

2008 - 2012 Progress Report of the Trilateral Cooperation

**among the People's Republic of China,
the Republic of Korea and Japan**



Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

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2008-2012 Progress Report of the Trilateral Cooperation

Part I. Introduction

In September 2011, the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) was launched in Seoul. As the first international organization dedicated to the promotion of cooperative relations among the three countries, its establishment constitutes a milestone in the development of the trilateral cooperation. According to the *Agreement on the Establishment of the TCS* signed by the three governments in December 2010, the TCS shall submit annual progress reports to the Three-Party Committee or the Trilateral Foreign Ministers Meeting for approval. Under this mandate, this *2008-2012 Progress Report of the Trilateral Cooperation* has been compiled by the TCS, and is now submitted to the Trilateral Foreign Ministers Meeting for approval. With extensive and strong support from relevant ministries and organizations of the three countries, the TCS is ready to draft the report annually, so as to provide a comprehensive picture of the trilateral cooperation.

Part II Cooperation Progress

Since the Trilateral Summit in November 2007, the three countries have overcome unprecedented challenges and made historical progress with the trilateral cooperation.

Confronted with the international financial crisis, the three countries joined hands to address global economic difficulties. The East Asia boasts the most resilient economy in the world. At times of natural disasters and adversity, the three countries rendered help to each other. The sense of community among the three peoples has been heightened. In face of complex regional and international situations, the three governments focused on the big picture and enhanced coordination, and Northeast Asia has been ensured of its peace, stability and prosperity.

The three countries have forged a future-oriented comprehensive cooperative partnership and established a full-fledged cooperative framework among the three governments, including the independent Trilateral Summit, Foreign Ministers Meeting and other Ministerial Meetings, as well as Senior Foreign Affairs Officials Consultation. The blueprint for the trilateral cooperation towards year 2020 has been drawn up. Exchange and cooperation have expanded into new fields such as agriculture, water resources, standardization, disaster management, nuclear safety and renewable energy. Major cooperative projects such as Investment Agreement, Trilateral FTA and CAMPUS Asia have been pushed forward. Among the three countries, political trust has been enhanced. The trilateral economic cooperation is rapidly expanding. The social, cultural and people-to-people exchanges are also dynamic and close. In 2011, the TCS was established to institutionalize ever-flourishing cooperation. The trilateral cooperation is advancing with depth and scope in a concrete manner, playing more and more important roles in promoting the peaceful development among the three countries, enhancing understanding and affinity among the three peoples, as well as driving strong, sustainable and balanced growth of East Asia and the world at large.

1. Politics and Security

Trilateral Summit

The 1st independent Trilateral Summit was held in Fukuoka of Japan, December, 2008. The basic agenda of the Trilateral Summit was progress and future direction of the trilateral cooperation, followed by regional and international issues. At this Summit, the leaders signed the *Joint Statement for Tripartite Partnership*, which laid out the guiding principles of the trilateral cooperation and affirmed to hold the Trilateral Summit on a regular basis. They issued the *Trilateral Joint Announcement on Disaster Management Cooperation* and the *Joint Statement on the International Finance and Economy*. The *Action Plan for Promoting Trilateral Cooperation* was adopted.

The 2nd Trilateral Summit was held in Beijing, October 2009. Leaders of the three countries adopted the *Joint Statement on the Tenth Anniversary of Trilateral Cooperation*, affirming to push forward the trilateral relations in the direction of

good-neighborliness, mutual trust, comprehensive cooperation, mutual benefit and common development. They adopted the *Joint Statement on Sustainable Development*, strengthening cooperative measures in environment, circular economy, science and technology, water resources, forestry, energy, agriculture and climate change. They agreed on initiatives such as launching the Trilateral FTA Joint Study among government officials, business representatives and academia, exploring the establishment of the Trilateral Circular Economy Model Base, exploring exchange of credits among universities of the three countries and thinking about the naming of the project, and conducting cooperation on aviation safety.

Alongside the Summit, the leaders of the three countries attended commemorative activities of the Tenth Anniversary of the trilateral cooperation such as the 1st Trilateral Business Summit, the “Oriental Images” Chinese ink and water painting exhibition, the creative pro-environment paper carve painting exhibition jointly completed by the young artists from the three countries.

The 3rd Trilateral Summit was held in Jeju of ROK, May 2010. Leaders adopted the *Trilateral Cooperation VISION 2020*, laying out a decade-long blueprint in 5 major areas and over 40 projects. They also adopted the *Joint Statement on Strengthening Science and Innovation Cooperation* and the *Joint Statement on Standards Cooperation*. They agreed on over a dozen initiatives, including establishment of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat in ROK in 2011, concluding the Trilateral FTA Joint Study in 2012, launching as soon as possible the university exchange program proposed last year, namely the CAMPUS Asia.

During the Summit, leaders of the three countries attended the signing ceremony of the *Memorandum on the Establishment of the TCS*, met with representatives of young researchers of the three countries, enjoyed a Joint Folk Music Concert featuring youth performers from the three countries, and participated in the “Vision 2020” Time-Capsule Laying Ceremony at which a time-capsule containing 2020 wish letters by children of three countries was buried for re-opening in year 2020.

The 4th Trilateral Summit was held in Tokyo, May 2011. Leaders of the three countries visited disaster-stricken areas of the Great East Japan Earthquake including Fukushima, and expressed deep condolences for the loss of lives and devastating damages. They adopted the *Summit Declaration* with 3 attachment documents, i.e.,

Cooperation on Disaster Management, Cooperation on Nuclear Safety and Cooperation toward Sustainable Growth through Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. They endorsed over a dozen cooperation initiatives, such as holding the Trilateral Policy Dialogue on Asian Affairs, concluding the Trilateral FTA Joint Study within 2011, expanding the scale of people-to-people exchange among the three countries to 26 million by 2015, and organizing “Future Forum” in the framework of the Trilateral Youth Friendship Meeting.

At the Summit, the leaders of the three countries attended a joint performance by musicians from the three countries, and an exhibition of traditional artworks of the three countries.

The leaders of the three countries have continued to hold the Trilateral Summit Meetings on the occasion of the ASEAN related summit meetings in Pattaya of Thailand, April 2009; in Hanoi of Vietnam, October 2010 and in Bali of Indonesia, November 2011.

Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting

The 2nd to 5th Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meetings were held respectively in Tokyo, June 2008; in Shanghai of China, September 2009; in Gyeongju of ROK, May 2010 and in Kyoto of Japan, March 2011.

The 2nd Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting reached consensus on holding of the 1st independent Trilateral Summit. The 3rd Meeting conducted brief stocktaking of the trilateral cooperation in the past 10 years and deliberated on general direction of the trilateral cooperation in the coming decade. The 4th Meeting agreed in principle the blueprint of the trilateral cooperation towards year 2020. Only days after the Great East Japan Earthquake, the 5th Meeting was held as planned in Japan. The three Foreign Ministers agreed to strengthen cooperation in disaster management and nuclear security.

Trilateral Senior Foreign Affairs Officials Consultation

The 3rd to 7th Trilateral Senior Foreign Affairs Officials Consultations were held respectively in Tokyo, December 2008; in Beijing, February 2010; in Jeju of ROK, April 2010; in Tokyo, February 2011 and in Beijing, March 2012.

Policy Dialogue on Asian Affairs

As agreed at the 4th Trilateral Summit in 2011, the first Trilateral Policy Dialogue on Asian Affairs was held on March 2012 back-to-back with the annual Trilateral Senior Foreign Affairs Officials Consultation. Vice or deputy foreign ministers of the three countries exchanged views on the situation and issues in Asia, as well as their respective policies on Asia and regional cooperation.

Policy Dialogue on Africa

The annual Trilateral Policy Dialogue on Africa was launched in Tokyo, December 2008, with the 2nd to 4th Dialogues in Beijing, December 2009; in Seoul, December 2010 and in Tokyo, December 2011. Responsible Directors-Generals of the three foreign ministries exchanged views on situation and issues in Africa, as well as their respective policies and cooperation with Africa. The Dialogues have enhanced mutual understanding and contributed to their cooperation with the African countries. The 5th Dialogue is to be held in China, 2012.

Meeting of the Directors-General of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs

The 3rd to 5th Trilateral Meetings of the Directors-General of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs among the three foreign ministries were held in Tokyo, March 2009; in Beijing, October 2010 and in Seoul, December 2011. Through consultation on situation in Latin America and Caribbean region, their bilateral relationship and policies with Latin American countries, as well as cooperation among the three countries, the Directors-General have enhanced mutual understanding and facilitated the three countries' exchange and cooperation with the Latin American countries.

Counter-Terrorism Consultation

Following the *Trilateral Cooperation VISION 2020*, which was adopted at the 3rd Trilateral Summit in May 2010, the 1st Trilateral Counter-Terrorism Consultation was held in Jeju of ROK, March 2011. Responsible deputy-minister or director-general level officials of the three foreign ministries and officials of related ministries of the three countries exchanged views on the international terrorism and discussed cooperative measures and capacity building assistance to combat terrorism. The 2nd Consultation is to be held in Japan, 2012.

Disaster Management

Trilateral Heads of Government Agency Meeting on Disaster Management

(Ministerial Meeting) among the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Japanese Cabinet Office and the Korean National Emergency Management Agency has been held every two years since 2009. The 1st Meeting in Kobe of Japan, October 2009 signed the *Joint Statement of the first Trilateral Heads of Government Agency Meeting on Disaster Management*, agreeing to hold the Meeting in rotation, to collectively promote research and sharing of information, to hold expert-level seminars on human resources training and expertise sharing, and to strengthen cooperation with international disaster management organizations located in the three countries. The 2nd Meeting in Beijing, October 2011 signed the *Joint Statement of the second Trilateral Heads of Government Agency Meeting on Disaster Management*. The three agencies decided to build a mechanism of mutual visits and exchanges, to improve the sharing of information and technology, and to establish an emergency communication mechanism by designating 24-hour contact points, etc.

The 4th and 5th **Tripartite Meetings on Earthquake Disaster Mitigation** were held in Tokyo, November 2008 and in Seoul, November 2010. Director-general level officials from the China Earthquake Administration (CEA), the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), and the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA), reached consensus on earthquake data exchange in near real time, decided to exchange tsunami data as needed, and agreed on the development of foundation for collaboration against volcanic activities in Northeast Asia, promotion of experts exchange and facilitation of joint research and sharing of technology for Earthquake, Tsunami and Volcano. The 5th Meeting signed the *Minutes of the Tripartite Meeting on Earthquake Disaster Mitigation*, which listed focal points for cooperative activities. The **Seminar on East-Asia Earthquake Studies** – “Earthquakes, Tsunamis and Volcanoes in Northeast Asia: International Collaboration and Regional Capacity Building for the Forecast, Preparedness and Early Warning”, organized jointly by the CEA, the JMA, and the KMA was held in Beijing, October 2011. The seminar adopted the *Beijing Understanding* and a future plan for joint research.

Nuclear Safety

The annual **Northeast Asian Top Regulators Meeting (TRM) on Nuclear Safety**

was launched in Tokyo, September 2008, with the 2nd in Seoul, August 2009; the 3rd in Beijing, November 2010 and the 4th in Tokyo, November 2011. The 4th TRM signed a *Cooperative Nuclear Safety Initiative of the three countries* which aimed at strengthening cooperation in the field of nuclear safety and confirmed the cooperative activities such as 1) to promote exchange of experience and learning from best practices of each country and 2) to maintain a network of nuclear safety regulators in Northeast Asia and promote international cooperation in the Asian region.

Tripartite Partnership Exchange Program

The 3rd Trilateral Summit in 2010 discussed about initiating an annual exchange arrangement among government officials of the three countries, i.e., the Tripartite Partnership Exchange Program. In October 2011, ROK started the first round of exchange in Seoul and Jeju. 5 junior diplomats from each country participated. In December 2011, China hosted the exchange in Beijing and Xi'an. The next round of exchange program is expected to be held in Japan.

2. Economy

Trade and Investments

The 6th to 8th **Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers Meetings** were held among Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the ROK, respectively in Hua Hin of Thailand, October 2009; in Seoul, May 2010 and in Tokyo, April 2011. Since 2010, the independent Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers Meeting has been held in the three countries on a rotational basis.

At the 6th Meeting, the Ministers shared the views to reach a substantial agreement on Trilateral Investment Agreement, and to launch the Trilateral FTA Joint Study among government officials, business and academic participants. At the 7th Meeting, they reaffirmed to make efforts to complete the Trilateral FTA Joint Study in 2012, and to conclude the negotiations on Trilateral Investment Agreement. They also expressed support for the cooperation among companies of the three countries in markets other than the three countries, and agreed to strengthen cooperation in distribution and logistics areas. At the 8th Meeting, the Ministers shared the need to continue to secure

the prompt and smooth flow of goods and persons in the Asian region, to make further efforts to reach a substantial agreement on the Trilateral Investment Agreement negotiation as early as possible, and to accelerate the Trilateral FTA Joint Study.

The **Trilateral FTA Academic Joint Study** conducted two more rounds of researches from 2008 to 2009, reaching its successful conclusion after a total of 7 years of study. With the participation of representatives from the three governments and business communities as observers, the Development Research Center (DRC) of the State Council of China; the National Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA) of Japan (2008) and the Institute of Developing Economies, the Japan External Trade Organization (IDE- JETRO) (2009); and the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) submitted 2 annual outcome reports to leaders of the three countries. The 2008 report focused on challenges and expectations of the Trilateral FTA with efforts to analyze a feasible roadmap for the establishment of the Trilateral FTA. The 2009 report assessed impacts of the recent Global Economic Crisis on trade in Northeast Asia. In this final report, the three research institutes suggested the launch of Trilateral FTA Joint Study among government officials, business and academic participants.

Endorsed by the 2nd Trilateral Summit in 2009, the **Trilateral FTA Joint Study among government officials, business representatives and academia** was launched in Seoul, May 2010. The Joint Study Committee (JSC) was established. Through 2010 and 2011, the JSC has conducted 7 rounds of consultations, covering trade in goods, trade in service, investment and other issues. At its final meeting in Pyeongchang of ROK, December 2011, the JSC pronounced the conclusion of the Joint Study, stressing that the Trilateral FTA will not only expand trade and investment among the three countries but also provide a comprehensive and institutional framework leading to a win-win-win situation for the three countries. The result of the Joint Study will be reported to the 5th Trilateral Summit in 2012 for follow-up actions.

The Negotiation on Trilateral Investment Agreement has been conducted for 10 more rounds from 2008 to 2012. The 13th round was held in Tokyo, March 2012. The three Parties had extensive consultations on articles of the Agreement, such as National Treatment, Prohibition of Performance Requirement, Most-Favored-Nation

Treatment, Property Right, Transparency, and Investor-State Dispute Settlement. In the latest follow-up meeting in Beijing, March 2012, the three countries reached a substantial agreement.

After conclusion of the Trilateral FTA Academic Joint Study, the 2nd Trilateral Summit in 2009 agreed to maintain the mechanism of **Trilateral Economic Cooperation Joint Study** among the Development Research Center (DRC) of the State Council of China; the Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO); and the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP). The mechanism is expected to conduct researches on areas and methods of trilateral economic cooperation, so as to advance further economic integrations among the three countries in a forward looking manner. The themes of 2010 to 2012 studies were “New Vision for the Trilateral Economic Cooperation”, “Trilateral Industrial Cooperation” and “New engines for regional integration in the Three Countries through Emerging Industry Cooperation” respectively. The annual concluding symposiums were held in Seoul, May 2010; in Beijing, April 2011; and in Beijing (to align the hosting of the symposium with that of the Trilateral Summit), February 2012.

The **Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technological Conference** has proven to be an important framework for promoting government-industry-academia cooperation such as facilitation of trade and investment, energy conservation, environment protection, transportation and logistics. It has been under the auspices of the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Science and Technology of China, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Kyushu Bureau of Japan and Ministry of Knowledge Economy of the ROK, with the participation of experts from industry and academia. The 8th to 11th Conferences were held respectively in Incheon of ROK, October 2008; in Yantai of China, July 2009; in Kitakyushu of Japan, October 2010 and in Daejeon of ROK, November 2011. Yellow Sea Rim Business Forum, Science and Technology Forum, Transportation and Logistics Forum, University Presidents Forum and Trilateral Government Meeting, etc., were also held at each session of the Conference. The 12th Conference is planned to be held in Lianyungang of China, 2012.

The **Trilateral Business Summit** was launched in 2009 by China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), Nippon Keidanren of Japan and the

Federation of Korean Industries (FKI). It has been held 3 times back to back with the annual Trilateral Summit, during which leaders of the three countries met the business representatives and delivered speeches. Joint Statements were issued at the end of the Business Summit, which submitted suggestions on future development of trilateral economic cooperation from business sector to the leaders of the three countries. The Business Summit mechanism has served as a platform for the promotion of dialogues and communications among the business communities of the three countries, and between the public and private sectors. The 4th Trilateral Business Summit is scheduled at the 5th Trilateral Summit in China, 2012.

Transport and Logistics

The 2nd **Trilateral Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics** was held in Okayama of Japan, May 2008. It adopted 12 Action Plans to achieve three goals: 1) creation of a seamless logistics system, 2) establishment of environmentally friendly logistics, and 3) achievement of balance between secure and efficient logistics. The 3rd Conference in Chengdu of China, May 2010 adopted progress report on implementing the Action Plans. The 4th Conference is scheduled to be held in Busan of ROK, July 2012.

As agreed at the 3rd Ministerial Conferences on Transport and Logistics in 2010, the **Northeast Asia Logistics Information Service Network (NEAL-NET)** was officially launched at the **Trilateral Forum for the Development of Transport and Logistics** in Hangzhou of China, December 2010. The Joint Steering Committee, Council, and Secretariat of the NEAL-NET were established at the same time.

There have been 4 rounds of **Northeast Asia Port Directors-General Meetings** since 2008. The 10th Meeting was held in Tokyo, September 2009. The 11th Meeting in Jeju of ROK, November 2010 decided to establish 2 working groups: 1) on Green Port Strategy for Sustainable Development, and 2) on Measure to prevent Coastal Disasters Considering the Global Warming in the Northeast Region. The 12th Meeting in Hangzhou of China, October 2011 reached consensus on promoting ocean leisure industry. The three countries agreed to share experience and technology on upkeep port facilities.

Customs

The 2nd **Tripartite Customs Heads Meeting** in Jeju of ROK, November 2008 agreed

to establish a working group on expanding the **Authorized Economic Operator (AEO)** system and to strengthen cooperation about environmental protection in customs administration field. It also agreed to execute World Customs Organization Framework about trade facilitation and sought cooperation on the field of trade statistics. Three countries shared their experience and know-how in capacity-building program for customs officials and agreed to operate a joint training program. The 3rd Meeting in Beijing, September 2009 endorsed the *Action Plan of the Tripartite Customs Cooperation*, spelling out cooperative measures in following areas: institutionalization, IPR protection, customs enforcement and intelligence, mutual qualification recognition of AEO, trade facilitation, enhancement of human resource development, and cooperation in international fora. Pursuant to the Action Plan, the three countries agreed to maintain 3 working groups on IPR, Customs Enforcement and Intelligence, and AEO. The 4th Meeting in Tokyo, November 2011 confirmed the establishment of the Customs Procedure Working Group and revised the *Action Plan of the Tripartite Customs Cooperation*. In line with the revised Action Plan, the three countries have developed customs cooperation in the fields of the protection of Intellectual Property Right, customs enforcement and intelligence, mutual recognition of AEO programs as well as human resource development.

Intellectual Property Rights

The 8th to 11th **Trilateral Policy Dialogue Meetings** among the State Intellectual Property Office of China, the Japan Patent Office and the Korean Intellectual Property Office were held respectively in Seoul, March 2009; in Xi'an of China, December 2009; in Japan, December 2010 and in Gyeongju of ROK, December 2011. At the meetings, the three Offices continuously pushed forward cooperation in areas such as automation, patent examination, machine translation among the three languages, development of human resources, work-sharing through the Patent Prosecution Highway and design. At the 8th Meeting, the three Offices reached consensus on the establishment of a Joint Experts Group for Patent Examination (JEGPE). At the 9th Meeting the three Offices agreed on holding the Heads Meeting of IP Training Centers of the three countries. At the 10th Meeting, the three Offices decided to exchange information regarding work-sharing. At the 11th Meeting, the three Offices agreed on the revised *Roadmap for Trilateral Cooperation* in the field of Intellectual Property Rights and approved the *Joint Statement on Cooperation* among the three

Offices.

The 6th to 9th Meetings of the Joint Experts Group for Automation were held in Daejeon of ROK, October 2008; in Beijing, October 2009; in Tokyo, October 2010 and in Daejeon of ROK, October 2011. The JEGPE Meeting was launched in Beijing, October 2009, with the 2nd and 3rd in Tokyo, August 2010 and in Daejeon of ROK, October 2011. As its outcome, the *Comparative Study Report on Inventive Step* and the *Comparative Case Study Report on Inventive Step* (about laws and examination guidelines concerning inventive step) were approved at the 10th and 11th Trilateral Policy Dialogue Meetings among the three Offices.

The **Heads Meeting of IP Training Centers of the three countries**, namely, the China Intellectual Property Training Center, the National Center for Industrial Property Information and Training of Japan and the International Intellectual Property Training Institute of ROK started in Seoul, August 2010. The 2nd meeting was in Tokyo, November 2011.

Finance

The 8th to 11th **Trilateral Finance Ministers Meetings** were held in Madrid of Spain, May 2008; in Bali of Indonesia, May 2009; in Tashkent of Uzbekistan, May 2010 and in Hanoi of Vietnam, May 2011, respectively. At the meetings, the Ministers made concerted efforts to tackle the international financial crisis. In addition, they worked vigorously with ASEAN members to collaborate on various issues. They have contributed to the strengthened financial cooperation in the region, and played key roles in drawing tangible outcomes, such as the establishment of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization in 2009.

The 1st **Tripartite Governors Meeting** among the People's Bank of China (PBC), the Bank of Japan (BOJ) and the Bank of Korea (BOK) was held in Shenzhen of China, July 2009. The 2nd and 3rd Meetings were held respectively in Tokyo, August 2010 and in Jeju of ROK, July 2011. At the Meetings, the Governors exchanged views on macro-prudence, financial stability, regional cooperation and other issues of common concerns. The 4th Meeting will be hosted by the People's Bank of China in 2012.

Science and Technology

The 2nd **Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation** in Tokyo, May 2009 adopted a joint statement, agreeing to commence the Joint Research Collaboration Program, and to organize the Workshop Program for the Young Researchers. The 3rd Meeting is scheduled in Shanghai of China, April 2012.

The 6th to 9th **Heads of Research Council in Asia (A-HORCs) Meeting** among the National Natural Science Foundation of China, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and National Research Foundation of Korea were held respectively in Jeju of ROK, November 2008; in Hiroshima of Japan, November 2009; in Xi'an of China, September 2010 and in Daejeon of ROK, September 2011.

The Joint Research Collaboration Program among the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology of China, Japan Science and Technology Agency and National Research Foundation of ROK was launched in 2009. Each year, the three countries funded 3 joint research projects. So far, the research areas are “Energy Saving”, “Disaster Prevention”, “Water Cycle”, and “Climate Change”.

A3 Foresight Program by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and the National Research Foundation of Korea has supported leading-edge researches among the three countries on yearly basis. From 2008 to 2011, the projects selected have covered advanced materials, cancer epigenetics, renewable energy, next generation network and network security.

The 1st **Trilateral Green Technology Forum** was held in Tokyo, March 2012. This forum focused on the topics of “Low Carbon Society”, “Climate Change” and “Water Management”. The participants of the forum shared the information on the Green Innovation policies of three countries and the knowledge on the latest outcomes of researches and discussed important research themes and direction in these fields.

ICT Industry

In Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia, January 2011, the 5th **Trilateral ICT Ministerial Meeting** was held alongside the 10th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting. The Meeting agreed on promoting and strengthening the three countries' cooperation and exchanges in the fields of ICT such as emerging ICT, network deployment and application, telecommunications, network and information security, radio and human resources development. The revised *Arrangement on Cooperation in*

ICT was signed at the Meeting, which decided to establish the director-general level International Cooperation Committee among ICT ministries of the three countries. The 6th Meeting is to be held in Japan.

The 3rd and 4th **International Cooperation Working Group Meetings** were held in Seoul, December 2009 and August 2010.

The 7th to 10th **Open Source Software (OSS) Meeting among IT Director Generals of the three countries**, and back to back with it, the **Northeast Asia OSS Forums** were held respectively in Wuxi of China, October 2008; in Tokyo, October 2009; in Seoul, November 2010 and in Xi'an of China, October 2011. The 11th Meeting and Forum are to be held in Japan, 2012.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

As in the document of *Cooperation toward Sustainable Growth through Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency* adopted at the 4th Trilateral Summit in 2011, the three countries agreed to promote sustainable growth through promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency as a driving force for the global growth. In this regard, they confirmed the importance of cooperation through establishing a framework as well as other methods.

Also, the East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue was held in Tokyo, April 2012, with the participation of ministerial level officials from three countries. They expected that further dialogue will deepen the cooperation in this area.

Standardization

The three countries have conducted extensive exchanges and cooperation through the annual **Northeast Asia Standards Cooperation Forum (NEAS Forum)** since its launch in 2002. The most recent Forum was held in Busan of ROK, June 2011. The three countries agreed to start standardization cooperation in printed circuit board, smart city infrastructure and postpress of printing.

The 3rd Trilateral Summit in May 2010 adopted the ***Joint Statement on Standards Cooperation***. The three parties agreed on researching harmonization of standards of mutual interest in key fields, and on exchanging information and experts, etc.

A Memorandum on Establishing a Partnership Framework on Standards Cooperation

was signed at the **1st Standing Committee of the Trilateral Standards Cooperation** held in Sapporo of Japan, December 2010. The 2nd Standing Committee was held in Busan of ROK, June 2011.

The 11th NEAS Forum will be held in Chengdu of China, April 2012. At the same time, the 3rd Standing Committee will also be held.

Trilateral Cooperation on developing certified reference materials (CRMs) has been pushed forward by National Institute of Metrology (NIM) of the People's Republic of China, National Metrology Institute of Japan (NMIJ) and Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science (KRISS). The three institutes hold an **annual seminar on Asian Collaboration on Certified Reference Materials (ACRM)**. Recent seminars were held in Lijiang of China, September 2008; Seoul, September 2009; Chiba of Japan, September 2010 and Chengdu of China, September 2011. The next seminar is scheduled in Gyeongju of ROK, August 2012.

The revised ACRM Memorandum of Understanding was signed in October 2009. The three institutes have jointly developed CRMs for international mutual confidence in measurement, testing, chemical analysis, trade, health, food safety and product safety including the RoHS Directive.

Consumers

The 3rd and 4th **Trilateral Consultative Meetings on Consumer Policy** were held in Tokyo, March 2009 and in Seoul, August 2010, respectively, with the participation of officials from State Administration for Industry and Commerce of China, Cabinet Office of Japan and Korea Fair Trade Commission. Also, China Consumer's Association, National Consumer Affairs Center of Japan and Korea Consumer Agency attended the meetings. The three countries shared recent developments on consumer policies and discussed ways to cooperate in the consumer products safety area.

Back to back with the 4th Trilateral Consultative Meeting on Consumer Policy, the 2nd **Trilateral Consumer Policy Forum** was held with the participation of relevant consumer organizations and academics. The discussion centered on the topics of "Measures for Consumer Products Safety" and "Revitalization of Local Consumer Administration."

3. Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection

The 10th to 13th **Tripartite Environment Ministers Meetings** (TEMM) were held respectively in Jeju of ROK, December 2008; in Beijing, June 2009; in Hokkaido of Japan, May 2010 and in Busan of ROK, April 2011. The 11th TEMM adopted 10 priority cooperative areas (as listed below) and thus, consolidating extensive exchanges and cooperation on environmental protection among the three countries. On the basis of that, the 12th TEMM adopted *the Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation (2010-2014)*. The 13th TEMM began Students and Business Forums, which brought together business representatives and students from the three countries to exchange opinions and have discussions with the Ministers, and adopted new cooperation for the countermeasures against disasters.

(The followings are the part of the activities under the 10 priority cooperative areas adopted at the 11th TEMM)

Climate Change

The three countries have steadily worked together to promote the full, effective, and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol. On the regional front, the three countries have maintained close cooperation on green economy/green growth/low-carbon development through joint research and workshops.

Environmental Education, Environmental Awareness and Public Participation

The 9th to 12th **Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN) Workshops and Symposiums**, which brought together relevant experts, teachers and NGO representatives, were held respectively in Seoul, November 2008; in Nagoya of Japan, November 2009; in Beijing, March 2011 and in Gyeongju of ROK, October, 2011.

Biodiversity

At the 13th TEMM in 2011, the three countries confirmed to cooperate for successful holding of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Jeju of ROK, September 2012. They reached

consensus on the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) as an independent intergovernmental body. The three countries affirmed to participate proactively in the global discussion on this matter.

Dust and Sandstorms

The 3rd to 7th rounds of **Tripartite Directors-General Meetings on Dust and Sand Storms (DSS)** were held respectively in Seoul, September 2008; in Qingdao of China, April 2009; in Japan, March 2010; in ROK, March 2011 and in China, April 2012. The 5th Meeting decided to continue supporting trilateral cooperation towards the establishment of DSS monitoring and early warning networks, as well as on DSS prevention and control measures.

The **Steering Committee for Joint Research on DSS** has convened 6 meetings since its launch in Tokyo, January 2008. Two Working Groups (WGs) were established in 2008 and each having held 4 meetings. In 2011, *Proceedings of WG I for joint Research on Dust and Sandstorm in North-east Asia* was published as a compilation of research outcomes under the WG I. The 4th Meeting of WG II for Joint Research on Prevention and Control on DSS in Tokyo, December 2011 agreed to nominate Hulunbeier, eastern part of Inner Mongolia in China, as a joint monitoring site.

Pollution Control

The Tripartite Workshop on Scientific Research of Photochemical Oxidant was launched in Tokyo, September 2008, with its 2nd to 4th meetings in Incheon of ROK, December 2009; in Beijing, February 2011 and in Tokyo, November 2011. In the 3rd meeting, the participating experts decided the topics for joint research: 1) joint field campaign; 2) quality assurance and quality control of ozone monitoring; and 3) ozone trend analysis in Northeast Asia. In the 4th meeting, the participating experts discussed the specific timeline and institutional arrangements to conduct the joint research activities.

The 11th to 14th **Expert Meetings on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollutants in Northeast Asia (LTP)** were held from 2008 to 2011. Experts from the three countries have conducted the joint research on LTP at its third stage since 2008, expecting its completion in 2012.

The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and

Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) has been implemented since March 2008. The NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Campaigns were organized in Dalian of China and in Vladivostok of Russia, both in September 2008; in Hirado of Japan, March 2010; in Jeju of ROK, October 2010 and in Lianyungang of China, September 2011. Workshops on marine litter issue have been organized back to back with the Campaigns.

Environment-Friendly Society/3R/Sound Material-Cycle Society

The annual **Seminar on Sound Material-Cycle Society, Circular Economy and 3R** attracts the participation of officials, researchers and private business representatives of the three countries. The 4th Seminar in Qingdao of China, October 2008 exchanged regulatory system for circular economy/3R, Eco-town (ecological industrial zone) and information sharing system for waste management/3R. The 5th Seminar in Tokyo, November 2009 discussed 3R/ Sound Material-Cycle Society and low-carbon society, E-waste and Hg-containing waste in each country. The 6th Seminar in Busan of ROK, April 2011, discussed 3R policies, end-of-life vehicle recycling and transboundary movement of hazardous wastes in each country. The 7th Seminar is to be held in China, 2012.

Trans-boundary Movement of Wastes

The three countries have regular discussion on trans-boundary movement of wastes including E-waste through Asian Network Workshop for Prevention of Illegal Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes.

In the 12th and 13th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meetings, the three Ministers agreed to cooperate on combating illegal trans-boundary movement of e-waste. They agreed to explore the possibility of setting up a focal point contact in each country to facilitate information exchange.

In the Summit Declaration adopted by the 4th Trilateral Summit in 2011, the three countries expressed the commitment to establish a cooperative mechanism on combating illegal trans-boundary movement of wastes including e-waste.

Sound Management of Chemicals

The 2nd to 5th **Tripartite Policy Dialogues on Chemicals Management** (director-general level) were held in Seoul, September 2008; in Beijing, September

2009; in Tokyo, September 2010; in Jeju of ROK, August and September 2011. The dialogues discussed chemicals management including risk assessment in evaluation of chemicals, chemicals accident prevention, testing procedures, Good Laboratory Practice, nanomaterial management and other related issues. On the same occasion, the 1st to 3rd Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) Expert Meeting were held in 2009 and 2010.

Environmental Governance in Northeast Asia

To strengthen environmental governance, i.e., capacities and mechanisms of environmental management in Northeast Asia, the *Joint Communiqué of the 12th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting* and the *Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation* in 2010 stipulated a long term vision for cooperation among the three governments and stakeholders concerned.

Environmental Industries and Technology

The 8th to 11th **Tripartite Environmental Industry Roundtables** were convened in Shiga of Japan, November 2008; in Beijing, October 2009; in Seoul, December 2010 and in Nagoya of Japan, December 2011. Experts, researchers, and administrative personnel shared experiences and ideas on environmental industrial technology in green purchasing, eco-labeling and environmental management.

Trilateral Circular Economy Model Base

The *Joint Statement on Sustainable Development* adopted at the 2nd Trilateral Summit in 2009 specified the exploration of establishing a trilateral circular economy model base, which was reaffirmed in the *Trilateral Cooperation Vision 2020* adopted at the 3rd Trilateral Summit in 2010.

In the *Summit Declaration* adopted at the 4th Trilateral Summit in 2011, the three countries recognized the necessity of useful consultation on the prospective framework of the circular economy model base and decided to accelerate cooperative efforts to initiate the preparatory work.

Health and Welfare

At the 2nd **Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting** (THMM) in Beijing, November 2008, the three countries agreed to adopt the *Joint Action Plan on Preparedness and*

Response against Pandemic Influenza, deciding on designation of focal points, information sharing, risk communication and impartial intervention for rapid containment. The 3rd THMM in Tokyo, November 2009 adopted a memorandum of cooperation on food safety to establish a tripartite food safety consultation mechanism for information exchange. The 4th THMM in Jeju of ROK, November 2010 introduced the health-related Millennium Development Goals as a new agenda for cooperation. The three countries decided to cooperate to improve maternal and child health in developing countries. At the 5th THMM in Qingdao of China, November 2011, prevention and control of non-communicable diseases was added as a new agenda.

The annual **Tripartite Health Directors-General Meeting**, and under its auspice, the **Working Group on Pharmaceutical Affairs** were launched in Tokyo, April 2008. The 2nd to 4th meetings were held respectively in Beijing, December 2009; in Seoul, September 2010 and in Tokyo, October 2011. Through these meetings, researches on ethnic factors in clinical trial data and clinical data exchange have been pushed forward.

The **Joint Table Top Exercise for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness** was conducted in Seoul, October 2008. The three countries held international workshops in Fukuoka of Japan, March 2009 and in Manila of the Philippines, September 2009, to discuss and develop prevention and response measures against pandemic influenza. The **Trilateral Seminar on Pandemic Influenza Assessment** was held in Seoul, March 2010 to discuss responses to pandemic influenza and future plans.

The 2nd to 5th **Trilateral Forum on Communicable Diseases** among the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) of Japan, the Korea National Institute of Health (KNIH) were held respectively in Seoul, October 2008; in Tokyo, November 2009; in Beijing, November 2010 and in Seoul, November 2011.

The **Trilateral Food Safety Forums** were held in Jeju of ROK, November 2010 and in Beijing, October 2011. The officials of the three countries shared information about food safety policy and measures in response to Fukushima nuclear power plant accident.

The 1st and 2nd **Trilateral Directors-General Meetings on the Family Health Promotion and Supportive Public Services for the Elderly** were held in Beijing, April 2010 and Seoul, November 2011. Officials from the Population and Family

Planning Commission of China, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan and Ministry of Health and Welfare of ROK discussed health care policy and long-term care policy as well as supportive public and home care services. The 3rd meeting will be held in Japan, 2012.

Agriculture

In the *Joint Statement on Sustainable Development* adopted at the 2nd Trilateral Summit in 2009, leaders of the three countries affirmed to explore tripartite cooperation mechanisms in agriculture. The 1st **Trilateral Agricultural Ministers Meeting** was held in Jeju of ROK, April 2012. The three ministers discussed food security, response to plant and animal infectious diseases, response to natural disasters, researcher exchange, economic partnership, and global and regional cooperation. The three ministers agreed to cooperate in the above-mentioned agendas and to hold the meeting every year on a rotation basis. The 2nd Meeting is to be held in Japan.

Following the initiative in the *Trilateral Cooperation Vision 2020* adopted at the 3rd Trilateral Summit in 2010, the 1st **Symposium on Prevention and Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in East Asia** was held in Tokyo, December 2011 with the participation of veterinary officers and researchers from East Asian countries. The 2nd Symposium is to be held in ROK.

The agricultural research institutes of the three countries, namely, the Institute of Agricultural Economics, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science (IAE/CAAS), Policy Research Institute of Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries of Japan (PRIMAFF), and the Korea Rural Economic Institute (KREI) held the 6th and 7th **Forum for Agricultural Policy Research in Northeast Asia (FANEA)** in Tokyo, March 2009 and in Jeju of ROK, June 2010. Experts exchanged ideas on “Promotion of Rural Development and Agriculture”, “Supply-Demand Relation of International Agricultural Products”, “Prospect of Agriculture analyzed by econometrics model” and “Green Growth in Agriculture and Rural Area.”

Fishery

The 2nd to 5th **Presidents Meeting among the fishery research institutes of the three countries**, namely Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences (CAFS), Fisheries Research Agency (FRA) of Japan, and National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) of Korea were held in Jeju of ROK, November 2008; in Hainan of

China, November 2009; in Nagasaki of Japan, December 2010 and in Tongyeong of ROK, October 2011, respectively. At the 2nd Meeting, *Glossary of Fishery Terminology* among the three countries was published. The **Trilateral Workshop for Fisheries Resources Variation by Climate Change in the East China Sea** was held on the same occasion. The 3rd Meeting agreed on research cooperation in the Energy Saving Technology Development and others. The **Trilateral Workshop on Artificial Reef and Sea Ranching** was held concurrently with the 3rd Meeting. The **Workshop on the Impacts of Climate Change on Fisheries and the Environment, and Low Carbon Technology** was held at the 4th Meeting. The 5th Meeting adopted the revised Appendix of MOU which regulates the cooperative projects among the three institutes.

Under the cooperation framework of the three research institutes, **Workshops for Research on Giant Jellyfish** were held in Xiamen of China, December 2008; in Fukuoka of Japan, November 2009; in Gyeongju of ROK, December 2010 and in Hainan of China, December 2011. The three institutes are working on the joint monitoring project for giant jellyfish and developing a prediction model for appearance of giant jellyfish.

Water

Endorsed by the 2nd Trilateral Summit in 2009, the 1st **Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Water** was held in Marseille of France, March 2012 on the occasion of the 6th World Water Forum. The ministers signed the Memorandum of Cooperation on the mechanism of Ministerial Meeting, focusing on promoting exchanges as well as sharing of science and technology, information and experience on water related disasters and water resources with an aim of adapting to climate change.

In the **Trilateral Ministerial Roundtable Meeting on Water and Disaster** in Istanbul of Turkey, March 2009, on the occasion of the 5th World Water Forum, the ministers shared the view to scale up trilateral cooperation on water-related issues.

Forestry

The *Joint Statement on Sustainable Development* adopted at the 2nd Trilateral Summit in 2009 resolved to promote cooperation in sustainable forest management and wildlife protection.

In 2008, within the international cooperation framework, the three countries agreed to

conduct cooperation on migratory birds protection and monitoring. In May 2011, an international symposium on the achievements and challenge in Crest Ibis conservation was held in Yangxian country, Shaanxi of China at the 30th anniversary of rediscovery of the Crest Ibis. In November 2011, a seminar on the conservation of Crested Ibis was held in Changnyeong-gun of ROK among experts of the three countries.

4. Human and Cultural Exchange

Culture

The 2nd **Trilateral Cultural Ministers Meeting** in Jeju of ROK, December 2008 adopted the *Jeju Declaration*, which encouraged cooperation on supporting cultural industries of the three countries in the globalized and digitalized world, on protecting three countries' cultural heritage, and on promoting creative cultural activities. The 3rd Meeting in Nara of Japan, January 2011 adopted the *Nara Declaration*, specifying ways to boost trilateral cultural cooperation in various areas: cooperation in cultural industry such as joint production of movies and TV dramas, promoting civil cultural exchange, cooperating on cultural heritage protection and promotion, protecting copyrights, promoting the distribution of legitimate contents, and holding the Trilateral Cultural Ministers Meeting on a regular basis.

The 2nd to 5th **Trilateral Culture Shuttle Projects** have been carried out in Seoul, September and November 2008, July 2009, September 2010, July and August 2011 in various forms including the exhibition of “The Finishing Touch, Works of the Brush and Their Mounting”, “Youth Festival”, “Trilateral Culture Shuttle Concert 2010” and “Nostalgia – East Asia Contemporary Art Exhibition”.

The **Trilateral Cultural Industry Forum** has been hosted by the Ministry of Culture of China, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Korea, with the participation of government officials, experts, and private sector representatives. The 8th Trilateral Cultural Industry Forum in Busan of ROK, September 2009 adopted *Busan Declaration*, which specified the establishment of the Cultural Industry Cooperation Task Force to implement information exchanges and joint researches concerning the industry. The Task Force

held 3 meetings in Tokyo, May and August 2010, and in Beijing, January 2011, conducting a market research on contents of video, music and audio, game, and books and newspaper of the three countries in relation to forms of media to invigorate future content exchange and joint production, and discussing the enhancement of anti-piracy measures. The three countries are discussing to upgrade the forum to an official channel for cooperation of cultural industry and make East Asia as the world's hub of cultural contents.

Tourism

The 3rd **Trilateral Tourism Ministers Meeting** in Busan of ROK, June 2008 signed the *Busan Joint Declaration*. The three ministers resolved cooperation to strengthen international competitiveness outside the region as well as to search for the cooperative policy through the establishment of the Public Private Partnership. The 4th Meeting in Nagoya of Japan, October 2009 signed the *Nagoya Joint Statement*. The three ministers agreed to further promote the trilateral tourism, especially by tackling the international economic crisis. At the 5th Meeting in Hangzhou of China, August 2010, the ministers signed the *Hangzhou Joint Statement*, setting the target of expanding the scale of people-to-people exchange among the three countries to 26 million by 2015. They also adopted the *Joint Proposal on Low-Carbon Tourism* for promoting sustainable development of tourism industry. The 6th Meeting in Pyeongchang of ROK, May 2011 signed the *Pyeongchang Joint Statement*, which stipulated 4 strategies for promoting the trilateral tourism cooperation, including *Tourism Vision 2020*, which is expected to be finalized by the end of 2014. The 7th Meeting will be in Tohoku of Japan, 2012.

The **Trilateral Tourism Forum** is convened back to back with the Ministers Meeting with more than 300 participants from central and local governments, business sector and academia each year.

The 3rd to 6th **Symposiums on Educational Travel** were conducted respectively in Seoul, December 2008; in Beijing, December 2009; in Tokyo, October 2010 and in Daegu of ROK, December 2011.

Education

Agreed by the 3rd Trilateral Summit in 2010, trilaterally initiated university exchange program, “**CAMPUS Asia** (Collective Action for Mobility Program of University

Students)”, has been implemented. The Trilateral Committee for Promoting Exchange and Cooperation among Universities in the three countries, which involves government bodies, universities, evaluation authorities and industrial circle representatives, organized three meetings in 2010 and 2011. The Committee adopted “*Guidelines for Exchange and Cooperation among Universities with Quality Assurance*”, “The Framework for CAMPUS Asia” and “Agreement of the 3rd Trilateral Committee for Promoting Exchange and Cooperation among Universities”. The shortlisted universities of the pilot program of CAMPUS Asia were publicized at the end of 2011. The students exchange started to kick-off in 2012.

Youth Exchanges

The 2nd **Trilateral Youth Friendship Meeting** was convened in Tokyo, September 2008. The themes treated in the discussions were “Environment, Higher Education and Cultural Exchange”. The 3rd Meeting was held in Seoul, July 2009. Under the theme of “the Roles of Youth for Mutual Cooperation among the Three Countries”, this Meeting incorporated various activities such as youth seminar, project development contest and youngster friendship street festival. China held the 4th Meeting in Beijing and Shandong, July 2010 with the theme of “Discovering Confucian Culture and Understanding Modern China”. The 5th Meeting was held in Tokyo, March 2012. The participants learned about disaster preventions, energy conservation and clean energy. Up to date, approximately 1500 youngsters from the three countries have experienced each other's culture through this week-long annual exchange program.

The 4th Trilateral Summit in May, 2011 decided to proceed with a “**Trilateral Future Forum**” in 2012 within the framework of Trilateral Youth Friendship Meeting.

Co-sponsored by the All-China Youth Federation, the Korea Foundation and the Japan Foundation, the 6th **Trilateral Future Leaders Forum** was held under the theme of “Vision 2030 for Northeast Asia” in Shanghai and Nantong of China, Tokyo and Kanazawa of Japan, Seoul and Busan of ROK in July 2008. The 7th Forum was in Beijing, Incheon of ROK and Sapporo of Japan in October 2009. In late July and early August 2010, the 8th Forum took place in Jeju of ROK, Okinawa of Japan, Shanghai and Ningbo of China. Through lectures, discussions, site visits, and cultural events, youth representatives of the three countries discussed the three countries’

development, trilateral cooperation and visions for the future of Asia. The 10 Year Anniversary Forum was held in Tokyo, March 2012, and participants submitted the *Vision 2030 for Northeast Asia* to the Japanese Foreign Minister, Gamba Koichiro.

Sports

The **Trilateral Junior Sports Exchange Meet** is held annually on a rotational basis among the three countries. High school students of the three countries participate in competitive games of 11 sports: Track & Field, Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball, Basketball, Weightlifting, Handball, Soft Tennis, Table Tennis, Badminton, and Rugby Football. The 16th to 19th events were held in Chiba of Japan, August 2008; in Mokpo of ROK, August 2009; in Zhengzhou of China, August 2010 and in Aichi of Japan, August 2011. The 20th event is to be held in Gwangju of ROK, August 2012.

Personnel Administration

The 4th to 6th **Heads Meetings of Personnel Authorities** among the three countries were held respectively in Seoul, August 2008; in Tokyo, August 2009 and in Dalian of China, August 2010. The 6th Meeting signed a memorandum on the renewal of the Trilateral Personnel Policy Network which entered its 5th anniversary in 2010.

The 4th to 6th **Directors-General Meetings of Personnel Authorities** among the three countries were convened respectively in Tokyo, December 2008; in Beijing, January 2010 and in Seoul, November 2011. At these meetings, Cooperation Plans on personnel administration had been adopted.

The 3rd **Symposium on Personnel Administration** among the three countries was conducted in Seoul, October 2008, with the theme of “Recruitment System of the Public Service Personnel”. The 4th Symposium was convened in Tokyo, May 2009, themed on “Policy toward Anti-Corruption and Maintenance of Ethic”. The 5th Symposium in Shanghai of China, July 2009 took on “Government Award System of the three countries” as the main topic. The 6th Symposium in Guangzhou of China, March 2011, focused on Remuneration System of the Public Service Personnel among the three countries. The 7th Symposium held in Seoul, February 2012, sought for achieving the Policy to Promote Diversity in Public Sector through Open Recruitment.

Joint Training Programs for Young/middle-level Public Employees among the three Personnel Authorities took place respectively in Beijing, November 2008; in Seoul, November 2009; in Tokyo, February 2011; in Beijing and Dalian of China, August 2011. These training programs provided the opportunity to exchange views on issues relating to public personnel administration for deepening mutual understanding.

Exchange among Research Institutes

The annual **Trilateral Cooperation Forum** was launched in 2008 by the foreign policy think tanks of the three countries, namely the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) and the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security of Korea (IFANS). The purpose of this Forum is to exchange views and to make policy proposals on cooperation in major international and regional issues. The inaugural Forum was held in Jeju of ROK, May 2008 under the theme of "Visions and Tasks for Trilateral Cooperation". At the 2nd Forum in Beijing, July 2009, participants discussed the trilateral cooperation on coping with the financial crisis, climate change and energy issues, as well as boosting regional integration and security. The 3rd Forum was held in Tokyo, July 2010, topics of which included Prospects for East Asian Community, Cooperation on Economic Issues in Asia-Pacific Region, Regional Security Situation and Cooperation on Climate Change and Energy Issues. The 4th Forum was held in Seoul, June 2011, focusing on Economic Cooperation in Asia-Pacific Region, Security Environment in East Asia and Trilateral Cooperation.

Media

The 3rd to 6th annual **Northeast Asia Trilateral Forums (NATF)** were held by Xinhua News Agency of China, Nikkei of Japan, and JoongAng Ilbo of ROK, respectively in Beijing, April 2008; in Busan of ROK, April 2009; in Nara of Japan, April 2010 and in Hangzhou of China, April 2011. 30 prominent figures of the three countries led by former Chinese Vice Premier QIAN Qichen and ZENG Peiyan, former Japanese Prime Minister NAKASONE Yasuhiro, and former ROK Prime Minister LEE Hong-Koo, discussed how to adapt to the context of cooperation of Northeast Asia; how to enhance political, economic and cultural exchanges among the three countries; how to increase mutual understanding and trust between the three nations; and how to promote regional common development and prosperity. Broad

consensus has been reached on major issues facing Northeast Asia and *Proposals by the Northeast Asia Trilateral Forum* was put forward in the 3rd Forum.

With the 7th Forum to be held in Seoul, April 2012, NATF is to explore how to bring forth new ideas, expand its public awareness and influence, as well as provide more constructive propositions in government decision-making.

5. TCS

To contribute to the further promotion of cooperative relations among the three countries and in accordance with the 2nd Trilateral Summit's decision in October 2009 and *the Agreement on the Establishment of Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat* (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement" and "the TCS") signed by the three governments in December 2010, the TCS was officially launched in September 2011 in Seoul. Being the first international organization among the three countries, the establishment of TCS constitutes an achievement of the trilateral cooperation as well as a step towards its further institutionalization.

Since its start, the TCS has received wide support from the three countries. At the commemorating seminar in October 2011, Mr. LEE Hong-koo, the former Prime Minister of ROK, Mr. HATOYAMA Yukio, the former Prime Minister of Japan, and Mr. TANG Jiaxuan, the former State Councilor of China gave blessings to the TCS through their high expectation for a new era of peace and common prosperity in Northeast Asia.

The TCS is now an organization with 20 people and 4 departments, namely of political affairs, economic affairs, social and cultural affairs, as well as management. Under the steering Consultative Board comprised of the Secretary-General and 2 Deputy Secretary-Generals, the TCS has 4 professional staff and 13 general service staff from the three countries.

In the initial phase, the TCS has endeavored to establish necessary infrastructures such as internal regulations and training courses for new recruits. Much attention has been paid to promoting the publicity of the trilateral cooperation and the TCS through engagement in international seminars, interactions with media and liaison with other

regional/international organizations. In April 2012, the TCS official website will be officially launched in four languages, i.e., English and the languages of the three countries.

The TCS has been actively participating in trilateral cooperation activities. It attended the Trilateral Summit meeting in Bali of Indonesia, November 2011, the 2nd Trilateral Heads of Government Agency Meeting on Disaster Management in Beijing, October 2011, the 7th Trilateral Senior Officials Consultation in Beijing, March 2012, the final Joint Study Meeting for Trilateral FTA in Pyeongchang of ROK, December 2011, and the 1st Trilateral Foreign DDG Meeting of year 2012 in February.

The TCS has been dedicated to promoting trilateral cooperation through providing administrative support to the trilateral consultative mechanisms, as well as exploring and identifying potential cooperative projects. It tabled the proposals for Trilateral Table-Top Exercise and Trilateral Network on Disaster Management, and consulted with the Parties for recommendation on the Protocol of Trilateral Meeting Arrangements and Documents. In co-sponsorship with the ROK MOFAT, it organized a 5-day trilateral youth exchange program called Campus Caravan among students of the three countries in three ROK local universities in March, 2012.

Part III Conclusion

The above reflects major progress of the trilateral cooperation since the Trilateral Summit in November 2007, especially after the first-ever Trilateral Summit Meeting held independently of other occasions in December 2008. The trilateral cooperation has demonstrated good momentum of all-dimensional, multilevel and wide ranging development. It is the result of firm steering for peace and cooperation by leaders of the three countries, the result of the three countries' adherence to the principle of openness, transparency, mutual trust, common interest and respect for their diverse cultures throughout the cooperation, the result of various ministries' and organizations' continuous exploration for deepening and expanding of the cooperation, and the result of stronger institutionalization of the trilateral cooperative mechanisms.

As close neighbors with great capacity and significant influence, the three countries share the potential and opportunity for promoting the trilateral cooperation. It is expected that the three countries will continue to implement the *Joint Statement for Tripartite Partnership*, the *Joint Statement on the Tenth Anniversary of Trilateral Cooperation*, and the *Trilateral Cooperation VISION 2020*, strengthen coordination, increase input and push forward practical cooperation and exchanges at various fronts. Thus, the trilateral cooperation will yield more tangible results, making greater contribution to promoting the common interests of the three countries as well as peace, stability and prosperity of the East Asian region and the world at large.

Looking into the coming year, while in expectation of progress from existing trilateral cooperative projects such as FTA, Investment Agreement and CAMPUS Asia, it is equally meaningful for the three countries to foster future trilateral cooperation by opening up new areas and building new mechanisms of cooperation. Within all the potentials, parliament and media exchanges might be two prospective areas for consideration.

Parliament exchange constitutes an important part of state-to-state relationship among the three countries. Its enhancement facilitates political trust, people-to-people understanding and practical cooperation across the fields. In the spirit of fast-growing trilateral partnership and upon the basis of extensive bilateral parliamentary exchanges, the establishment of a trilateral parliamentary exchange program will provide beneficial platform for representatives of the three peoples to exchange views on issues of common interests, and to share experience in governance and legal system, as well as safeguarding and improving people's livelihood.

Media can serve as a bridge between cultures and a bond among people. In the *Joint Statement on the Tenth Anniversary of Trilateral Cooperation*, the three countries agreed to consider establishing a long-term mechanism for media exchange. There have already been annual China-Japan and China-ROK media dialogues and a trilateral round-table media dialogue in China September, 2011. Upon such basis, a trilateral media exchange arrangement will further facilitate communication and cooperation among the three countries' media. Centered on peace, friendship and

affinity, it will give boost to the mutual understanding and affection among the three peoples, the favorable environment for stable, healthy and friendly relations among the three countries, and the enhancement of public support for the trilateral cooperation.

Looking into the coming year, the TCS is dedicated to the promotion of cooperative relations among the three countries. It will build up capability for better fulfillment of its mandates. It will follow-up the progress of the trilateral cooperation and provide better service to the trilateral consultative mechanisms. It stands ready to participate in more trilateral activities. It will explore and identify potential cooperation projects, at the same time ready to implement projects assigned by the three governments. It will conduct research with vision and focus on important issues related to the trilateral cooperation. It will seek to perform as an information center with consolidated database service through the TCS website. It will continue with public diplomacy for the enhancement of public understanding and support for the trilateral cooperation. All in all, the TCS is looking forward to its growth together with the progress of the trilateral cooperation.

APPENDIX:

2008-2012 Chronology of Major Trilateral Cooperation Events

2008

<i>May</i>	2 nd Trilateral Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics, Okayama, Japan; 8 th Trilateral Finance Ministers Meeting, Madrid, Spain;
<i>June</i>	2 nd Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Tokyo, Japan; 3 rd Trilateral Tourism Ministers Meeting, Busan, ROK;
<i>August</i>	4 th Heads Meeting of Personnel Authorities, Seoul, ROK;
<i>September</i>	1 st Northeast Asian Top Regulators Meeting (TRM) on Nuclear Safety, Tokyo, Japan;
<i>November</i>	4 th Tripartite Meeting on Earthquake Disaster Mitigation, Tokyo, Japan; 2 nd Tripartite Customs Heads Meeting, Jeju, ROK; 9 th Trilateral Finance Ministers Meeting, Washington, USA; 2 nd Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting, Beijing, China;
<i>December</i>	1 st Trilateral Summit, Fukuoka, Japan; 3 rd Trilateral Senior Foreign Affairs Officials Consultation, Tokyo, Japan; 10 th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting, Jeju, ROK; 2 nd Trilateral Cultural Ministers Meeting, Jeju, ROK;

2009

<i>March</i>	8 th Trilateral Intellectual Property Rights Policy Dialogue Meeting, Seoul, ROK;
<i>April</i>	Trilateral Summit Meeting, Pattaya, Thailand;
<i>May</i>	2 nd Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation, Tokyo, Japan; 9 th Trilateral Finance Ministers Meeting, Bali, Indonesia
<i>June</i>	11 th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting, Beijing, China;
<i>July</i>	1 st Tripartite Central Bank Governors Meeting, Shenzhen, China;
<i>August</i>	2 nd Northeast Asian Top Regulators Meeting (TRM) on Nuclear Safety, Seoul, ROK; 5 th Heads Meeting of Personnel Authorities, Tokyo, Japan;
<i>September</i>	3 rd Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Shanghai, China; 3 rd Tripartite Customs Heads Meeting, Beijing, China;
<i>October</i>	2 nd Trilateral Summit, Beijing, China; 1 st Trilateral Heads of Government Agency Meeting on Disaster Management, Kobe, Japan; 6 th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers Meeting, Hua Hin, Thailand; 4 th Trilateral Tourism Ministers Meeting, Nagoya, Japan;
<i>November</i>	3 rd Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting, Tokyo, Japan;
<i>December</i>	9 th Trilateral Intellectual Property Rights Policy Dialogue Meeting, Xi'an, China;

2010

February

4th Trilateral Senior Foreign Affairs Officials Consultation, Beijing, China;

April

5th Trilateral Senior Foreign Affairs Officials Consultation, Jeju, ROK;

3rd Trilateral Summit, Jeju, ROK;

4th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Gyeongju, ROK;

7th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers Meeting, Seoul, ROK;

May

3rd Trilateral Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics, Chengdu, China;

10th Trilateral Finance Ministers Meeting, Tashkent, Uzbekistan;

12th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting, Hokkaido, Japan;

Launch of the Trilateral FTA Joint Study among government officials, business representatives and academia, Seoul, ROK;

August

2nd Tripartite Central Bank Governors Meeting, Tokyo, Japan;

5th Trilateral Tourism Ministers Meeting, Hangzhou, China;

6th Heads Meeting of Personnel Authorities, Dalian, China;

October

Trilateral Summit Meeting, Hanoi, Vietnam;

3rd Northeast Asian Top Regulators Meeting (TRM) on Nuclear Safety, Beijing, China;

November

4th Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting, Jeju, ROK;

5th Tripartite Meeting on Earthquake Disaster Mitigation, Seoul, ROK;

December

10th Trilateral Intellectual Property Rights Policy Dialogue, Japan;

Signing of the *Agreement on the Establishment of Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat*, Seoul, ROK;

11th Trilateral Intellectual Property Rights Policy Dialogue Meeting, Gyeongju, ROK;

2011

January

5th Trilateral ICT Ministerial Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

3rd Trilateral Cultural Ministers Meeting, Nara, Japan;

February

6th Trilateral Senior Foreign Affairs Officials Consultation, Tokyo, Japan;

March

5th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Kyoto, Japan;

April

8th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers Meeting, Tokyo, Japan;

13th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting, Busan, ROK;

May

4th Trilateral Summit, Tokyo, Japan;

11th Trilateral Finance Ministers Meeting, Hanoi, Vietnam;

6th Trilateral Tourism Ministers Meeting, Pyeongchang, ROK;

July

3rd Tripartite Central Bank Governors Meeting, Jeju, ROK;

September

Launch of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, Seoul, ROK;

October

2nd Trilateral Heads of Government Agency Meeting on Disaster Management, Beijing, China;

November

Trilateral Summit Meeting, Bali, Indonesia;

4th Northeast Asian Top Regulators Meeting (TRM) on Nuclear Safety, Tokyo, Japan;

4th Tripartite Customs Heads Meeting, Tokyo, Japan;

5th Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting, Qingdao, China;

2012

March

7th Trilateral Senior Foreign Affairs Officials Consultation;

1st Trilateral Policy Dialogue on Asian Affairs, Beijing, China;

1st Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Water, Marseille, France;

April

1st Trilateral Agricultural Ministers Meeting, Jeju, ROK;