**The 9th Working Committee**

* **Overview**

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| Date | September 10~13, 2013 | |
| Venue | Hyundai Hotel, Youngam County, Jeollanam-do Province | |
| Hosted by | Jeollanam-do Province, South Korea | |
| Participated by | 25 member regions and related organizations from 5 countries | |
| China (4) | Heilongjiang Province, Shandong Province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Hubei Province |
| Japan (3) | Toyama Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, Shimane Prefecture |
| 대한민국(11)  South Korea (11) | Busan Metropolitan City, Daegu Metropolitan City, Gwangju Metropolitan City, Sejong Special Self-governing Province, Gyeonggi-do Province, Chungchengbuk-do Province, Jeollanam-do Province, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Gyeongsangnam-do Province, Jeju Special Self-governing Province |
| Mongolia (5) | Uvurkhangai Province, Selenge Province, Orkhon Province, Bayankhongor Province, Umnugovi Province |
| The Russian Federation (1) | Russian Consulate General in Busan Metropolitan City |

* **Agenda**

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| ▷Activity Report of the 9th NEAR General Assembly 2012  ▷Activity Report of the NEAR Secretariat and Sub-Committees  ▷Report of the Research of NEAR New Vision  ▷Presentation of Member Regions   |  | | --- | | **▷Presentation and Discussion of the Working Committee**  **▷Agreement Presentation and Cultural & Industrial Tour** | |

* **Agreement**

**Agreement of NEAR 9th Working Committee**

The 9th Working Committee meeting was held on September 11, 2013, in Youngam County, Jeollanam-do Province, South Korea.

After the opening ceremony, the meeting started with activity reports of the 9th General Assembly, the Secretariat, and 8 Sub-Committees. Hubei Province and Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region of China respectively presented proposals for better governance of NEAR. Also, New Vision 2020 for establishing NEAR’s long-term vision to prepare 2020 was reported by the NEAR Secretariat.

In addition, there were discussions and reviews regarding the application to host the 11th General Assembly 2016, establishment of a new Sub-Committee, revision of the Sub-Committee name, and revision of the NEAR Charter proposed by the NEAR Secretariat.

The details of the Working Committee meeting are as follows.

**□ Discussion on the Proposals**

(1) For the proposal regarding the way to expand NEAR’s exchange and cooperation, Hubei Province, China suggested that exchange and cooperation led by regional governments are further expanded to the exchange and cooperation led by council of local governments, economy and trade sector, private organizations, and enterprises. The region also claimed that friendship city relations among regional governments within member regions should be promoted, and promotion and information sharing through a variety of media led by the Secretariat should be also enhanced.

Member regions agreed to expand the scope of exchange and cooperation, including council of local government. Meanwhil,e they decided to actively support exchange and cooperation among basic local governments of member regions.

**(2)** For the proposal regarding the way to enhance NEAR’s exchange and cooperation, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region suggested that the friendship agreement among member regions should be signed when the General Assembly and other events are held by actively using the Secretariat, and promotion channel should be established for member regions to promote co-prosperity by taking part in the large international events organized by regional governments.

Participating member regions agreed with the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region’s proposal. Although there is a difficulty in expanding the active participation due to the financial problem, they decided to promote the suggestions and the Secretariat decided to establish a promotional channel and provide systematic support.

**□ New NEAR Vision 2020**

The NEAR Secretariat asked Asia Research Institution of Kyungbook National University to conduct a research to establish NEAR’s New Vision 2020, NEAR’s 25th anniversary celebrating its foundation, and the proposals were reported to the Working Committee along with summary report (in English)

The details are as follows.

1. To organize Presidium and Bureau, strengthen the authority of Secretary General and Chair, organize expert groups and advisory panels, and integrate the Sub-Committee upon topics for rebuilding governance
2. To enhance the professionalism, establish the Secretariat’s infrastructures and Liaison Office, and employ more full-time experts for strengthening the Secretariat capability
3. To propose the introduction of membership fee for reorganizing the Secretariat’s financial structure
4. The ways to develop NEAR’s new services were suggested.

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Along with interests and opinions proposed by participating members, the Secretariat let all member regions review the NEAR New Vision 2020 by distributing the reports (in English). After the Secretariat collects the reviews, the NEAR New Vision 2020 finalized will be reported to the next General Assembly, reviewed, and finally determined.

**□ Agendas and Resolutions of the 9th Working Committee**

1. For an issue regarding selection of the place where the 11th General Assembly 2016, the 20th anniversary to celebrate its foundation, is held, Zabaikalsky and Irkutsk Region of Russia and Uvurkhangai Province of Mongolia applied to host the General Assembly in their region. Based on the previous experiences to host the General Assembly, accessibility, and economic capability, discussion were carried out to select one of those regions.

(Given a fairness of each nation, one of the regions from Russia and Mongolia respectively will be selected and decided to be reported to the General Assembly for final decision.

2. For an issue regarding the revision of the name of the Sub-Committee, Sub-Committee on Economy & Trade which was founded in 1998 and has Gyeongsagbuk-do coordinator region, proposed to revise its name to Sub-Committee on Economy and Humanities Exchange to expand exchange and cooperation to the area of Humanities exchange satisfying the need of the age.

Revision of the name of the Sub-Committee was accepted and decided through serious discussions of participating members (based on Article 11) and will be reported to the next General Assembly.

3. For the an issue regarding establishment of a new Sub-Committee, Republic of Sakha, Russia, proposed the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Sports to actively promote exchange and cooperation in the sports among member regions. Even though there were opinions claiming many Sub-Committees are existing, they agreed to establish the new Sub-Committee and report it to the next General Assembly (based on Article 11).

4.For an issue regarding the revision of the NEAR Charter, the Secretariat reflected the resolutions of the 9th General Assembly 2012 in the charter and suggested the revision of inconsistent articles and several names. Revised articles include Article1 (Name), Article 10 (organization and operation of the Working Committee), and Article 12(organization and operation of the Secretariat)

The several things proposed during the discussion of the Working Committee will be reported to the next General Assembly and decided.

**□ Subsidiary Resolutions**

The NEAR 9th Working Committee Agreement shall be composed in English, as well as, in 5 languages of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Mongolian, Russian, and will be distributed after the conference by the Secretariat to all member regions.

September 11, 2013

The Association of North East Asia Regional Governments (NEAR)

The 9th Working Committee