7. There, the delegation exchanged views regarding the developmental direction of NEAR with executives of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. Secretary Kim held a meeting with Vice Chairman Liu Ke Wei and expressed his gratitude for the active contributions of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region such as its accomplishments as a chair member since joining NEAR in 2000. Vice Chairman Liu also expressed his appreciation for the fact that Ningxia could establish a relationship as an international friendship city with Gyeongsang-buk do Province and Bayankhongor Province through NEAR.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Attends International Exchange Event Hosted by Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of China from Thursday, September 5 to Sunday, September 8

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе participated in the 3rd China-Mongolia Fair and a Northeast Asia Regional Cooperative High Rank Forum held in Ulanqab and where he delivered a congratulatory speech. After that, he held a meeting with the Vice Chairman of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Ai Li Hua to discuss cooperative methods between the NEAR Secretariat and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Vice Chairman Hua expressed her opinions on the establishment of a subcommittee in the field of new renewable energy as a part of the NEAR subcommittee activities as she explained the development of actual conditions of new renewable energy in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region including sunlight and wind power generation. Secretary Kim stated that he would seek assistance plans considering a relationship with the existing Subcommittee on Energy and Climate Change.



NEAR Secretariat Holds Meeting with Shaanxi Province about the Subcommittee on Traditional Medicine from Sunday, September 8 to Tuesday, September 10

Four delegations from the NEAR Secretariat including Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе visited Xi'an, the coordinator, to attend roundtable talks on Sunday, September 8. They discussed activation methods of NEAR subcommittees with persons interested such as Vice President of International Friendship Society Cao Hui from Shaanxi Province.

Additionally, the delegation attended the 5th Sun Si Miao Chinese Medicine Festival held in Tongchuan, Shaanxi Province on Monday, September 9. They also met with Mayor Li Zhi Yuan to discuss exchange methods in the field of oriental medicine between NEAR member cities.



Students from the Faculty of Chinese-Japanese Studies of Busan Dong-A University Visit NEAR Secretariat on Thursday, September 19

Approximately 60 students studying at the faculty of Chinese-Japanese studies in Busan Dong-A University visited the NEAR Secretariat on Thursday, September 19. They listened to the working status of NEAR and had an opportunity to interact with Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе.

This visit took place because the students of Chinese-Japanese studies have noted the unique role of NEAR, which serves as a platform of international exchange and cooperation between regional governments in six Northeast Asian countries.

Participants expressed their understanding in terms of NEAR's role in exchange between regional governments and civilians which encourages interaction in spite of diplomatic conflicts among central governments such as the current friction between Japan and Korea in the area of trade.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Participates in the 70th Anniversary Ceremony of National Foundation Day in People's Republic of China on Monday, September 23

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе attended the 70th anniversary ceremony of National Foundation Day in the People's Republic of China hosted by the Chinese Consulate General in Busan on Monday September 23 and delivered celebratory greetings to Consul General Guo Peng. Also, Secretary General Kim introduced Consul General Guo to the recent international exchange events of Chinese NEAR Regional Governments including Heilongjiang Province, etc.

Consul General Guo Peng summarized the 70-year history of People's Republic of China through the greetings speech and explained the roles of China as a powerful country with responsibility in international society. He empathized that the Chinese Consulate General in Busan has been making a positive effort to enhance exchange and cooperation between Chinese and Korean Regional Governments.



NEAR Secretariat Attends Northern Forum between Wednesday, September 25 and Thursday, September 26

Choi Ju-hwa, Manager of the International Cooperation Team, and two delegations from the NEAR Secretariat took part in the Northern Forum (Northern Sustainable Development Forum) held in Sakha Republic of Russia, the chair member of NEAR between Wednesday, September 25 and Thursday, September 26.

The NEAR Secretariat discussed future cooperation promotion possibilities between the Secretariat and Arctic regions through a meeting with Daryana Maximova, the executive director of the Northern Forum. In addition, the NEAR delegation engaged in public relations work such as inviting a representative of Chukotka Region to join NEAR.



Kim Won-gon Inaugurated as the New Director of International Cooperation Team of NEAR Secretariat

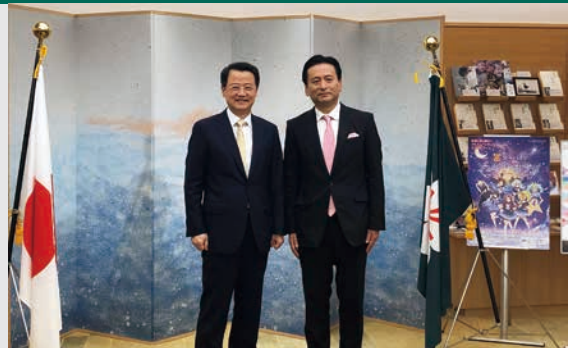
Kim Won-gon, a reserve colonel who served as the cooperative director of the Korean Army of central command in the US joined the NEAR Secretariat having received an appointment certificate from Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе on October 1. As the new director of the international cooperation team, Kim Won-gon has enriched his command leadership and international business experience serving as a major commander and as battalion and regimental commanders at army headquarters, performing policy business at the Ministry of National Defense. He received policy training at the Royal Institute for Defense, and worked as the cooperative director of the Korean Army of central command in America having graduated from the Korea Military Academy in 1984. In particular, Director Kim obtained a master's degree in politics from the Graduate School of Korea University, majoring in international relations. He also completed a doctoral course at Kookmin University where he specialized in security strategy. Therefore, as an expert combining theory and business practice, he is expected to contribute to the development of international exchange in the business of NEAR Secretariat moving forward.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Holds a Meeting with Yamaguchi Yoshinori, Governor of Saga Prefecture, Japan on Thursday, October 17

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе and a delegation from the NEAR Secretariat held a meeting with Yamaguchi Yoshinori, Governor of Saga Prefecture in Japan on October 17. Secretary General Kim gave a presentation on the ideology of NEAR's establishment, the current situation of its members, the content of main activities, and the organization of the Secretariat. He also extended an invitation to Saga Prefecture to join NEAR.

Governor Yamaguchi displayed understanding related to the activities of the Association stating that exchange between civil and regional governments must continue despite difficulties in the bilateral relationship between the two countries.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Meets Kabashima Ikuo, Governor of Kumamoto Prefecture in Japan on Thursday, October 17

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе and a delegation from the NEAR Secretariat met with Kabashima Ikuo, Governor of Kumamoto Prefecture in Japan on October 17. Secretary General Kim asked Kumamoto Prefecture to join NEAR, explaining NEAR's founding ideology, the present state of its members, main activities, and the organization of the NEAR Secretariat.

Governor Kabashima expressed his intention to consider whether he would join NEAR, recalling that Secretary General Kim had worked hard to promote friendly cooperation between Japanese civic groups, including the Kumamoto earthquake disaster, when he served as the consul general of Fukuoka.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Holds Meeting with Ogawa Hiroshi, Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan on Friday, October 18

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе and a delegation from the NEAR Secretariat held a meeting with Ogawa Hiroshi, Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture in Japan on Friday, October 18. Secretary General Kim gave a detailed account of the philosophy of NEAR's foundation, the present state of its members, the main activity content, and the organization of the Secretariat. He also invited Fukuoka Prefecture to join NEAR.

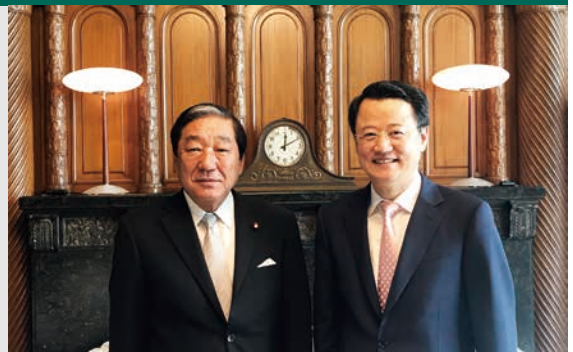
Governor Ogawa gave an explanation on the current situation of international exchange with Fukuoka Prefecture and indicated his regret about conflicts between central governments that influence the exchange between regional governments.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Holds Meeting with Akamatsu, Vice Chairman of the House of Representatives in Japan on Wednesday, October 30

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе and a delegation from NEAR held a meeting with Akamatsu Hirotaka, the Vice Chairman of the House of Representatives in Japan on Wednesday, October 30. Secretary General Kim gave a presentation on NEAR's establishment and the current state of international exchange. He also requested the cooperation of the Japanese regional governments in joining NEAR.

Vice Chairman Akamatsu expressed an understanding of NEAR activities. Despite his busy schedule, he demonstrated warm hospitality by organizing a meeting and luncheon for the delegation. Furthermore, he indicated his firm support by encouraging Japanese local governments such as Aichi Prefecture to join NEAR.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Holds Meeting with Yamaguchi Natsuo, Member of the House of Councillors and Representative of Komeito on Thursday, October 31

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе and a delegation from NEAR held a meeting with Yamaguchi Natsuo, a member of the House of Councillors and Representative of the Komeito party, which is a partner of the current coalition government of Japan. Secretary General Kim gave a presentation on NEAR's establishment and the current situation of international exchange, and he requested the cooperation of Japanese regional governments through joining the association. Representative Yamaguchi who is serving his second term in the House of Representatives and his fourth term in the House of Councillors empathized with the establishment philosophy of NEAR of strengthening exchange between citizens regardless of diplomatic conflict between central governments. Furthermore, he expressed that he would examine a cooperative plan with local councils in strong support of Komeito.



Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе Visits Miyagi Prefecture and Iwate Prefecture on Friday, November 1

Secretary General Kim Ok-chaе and a delegation from NEAR held a meeting with Endo Shinya, Vice Governor of Miyagi Prefecture on Friday, November 1 and gave a detailed presentation on NEAR's establishment purpose and its role. He also made a request to join NEAR as a member.

Recalling his first meeting with Secretary General Kim in Jilin Province, China last August, Vice Governor Endo expressed his agreement of NEAR's usefulness and stated that he would decide whether to join as a member through an internal review by the prefecture.

Meanwhile, the delegation visited Iwate Prefecture on Friday November 1 and requested the Head of Department, Sasaki Shinichi to consider becoming a member of NEAR.



The Sakha Republic Council of Russia – Goodwill Exchange Group of the Sakha Republic of Russia Visits the NEAR Secretariat on Saturday, November 2

A Goodwill Exchange Group of the Sakha Republic of Russia led by First Deputy Chairman, Zhirkov, visited the NEAR Secretariat on Saturday, November 2 with Jang Gyeong-sik, Chairperson of Gyeongsangbuk-do Council. During their visit, they listened to a presentation on the Secretariat's activities and held a meeting.

During their meeting, First Deputy Chairman Zhirkov wished for cooperative exchange to be activated in the field of sports, culture, science, IT, agriculture, and tourism. Chairperson Jang emphasized exchange such as logistics and commerce between regional governments as well as the two countries.



Toyama Prefecture, Japan Holds the 14th NEAR Subcommittee on Environment between Wednesday, November 13 and Thursday, November 14

As the coordinator of Toyama Prefecture, Toyama City held the 14th Subcommittee on Environment from Wednesday, November 13 to Thursday, November 14. At this meeting, it was decided that Toyama City would act as the coordinator over the next two years and report on the activity and the progress status of individual projects continually.

The subcommittee was attended by five regional governments from China (Heilongjiang Province), Japan (Toyama Prefecture and Yamagata Prefecture), Russia (Khabarovsk and Primorsky Krai), two observer groups (Liaoning Province in China and Saga Prefecture in Japan), and four delegations from the NEAR Secretariat including Secretary General Kim Ok-chae and the new Director of International Cooperation Department, Kim Won-gon.



Jeon Woo-hyun, Deputy Governor of Economy of Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea Visits NEAR Secretariat on Monday, November 18

A delegation from Gyeongsangbuk-do Province including Jeon Woo-hyun, the deputy governor of economy, visited the NEAR Secretariat and exchanged views on ways to strengthen NEAR's international contributions in a meeting with Secretary General Kim Ok-chae and other executives from the Secretariat. Secretary General Kim provided details regarding the Secretariat's endeavor to improve and enhance cooperation and communication since his inauguration. In this regard, Deputy Governor Jeon expressed his wishes for Japanese and Korean regional governments to support other developing regional governments corresponding with NEAR's establishment philosophy for the sake of the prosperity of North East Asian countries.



The 6th NEAR Subcommittee on Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Held in Shandong Province, China from Wednesday, December 4 to Friday, December 6

The 6th forum of the NEAR Subcommittee on Maritime Affairs and Fisheries was held at Weihai, Shandong Province from Wednesday, December 4 to Friday, December 6. It was attended by approximately 400 participants consisting of regional members from China, South Korea, and Russia, related persons of Japanese and Korean Consulate General in Qingdao, and marine experts from Shandong Province, China, which played the role of coordinator.

At the Hyundai Ocean Industry Forum, experts on ocean industry and entrepreneurs of each country gave presentations on their respective topics and exchanged opinions regarding various fields such as <Marine Bio and Health Food>, <Ocean Exploration Equipment and Deep Sea Resource>, and <Agricultural Application of Marine Life Extract>. Six delegations from the NEAR Secretariat including Secretary General Kim Ok-chae attended the forum, and Secretary General Kim was interviewed by local media after giving a guest speech.





2019 동북아시아지역자치단체

NEAR Working-level W

The Secretariat

단체연합 실무자 워크숍

Workshop 2019

|일시| 2019. 4. 24(수) ~ 26(금)

|장소| 호텔현대 경주

|주최| 동북아시아지역자치단체연합사무국

1. Establishment of the Secretariat

In 2004, a permanent office of four-year term was adopted at the 5th General Assembly of Heilongjiang Province, China. Accordingly, the operation of a permanent secretariat was decided at the General Assembly, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea proposed to attract a permanent secretariat on the condition that the entire cost would be covered by the Gyeongsangbuk-do Province. Later, at the 9th General Assembly held by Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China in 2012, it was decided that the permanent secretariat would be located in Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea to ensure the consistent operation of the Secretariat.



2. Secretariat Organization and Personnel

The Secretariat is managed by the Secretary General and the two-part system (Department of Planning and Public Relations, Department of International Cooperation), and it is jointly staffed by public officials dispatched from Chinese, Japanese, South Korean, Mongolian, and Russian regional governments and experts.

3. Budget

The operating cost of the Secretariat is around KRW 1.5 billion (USD 1.28 million / CNY 8.94 million / JPY 140 million) and is covered by Gyeongsangbuk-do Province (70%) and Pohang (30%) of South Korea.

4. Task

- A. Coordination of working contacts between regional governments
- B. Supporting operation and execution of decisions of General Assembly, Working Committee, and Subcommittee
- C. Conducting projects of the Secretariat such as NEAR International Forum, Working-level Workshop, and Northeast Asia Young Leaders Forum, etc.
- D. Development and investment of exchange programs for the development of the Association
- E. Establishing networks between international organizations and regional research institutes
- F. International public relations
- G. Preparation of business plan, annual report, and accounting report
- H. Budgeting and budget execution

5. Secretariat Staff

	 Secretary General Kim Ok-chae		
	 Director, Department of Planning and Public Relations Kim Young-Hee		 Director, International Cooperation Department Kim Won-gon
	 Manager, Department of Planning and Public Relations Lee Won-Yeong		 Manager, International Cooperation Department Choi Ju-hwa
	 Expert on China Piao Lijing		 Seconded Official from China (Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region) Ma Suchao
	 Expert on Japan Son Mi-kyoung		 Hyogo Branch of the NEAR Secretariat Cho Hee-eun
	 Expert on Mongolia Lkham Khishigiargal		 Seconded Official from Mongolia (Umnugovi Province) Erdenebileg Azzaya
	 Expert on Russia Egorov Artem		 Seconded Official from Russia (Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)) Anastasia Konstantinova
	 Officer (International Organizations) Kim Mi-yun		 Administrative Officer Kim You-jin
	 Administrative Officer Do Eon-seok		 Assistant Officer Kim Hye-rim



NORTHEAST ASIA YOUTH SUMMIT



Northeast Asia Youth Summit

BIRYUSA Camping Site, BIRYUSA

Appendix



Charter of The Association of North East Asia Regional Governments

Preamble

In the spirit of reciprocity and equity, representatives of regional governments in the North East Asian Region, which has unlimited potential to contribute to the international community, have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish co-development in the region and, at the same time, to contribute to world peace by promoting exchange and cooperation in all fields of administration, economy and culture. Accordingly, to accomplish these noble aims, the representatives have agreed to the present Charter of The Association of North East Asia Regional Governments and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as The Association of North East Asia Regional Governments.

Chapter 1 Name and Purposes of the Association

Article 1 (Name) This organization shall be named as “The Association of North East Asia Regional Governments” (hereinafter referred to as “The Association”).

Article 2 (Purposes) In the spirit of reciprocity and equity, “The Association” has the purposes of pursuing joint development of the North East Asian Region and, at the same time, contributing to world peace by building trust on mutual understanding through the establishment of networks for exchanges and cooperation among member governments.

Article 3 (Agenda) “The Association” shall perform the following clause:

1. Regularly hold the Conference of North East Asian Regional Governments(The General Assembly)
2. Collect and distribute information on economic and technological development within the region
3. Support and execute projects related to exchange and cooperation
4. Review projects pertinent to accomplish the purposes of the Association

Chapter 2 Scope and Rights & Obligations of Members and Others

Article 4 (Membership scope) The members of the Association shall be the regional governments of People's Republic of China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and Russian Federation, which agreed to the purposes of the Association. The membership is open to other regional governments, and will be effected by a decision of the General Assembly. (revised on September 27, 2016)

Article 4-2 (Associate Membership scope) The associate members of the Association shall be the regional governments of countries located in Asia excluding the North East region, which have agreed to the purposes of the Association and obtained the approval of membership by the General Assembly. (newly enacted on September 27, 2016)

Article 5 (Rights and Obligations of Members) Members shall have the rights to participate in various projects and activities performed by the Association, and have the obligations to comply with the provisions stipulated in the Charter.

Article 5-2 (Rights and Obligations of Associate Members) Associate Members do not have the right to vote and are not eligible to run for election as addressed in Article 7 and Article 9 Clause 1 of Rights and Obligations of Members. (newly enacted on September 27, 2016)

Chapter 3 Organization and Functions

Section 1 The General Assembly

Article 6 (Structure and Operation) The General Assembly is the supreme legislative body of the Association, which consists of heads of member organizations, and is held biennially. (revised on September 27, 2016)

Article 7 (Executives) The General Assembly shall be given due authority to appoint executives to positions specified below.

1. The General Assembly shall designate one person as the chair who represents the Association. The head of the regional government, which holds the General Assembly, shall ex officio become the chair of the General Assembly. The chair's term of office ends on the last day of the General Assembly. However, when the chair cannot represent the Association, the deputy representative of the regional government shall act as the chair on behalf of the representative. (revised on 28 October, 2010)
2. Each country shall have an auditor. Auditors shall administer accounting and audit, and be elected at the General Assembly. The auditor's term of office is the same as stipulated in clause 1 of Article 7. (revised on September 27, 2016)
3. On the decision based on the regulations of membership fee, the right to vote and be elected stated in clause 1 for chair and clause 2 for auditor can be restricted. (newly enacted on September 27, 2016)

Article 8 (Functions) General Assembly shall perform the following clause.

1. Resolution of member and associate member admission and dismissal (revised on September 27, 2016)
2. Determination of membership fees
3. Amendment of the Association Charter
4. Determination of termination and liquidation of the Association
5. Determination of the venue for the Secretariat
6. Appointment of auditors
7. Approval of budget, project plans, settlement of accounts
8. Approval of the regulations of the Membership System (newly enacted on September 27, 2016)
9. Determination of agendas related to the next General Assembly
10. Determination and execution of business plans of the Association
11. Other functions deemed to be necessary

Article 9 (Resolution) Decision-making of the General Assembly shall be made as the following clause:

1. Each regional government member shall have one vote. However, the right to vote may be restricted in certain situations as determined by the rules of the Membership Fee System. (revised on September 27, 2016)
2. The particular specified under clauses 1 to 5 of Article 8 shall be resolved by more than half of the members present and a two-thirds majority of the members voting. (revised on September 27, 2016)
3. The particular specified under clause 6 to 11 of Article 8, shall be resolved by more than half of the members present and more than half of the members voting. (revised on September 27, 2016)

Article 9-2 (Decision-making Delegated to Working Committee)

1. In years that the General Assembly is not held, the decision-making items listed in Article 8 Clauses 1, 7, and 8 can be commissioned to the Working Committee. (newly enacted on September 27, 2016)

Section 2 Working Committee

Article 10 (Organization and Operation)

1. The Working Committee consists of director-general level senior administrative staff nominated by the head of each member regional government. However, if deemed necessary by the executive of Working Committee, a meeting of the interim working committee may convene. (newly enacted on October 22, 2014) (revised on October 29, 2018)
2. The chair of the Working Committee shall be the vice head of the chair local government.
3. The chair of the Working Committee reports the result of the meeting to the General Assembly.
4. For smooth operation of individual projects and other works, a separate subcommittee or subcommittees for each field of work may be organized as a supporting organization for the Working Committee. However, the newly established subcommittees shall be reported to the General Assembly. (newly enacted on October 21, 1998) (revised on October 29, 2018)

Article 11 (Functions) The Working Committee shall perform the following clause.

1. Discussion of business plans and individual projects
2. Documentation of annual reports and audit reports
3. Coordination of opinions among members
4. Determination of the establishment of sub-committees (composition, functions and operations) (newly enacted on September, 1998)
5. Determination of issues delegated by the General Assembly to the Working Committee
6. Other functions deemed to be necessary

Section 3 The Secretariat

Article 12 (Organization and Operation) The Secretariat is a standing body of “the Association.” Each member government may set up a liaison body if necessary. The Secretariat will remain in Gyeongsangbuk-do Province. In case of unavoidable reasons, however, the location of the Secretariat may change after the resolution of the General Assembly. (revised on October 22, 2014)

Article 13 (Executives and staffs) The Secretariat shall have the following executives and staffs:

1. The Secretary-General shall be one person. The Secretary-General shall be recommended by the head of the member regional government where the Secretariat is located and be appointed by the Chair of the Association.
2. The executives and staffs of the Secretariat shall be comprised of government officials dispatched by “the Association” in principle. However, when it is deemed necessary by the Secretary General, it can be constituted in a separate way after receiving approval from the chair of the Association.

Article 14 (Functions) The Secretariat shall perform the following clause.

1. Budgeting and budget execution
2. Documentations of business plans, annual reports, and accounting reports
3. Liaisons and coordination among members
4. Execution of decisions made by the General Assembly and the Working Committee
5. Other functions deemed to be necessary

Article 15 (Finance)

1. The accounting of the Secretariat shall be treated as special accounting, and its operations shall be covered by membership fees and other miscellaneous income.
2. Accounting shall temporarily be carried out in accordance with the following clauses:
 - 1) The members of the Association shall pay the membership fee and the matters necessary for the management and the operation of the membership fee shall be prescribed in the separate regulations on the membership fee system. (revised on September 27, 2016)
 - 2) All expenses incurred by holding the General Assembly and the Working Committee shall be covered and shared as follows:
 - A. Half (B) of the total expenses (A) shall be borne by the regional government hosting the conference.
 - B. As to the other half (C=A-B), the rest of the regional governments shall share the amount (C/D), which is equally divided by the number of the regional governments of the Association, excluding the host of the conference (D).
 - C. In the event that the number of regional governments actually participating in the conference is less than D, the balance shall be borne by the regional government hosting the conference.
 - D. In the event that a member regional government is unable to bear a significant portion of the expense due to unavoidable circumstances such as natural disasters, the expense to be borne may be partially reduced to a reasonable level based on the agreement of other member regional governments.
 - E. During the General Assembly, the regional government which proposed to host the next General Assembly shall submit tentative accounting of expenses for organizing the General Assembly and the Working Committee.
3. The operating expenses of the Secretariat shall be borne by the member government which hosts the Secretariat.
4. Expenses for other individual cooperation projects shall be covered by the member government which proposed those projects. However, based on agreement, they may be shared among participating members which desire to join the projects.

Section 4 Associated Supporting Organizations

Article 16 (Establishment) Aimed at contributing to the development of the North East Asian region, each member regional government may establish a supporting organization (hereinafter referred to as 'Supporting Organization of the Association') to support the activities of the Association (newly enacted on September 1998).

Article 17 (Registration)

1. In the event that a member regional government establishes a Supporting Organization of the Association, it can register the organization by submitting application (newly enacted on September 1998).
2. The Supporting Organization of the Association shall report its activities to the Association (newly enacted on September 1998).

Chapter 4 Final Provisions

Article 18 (Effectuation) This Charter shall take effect from the 27th of September 2016. (revised on September 27, 2016)

Article 19 (The Scope of Members) The founding members of the Association consist of regional governments, which attended the conference of the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments in 1996 and agreed to the basic spirit of the Charter.

Article 20 (Language) This Charter shall be written in English and in the languages of the countries where the member regions belong. Original copies of which shall be kept at the archive of the Secretariat and copies of which shall be kept by each member. (revised on October 28, 2010)

In faith whereof, the representatives of the regional governments, who were given the due authority from each member government, have signed the present Charter of The Association of North East Asia Regional Governments in Gyeongju City, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Republic of Korea on the 12th day of September, 1996.

Supplementary Provision

This Charter shall take effect from the 21st of October 1998.

Supplementary Provision

This Charter shall take effect from the 11th of September 2002.

Supplementary Provision

This Charter shall be effectuated from the 8th of September 2004.

Supplementary Provision

This Charter shall take effect from the 28th of October 2010.

Supplementary Provision

This Charter shall take effect from the 22nd of October 2014.

Supplementary Provision

This Charter shall take effect from the 27th of September 2016.

Supplementary Provision

This Charter shall take effect from the 29th of October 2018.

Regulations for the Establishment and Operation of Subcommittees of The Association of North East Asia Regional Governments

(Establishment) October 21, 1998

(Partial Revision) September 4, 2007

September 2, 2008

October 28, 2010

July 19, 2011

September 11, 2013

September 26, 2017

October 29, 2018

The present regulations stipulate rules regarding the establishment and operation of subcommittees in accordance with Clause 4 of Article 10 of the Charter of NEAR. <revised on September 26, 2017>

Article 1 (Establishment) For smooth operation of individual projects or tasks (hereinafter referred to as "Individual Projects") proposed at conferences of the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments, subcommittees shall be established for each field of work. <revised on September 26, 2017>

Article 2 (Name and Working Area) The names of the subcommittees shall be as follows :

1. Subcommittee on Economy & Humanities <revised on September 11, 2013>
2. Subcommittee on Environment
3. Subcommittee on Educational and Cultural Exchange <integrated on September 2, 2008>
4. Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention
5. Deleted <on September 26, 2017>
6. Deleted <on September 26, 2017>
7. Subcommittee on Oceans and Fishery <September 2, 2008>
8. Subcommittee on Tourism <September 2, 2008>
9. Subcommittee on Mineral Resources Development and Coordination <newly enacted on October 28, 2010, revised September 26, 2017>
10. Subcommittee on Energy and Climate Change <October 28, 2010>
11. Deleted <on September 26, 2017>
12. Subcommittee on Life & Medical Industry <July 19, 2011>
13. Subcommittee on Agriculture <July 19, 2011>
14. Subcommittee on Sports <September 11, 2013>
15. Subcommittee on Logistics and Transportation <September 26, 2017>
16. Subcommittee on International Exchange of Human Resources <September 26, 2017>
17. Subcommittee on E-Commerce <September 26, 2017>
18. Subcommittee on Innovation Plus <October 29, 2018>
19. Subcommittee on Youth Policy <October 29, 2018>
20. Subcommittee on Traditional Medicines <October 29, 2018>

Article 3 (Functions)

1. Each subcommittee reviews and discusses methods to materialize and realize project plans by coordinating opinions among regional governments in order to promote effective execution of "Individual

Projects” led by member regional governments. <revised on September 26, 2017>

2. Each subcommittee shall report the results of the review and discussion on “Individual Projects” proposed by regional governments to the Working Committee. <revised on September 26, 2017>

Article 4 (Structure) Each subcommittee consists of directors of local government divisions who have interest in the field that each subcommittee is responsible for.

Article 5 (Operation)

1. An elected member regional government (hereinafter referred to as “Coordinator”) shall be in charge of liaison, coordination and operation of each subcommittee. <revised on September 26, 2017>
2. The office term of a “Coordinator” is two years, and it can be reelected. Upon request, a subcommittee can be co-operated with co-hosting coordinator. <revised on July 19, 2011, September 26, 2017>
3. In principal, the operation of a subcommittee shall be based on telecommunications such as postal mail, fax, and e-mail.
4. Each subcommittee should convene once a year for a meeting or NEAR-related activity during its term as coordinator. <revised on July 19, 2011, September 26, 2017>
5. The coordinator should endeavor to allow as many participants from NEAR member regional governments to participate in the subcommittee meeting. <newly enacted on July 19, 2011, revised September 26, 2017>
6. If necessary, Working Committee can conduct evaluations on subcommittee’s operation. <newly enacted on July 19, 2011>
7. The NEAR Secretariat may propose a replacement of subcommittee coordinators to the Working Committee if the subcommittee has not run meetings more than two years and another regional government wishes to take over the role of coordinator. <newly enacted on October 29, 2018>
8. The replacement of the coordinator of subcommittees will be decided at the Working Committee where the majority of the members are present and the members with the right to vote cast a majority (more than half) yes vote. <newly enacted on October 29, 2018>

Article 6 (Participation)

1. All member regions are eligible to participate in a subcommittee. <revised on July 19, 2011>
2. For efficient operation and practical outcomes of each subcommittee, the coordinator may invite specialists, experts or business persons from NEAR member regional governments. <newly enacted on September 26, 2017>

Article 7 (Expenses) Expenses for the operation of each subcommittee shall be borne by the “Coordinator.” In the event of a Sub- Committee meeting being convened, expenses for transportation and accommodation shall be covered by participating regional governments, in principle.

Article 8 (Relation to the Secretariat) Each “Coordinator” shall send updated information of the subcommittee to the Secretariat, which shall distribute the documentation to the rest of the regional governments. <revised on July 19, 2011, revised on September 26, 2017>

Article 9 (Revision of Regulations) Revision of the present regulations shall be decided by the Working Committee.

Article 10 (Effectuation) These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on 11 September, 2013 <revised on September 11, 2013>

Supplementary Provision

These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on October 21, 1998.

Supplementary Provision

These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on September 4, 2007.

Supplementary Provision

These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on September 2, 2008.

Supplementary Provision

These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on October 28, 2010.

Supplementary Provision

These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on July 19, 2011.

Supplementary Provision

These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on September 11, 2013.

Supplementary Provision

These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on September 26, 2017.

Supplementary Provision

These regulations shall take effect and be in full force on October 29, 2018.

Regulations for the Membership Fee System

(Enforcement) August 7, 2019

(Establishment) September 28, 2016

(Partial Revision) September 26, 2017

(Partial Revision) August 7, 2019

Article 1 (Purpose)

This regulation seeks to prescribe matters related to the management and operation of the membership fee and its usage.

Article 2 (Principles of Accounting)

Accounting shall be conducted by the principles below.

1. The Secretary General shall maintain transparency and reliability of the accounting process by submitting objective and evidential documents.
2. The Secretary General shall disclose information on the operation of the membership fee when requested by members and shall manage it effectively.
3. The Secretary-General shall manage the membership fee effectively.

Article 3 (Fiscal Year)

The fiscal year of the Association shall be from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

Article 4 (Responsibilities in Accounting)

The Secretary General shall be responsible for the management of the membership fee, and for any related processes.

Article 5 (Membership Fees)

The membership fee shall be applied in accordance to the following clauses:

1. Each member shall pay an annual fee of USD 1,000.
2. The currency that shall be used is United States Dollars (USD), and the fee shall be paid by April 30 of each fiscal year. NEAR members who are new to the Association shall pay the fee starting in the year following the approval of its membership.
3. Membership fees may be adjusted at the General Assembly depending on economic status.

Article 6 (Regulation of Member Rights)

When a member fails to pay the membership fee, the rights of members may be restricted by the Secretariat.

1. Each regional government which has paid the membership fee shall have the right to vote at the General Assembly and the Working Committee and the right to vote for board members, as well as become eligible to become board members.
2. The rights of members listed in the in Article 6 (1) can be restricted when a member fails to pay the membership fee more than twice.

Article 7 (Execution)

The fund shall be used for development and projects of NEAR to meet the common goals of the members. The Secretariat shall gather the opinions of members when selecting projects that require funding.

Article 8 (Installation, Composition, and Operation of the Deliberation Committee)

The Deliberation Committee shall install, compose, and operate in accordance to the following clauses:

1. The Deliberation Committee constitutes of one person at a managerial or director level of each member country that dispatched public officers to Secretariat. However, in case of the Republic of Korea, the Committee member will be elected from regions other than Gyeongsangbuk-do Province and exclude regional members, including auditors.
2. The term of each committee member shall be within the period of secondment of dispatched officials from each member country.
3. The Review Committee shall have a chairperson and he/she will be elected by mutual vote.
4. To facilitate the smooth operation of the Deliberation Committee, the committee shall be operated by a suitable person who is in charge of the Secretariat.
5. The Chairman of the committee shall hold a meeting more than once a year. However, if there has a difficulty in convening committee members, it can be resolved in writing.
6. A meeting of the Deliberation Committee shall be formed by more than half of the members present and resolved by the votes of more than half the members.

Article 9 (Budget Planning for Fee Conduction)

The Secretary General shall draw up and submit a general budget plan for the following year to the board of directors for approval by June 30.

Article 10 (Deliberation and Decision)

1. A request for the approval of financial plans submitted by the Secretary General and approved by the Deliberation Committee must be made at least 1 month before the meeting of the General Assembly or Working Committee is held.
2. Financial plans shall be approved by the decision of the General Assembly or Working Committee.

Article 11 (Budget and Execution of Project Plans)

1. The Secretary-General shall execute budgets and project plans approved at the General Assembly and the Working Committee.
2. The Secretary-General may make necessary expenditures after receiving the Chairperson's approval in case of extraordinary disbursements. In such cases, the Secretary-General shall need to report and get approval at the General Assembly and the Working Committee held for the current year.

Article 12 (Examination of Accounts)

1. The Secretary General shall prepare and communicate to auditors periodical financial reports by May 31 every fiscal year.
2. Auditors shall submit audit reports and comments to the Secretariat a month before the meeting of the General Assembly or Working Committee, and the reports shall be approved at the meeting.

Article 13 (Appointment and Term of Auditors)

The appointment and term of auditors shall be executed in accordance with Article 7(Executives) and Article 8(Functions) of the Charter.

ADDENDUM

These Articles shall enter into force on January 1, 2017. (However, the payment time of membership fee will be delayed for the time being.) <Revised: August 7, 2019>

Member Regional Governments

Russia



-  ① Republic of Buryatia
-  ② Sakha Republic (Yakutia)
-  ③ Republic of Tuva
-  ④ Altai Territory
-  ⑤ Zabaikalsky Territory
-  ⑥ Krasnoyarsk Territory
-  ⑦ Primorsky Territory
-  ⑧ Khabarovsk Territory
-  ⑨ Amur Region
-  ⑩ Irkutsk Region
-  ⑪ Kamchatka Territory
-  ⑫ Magadan Region
-  ⑬ Sakhalin Region
-  ⑭ Tomsk Region
-  ⑮ Kemerovo Region
-  ⑯ Republic of Khakassia

Mongolia



-  ① Ulaanbaatar City
-  ② Arkhangai Aimag
-  ③ Bayan-Ulgii Aimag
-  ④ Bayankhongor Aimag
-  ⑤ Bulgan Aimag
-  ⑥ Govi-Altai Aimag
-  ⑦ Govisumber Aimag
-  ⑧ Darkhan-Uul Aimag
-  ⑨ Dornod Aimag
-  ⑩ Dornogovi Aimag
-  ⑪ Dundgovi Aimag
-  ⑫ Zavkhan Aimag
-  ⑬ Orkhon Aimag
-  ⑭ Uvurkhangai Aimag
-  ⑮ Umnugovi Aimag
-  ⑯ Sukhbaatar Aimag
-  ⑰ Selenge Aimag
-  ⑱ Tuv Aimag
-  ⑲ Uvs Aimag
-  ⑳ Khovd Aimag
-  ㉑ Khentii Aimag
-  ㉒ Khuvsgul Aimag

Partnership



REGIONS OF
CLIMATE ACTION

Regions of Climate Action (R20)

Founded by global leaders in cooperation with the United Nations, R20 aims to help the regional governments develop projects, policies, and best practices for lowcarbon green growth economic development and implement it in order to cope with climate change.

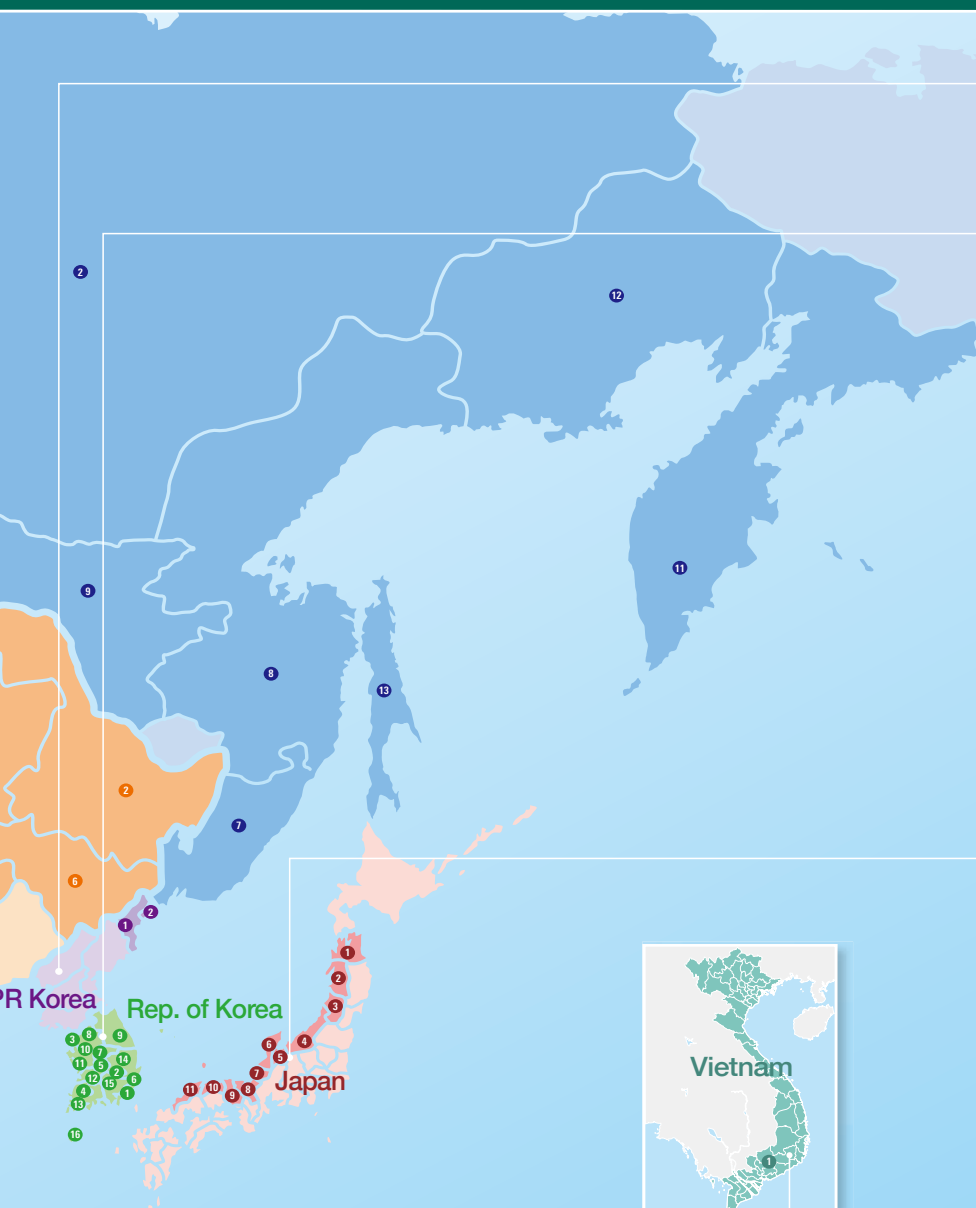
regions20.org



Assembly of European Regions (AER)

Established in 1985 to pursue coprosperity and subsidiarity, AER brings together nearly 230 regional governments from 35 countries, and is located in Strasbourg, Alsace, France.

www.aer.eu



DPR Korea

DPR Korea

- DPR Korea ① Hamgyeongbuk-do Province
- DPR Korea ② Rasun Special City

Rep. of Korea



- ① Busan Metropolitan City
- ② Daegu Metropolitan City
- ③ Incheon Metropolitan City
- ④ Gwangju Metropolitan City
- ⑤ Daejeon Metropolitan City
- ⑥ Ulsan Metropolitan City
- ⑦ Sejong Special Self-Governing City
- ⑧ Gyeonggi-do Province
- ⑨ Gangwon-do Province
- ⑩ Chungcheongbuk-do Province
- ⑪ Chungcheongnam-do Province
- ⑫ Jeollabuk-do Province
- ⑬ Jeollanam-do Province
- ⑭ Gyeongsangbuk-do Province
- ⑮ Gyeongsangnam-do Province
- ⑯ Jeju Special Self-Governing Province

Japan



- ① Aomori Prefecture
- ② Akita Prefecture
- ③ Yamagata Prefecture
- ④ Niigata Prefecture
- ⑤ Toyama Prefecture
- ⑥ Ishikawa Prefecture
- ⑦ Fukui Prefecture
- ⑧ Kyoto Prefecture
- ⑨ Hyogo Prefecture
- ⑩ Tottori Prefecture
- ⑪ Shimane Prefecture

China



- ① Anhui Province
- ② Heilongjiang Province
- ③ Henan Province
- ④ Hubei Province
- ⑤ Hunan Province
- ⑥ Jilin Province
- ⑦ Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region
- ⑧ Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region
- ⑨ Shandong Province
- ⑩ Shanxi Province (山西)
- ⑪ Shaanxi Province (陕西)

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

- ★ ① Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)



The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) is a global network of more than 1000 cities from 86 countries around the world, committed to build a sustainable future. In order to achieve sustainable development goals in the international community, it works to support the role of regional government and local action.

www.iclei.org



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