# The 3rd NEAR Association Conference

* **Overview**

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| Periods | September 04, 2000 ~ September 07, 2000 |
| Venue (Place) | Japan > Hyogo Prefecture |
| Organized by | Japan > Hyogo Prefecture |
| Participation | 26 regional authorities from 5 countries |
| China | Heilongjiang Province, Shandong 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, Yamaguchi Prefecture |
| South Korea | Busan Metropolitan City, Gangwon-Do, Chungcheongbuk-Do, Chungcheongnam-Do, Jeollabuk-Do, Gyeongsangbuk-Do, Gyeongsangnam-Do |
| Mongolia | Tuv Aimak |
| Russia | Primorski Territory, Khabarovsk Territory, Kamchatka Region, Sakhalin Region |

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| ▷ Theme of ”Sustainable development and economic exchange in the North East Asia” and ”Human exchange and cultivation of talent in the North East Asia”

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| **▷Discussed the establishment of a standing office in Gyeongsangbuk-do Province for complementing the problems of a circuit office****▷ Agreed on joint efforts for the attraction of the participating local governments of North Korea in the Association****▷ Determined Khabarovsk, Russia, as a venue of the 2002 General Assembly** |

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* **HyogoㆍAwaji Declaration**

The "Self-Governing Organizations Conference in the Northeast Asian Region 2000" was held on September 5, 2000 in the International Conference Hall of the Hyogo/Awaji Dream Stage, where "JAPAN FLORA2000," an international gardening and garden design exhibit was held. Self-governing organizations in China, Mongolia, Korea, and Russia gathered in the same place and opened the conference.

This self-governing organization’s conference was the third General Assembly of the Northeast Asian Region Self-Governing Organizations Association (hereinafter "Association"), established in Gyeongsangbuk-do, Korea in 1996.

Since 1990, each country in the Northeast Asian Region became affluent due to the proceedings of globalization centering around the economy sector, whereas difficult problems, such as a financial crisis that one country alone is unable to cope with, have appeared. Moreover, to cope with the natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, that frequently occur in many countries and severely damage them, international aid activities, including NGOs, become natural. As to an environmental problem of the earth, which is a common problem to solve for humankind, people came to be increasingly aware that the problem should be independently coped with by each person.

As shown from the point described above, the role of NGOs, including a self-governing organization or an individual apart from a country, became larger toward the 21st Century, where globalization increased. Such an epochal trend will additionally enhance the importance of the resolution of problems by establishing connections among regions on the diversified problems in this international society. Besides, information technology, which is expected to develop incredibly will strengthen and facilitate the connections among regions.

At this conference, held amidst this state of affairs, it is expected that representatives of the participants will share a vision of exchange in the Northeast Asian Region toward the 21st Century and the contribute to the creation and promotion of the new interchange. While looking back on the activities of the Association since its establishment, we, the participants, discussed the consolidation of the Association. Regarding the development of interchange among regions in the future, we exchanged frank opinions on a wide array of fields, including the economy, the environment, and culture, by appointing two themes of "Sustainable development and economic interchange in the Northeast Asia Region" and "Fostering and exchange of talents in the Northeast Asian Region."

Through the discussion, we, the participants, reconfirmed the purport of the Association that pursues the development of the entire Northeast Asian Region, by deepening mutual understanding and sharing technology and experience as each self-governing organization promotes interchange among regions. In addition, we determined to try to materialize the purpose after responding to the following:

1. In order to contribute to the development of the Northeast Asian Region, we will expand the field of economic interchange among self-governing organizations, targeting inside and outside of the region by mutually participating in the industrial matters and events held in each region, as well as consolidating information exchange among self-governing organizations. Furthermore, with awareness that it is imperative to cope with environmental problems in order to allow the sustainable growth of the region, information exchange concerning environmental policies shall be faithfully pursued via the opening of an international conference, and technology collaboration that will be promoted among self-governing organizations in the region with regard to the environmental issues.

2. In order to promote wider interchange within the Northeast Asian Region, it is imperative to facilitate the interchange of human resources in the fields of academy, culture, and the arts, and the connective collaboration to foster the talents for coping with urban problems. To this aim, mutual understanding should be deepened by pursuing the interchange of human resources centering on the younger generations, including youths and students, who will inherit the future of the Northeast Asian Region. In addition, collaboration among regions shall be pursued in terms of cultivating talents and preparing measures for urban problems, such as the sustenance of health and disaster prevention.

3. In order to reasonably and effectively operate the Association, the Working Committee shall continually review its role, organization, and financial aspects, including membership fee of the Secretariat, as well as issues and measures in the operation of the Association, and shall report them to the next General-Assembly. In addition, the Working Committee shall contribute to effectively review by establishing the "Working Subcommittee for Reasonable and Effective Operation of the Association," which is comprised of a chairmen’s group, vice chairman, and two groups in each country in the Working Committee.

4. The summit talks held between South Korea and North Korea last June, led us to expect the ease of inter-Korean tension. We sincerely welcome North Korea, the only country in the Northeast Asian Region where a self-governing organization to participate in the Association does not exist, to participate in the Association by sharing the purpose of contributing to world peace.

5. The next General Assembly shall be held in Khabarovsk, Russia in 2002 pursuant to the general agreement of the participating self-governing organizations.