



The Hub of Exchange & Cooperation in Northeast Asia

The Association of North East Asia Regional Governments



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NEAR is an international organization founded by 29 regional governments from four Northeast Asian countries, including People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation in September 1996 in Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Republic of Korea. NEAR is committed to contributing to the co-development of the region and world peace by enhancing mutual exchange and cooperation based on the spirit of reciprocity and equity.

Since adopting the Charter based on the principle of co-prosperity of Northeast Asia, NEAR has been practicing extensive exchange and cooperation projects in various fields ranging from economy and trade to educational and cultural exchanges, environment, disaster prevention to maritime affairs and fisheries, tourism, cross-border cooperation to science and technology.

With the accession of new regional governments from DPRK and Mongolia, NEAR has grown into a local diplomacy and cooperation organization representing Northeast Asia with 70 member regional governments from six countries.

NEAR stands for

“the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments” with the word itself meaning close intimacy.

Members

The Northeast Asian regional governments are opening the era of peace and prosperity in the Northeast Asian region through exchange and cooperation.

70 member regional governments from 6 countries



China (6)

Heilongjiang Province, Henan Province, Hubei Province, Hunan Province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Shandong Province



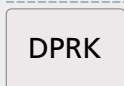
Japan (10)

Aomori Prefecture, Yamagata Prefecture, Niigata Prefecture, Toyama Prefecture, Ishikawa Prefecture, Fukui Prefecture, Kyoto Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, Tottori Prefecture, Shimane Prefecture



Korea (15)

Busan Metropolitan City, Daegu Metropolitan City, Incheon Metropolitan City, Gwangju Metropolitan City, Daejeon Metropolitan City, Ulsan Metropolitan City, Gyeonggi-do Province, Gangwon-do Province, Chungcheongbuk-do Province, Chungcheongnam-do Province, Jeollabuk-do Province, Jeollanam-do Province, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Gyeongsangnam-do Province, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province



DPRK (2)

Hamgyeongbuk-do Province, Rasun City



Mongolia (22)

Ulaanbaatar City, Arkhangai Province, Bayanulgi Province, Bayankhongor Province, Bulgan Province, Govi-Altai Province, Govisumber Province, Darkhan-Uul Province, Dornod Province, Dornogovi Province, Dundgovi Province, Zavkhan Province, Orkhon Province, Uvurkhangai Province, Umnugovi Province, Sukhbaatar Province, Selenge Province, Tuv Province, Uvs Province, Khovd Province, Khuvsgul Province, Khentii Province



Russia (15)

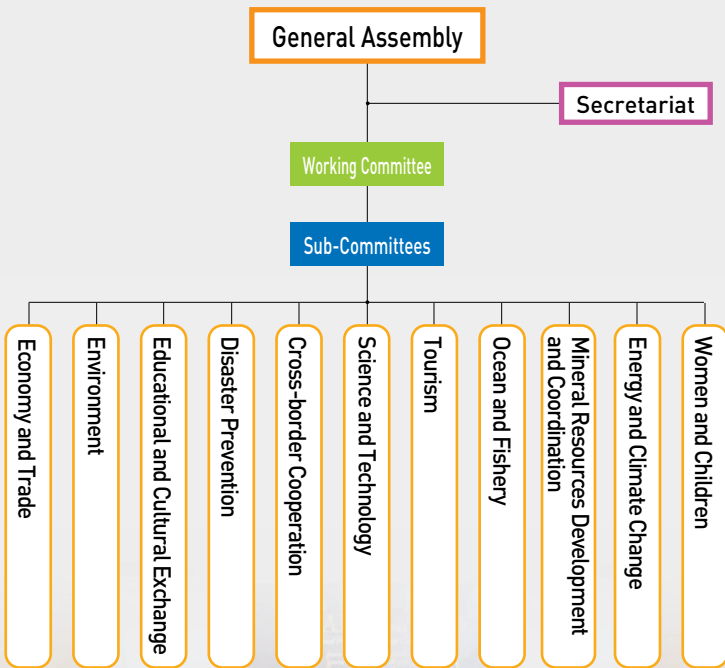
Republic of Buryatia, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Republic of Tyva, Altai Territory, Zabaikalsky Territory, Krasnoyarsk Territory, Primorsky Territory, Khabarovsk Territory, Amur Region, Irkutsk Region, Kamchatka Territory, Magadan Region, Sakhalin Region, Tomsk Region, Kemerovo Region

Observer

Tianjin City, Shanxi Province, Shaanxi Province, Liaoning Province of China and Yamaguchi Prefecture of Japan participate in various events of NEAR as observers, and share information on NEAR activities.

Organization

NEAR is organized to effectively implement various exchange and cooperation projects of the Working Committee and Sub-Committees with the General Assembly as its central body.



Operation and Activities

Since 1996, NEAR has actively carried out activities to achieve co-existence and co-prosperity in Northeast Asia, which are the founding purpose of NEAR, through General Assembly, Working-Committee and Sub-Committees.

General Assembly is the supreme legislative body of the Association, which consists of representatives of member regional governments, and is held every two years by the chair regional government. The function mainly includes determination of business plans, amendment of the Charter and approval of new membership.

The 1st General Assembly (Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, September 1996):

NEAR was officially launched as an inter-regional governmental organization and adopted seven joint agendas.

The 2nd General Assembly (Toyama Prefecture, October 1998):

NEAR Charter was amended to expand the scope of membership; five Sub-Committees were established.

The 3rd General Assembly (Hyogo Prefecture, September 2000):

The establishment of the Secretariat was discussed; a consensus was reached to encourage participation of DPRK regional governments in NEAR activities.

The 4th General Assembly (Khabarovsk Territory, September 2002):

DPRK and Mongolia's accession was approved; a joint working group was organized to prepare for establishing a permanent secretariat.

The 5th General Assembly (Heilongjiang Province, September 2004):

Decision was made to establish the secretariat in Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Republic of Korea; Sub-Committee on Cross-border Cooperation was created.

The 6th General Assembly (Busan Metropolitan City, September 2006):

Joint Declaration "Prosperity of Northeast Asia and the Role of NEAR" was adopted; Sub-Committee on Science and Technology was created.

The 7th General Assembly (Shandong Province, September 2008):

Shandong Declaration was adopted; Sub-Committee on Tourism and Sub-Committee on Ocean & Fishery were established.

The 8th General Assembly (Gyeonggi-do Province, October 2010):

New members were admitted (1 region); three Sub-Committees incl. the Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development & Coordination were established.

The Working Committee consists of senior administrative staffs (director-generals) of member regional governments. The function mainly includes decision-making on issues delegated by the General Assembly, discussion on measures to promote exchange and cooperation and coordination of opinions among members.

The 1st Meeting (Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, August 1997):

Joint projects were proposed in the fields of economy & trade, culture & arts and environment.

The 2nd Meeting (Toyama Prefecture, July 1999):

Activity report was presented by each Sub-Committee; the issue of fee sharing was discussed.

The 3rd Meeting (Hyogo Prefecture, August 2001):

Introducing membership fee and a permanent secretariat was discussed.

The 4th Meeting (Heilongjiang Province, January 2004):

Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Korea, as a single candidate, bid for hosting the Secretariat.

The 5th Meeting (Busan Metropolitan City, November 2005):

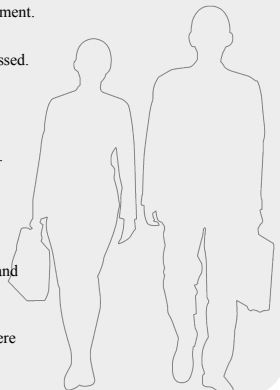
A consensus was reached to organize an Emblem Committee and to second public officials from member regional governments to the Secretariat.

The 6th Meeting (Shandong Province, September 2007):

Motions on the introduction of membership fee, creation of Sub-Committee on Tourism and Sub-Committee on Ocean & Fishery were proposed.

The 7th Meeting (Gyeonggi-do Province, October 2009):

Decision made by the Special Committee on Membership Fee was reported; proposals were made to establish three Sub-Committees.



Sub-Committees

A Sub-Committee implements individual projects proposed by regional governments at General Assembly, Working Committee and Sub-Committees. A coordinating organization is in charge of liaison, coordination and operation of each Sub-Committee, and elected by member regional governments.



Sub-Committee on Economy and Trade (Coordinator: Gyeongsangbuk-do Province)

- To promote co-prosperity and sustainable economic development of Northeast Asia by executing practical exchanges in economy and trade
- The Sub-Committee on Economy and Trade holds Northeast Asian Business Promotion Conference and Multilateral Trade Fair on Special Products



Sub-Committee on Environment (Coordinator: Toyama Prefecture)

- To promote partnership among member regional governments within the Northeast Asian region to resolve global environmental issues of the 21st century
- The Sub-Committee on Environment conducts joint-research on washed-up driftage along coasts and migratory birds in Northeast Asia. It organizes Youth Environment Seminar and International Environment Protection Seminar.



Sub-Committee on Educational and Cultural Exchange (Coordinator - Shimane Prefecture)

- To execute exchange and cooperation projects in the fields of culture, academy and arts to promote mutual understanding of various cultures and life styles in Northeast Asia
- The Sub-Committee on Educational and Cultural Exchange organizes cultural performances inviting traditional art troupes and conduct Youth Exchange Projects participated by youths from NEAR members to promote understanding of each culture



Sub-Committee on Disaster Prevention (Coordinator - Hyogo Prefecture)

- To improve and solidify disaster prevention system in Northeast Asia and promote cooperation and solidarity among member regions
- The Sub-Committee on Disaster Prevention provides seminars on disaster prevention and site tours of disaster prevention facilities. It reports to members on the results of disaster prevention study on a regular basis



Sub-Committee on Cross-border Cooperation (Coordinator - Irkutsk Region)

- To expand cooperation in economy and trade and to facilitate tourism industry in cross-border areas
- The Sub-Committee on Cross-border Cooperation plans to introduce joint legislation on cross-border cooperation and trade, simplify visa agreement system and promote investment facilitation.



Sub-Committee on Science and Technology (Coordinator- Gyeonggi-do Province)

- To promote exchange and development of science and technology in the Northeast Asian region
- Created on September, 2006, the Sub-Committee on Science and Technology holds industrial exhibitions and science & technology meetings to facilitate exchange among members in Northeast Asia.



Sub-Committee on Tourism (Coordinator - Henan Province)

- To seek joint development and mutual interest by promoting tourism businesses of NEAR member regional governments
- The Sub-Committee on Tourism plans to provide a platform for substantial cooperation among NEAR members by organizing tourism exhibition, promotion events and tourism partnership forums



Sub-Committee on Ocean and Fishery (Coordinator - Shandong Province)

- To strengthen partnership in maritime affairs and fisheries in Northeast Asia
- The Sub-Committee on Ocean and Fishery implements academic exchange through science and technology forums and organizes seminars with the theme of "development and preservation of ocean" as well as business round tables. It also provides dispatch training programs to facilitate exchange and cooperation in the field.



Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development and Coordination
(Coordinator - Magadan Region)

- To promote mutual development through mineral resources development and coordination in Northeast Asia
- The Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development and Coordination plans to exchange technologies on mineral resources development and follow-up control



Sub-Committee on Energy and Climate Change
(Coordinator - Daegu Metropolitan City)

- To foster exchange of energy technologies and prepare for climate change
- The Sub-Committee on Energy and Climate Change plans various exchange and cooperation activities among member regions focused on green growth.



Sub-Committee on Women and Children (Coordinator - Dornod Province)

- To promote women's participation and children's welfare in Northeast Asia
- The Sub-Committee on Women and Children plans various exchange and cooperation activities among member regions.

Secretariat & Admission of New Members

Secretariat

- The Secretariat was established and began its operation on May 2, 2005 in Pohang City of Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Republic of Korea
- The organization consists of Secretary General, Director General and two divisions including Planning and General Affairs Division and International Cooperation Division. Government officers from Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, regional experts and seconded officers from member regional governments of each country are working at the Secretariat.
- The role of Secretariat includes budgeting, budget execution, audit report documentation, liaison and coordination among members supporting the General Assembly, Working Committee and Sub-Committees and execution of resolutions made by the General Assembly and the Working Committee.

Admission of New Members

- **Scope of Membership**
- Any regional governments located in the Northeast Asian region sharing the founding purpose of NEAR can join NEAR membership.
- **Affiliation Process**
- To join the membership of NEAR, an application shall be submitted to the Secretariat. The application for admission shall be approved by the General Assembly.



The Association of North East Asia
Regional Governments

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