# The 1st NEAR Association Conference

* **Overview**

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| Periods | September 11, 1996 ~ September 14, 1996 |
| Venue (Place | South Korea > Gyeongsangbuk-Do, Gyeongju Hilton Hotel and Hyundai Hotel in Bomoon Complex, Gyeongju |
| Organized by | South Korea > Gyeongsangbuk-Do |
| Participation | 29 localities from 4 countries |
| China | Heilongjiang Province, Shandong Province, Henan Province |
| Japan | Aomori Prefecture, Niigata Prefecture, Toyama Prefecture, Ishikawa Prefecture, Fukui Prefecture, Kyoto Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, Tottori Prefecture, Shimane Prefecture |
| South Korea | Gyeonggi-Do, Gangwon-Do, Chungcheongbuk-Do, Chungcheongnam-Do, Jeollabuk-Do, Jeollanam-Do, Gyeongsangbuk-Do, Gyeongsangnam-Do, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province |
| Russia | Republic of Buryatia, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Khabarovsk Territory, Amur Region, Irkutsk Region, Kamchatka Region, Sakhalin Region, Zabaikalsky Territory |

* **Contents**

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| ▷ Theme of ”Realizable exchange and collaboration measures to the North East Asia Region Local Authorities towards the 21st Century”▷ Establishment of a Charter for the creation of a permanent international organization of the local authorities in the North East Asia Region▷ Exchange and collaborative projects among regions and discussion on the development strategies

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| • Investment and development of resources in Russia and China • Extension of human and physical exchanges • Joint confrontation on environmental problems • Joint confrontation on natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and drought • Pursuit on the establishment of the North East Asia Research Center • Participation of North Korea and Mongolia • Joint opening of diverse expositions, cultural art festivals, and exhibitions |

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* **Gyeongbuk Declaration**

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| Delegations of local governments of the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China, Japan and Russian Federation gathered and conducted the North East Asia Regional Governments Conference on the 12th of September in 1996 at Gyeongju, Province of Gyeongsangbuk-do, Republic of Korea to continue the '93 Conference in Shimane, Japan, the '94 Conference in Hyogo, Japan and the '95 Conference in Khabarovsk.  The cooperation among localities in the region urgently needed in the North East Asia Region, which is emerging as a new frontier in the world economies to solve the mutually interested problems such as the establishment of peace and order, economic cooperation, and environmental issues.  The local governments in the North East Asia Region, which have kept a close relationship with each other for a long time due to its geographical location have shared the recognition that we all have to pursue mutual development and prosperity, based on the basic principles of reciprocity and equity, through the active cooperation and exchange in the fields of economy, culture, arts and sports and so on to open the more progressive and future-oriented 21st Century.  Based on the mutual understanding stipulated above and the results of the past 3 years, all members, under the main theme of "Developing executable alternatives in cooperation with the local governments and authorities in the North East Asia Region towards the 21st Century", agreed to settle a permanent and practical international organization and discussed various executable alternatives on wide range of issues.  Consequently, we gathered consensus on the following matters and agreed to exert our mutual efforts to accomplish these promises:  1. We form 'the Association of the North East Asia Regional Governments' as an eternally existing international body oriented to pursue the mutual development of the local governments and the authorities in the North East Asia.2. We exert continuous efforts to specifically pursue in facilitating the joint projects and strengthen cooperative exchange among localities.3. The next Conference will be held in Toyama Prefecture, Japan in 1998. |
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