

The Khabarovsk Resolution, 6 September 2006

Recognizing the economic importance of the Russian Far East, its geographical position and its resource base for promoting economic cooperation in the Northeast Asian region, the Khabarovsk Krai Government and the Northeast Asia Economic Forum (NEAEF) jointly organized the Fifteenth Meeting of the NEAEF in Khabarovsk, Russia, on 5-6 September 2006. The agenda included sessions on energy, transportation, a Grand Design for the region, development finance and tourism.

The session on energy examined issues of energy supplies for the region and of trade and cooperation among the region's countries to promote energy efficiency and conservation while meeting the refining needs of the region's countries. The session on transportation examined the transport networks of the region and its logistics centers, the role of the Russian railways and the vision of a Grand Design for regional development. A panel on development finance discussed the prospects for and progress towards establishing a Northeast Asian Development Bank, which could help in financing needed infrastructure to accelerate economic development while ensuring more equal development within the region. The session on tourism examined various aspects of international exchanges among the countries of the region, including the role of tourism.

Recognizing the challenges and opportunities in the energy sector in Northeast Asia, there was general agreement in Session 1 (Energy) that future efforts should include a focus on collaborative efforts to facilitate intra-regional energy trade. The Forum welcomes Russia, enjoying vast reserves of energy resources, as well as technical and technological facilities for their export, in its preparedness to satisfy the growing demand of the Northeast Asian countries. Cooperative efforts of all interested countries are needed to specify mutually profitable conditions of extraction, transportation, and export of energy resources from Russia to Northeast Asian markets. Also very important, regional cooperative efforts should be directed to the use of advanced technology and sound practices to increase efficiency, conserve energy and minimize adverse effects on the environment.

In Session 2 (Transportation and the Grand Design), the participants agreed that it is essential to improve the effective multimodal transportation and logistics systems in Northeast Asia in order to achieve more sustainable development and cooperative relations in this region. Moreover, these issues need to be examined and coordinated in the perspective of a holistic and comprehensive vision such as a "Grand Design for Northeast Asia" collaboratively designed by related countries.

The participants agreed in Session 3 (Northeast Asian Development Bank) on the importance of a sub-regional Bank for international cooperation in order to ensure required financing for essential infrastructure development. The participants reconfirmed the important progress made by the new initiatives undertaken by the Tianjin Municipal Government and in Korea for the creation of a Northeast Asian Development Bank. The participants recognized the extensive efforts made by the Tianjin Municipal Government pursuant to the 1999 Tianjin Resolution of the Ninth Forum, and expressed hope that Tianjin will continue its efforts in support of the establishment of the Bank.

In Session 4 (International Exchanges: The Role of Tourism) participants agreed that the increasingly important role of exchanges and tourism in promoting cooperation and economic development deserves more attention by the NEAEF and member countries.

The Forum recognized the importance of including the Young Leaders Program in the annual Forum meetings and expressed the hope that the Young Leaders Program would continue as part of the larger NEAEF program.

The participants accepted with gratitude the invitation of Mr. Fujio Shinki, Chairman of the Hokuriku Economic Federation, to hold the Sixteenth Forum in Hokuriku, Japan, in 2006.

The participants expressed their gratitude for the important contributions made by the Khabarovsk Krai Government and the Economic Research Institute of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences in hosting and supporting the Fifteenth Meeting of the NEAEF, in cooperation with the Japan Committee for the Promotion of an Asian Energy Community, the Korea Asia-Pacific Institute, the BOGO Economic Research Institute of the Republic of Korea, the China Asia-Pacific Institute, the National Institute for Research Advancement of Japan, the Tianjin Municipal Government, the Korea Energy Economics Institute, and the University of Hawaii College of Social Sciences. The participants warmly thanked the Khabarovsk Krai Government for its hospitality and efficient implementation of the meeting.