# The 5th Working Committee Conference

* **Overview**

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| Periods | November 29, 2005 ~ December 1, 2005 |
| Venue (Place) | South Korea > Gyeongsangbuk-Do, Sapphire Room, 2F, 503-15 |
| Organized by | South Korea > Gyeongsangbuk-Do |
| Participation | 20 localities from 5 countries |
| China | Heilongjiang Province, Shandong Province, Henan Province  |
| Japan | Toyama Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, Shimane Prefecture  |
| South Korea | Busan Metropolitan City, Gyeonggi-Do, Gangwon-Do, Chungcheongbuk-Do, Chungcheongnam-Do, Jeollabuk-Do, Gyeongsangbuk-Do, Gyeongsangnam-Do  |
| Mongolia | Tuv Aimak  |
| Russia | Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Khabarovsk Territory, Amur Region, Irkutsk Region, Ust-Ordynsky Buryat Autonomous Area |

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* **Agreement**

On November 30, 2005, working-level representatives of 22 local governments from NEAR　 member countries including South Korea, China, Japan, Mongolia and Russia held the "5th NEAR Working Committee Meeting" in Busan Metropolitan City, South Korea.

At the meeting, each Subcommittee reported its activities and discussions were held on various pending issues of NEAR such as establishing the NEAR emblem, dispatching staff to the Secretariat and others. Many members have called for the cooperation of other members to facilitate exchanges and cooperation in various fields. The results of this meeting are as follows:

1. Subcommittees' Activities Report

The coordinator of each Subcommittee reported on its activities at the meeting.

① Subcommittee on Economy and Trade

Gyeongsangbuk-do Province reported on the result of the "2004 Northeast Asian Business Promotion conference" which was held in Gyeongju, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province from October 5 to 8, 2004 with the participation of 441 people from 19 organizations in 5 NEAR member countries. The conference was aimed at promoting reciprocal and substantial economic trades among members.

② Subcommittee on Cultural Exchanges

Shimane Prefecture reported on the result of the opening of "the Subcommittee on Cultural Exchanges website", "Youth Exchange Program" and the "International Culture Pallet Project”, which is a series of performance provided to the people of prefecture by inviting traditional performing groups in Northeast Asia, to encourage cultural exchanges among members.

③ Subcommittee on Environment

Toyama Prefecture reported on the result of hosting the 7th Subcommittee meeting on Environment with 14 members from 5 member countries on July 14, 2005. Environmental status of each member and the project implementation status in 2005 were briefed to the members. The prefecture also proposed and discussed projects for 2006.

④ Subcommittee on General Exchanges

Toyama Prefecture reported on the survey result of the "Homepage Construction Status of the Members" and "Human Resource Development Projects," which were conducted to contribute to information sharing and human resource development within the Northeast Asian region.

⑤ Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention

Hyogo Prefecture reported on the result of the third Subcommittee meeting on Disaster Prevention, which was held with the participation of 9 organizations from 5 countries from February 1 to 4, 2005 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Hanshin-Awaji Great Earthquake. The prefecture also reported that disaster prevention lessons and sight tours of disaster prevention facilities were provided in line with the meeting in order to improve multilateral disaster prevention cooperation and disaster prevention capability. The Prefecture encouraged NEAR members to cooperate and participate at the 4th Subcommittee Meeting on Disaster Prevention slated to be held in February 2006.

⑥ Subcommittee on Cross-border Cooperation

Khabarovsk Krai reported on the result of the 1st Subcommittee Meeting on Cross-border Cooperation held on June 7, 2005 in Khabarovsk City joined by 12 member organizations from 3 countries. The meeting aimed at seeking ways to facilitate cooperation in cross-border regions and tourism industries of the Northeast Asian region.

2. Proposals and Discussions

① Establishment of NEAR Emblem (Logo)

The Secretariat of the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments (NEAR Secretariat) reported the progress of the establishment of NEAR emblem (logo), which was adopted at the Heilongjiang General Assembly, and requested NEAR members to reach an agreement on specific implementation measures in the future. NEAR members agreed to set up a Special Committee on NEAR Emblem Establishment.

② Dispatching of Staffs from member organizations to NEAR Secretariat

NEAR Secretariat proposed to each NEAR member to dispatch staff to the Secretariat for its efficient and fair operation. NEAR members agreed to dispatch staffs to the Secretariat in principle. Detailed items shall be decided through discussion with the Secretariat.

③ Strengthening Cooperation between Shandong Province and Local Governments in Northeast Asia

Shandong Province introduced its economic status and exchanges with other countries in Northeast Asia, and informed that the province is currently considering hosting the NEAR General Assembly in 2008.

④ Invitation to the 17th Harbin Economy and Trade Fair and the Year of Russia 2006

Heilongjiang Province requested for the active participation of NEAR members at the "22th Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival" and the "17th Harbin Economy and Trade Fair," which will be held to celebrate the Year of Russia 2006.

⑤ Hosting of the "Northeast Asian Economic Exchange EXPO 2006" in Toyama

Toyama Prefecture asked NEAR members to participate at the "Northeast Asian Economic Exchange EXPO 2006" in Toyama, which will be held to facilitate economic exchanges in the Northeast Asian region.

⑥ Visit of the Korean Business Delegation to Khabarovsk Krai

Khabarovsk Krai briefed the visit of the Korean Business Delegation to Khabarovsk Krai, which was sponsored by the Russian National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (RNCPEC). In addition, the province, as the coordinator of the Subcommittee on Cross-border Cooperation, expressed its willingness to discuss the venue of the next Subcommittee meeting on Cross-border Cooperation at the 6th NEAR General Assembly to be held in 2006.

⑦ The "4th China Henan International Investment & Trade Fair"

People's Government of Henan Province and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) plan to hold the "4th China Henan International Investment & Trade Fair" in Zhengzhou city, Henan Province from April 12 to 14, 2006. The fair will be supported by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and other ministries and sponsored by a number of foreign economic associations from Korea, Japan, US, EU etc. The fair will cover various fields such as manufacturing, public facilities, commerce, trade, logistics, tourism, finance, insurance, information, education and healthcare. Henan Province asked each member to actively participate in the fair.

⑧ Cooperation in regards to the "6th General Assembly"

Busan Metropolitan City plans to hold the 6th General Assembly in mid-September, and will make a final decision on the date at the end of February after receiving opinions from members. The city asked members to actively cooperate, so that Hamgyeongbuk-do Province and Rasun City from North Korea can attend the assembly next year.

The aforementioned are items agreed to at the 5th NEAR　Working Committee meeting.　 The items agreed shall be documented in Korean, Chinese, Japanese and Russian, and disseminated to each member of NEAR.