

2002 Northeast Asia Economic Conference in Niigata

RESOLUTION

Niigata, 29th January 2002

On 28th and 29th January 2002, like-minded old friends and new associates gathered in Niigata to participate in the Northeast Asia Economic Conference, which has already become something of an annual event. Over the two days which participants spent together, they obtained a great deal of new information, gained new inspiration from the perspectives of their neighbors, ascertained the results of joint projects, promised further cooperation, and broadened and deepened ties with other participants.

In his keynote speech, Mr. Tasuku Takagaki focused on Russia, where growth has begun to take off, while in the special address, Mr. Yongtu Long spoke from the perspective of China, which is increasing its presence in international economic relations, having joined the WTO; both speakers related recent trends and made suggestions as to what the countries should now tackle. The knowledge gained from the energy seminar and the trade and investment seminar was also of great value.

During the meetings of experts in transportation and regional cooperation, to the results of projects undertaken by interested parties to date was added fresh stimulus from new experts, and a serious, in-depth discussion unfolded. The main result of this was in the form of specific recommendations.

The fields of trade and investment (Information Technology), development finance and the environment, at the same time as being areas of concern for people throughout the globe, are issues with regard to which solutions arising from wide-ranging wisdom are also being sought in Northeast Asia. The remarks made during each panel session are based on specialist knowledge in the field, and added a fresh dimension to complicated problems.

New business opportunities were not limited to the business discussions relating to foodstuffs from Northeastern China, but have arisen throughout the conference, in a variety of situations.

The undivided attention to the speakers by their audiences, the intense questioning and exchanges of opinions, and the breaks where the flower of conversation bloomed in every nook and cranny are all testament to the strong cohesive power of the common goal of development in the Northeast Asian economic community. At the close of the conference, the participants held the realization of the proposed transportation corridors, for the sake of the development of Northeast Asia, as their common goal and shared a sense of the importance of continuing their activities, aimed at moving from theory to practice.

We, the participants of the 2002 Northeast Asia Economic Conference in Niigata, resolve to be unstinting in our efforts to realize these goals.

Review

of

Major Recommendations Presented at the Northeast Asia Economic Conference 2001 in Niigata

29th January 2002, Northeast Asia Economic Conference Organizing Committee

Transportation :

* The Transportation Subcommittee of the Northeast Asia Economic Conference Organizing Committee is to continue to collect, study and analyze information regarding the improvement of the Northeast Asia transportation corridors.

* Members of the Transportation Subcommittee, in cooperation with other specialists, should form a common “Northeast Asia Transportation Corridor Vision” and suggest concrete projects for the realization of this vision.

> The Transportation Subcommittee of the Northeast Asia Economic Conference Organizing Committee continued to collect, study and analyze information regarding the development of the Northeast Asian transportation corridors and, at the three conferences held over the last year, subcommittee members and other experts have jointly formulated a common Vision for the Northeast Asia Transportation Corridors, and proposed specific projects on which work should be commenced in order to realize the concept.

* Information on new or expanded transportation routes in Northeast Asia should be disseminated through various media channels to attract users.

> The Subcommittee widely published information about transportation routes in the Northeast Asian region to users through a variety of media channels, including the internet, and made efforts to promote use of these routes. In particular, it began monitoring information needed by users with regard to the status of the development and improvement of discontinuities at borders.

Investment Promotion:

* Learning from the experiences of the China-Japan Investment Promotion Committee and the Japan-China Investment Promotion Organization, organizations dealing with problems faced by foreign enterprises should be established in both the investing and recipient countries. The central and local governments concerned should actively make efforts to resolve any problems.

> When Mr. Takashi Imai, Chairman of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) visited Russia, he gained the understanding of President Putin regarding his proposal for establishing a Japan-Russia investment promotion mechanism. At present, discussions regarding its realization are progressing within the framework of Japan-Russia intergovernmental trade and economy committees.

Information Technology:

* Because IT is the core feature of cutting-edge technology at present, this sector must be assigned the highest priority if we are to strengthen regional economic cooperation; one essential step may be the establishment of a subcommittee to study the concrete actions deemed important for the advancement of IT.

> At the 2002 Northeast Asia Economic Conference in Niigata, a panel was established to discuss business models using IT. The main points of discussion were business opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses utilizing IT, policies to introduce a marketplace for electronic trading, the nurturing and mobilization of human resources, and international business practices and trading systems, etc.

Development Finance:

* Discussions about development finance schemes for infrastructure development, including the establishment of the proposed Northeast Asian Development Bank and the strengthening of the Asian Development Bank, should be accelerated.

> Discussions in the Northeast Asia Economic Forum, etc. have continued with regard to development finance schemes for infrastructure development, and at the 2002 Northeast Asia Economic Conference in Niigata, a panel was established to discuss development finance. In such discussions, a number of approaches have been presented with a view to translating the idea into reality, and the material necessary for policy decisions is increasing.

Major Recommendations

Presented at the 2002 Northeast Asia Economic Conference in Niigata

29th January 2002, Northeast Asia Economic Conference Organizing Committee

Transportation

The Transportation Subcommittee should aim for the realization of the *Vision for the Northeast Asia Transportation Corridors* presented at the 2002 Economic Conference and for the effective connection of the Northeast Asian Transportation corridor with such transportation networks as the European Transportation Corridor. In order to do this, it should:

- a) make approaches to related national and local governmental departments and international institutions, aimed at realizing specific individual projects;
- b) strengthen monitoring of discontinuities near borders; through various media, widely publish the results thereof to users and those in charge of such matters; and continue activities focused on promoting the use of the region's transportation corridors.

Regional Cooperation

Those connected with the Meeting of Experts in Regional Cooperation proclaim the importance of international cooperation that contributes to social development on a regional level, such as that in the field of medical technology taking place between Niigata Prefecture and Heilongjiang Province, in realizing continuous and stable social development in Northeast Asia. With regard to realizing this, in order to strengthen international policy collaboration at a regional level, ERINA and social science institutes in China's three northeastern provinces should promote joint Sino-Japanese research through the conclusion of a treaty of exchange.

Development Finance

Those connected with economic cooperation in Northeast Asia, such as the members of the Northeast Asia Economic Conference Organizing Committee, should support research and development activities with regard to the *Grand Design for Northeast Asian Regional Development*, which presents an economic development strategy for the entire Northeast Asian region, in addition to rousing international opinion with regard to the formulation and implementation of a development plan through multilateral cooperation in the Northeast Asian region.

Furthermore, they should participate in and cooperate with further research and enlightenment activities aimed at the realization of the Northeast Asian Development Bank, conceived as a solution to problems relating to the supply of finance for development work in Northeast Asia, or any other finance mechanism.

Environment

In order to manage both environmental protection and economic development in Northeast Asia, the further promotion of the exchange of information in this field, the nurturing of the environmental industry and the expansion of the international market for environmental products and services is necessary. With a view to establishing a network to promote this (for example, the *Northeast Asia Environmental Industry Network* (provisional name), ERINA and other related research institutions should make the efforts necessary to make a start on translating the network concept into reality.