

**The Resolution
of
the Northeast Asia Economic Conference 2000 in Niigata**

27th January 2000
Niigata, Japan

In 1990 the first in a series of regular conferences on exchanges and cooperation in Northeast Asia was held in Niigata. Since 1996 these conferences are known as the Northeast Asia Economic Conference in Niigata. The Northeast Asia Economic Conference 2000 in Niigata was held on the 26th and 27th of January 2000 as the 11th of the series, and opened a new round of talks concerned with development of the Northeast Asia Economic Region.

At the Economic Conference 2000, opinions from the public and private sectors, the central and local governments, practitioners and academics were exchanged constructively, and suggestions for future multilateral or bilateral cooperation were actively produced in the following sessions: "The Corridor from Northeast Asia to the World: the Expansion of the International Transport Network," "Global Warming Prevention in Northeast Asia: Efficient Use of Energy Resources," and "Overseas Expansion of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in Northeast Asia."

In Session 1, The Corridor from Northeast Asia to the World: the Expansion of the International Transport Network, it was confirmed that the transportation infrastructure in Northeast Asia was progressing, although rather gradually, and new movements had been made towards the outside of the region in addition to opening new transportation routes in the region. However, problems regarding border crossing, such as customs and procedures, still remain. Other issues, such as smoother connections of ports, railways, and roads, standardization of cargo type, and cargo booking were pointed out. The importance of the improvement and expansion of transportation networks not only in Northeast Asia but also to Europe and North America after solving these issues, and the necessity of international cooperation to promote each route were also confirmed. In consideration of the importance of this issue, establishing opportunities for communication among transportation related people based on the discussion of this session was suggested.

During Session 2, Global Warming Prevention in Northeast Asia: Efficient Use of Energy Resources, the forecast for greenhouse gas emissions and the impact of global climate change in Northeast Asia were presented as the introductory remarks, and then the varied efforts in response to climate change made by each country and organizations were reported. Furthermore, opinions on possibilities of regional cooperation concerning climate change, and the schemes toward stabilizing global climate with regional activation, including the Kyoto Mechanism, were exchanged. The following common understanding was reached; it is necessary for all Northeast Asian countries to unite to strengthen cooperative efforts toward

climatic stabilization based on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Concrete suggestions were also made to set up a regularly scheduled round-table for information exchange, to create an environmental industry network as well as energy cooperation community in this region, and to increase the capacity for introducing the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) into this region.

In Session 3, Overseas Expansion of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in Northeast Asia, the following were discussed. We expect to see more globalization as well as improvements in industrial structure within the Chinese economy due to their participation in the WTO. Also, the role of exchanges among small and medium sized enterprises in the economic development of Northeast Asia is expected to increase. Particularly in Northeast China, the environment for Japanese and Korean small and medium sized enterprises to launch new business has improved because of development of Central and Western China, and progress in the reform of state owned enterprises. Both Jilin Province and Heilongjiang Province have been given special attention, and are expected to play major roles in the economic exchanges of Japanese and Korean small and medium sized enterprises in the activation of the region and change in the industrial structure. In order to promote exchanges, the needs of both sides should be understood properly. For this reason, the establishment of an information exchange network is urgently needed. Investors require the further improvement of the investment environment, and increased information disclosure to promote small and medium sized enterprises launching new business. At the same time, from middle and long-term viewpoints, the environment of investing countries should be further improved taking into account the acceptance of small and medium sized enterprises in the region.

After these three sessions, the Concluding Session entitled the Future and Prospects of Multilateral Cooperation was held. In the Concluding Session, discussion in each previous session was summarized, and the prospect of future multilateral cooperation was actively discussed.

The Concluding Session welcomed the establishment of the Northeast Economic Conference Organizing Committee on the 25th of January 2000, which proposed the promotion of multilateral cooperation, and expressed its expectation for the future activities of the Organizing Committee.

In order to realize discussions and policy recommendations produced from the Northeast Asia Economic Conference, the Organizing Committee is going to conduct activities, such as preparations for the Northeast Asia Economic Conference, e.g. choosing subjects and conducting related research, and follow-ups of the results from the Conference.

The participants in the conference recognized the importance of an organic liaison among the various existing or newly establishing organizations for regional cooperation, international organizations, and international conferences. They also confirmed the necessity to promote multilateral cooperation acting as mediators in their own places.