

The East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress



The East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress

In 2010, in commemoration of the 1300th anniversary of Nara Heijo-kyo Capital, the “East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress” was established.

The purpose of this Congress is for the local and regional governments to discuss common issues facing our communities, report on policy measures, deepen mutual understanding through candid discussion, and explore avenues for problem solving.

By convening on a regular basis, we, the local and regional governments can improve our administrative capabilities, strengthen friendship and trust amongst ourselves, complement national diplomacy, and contribute to the peace and stable development of East Asia.

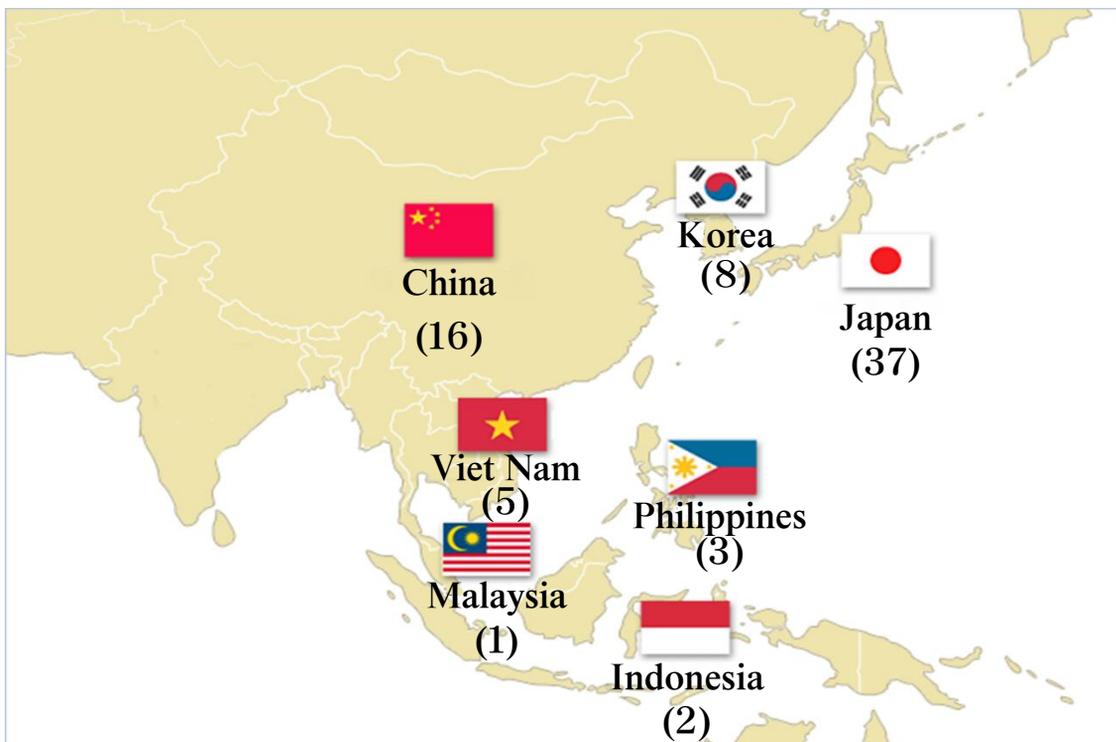


The East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress



【Member Governments】 7 countries 72 local and regional governments

- ◇ China(16) Jiangsu Province, Anhui Province, Shandong Province, Henan Province, Shaanxi Province, Gansu Province, Chengdu City, Xi'an City, Luoyang City, Yangzhou City, Huangshan City, Suzhou City, Weifang City, Linyi City, Dongying City, Dunhuang City
- ◇ Indonesia(2) Province of West Java, Province of Yogyakarta Special Region
- ◇ Malaysia(1) Melaka State
- ◇ Philippines(3) Aurora Province, Municipality of Dinalungan, Municipality of Baler
- ◇ Korea(8) Gyeonggi-do Province, Chungcheongnam-do Province, Gongju City, Seosan City, Buyeo County, Jeollanam-do Province, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Gyeongju City
- ◇ Viet Nam(5) Phu Tho Province, Thua Thien Hue Province, Quang Nam Province, Viet Tri City, Hue City
- ◇ Japan(37) Aomori Prefecture, Yamagata Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture, Niigata Prefecture, Toyama Prefecture, Ishikawa Prefecture, Fukui Prefecture, Yamanashi Prefecture, Nagano Prefecture, Gifu Prefecture, Shizuoka Prefecture, Mie Prefecture, Kyoto Prefecture, Wakayama Prefecture, Tottori Prefecture, Shimane Prefecture, Tokushima Prefecture, Kagawa Prefecture, Kochi Prefecture, Kumamoto Prefecture, Nara Prefecture, Tagajo City, Arakawa City, Niigata City, Kofu City, Takamatsu City, Dazaifu City, Nara City, Tenri City, Kashihara City, Gose City, Katsuragi City, Ikaruga Town, Miyake Town, Asuka Village, Koryo Town, Shimoichi Town



Why did Nara Prefecture start the East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress? ①

From the 7th to the 9th century, China under the Sui and Tang Dynasties was very powerful and cosmopolitan. Flourishing trade created a global society in East Asia.



The Sui and Tang Dynasties as a global center interacted with surrounding regions. Nara, Japan's capital back then (Emperors resided in Nara), embraced various civilization and cultures in the Eurasian Continent through the Dynasties and Korean Peninsula.

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Why did Nara Prefecture start the East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress? ②

Today after more than approx. 1300 years, a new global society is set to appear in East Asia.

To realize the peaceful and prosperous development of East Asia, not only reliance on national diplomacy, but also interactions between local governments are necessary for mutual understanding, trust building, stable and smooth exchange and activities among people from each country.

Nara Prefecture inherited a highly sophisticated civilization from the East Asian global society 1300 years ago. As a token of our deep gratitude for the huge benefits we received, we proposed organizing the East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress, in order to contribute to the peaceful and prosperous development of the current global society in East Asia.

East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress



Deepening Interactions



Platform for Interactions

The East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress



What kind of discussions have we had so far? ① ~Discussion Themes and Participants' Comments~

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|------------------------|
| Advocates' Meeting | Oct. 25 (Sun.) - 28 (Wed.), 2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 nations • 19 local and regional governments | Nara Prefecture, Japan |
| | “Toward the Promotion of Exchange between Japan, China, and South Korea : Building the Foundation for Stability and Prosperity of East Asia” | | |

“I am convinced that the East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress will be an **opportunity to build the foundation and pave the way for the future prosperity of East Asia.**”

(ISHIHARA, Nobuo,
 President, Research Institute for Local Government.)



| | | | |
|---------|---|--|------------------------|
| The 1st | Oct. 6 (Wed.) - 8 (Fri.), 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 nations • 34 local and regional governments | Nara Prefecture, Japan |
| | “Conservation of Cultural Heritage and Tourism Promotion”, and “Next-generation Exchange” | | |



“This congress is of **great significance** for how it gathers local and regional governments under one roof to **deepen their mutual understanding of one another** while **respecting the inherent diversity of the respective regions.**”

(Lee, O Young,
 Initial Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Republic of Korea)

| | | | |
|---------|--|--|------------------------|
| The 2nd | Oct. 18 (Tue.) - 26 (Wed.), 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 nations • 45 local and regional governments | Nara Prefecture, Japan |
| | “Risk Management” and “Regional Development” | | |

“**By the close network of trust**, woven by the members of the East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress, we can build **new strengths and a strong, robust East Asia.**”

(ARAI, Shogo,
 Governor, Nara Prefecture)



The East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress



What kind of discussions have we had so far? ②

~Discussion Themes and Participants' Comments~

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| The 3rd | [Senior working-level officials meeting] 1st theme specific meeting: Aug. 28 (Tue.) - 29 (Wed.), 2012 2nd theme specific meeting: Sep. 10 (Mon.) - 11 (Tue.), 2012 | • 6 nations in total • 47 local and regional governments |
| | [Governors and Mayors meeting] Plenary congress: Nov. 5 (Mon.) - 6 (Tue.), 2012 | Nara Prefecture, Japan |
| “Social Security in terms of Aging Population and Decreasing Birth Rate”, “Methods for Efficient Collection of Local Tax and Developing Tax Resources”, and “Regional Development, Human Resource Development” | | |



“I hope that this kind of opinion exchange will lead to interactions among the countries of East Asia and become well established. (...) By moving forward with exchanges of experiences among various countries based on that evolution **East Asia as a whole will surely become invigorated.**”

(MIYAMOTO, Taro (Lecturer),
Professor, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Law)

| | | | |
|---------|--|--|------------------------|
| The 4th | Jan. 20 (Mon.) – 22 (Wed.), 2014 | • 6 nations • 41 local and regional governments | Nara Prefecture, Japan |
| | “Social Security in terms of Aging Population and Decreasing Birth Rate”, “Regional Economic Development and Employment” | | |

“**Local and regional governments are definitely not small presences.** Large visions can be realized only by conducting the specific and substantial actions such as social security, infrastructure preparation, and school construction at the grassroots level.”

(Surin Pitsuwan,
Former Secretary General of ASEAN)



The East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress



What kind of discussions have we had so far? ③

～Discussion Themes and Participants' Comments～

| | | | |
|---------|---|--|------------------------|
| The 5th | Oct. 27 (Mon.) – 29 (Wed.), 2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 nations • 41 local and regional governments | Nara Prefecture, Japan |
| | “Regional Economic Development”, “Community Development”, and “Tourism Promotion” | | |

“By acknowledging that the greatest tourism promotion is raising the quality of life and enriching the local community, which will then lead to regional promotion and community development, and by expressing their intent to pursue this target, I feel **the members who have participated in these themes have now become a team looking toward the same outcome and results.**”



〔 YAMADA, Keiichiro (Lecturer)
Consulting Director, Japan Tourist Information Center Swiss 〕

| | | | |
|---------|--|--|------------------------|
| The 6th | Oct. 25 (Sun.) – 27 (Tue.), 2015 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 nations • 43 local and regional governments | Nara Prefecture, Japan |
| | “Revitalizing Regional Economies through Tourism”, “Community and Regional Development”, and “Agriculture and Rural Development” | | |



“It is precisely because their population, sizes (area), histories, and cultures are so different that I felt **the importance** of skillfully connecting the common points **to learn from each other and strengthen cooperation in East Asia.**”

〔 GOTO, Kenichi (Lecturer)
CEO of Prot Asia and Pacific Inc. 〕

| | | | |
|---------|--|--|------------------------|
| The 7th | Nov. 6 (Sun.) – 8 (Tue.), 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 nations • 41 local and regional governments | Nara Prefecture, Japan |
| | “Community and Regional Development”, “Agriculture and Regional Economic Development”, and “Promotion of Measures against Declining Birthrate” | | |

“I think **Japanese people should acknowledge and be proud** of the fact that Nara Prefecture has made this tenacious effort.”

〔 MOTANI, Kosuke (Lecturer)
Chief Senior Economist, the Japan Research Institute, Ltd. 〕



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What kind of discussions have we had so far? ④

~Discussion Themes and Participants' Comments~

| | | | |
|---------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| The 8th | May 10 (Wed.) –11(Thurs.), 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 nations • 31 local and regional governments | Chengdu City, Sichuan Province, China |
| | <p>“Policy Innovation for Tourism Promotion”, “Policy Innovation for Industries and Talents”, and “Policy Innovation for Urban and Rural Construction”</p> | | |



“Since its inception in 2010, the East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress has become a **significant platform for cooperation and deepening relations** among members.”

(Luo, Qiang,
 Mayor of Chengdu City, Sichuan Province, China)

| | | | |
|---------|---|--|------------------------|
| The 9th | Nov. 1 (Thurs.) –3(Sat.), 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 nations • 39 local and regional governments | Nara Prefecture, Japan |
| | <p>“Promotion of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery” and “Developing Human Resources in a Global Society”</p> | | |

“It was an **extremely meaningful opportunity** that allowed local governments to **share efforts to utilize creativity and ingenuity**, and deepened our recognition of **common issues and measures.**”



(TANAKA, Osamu (Lecturer),
 Special Advisor for China Research POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE)

| | | | |
|----------|---|--|------------------------|
| The 10th | Nov. 6 (Wed.) – 8 (Fri.), 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 nations • 40 local and regional governments | Nara Prefecture, Japan |
| | <p>“Promotion of Tourism” and “Enhancement of Welfare and Medical Treatment Supported by the Communities”</p> | | |

The East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress



“Special Speech”, “Memorial Movie”, “Guest Speech” were conducted for commemorating the 10th East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress.

The 10th East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress

- Date: November, 6th (Wed.) to the 8th (Fri.), 2019
- Place: Nara Prefecture, Japan
- Discussion Theme
 - 〔Theme 1〕 Promotion of Tourism
 - 〔Theme 2〕 Enhancement of Welfare and Medical Treatment Supported by the Communities



The 10th Anniversary Special Speech



Theme: Japan and East Asia

– Aiming for a World of Resonance, Co-creation, and Mutual Prosperity –

Speaker: TANINO Sakutaro

(Advisor of the Japan and China Friendship Center, Former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to China)

The 10th Anniversary Memorial Movie



The movie for retracing the histories until the 10th Congress was shown. We received the message video from Mr. ISHIHARA Nobuo, the former Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary who was the chairman of the East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress Executive Committee, and an individual who played a huge part in the establishment and development of the congress itself.

The 10th Anniversary Guest Speech



Theme: The Asian Century

-The Next Phase of Globalization-

Speaker: Adrian S. Cristobal Jr.

(Chairman, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia <ERIA>)

Announcement of holding the 11th East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress by West Java Province, Republic of Indonesia

The Memorandum of Agreement was concluded for conducting the 11th Congress through cooperation between West Java Province and Nara Prefecture.



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Further Expanding Discussion Places

○ The 8th East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress

Chengdu City, Sichuan Province in China held the first overseas congress, which was held outside of Nara Prefecture.

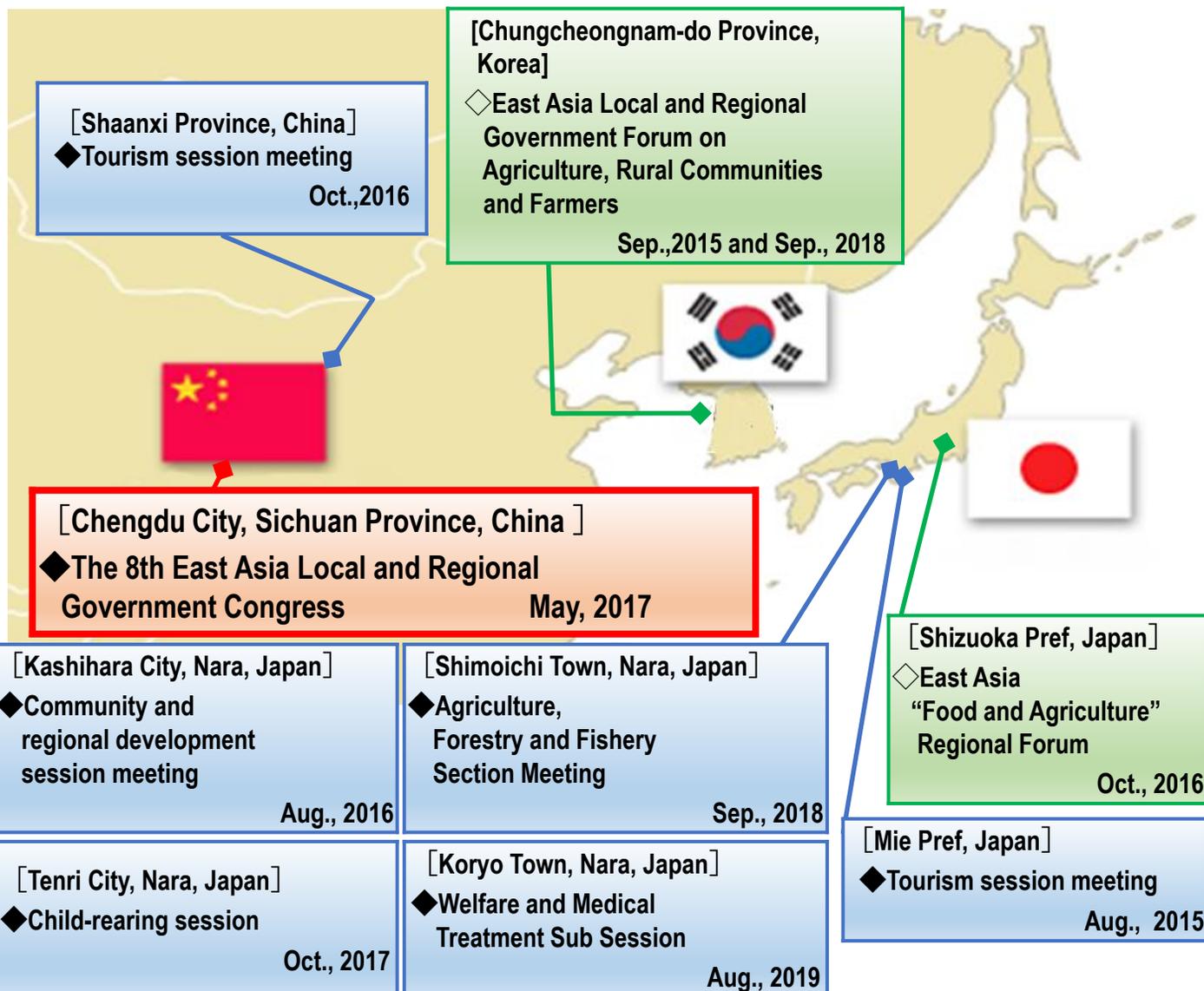
○ Efforts by Each Member Government

• “Section Meeting”

A study meeting for working level officials is conducted by the member government only for the member governments.

• “Related Forum”

A forum that is conducted by the member governments for the member governments and for others who are not congress members.



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Future for the East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress

~As a Platform for Mutual Understanding, Trust Building, Improving the Administrative Capabilities~

We will make an effort to **improve and develop the East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress** for an intermittent interactions in East Asia.

- ① We aim to hold the congress not only in Nara Prefecture, but also overseas.
- ② We will continue to focus on the today's East Asian common problems. We will discuss and share information to **improve the regional government's administrative capabilities. We will contribute to develop a peaceful and stable East Asia.**

Tourism session meeting
(2015 Mie Prefecture, Japan)



Tourism session meeting
(2016 Shaanxi Province, China)



The 8th East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress
(2017 Chengdu City, Sichuan Province, China)



East Asia Local and Regional Government Forum on
Agriculture, Rural Communities and Farmers
(2018 Chungcheongnam-do Province, Korea)



Welfare and Medical Treatment
Sub Session
(2019 Koryo Town, Nara, Japan)