The 2nd NEAR Association Conference

* **Overview**

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| Periods | October 20, 1998 ~ October 22, 1998 |
| Venue (Place | Japan > Toyama Prefecture, Toyama |
| Organized by | Japan > Toyama Prefecture |
| Participation | 24 regional authorities from 5 countries |
| China | Liaoning Province, Shandong Province |
| Japan | Aomori Prefecture, Yamagata Prefecture, Niigata Prefecture, Toyama Prefecture, Ishikawa Prefecture, Fukui Prefecture, Kyoto Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, Tottori Prefecture, Shimane Prefecture, Yamaguchi Prefecture |
| South Korea | Gangwon-Do, Chungcheongbuk-Do, Chungcheongnam-Do, Jeollabuk-Do, Jeollanam-Do, Gyeongsangbuk-Do, Gyeongsangnam-Do |
| Mongolia | Tuv Aimak |
|  | Russia | Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Primorski Territory, Khabarovsk Territory |

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| ▷ Disposition of the proposals for revision of the Charter

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| • Extension on the scope of membership - Insert “Mongolia” in Article 4 (Scope of membership) of the Charter • Establishment of five subcommittees: namely economic commerce, cultural exchange, environment, disaster prevention, and general exchanges • New establishment of sections related to the Supporting Organization of the Association**▷ Preparation of ”Rules on the establishment and operation of a subcommittee”, and****▷ Determined the Hyogo Prefecture, Japan as the venue for the 2000 General Assembly** |

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* **Toyama Declaration '98**

1. Related self-governing organizations from China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, and Russia gathered in Toyama, Japan on October 21, 1998, and conducted the "1998 Northeast Asian Region Self-Governing Organizations Conference." The Self-Governing Organizations Conference was the first conference since the establishment of the Northeast Asian Region Self-Governing Organizations Conference (hereinafter, "Association"). The participants exchanged constructive opinions and made agreements on the issues including economic trade, cultural exchange, environment, and disaster prevention for growth and peace in the Northeast Asian region amid difficult crises. Participants also assessed the Association's prior activities

2. Since almost all areas, including economy, information, and environment, is currently globalized, it will be very important to further deepen the collaboration and exchange among regions. Cultivation of multi-faceted attractiveness, in fortified infrastructures for the production and exchange such as harbors and airports, and the abundance of life environment or culture, are essential for the autonomous development and stabilization of this region. The participants shared the same awareness of the need to pursue better development and stability in this region by creating diverse networks on the ground of exchanges and collaborations that each self-governing organization of the Northeast Asian Region has accumulated over time, and they reorganized a system in the pursuit of various exchange and collaborative programs.

3. While upholding such a shared awareness, and the spirit of the "1993 Shimane Conference," "1994 Hyogo Conference," "1995 Khabarovsk Conference," and "1996 Gyeongsangbuk-do Conference," the participants agreed to the following on the basis of performance of the Association founded in Gyeongsangbuk-do, revised the Charter of the Association, and confirmed the agreement to continually exert efforts for the realization of their goals.

(1) In order to expand membership in the Association and to consolidate the Association, Mongolia and other countries in the Northeast Asian Region might participate in the Association, and the participation of the central province of Mongolia would be welcomed. In addition, self-governing organizations in Russia and Korea voiced opinions that the self-governing organizations shall continue to make efforts for the participation of North Korea.

(2) Each sector shall establish the following subcommittees for making all concrete projects proposed at the conference of the self-governing organizations, effectively promoting them, and prompting allied collaboration and exchange programs among self-governing organizations.

 - Economy & Trade Subcommittee

- Cultural Exchange Subcommittee

- Environment Exchange Subcommittee

- Disaster Prevention Subcommittee

- General Exchange Subcommittee

(3) When organizations aim for the development of the North Asian Region that are established, the participating self-governing organizations of the Association shall pursue the reinforcement on the functions of the Association while allowing the new organizations to be registered as "Association Support Organizations (Association Centers, etc.)."

4. Participants shared the same awareness as follows based on the proposals from each self- governing organization, and confirmed intention to review and discuss the ability to realize or develop concrete measures in the pursuit of each project by the Working Committee or the Subcommittee.

(1) To contribute a sustainable growth of the Northeast Asian Region, members would strive to make available consultations, product exhibitions, the introduction of an investment environment, offering of space for sightseeing PR, and the exchange of information; along with the pursuit of allied collaboration emphasizing the nature of mutual complement in the field of economic trade, such as the facilitation of commerce, technology exchange, and encouragement of corporate training.

(2) To overcome the environmental problems, such as global warming and marine pollution, is a common problem needed to solve for mankind. Each self-governing organization shall pursue an environment collaborative program in accordance with each character of the organization. In addition, each will fortify a collective and collaborative relationship among self-governing organizations for the preservation of the whole environment in the Northeast Asian Region for the execution of diverse collective research, information exchange, and exchange of researchers.

(3) In order to deepen the mutual understanding in the Northeast Asian Region, where diverse cultural life patterns are preserved, each self-governing organization shall participate in or support the culture and the academy-related exchange programs with the international purport if possible, and thus promote exchange and collaborations in the cultural and academic aspects.

(4) To reduce damage from earthquakes, floods, and forest fires, the possibility of information exchange on a disaster prevention system, such as the utilization of volunteers for disaster, and exchange of human resources, such as exchange of persons concerned in the medical sector, shall be reviewed along with the usability of disaster prevention tools and devices.

5. In addition, we offer our condolences to every resident and self-governing organization that are victims of the big flood in the Northeast Asian Region, and wish for their fast recovery.

6. We came to know that Hyogo in Japan intends to take a place in the next self-governing organization conference in 2000, and we willingly accept this intention. Furthermore, the Working Committee has determined to review reasonable and effective operations for the burden of expenses for sustainable growth of the Association.