

Summary Report of the 16th Environmental Subcommittee Meeting, the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments

On Tuesday November 14, 2023, the 16th Environmental Subcommittee Meeting of the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments (NEAR) was organized online.

In the meeting, Toyama Prefecture was selected as the coordinating municipality for the next term. There were presentations to report and propose activities which are in accordance with “Toyama Declaration 2016.” For individual projects in 2024, 8 projects were proposed to be continued. These projects were agreed to be conducted for the next term.

1. Objectives

It aims to conserve environment in the region by smooth implementation of individual projects by NEAR’s member states and information sharing.

2. Date and holding method

- Date: November 14(Tue.), 2023, from 10:00am to 3:00pm,
- Method: Online

3. Organizers

Toyama Prefecture,
The Association of North East Asia Regional Governments (NEAR)
(Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center is entrusted by Toyama Prefecture with operation of NEAR’s environmental subcommittee.)

4. Participating municipalities

10municipalities from 3 countries

- Japan(4) : Yamagata, Toyama, Niigata, Saga(Observer)
- Korea(3) : Gangwon, Chungcheongnam, Gyeongsangnam
- Russia(3) : Primorsky, Khabarovsk, Tomsk

5. Outcomes

(1) Selecting the next coordinating municipality (discussion)

Toyama Prefecture was selected as the coordinating municipality for next term (2 years).

(2) Report of the individual projects 2023 (presentation)

Some municipalities reported about their activities for individual projects in 2023.

Individual projects 2023	Organizers
Development of the youth leaders for the environmental activities in the Northeast Asia	Liaoning(China), Toyama(Japan)
Environmental education program to prevent marine litter at source	Toyama(Japan)
Environmental poster exhibition in Northeast Asia	Shanxi(China)
Survey of coastal organisms	Toyama(Japan)
Environmental experience program for youths about blue carbon with shellfish	Chungcheongnam(Korea)
Photography contest "Eco-selfie"	Tomsk(Russia)
Biological seasonal survey in the Northeast Asia	Toyama(Japan)
Bio-monitoring at river	Primorsky(Russia)

(3) The individual projects and Environmental Subcommittee's activities for 2024 (discussion)

8 projects were proposed to be continued in the FY 2024 and they were agreed.

Individual Projects in 2024	Proposers
Development of the youth leaders for the environmental activities in the Northeast Asia	Tomsk(Russia)、 Toyama(Japan)
Environmental education program to prevent marine litter at source	Toyama(Japan)
Environmental poster exhibition in Northeast Asia	Toyama(Japan)
Survey of coastal organisms	Toyama(Japan)
Environmental experience program for youths about blue carbon	Chungcheongnam(Korea)
Photography contest "Eco-selfie"	Tomsk(Russia)
Biological seasonal survey in the Northeast Asia	Toyama(Japan)
Bio-monitoring at river	Primorsky(Russia)

In the meeting this year, it was pointed out that we should consider global trends in the environmental issues, such as SDGs targets, climate change, and marine plastic litter. Reflecting "Toyama Declaration 2016", these projects should be carried out as specific efforts to protect environment in the Northeast Asia.

(4) Opinion exchange for future activities

- ① opinions were exchanged about future meeting holding methods (online, face-to-face, etc.), timing, so that many municipalities could participate in this meeting.

It was decided that the coordinating municipality (Toyama Prefecture) would consider the matter, considering not only the municipalities participating in this conference but also the opinions of related municipalities that have participated in

the past.

- ② Project proposing municipalities explained to participating municipalities about implementation issues, requests, etc. and discussed issues related to securing budget, improvements for revitalization, active calls for participation, etc. Opinions were exchanged about the future implementation method of individual projects.

In addition, there were opinions from municipalities participating in individual projects (or municipalities considering participation) to project proposing municipalities, such as issues related to participation, measures to improve participants' motivation, and the importance of use of websites and SNS to revitalize projects.

【State of the meeting】



State of meeting



Information exchange



Secretariat of Sub Committee

*** Toyama Declaration of 2016 Environmental Experts Meeting among Northeast Asia Region (Toyama Declaration 2016)**

The G7 Environmental Ministers' Meeting was organized in Toyama in May 2016. Following it, Toyama Prefecture held "2016 Environmental Expert Meeting among Northeast Asia Region" with participants from municipalities and universities in China, Japan, Korea and Russia. "Toyama Declaration 2016" was adopted with aims to work on environmental conservation together for the next generation.

The declaration mentions directions of efforts under items, including "positive contribution to global environmental issues," "civic collaboration and environmental education," and "international dialogue."