# The 3rd Working Committee Conference

* **Overview**

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| Periods | August 27, 2001~ August 30, 2001 |
| Venue (Place) | Japan > Hyogo Prefecture, Awaji Dream Stage International Conference Hall |
| Organized by | Japan > Hyogo Prefecture |
| Participation | 23 regional authorities from 5 countries |
| China | Heilongjiang Province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region  |
| Japan | Aomori Prefecture, Yamagata Prefecture, Niigata Prefecture, Toyama Prefecture, Ishikawa Prefecture, Fukui Prefecture, Kyoto Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, Tottori Prefecture, Shimane Prefecture  |
| South Korea | Busan Metropolitan City, Gyeonggi-Do, Gangwon-Do, Chungcheongnam-Do, Jeollabuk-Do, Jeollanam-Do, Gyeongsangbuk-Do, Gyeongsangnam-Do  |
| Mongolia | Tuv Aimak  |
| Russia | Khabarovsk Territory, Sakhalin Region |

* **Contents**

|  |  |
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| ▷ Discussion on the partial bearing of expenses of opening a conference

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| **▷ Discussion on the partial bearing of expenses of opening a conference****▷ Discussion on the reorganization of the system of offices including the establishment of a standing office****▷ Issues on the opening of the 2002 General Assembly** |

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* **Summary of the Chairman**

Working representatives of local authorities of the People's Republic of China, Japan, Mongolia, Korea, and Russia gathered in the Hyogo Prefecture Awaji Dream Stage International Conference Hall in Japan, and held the third Working Committee of the North East Asia Region Local Authority Association.

Facing the 21st century, the North East Asia Region Local Authority Association greeted its fifth year since establishment as an international organization for creating exchanges and collaborative networks among local authorities as globalization is proceeding in diverse fields in the world. Against this backdrop, the representatives agreed that it is imperative to actively pursue the resolution of a common goal for the North East Asia Region while performing activities of the North East Asia Region Local Authority Association.

The 3rd Working Committee discussed the issues of the effective operation of the Association and decided to keep reviewing the result of discussions of the North East Asia Region Local Authority Conference 2000 while also reviewing the opening of the 2002 Khabarovsk General Assembly.

Hereby, we summarize the issues agreed upon among the local authorities participating in this conference and report for the Chairman's summary.

1. Report of the Subcommittees

Coordinator local authorities of each subcommittee reported as follows:

(1) Economy Commerce Subcommittee

It was reported that the 3rd conference was held in Gyeongsangbuk-do Province in April 2002 with a review on the constitution of global electronic trade networks including the constitution of a commercial information database among members of the Association, adding to the two North East Asia Business Promotion conferences held in 1998 and 1999.

(2) Cultural Exchange Subcommittee

It was reported to have reviewed the execution of joint business in the area of cultural exchanges while collecting concrete proposals from member local authorities by holding the first cultural exchange subcommittee in November 2001.

(3) Environment Subcommittee

The result of the execution of individual projects of 2000 in the 3rd environment subcommittee on the 12th of July 2001, followed by the opening of the 2nd environment subcommittee held in 2000, were reported, and there was a discussion on performance along with proposals for individual projects in 2001.

(4) Disaster Prevention Subcommittee

It was reported that Hyogo Prefecture had prepared a report on「Disaster Prevention International Comprehensive Review Project」 for all member local authorities, along with the execution of surveys on the disaster prevention system and policies of member local authorities. Also, there was a report on Hanshin, Awaji Great Earthquake Memorial Center (tentatively named), which is expected to open in the spring of 2002 in the new central city of eastern Kobe of Hyogo Prefecture and that the current activities of the Asia disaster prevention center should be provided.

(5) General Exchange Subcommittee

It was agreed to provide active support and participation in the North East Asia Women's Conference, which will be held in Toyama Prefecture on the 27th ~ 29th of October this year, and the reinforcement of connectivity with research organizations along with agreement on the 2000 "NEAR action program for the cultivation of talent", a business for cultivating talented persons who will sustain exchanges in the North East Asia Region, in the 3rd General Exchange subcommittee held on the 12th of July 2001, followed by the opening of the 2nd General Exchange Subcommittee meeting held in 2000.

2. Partial sharing of conference hosting costs

It was agreed that regional authorities participating in the conference adopt a system to partially share conference-hosting costs for the General Assembly and the Standing Committee. This will reduce the burdens on conference hosting members, contribute to the foundation of the future financial basis of the Association and accelerate the Association's activities.

3. Association's approval system for specific projects

In order to contribute to the realization of the Association's objectives, which is to pursue the promotion of exchanges inside and outside of the region, and contribute to the resolution of common tasks, regional authorities agreed to establish the Association's approval system for specific projects performed by members of the Association, and this will be discussed further at the next General Assembly's conference.

4. Association's Sponsorship for Individual Projects

Regional authorities agreed to establish the Association's sponsorship system for individual projects performed by members, and prepared for the "Prospectus for the Approval of the Association's Sponsorship".

5. Issues related to the Secretariat including the establishment of the Standing Secretariat

Regional authorities agreed on the need for an international-scale Standing Secretariat to pursue efficient operation of the Association. Members suggested that the Standing Secretariat should be established after the membership fee system is introduced to Toyama Prefecture in Japan and Gyeongsangbukdo in South Korea.

Further details such as the functions and form of the Secretariat will be reviewed by Gyeongsangbukdo, Toyama, Khabarovsk and Hyogo and a formal suggestion regarding the establishment of the Standing Secretariat will be made at the General Assembly conference on September 2002.

6. NEAR 4th General Assembly

The Khabarovsk region reported the overview of the General Assembly including the date and venue for the NEAR 4th General Assembly held in Khabarovsk, Russia in 2002.