

## Economic Exchange with the ROK: The Hokuriku (Japan) Economic Exchange Conference

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Regarding economic exchange with the ROK, I will give an explanation centered on the “Hokuriku (Japan) Korea Economic Exchange Conference” held annually by AJEC.

### 1) The Hokuriku (Japan) Korea Economic Exchange Conference

At the Hokuriku Economic Federation and the Around Japan sea Economic exchange Conference, in collaboration with the Korea–Japan Economic Association, which is affiliated to the ROK Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, we annually hold the “Hokuriku (Japan) Korea Economic Exchange Conference” between three Hokuriku prefectures (Toyama, Ishikawa, and Fukui) and four regions on the eastern side of the ROK (Gangwon-do, Gyeongsangbuk-do, Daegu Metropolitan City, and Ulsan Metropolitan City). In 1999 the Chubu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry took on the “Japan–ROK Economic Agenda 21”, which agreement between Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi and President Kim Dae-jung brought about, and held this conference, and from the 11th conference in 2010, AJEC has conducted it as the secretariat.

### 2) The Hokuriku (Japan) Korea Economic Exchange Conference to Date

The first conference was held in Toyama City, and from then on has been held alternately in Hokuriku and the ROK.

The most recent and 18th conference was conducted in Andong, in Gyeongsangbuk-do in the ROK, and a total of 172 persons participated, 52 from the Japanese side and 120 from the ROK side.

This fiscal year’s conference took “Japan–ROK interregional cooperation toward the resolution of common challenges” as its main theme, with Japan–ROK common problems, such as the dwindling birthrate and aging of the population, the population outflow to big cities, and local industrial promotion. The conference was composed of a plenary meeting and three sessions, which were a local government session, an innovation session, and a business session. At the plenary meeting presentations were made from both Japan and the ROK on the main theme. Presentations were made on regional revitalization measures by Japan and ROK local governments at the local government session, and on case examples of innovation at the innovation session. In addition, at the business session, business matching took place, and business talks between 6 Japanese and 16 ROK firms were 32 in number.

### 3) The Outcomes of the Hokuriku (Japan) Korea Economic Exchange Conference

A number of outcomes via this conference have been reported.

- Hot Rehabilli Systems: Establishment of ROK local corporation
- Kanazawa Institute of Technology: Collaboration with a university engineering design education center with robotics science in the ROK
- Collaboration with Hospitable (ROK recruitment industry)
- Meeting for exchange of opinions with the Korea Transport Institute (on the effect of the shinkansen)
- Arrangement of briefing session for Gwangyang Bay Area Free Economic Zone Authority
- Exchange with ROK overseas students: Invitation to all kinds of networking and roundtable meetings

4) The Staging of Next Fiscal Year's Conference

Next fiscal year the conference is planned to be held in Fukui Prefecture. The detailed content will be decided after subsequent consultation with the ROK side.

5) Future Economic Exchange

The fiscal year after next will see the milestone 20th conference. Regarding the Hokuriku (Japan) Korea Economic Exchange Conference from then on, we would like to consult with the institutions concerned and decide its direction.

Although various problems exist between the two countries, such as Japan–ROK relations and DPRK issues, the two are important countries always occupying a high position for import and export trade and destinations for the overseas expansion of firms. In the future, too, we will continue working on interregional exchange and development of economic exchange.

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