

2016 PROGRESS REPORT OF THE TRILATERAL COOPERATION

Among the People's Republic of China, Japan
and the Republic of Korea



Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat



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Part I

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

In pursuant to the “Agreement on the Establishment of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat” (hereinafter referred to as the TCS) signed by the governments of the People’s Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as China), Japan and the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as the ROK) in 2010, the TCS drafts and submits progress report of the trilateral cooperation to the three Foreign Ministries for approval. The TCS presents the report titled “2016 Progress Report of the Trilateral Cooperation”, covering the period from January to December 2016.

INTRODUCTION

In 2016, the trilateral cooperation among the three countries has been steadily advanced in politics and security, economy, sustainable development and environmental protection, as well as social and cultural exchanges.

In spite of fluid situations in the region, the three foreign ministers kept meeting and discussing the progress of the trilateral cooperation and future directions in following up the outcomes of the 6th Trilateral Summit. At the 8th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting, they shared the view that the trilateral cooperation is conducive to boosting regional economic development, leading regional cooperation, and achieving peace, stability and prosperity in the region. The three countries have also continued strengthening cooperation in the field of non-traditional security including disaster management, nuclear safety, and counter-terrorism.

In this year, a series of meetings and negotiations were held to drive forward trilateral economic cooperation, including two rounds of CJK FTA negotiations, and ministerial meetings such as Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting, Trilateral Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics, Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting, as well as the Trilateral Policy Dialogue among the Commissioners of the Property/Patent Offices.

With respect to environmental protection and sustainable development, the Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM) was held in this year. The three countries have joined hands to foster sound development in the fields of air pollution, chemicals management, E-waste, marine litter, environmental education/general public awareness, fishery and forestry.

Social and cultural exchanges among the three countries have also been deeply forged. The Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting and the Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting were held in 2016. Noticeably, the 1st Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting and the 1st Trilateral Sports Ministers' Meeting were launched this year, which significantly extended the areas of the trilateral cooperation. Besides, various cooperative projects related to education cooperation, local government exchanges and youth exchanges were conducted among the three countries.

Part II

COOPERATION PROGRESS

1. Politics and Security
2. Economy
3. Sustainable Development
4. Social and Cultural Exchanges
5. TCS

01

Politics and Security

Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting

The 8th **Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting** was held on August 24, 2016, in Tokyo, Japan. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Kishida Fumio, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, with the participation of Mr. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, and Mr. Yun Byung-se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

During the meeting, the three ministers reviewed the progress of trilateral cooperation focusing on the achievements as well as future directions in following up the outcomes of the 6th **Trilateral Summit**. They also reaffirmed their commitment to be well prepared for trilateral cooperation and continue their efforts so that the outcome of the Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting would be led to the next Trilateral Summit to be held in Japan.

As for regional and international issues, the ministers exchanged views on the situation of Korean Peninsula, calling for both regional and international commitments in this regard. The ministers also agreed to push forward trilateral cooperation on the occasions of multilateral meetings including G20, ASEAN+3, EAS and APEC Summit scheduled in the latter half of this year.



8th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Disaster Management

The meeting was followed by Joint Press Conference in which the three ministers delivered remarks respectively, highlighting the outcomes of their talks.

The 4th **Table Top Exercise (TTX) on Disaster Management** was held in Seoul, the ROK on June 22, 2016. It was hosted by Ministry of Public Safety and Security of the ROK (MPSS) and facilitated by the TCS. Officials from disaster management authorities of the three countries participated in the TTX, including MPSS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA); Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cabinet Office of Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); and Ministry of Civil Affairs of China. International organizations and NGOs such as United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC) and Korean Red Cross as well as officials from Mongolia, Russia, and the United States attended the TTX as observers to provide constructive inputs and comments during the exercise.

During the TTX, the participants conducted a simulation exercise based on a scenario of a large-scale typhoon hitting the Korean Peninsula. The three countries also shared their experience and lessons learned from the international rescue operation in Nepal Earthquake 2015. Highlighting that there was a greater need for disaster management cooperation in Northeast Asia, all participants attached importance to continuously developing the TTX. The three countries agreed to conduct the next TTX in Japan.

As a follow-up project of the 4th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management held in Tokyo, Japan on October 28, 2015, the TCS and the UNISDR Office for Northeast Asia and Global Education Training Institute (ONEA/GETI) co-organized the **Workshop on Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**



4th Table Top Exercise (TTX) on Disaster Management

(SFDRR) in Seoul, the ROK on March 3-4, 2016, with a view to promoting the implementation of SFDRR and strengthening capacity building of government officials. Through lectures, presentations and review of each country's national plan for disaster risk reduction, the participants exchanged views on the government's role in implementing SFDRR.

Nuclear Safety

The 9th Top Regulators' Meeting (TRM) on Nuclear Safety among Ministry of Environmental Protection of China/ National Nuclear Safety Administration (MEP/ NNSA), Nuclear Safety and Security Commission of the ROK (NSSC) and Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan (NRA) was held in Beijing, China on November 29, 2016. In the meeting, the three authorities exchanged the current status and progress of nuclear safety activities in each country, and reviewed the outcomes of three working groups which were established under TRM framework, namely Working Group on Human Resources Development (WGHRD), Working Group on Online Information Sharing (WGOIS), and Working Group on Emergency Preparedness and Response (WGEPR). Furthermore, in-depth discussion on Joint Emergency Drill (JED) and emergency information exchange among the three were pursued during the meeting. The three sides agreed to hold the 10th TRM in Japan in 2017.



9th Top Regulators' Meeting (TRM) on Nuclear Safety

On November 30, 2016, the three authorities organized the 4th Top Regulators' Meeting Plus (TRM Plus) on Nuclear Safety. In order to strengthen technical communication on nuclear safety among the three countries, experts from the three

countries exchanged experiences on “Radioactive Contamination Recovery and Radioactive Waste Treatment” and “Implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety”.

Under the mechanism of TRM, the three authorities also conducted the 3rd **Joint Emergency Drill (JED)** at Daya Bay nuclear power plant in Guangdong Province, China from November 22 to 23, 2016. The officials from Japan and the ROK participated in this drill as observers. The 4th JED will be held at Hanul nuclear power plant in Uljin, the ROK on November 2, 2017.

Counter-Terrorism

The 4th **Trilateral Counter-Terrorism Consultation** was held in Seoul, the ROK on 15 November 2016. Ambassador for International Security Affairs of the ROK Foreign Ministry, Ambassador in charge of International Cooperation for Countering Terrorism and International Organized Crime of the Japanese Foreign Ministry and the Director-General of the Department of External Security Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry led the consultation. The officials from counter-terrorism related authorities of the three countries were also present at the meeting.

During the meeting, the three parties exchanged views on assessment of international and regional terrorism situations; their respective policies and measures related to counter-terrorism; and ways to enhance trilateral and multilateral cooperation in countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism.

Police Authorities

The 2nd **Trilateral Meeting on Police Cooperation** was held in Incheon, the ROK on 22-23 November 2016. Director-General of Foreign Affairs Bureau of the Korean National Police Agency, Deputy Director-General of the National Police Agency of Japan and Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Public Security of China participated in the meeting. The three countries affirmed deepening mutual understanding on common issues among their police organizations.

Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tanks (NTCT)

The 1st **Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tanks (NTCT) National Focal Points Meeting** was held in Tokyo, Japan on September 21, 2016. The meeting was a follow-up to the “Joint Declaration of the 6th Trilateral Summit” and organized by the Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR) and attended by representatives of the NTCT: JFIR, China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU), and Korea National

1st NTCT National Focal Points Meeting

Diplomatic Academy (KNDA). At the meeting, the participants exchanged views on the importance of enhancing trilateral think-tanks cooperation. They also discussed the mechanism and operation of the NTCT and agreed to hold the meeting of the NTCT annually on a rotational basis, as well as to strengthen cooperation in organizing seminars, conducting joint research projects, increasing mutual exchange, etc. The TCS, as a facilitator of the trilateral cooperation, also participated in the meeting and was tasked to play a secretariat role in developing the NTCT in the future.

02

Economy

Economy and Trade

The 11th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting was held among Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan, Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) of China, and Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) of the ROK on October 29, 2016 in Tokyo, Japan. At the meeting, the three ministers exchanged in-depth discussions on the topics such as China-Japan-Korea Free Trade Agreement (CJK FTA) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations; cooperation in multilateral frameworks like WTO, G20 and APEC; e-commerce; Olympics and Paralympics; Supply Chain Connectivity (SCC); fourth-country market and energy.



11th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting

The Joint Project “Trilateral Cooperation for Improvement of SCC” was agreed by the METI, MOFCOM, and MOTIE in 2016. Four Working Group Meetings were held and the three parties released a joint outcome for improvement of SCC among the three countries.

Date	Meeting	Venue
January 21, 2016	1 st Working Group of Joint Project "Trilateral Cooperation for Improvement of SCC"	Seoul, ROK
March 31, 2016	2 nd Working Group of Joint Project "Trilateral Cooperation for Improvement of SCC"	Tokyo, Japan
June 27-28, 2016	3 rd Working Group of Joint Project "Trilateral Cooperation for Improvement of SCC"	Beijing, China
August 18-19, 2016	4 th Working Group of Joint Project "Trilateral Cooperation for Improvement of SCC"	Seoul, ROK

In 2016, the 9th to 10th rounds of the CJK FTA negotiations were held in Japan and the ROK. In these rounds of negotiations, the three parties held a series of substantial discussions on areas such as trade in goods, trade-in service, investment, competition policies and intellectual property and e-commerce.

	Level	Date	Venue	Chair
9 th	Chief Delegate	January 18-19, 2016	Tokyo, Japan	MOFA
10 th	Director-General or Deputy Director-General	April 5-8, 2016	Seoul, ROK	MOTIE
10 th	Chief Delegate	June 27-28, 2016	Seoul, ROK	MOTIE

The 15th Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technology Exchange Conference was held in Yancheng, China in July 2016. The Conference consisted of the Director-General Meeting among MOFCOM, METI Kyushu and MOTIE; the Business Forum; the University President Forum; the Industrial Parks and Special Zones Cooperation Forum; and the Plenary Meeting etc. At the Conference, the representatives of governments, business and academia of the three countries exchanged opinions on creative efforts for trilateral cooperation regarding energy and environment, green economy and innovative growth, e-commerce and people-to-people exchange. The next Conference will be held in Kagoshima, Japan in November 2017.

Transport and Logistics

The 6th **China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics** was held in Hangzhou, China on July 28, 2016 with the participation of Mr. YANG Chuantang, Minister of Transport of the People's Republic of China; Mr. KIM Young-suk, Minister of Oceans and Fisheries of the ROK; and Mr. MIYAUCHI Hideki, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan.



6th Trilateral Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics

During the meeting, the three ministers re-affirmed their commitment to the 3 major goals of the trilateral transport and logistics cooperation, i.e., creation of a seamless logistics system, establishment of environmentally friendly logistics, and achievement of balance between security and efficiency of logistics, and welcomed the progress made with regards to the 12 Action Plans.

After the meeting, the three ministers announced the adoption of the “Joint Statement of the 6th Meeting”. The 7th Meeting will be held in the ROK in 2018.

The 17th **Northeast Asia Port Director-General Meeting** was held in Incheon, the ROK on November 3-4, 2016 among the three Ministries. Following the Meeting, the 17th **Northeast Asia Port Symposium** was organized on the themes of “Port Policy against Changes in Global Circumstance” and “Fourth Industrial Revolution and Port”, gathering around 170 participants from the three countries. The next Director-General Meeting will be held in China in 2017.

Intellectual Property (IP) Rights



16th Trilateral Policy Dialogue Meeting

The 16th Trilateral Policy Dialogue Meeting was held in Kanagawa, Japan on December 8, 2016 with the participation of Mr. Yoshinori Komiya, Commissioner of Japan Patent Office (JPO), Mr. Choi Donggyou, Commissioner of Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), and Mr. Shen Changyu, Commissioner of State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO).

At the meeting, the three offices reported on the current status in their national IP systems, reviewed the latest trilateral cooperation activities, and discussed future trilateral cooperation.

The Japan-Korea-China IP Symposium was also held back-to-back with the Policy Dialogue on the next day featuring presentations and a panel discussion with the participation of judges, knowledgeable experts, and government officials from the three countries. The Symposium offered an opportunity to discuss the latest trends in IP protection by the administrative and judicial bodies of each country.

The 17th Meeting will be held in the ROK in 2017.

Finance

The 16th Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting was held on May 3, 2016 in Frankfurt, Germany, in attendance with the Ministries of Finance and Central Banks from the three countries. At the Meeting, the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors exchanged views on the latest development of global economy and regional financial cooperation such as ASEAN+3 as well as



16th Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting

cooperation under the G20. The 17th Meeting will be held in May 2017 in Yokohama, Japan.

The 8th **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 Tokyo, Japan on October 11, 2016. The Governors exchanged views on recent economic and financial developments in the three countries. The next meeting will be hosted by the Bank of Korea in 2017.

Science and Technology

The 14th **Meeting of Heads of Research Councils in Asia (A-HORCs)** was held in Hangzhou, China on November 10-13, 2016. Heads of National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) attended the meeting. With the theme of "Strategy Plan for the Funding Policy in the Next 5 Years", the three parties presented their strategic policies on research funding, and had extensive discussions on related topics such as 2017 Northeastern Asian Symposium and A3 Foresight Program. The next A-HORCs Meeting will be hosted by NRF in Seoul, and the theme will be "Policy for Encouraging Interdisciplinary Challenging Research".

The 11th **Trilateral Science and Technology Policy Seminar** was held in Buyeo, the ROK on October 17-18, 2016. The participating institutes included Korea Institute of Science & Technology Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP), Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI), Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of

14th Meeting of Heads of Research Councils in Asia

Science and Development (CASISD), Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED) and National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP). The 11th Seminar covered various topics including Technology Foresight, Measuring and Analyzing STI, the 4th Industrial Revolution and Its Implications for Human Resources in S&T, and Integrating IP Rights and S&T Policy.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

The 15th **China-Japan-Korea IT Directors-General Meeting** among Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, and Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning of the ROK was held in Jeju, the ROK on November 15, 2016, and the three countries discussed the directions of OSS collaborations.

The 15th **Northeast Asia Open Source Software (OSS) Promotion Forum** was held on November 14-17, 2016 back to back with the OSS Meeting, aiming at boosting public and private sector cooperation among the ROK, China and Japan in OSS.

Standardization

The 15th **Northeast Asia Standards Cooperation (NEAS) Forum** was held in Matsue, Japan on July 11-13, 2016. Delegations from Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC), Japanese Standards Association (JSA), Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS), Korean Standards Association (KSA), Standardization Administration of China (SAC), and China Association for Standardization (CAS)

attended the forum and reaffirmed the importance of collaboration in the NEAS Forum to facilitate international standardization activities as stated in the “Joint Declaration for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia” adopted at the Trilateral Summit in November 2015. During the forum, countries shared recent updates on important standardization policies and activities, and discussed new proposals for further cooperation.

Consumers

The 7th **Consultative Meeting on Consumer Policy** among the ROK, China and Japan was held in Incheon, the ROK on July 7, 2016. The delegation from the Fair Trade Commission (KFTC) and Korea Consumer Agency (KCA) of the ROK, State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC) and China Consumers’ Association (CCA) of China, Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA) and National Consumer Affairs Center (NCAC) of Japan attended the meeting.

The Open Session of the meeting was also held on the following day on July 8, 2016. Speakers from consumer agencies discussed in-depth on the following agendas: 1) ways to strengthen cooperation regarding consumer redress on cross-border transaction and 2) consumer-related issues regarding “digital single market” of the ROK, China and Japan.

Audit

The 12th **Working Level Meeting of the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs)** of China, Japan, and the ROK was held in Shenyang, China on July 26-28, 2016. A total of 12 representatives from National Audit Office of China, Board of Audit of Japan, and Board of Audit and Inspection of the ROK attended the meeting. The three SAIs shared information and exchanged experiences on the topics of “A Research on Effectiveness for Audit Work” for the Joint Research Project and “Audit on Taxes” for the Audit Workshop.

03

Sustainable Development

Environmental Protection

The 18th Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM18) was held among Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Ministry of Environment of the ROK, and Ministry of Environmental Protection of China in Shizuoka, Japan on April 27, 2016. At the meeting, the three ministers introduced the latest development of environmental policies in each country, discussed major policies to address global and regional environmental issues such as “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and the “Paris Agreement”. Ministers also reviewed progress on the 9 priority areas of the “Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation (2015-2019)”. The “MOU of Tripartite Cooperation Network for Environmental Pollution Prevention and Control Technologies” was signed by the three ministries. On the occasion of TEMM18, the **Tripartite Roundtable on Environmental Business**, themed “Active Role of Environmental Industry in the Regional Transition to Green Economy”, and the **Youth Forum**, themed “Nature’s Benefit to People”, were held among business and youth representatives from the three countries.



18th Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM18)

1) Air Quality Improvement

The 3rd **Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution (TPDAP)** was held in Tokyo, Japan in February 2016 to further strengthen the cooperation among the three countries on countermeasures against air pollution. Under TPDAP, **Working Group I & II on Air Pollution** finalized the work plans that present the detailed future direction to enhance information exchanges in areas including policies and technical measures for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), chemical composition of Particulate Matters 2.5 (PM2.5), methodologies for constructing national emission inventories, and monitoring of PM2.5 and Ozone (O3).

The 1st **Workshop between the Working Group I (WGI) and the Working Group II (WGII) for Joint Research on the Dust and Sandstorms (DSS)** was held in Tokyo, Japan in February 2016. The 9th session of the **Working Group I & II Meeting on Dust and Sandstorms (DSS)** was held in Jeju, the ROK in November 2016 and in Kunming, China in November 2016 respectively, to strengthen collaboration in the field of the DSS.

2) Biodiversity

The 3rd **Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity** was held in Nanjing, China in April 2016. The Dialogue shared information, best practice and National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBSAP) among the three countries. The 1st **Tripartite Seminar on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)** was held also in Nanjing, China in April 2016. The Seminar exchanged information on genetic resources and its management system, and discussed further cooperation among the three countries.

The **Convention on Biodiversity Diversity (CBD) COP13** was held in Cancun, Mexico in December 2016. China, Japan and the ROK committed to continuing efforts to mainstream biodiversity in development policies in their respective countries.

3) Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response

The 10th **Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemicals Management (TPDCM)** among China, Japan, and the ROK was held in Tokyo, Japan in October 2016 including the exchange of latest national policies and international trends in chemical management. The result of the joint research on fish acute toxicity tests was reported at the Expert Meeting on Joint Research for Chemicals held in Tokyo, Japan in October 2016.

The 13th **Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM)** among Chinese Research Academy of Environment Sciences (CRAES), National Institute of Environmental Studies (NIES,

Japan), and National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER, the ROK) was held in Kunming, China in November 2016. The three institutes exchanged information about ongoing discussion on the possible collaborative research activities on the risk assessment of environmental disasters.

4) Circulative Management of Resources/3R/Transboundary Movement of E-Waste

The 10th Sound Material Cycle Society/Circular Economy/3R/Transboundary Movement of E-waste Seminar was held in Beijing, China in November 2016 and exchanged latest information on waste management policies of the three countries including policies relating to E-waste management.

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5) Climate Change Response

The three countries recognized the immediate need for concerted response to climate change at regional and global level. The three countries held ongoing discussions about launching information and knowledge exchange activities which will lead to substantial progress in tripartite cooperation on climate change.

6) Conservation of Water and Marine Environment

The 2nd TEMM-NOWPAP Joint Workshop on Marine Litter Management was held in Russia in September 2016. They shared related national policies and cases of private organization activities. The 3rd TEMM Marine Litter Focal Point Meeting was also held back-to-back the Joint Workshop. They discussed joint survey on marine litter in the regional ocean.

7) Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Corporate Social Responsibility

The 17th Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN) symposium and workshop was held in September 2016 in Shenzhen, China with the theme of “Strengthening engagement for environmental education and sustainable development”. The 16th Tripartite Environmental Training was held in Japan in November 2016, with the theme of “circulative management of resources/3R”. The training provided a good opportunity for information exchange on the environmental policies of the three countries. The Consultation Meeting on General Public Awareness was held in Seoul, the ROK in June 2016 in collaboration with TCS. The participants shared national policies and best practices to raise public awareness

in their countries, and discussed how to jointly raise public awareness in the three countries. As a result of the meeting, the ministries encouraged continued efforts of TCS in implementing publication of a promotional booklet to raise public awareness.

8) Rural Environmental Management

The 1st **Tripartite Rural Environment Policy Dialogue** was held in Beijing, China in March 2016 under the theme of “Rural Household Waste Disposal and Rural Domestic Sewage Treatment”. The Dialogue decided to expand the exchange of knowledge and experience in the area of rural and local level environmental management.

9) Transition to Green Economy

Smooth progress is being produced in evaluation, certification, and verification of green industry. The agreement was signed on tripartite common standards on eco-label for stationary and pain products. The “MOU on Tripartite Cooperation Network for Environmental Pollution Prevention and Control Technologies” was signed by three ministers on the occasion of TEMM18.

Fisheries

The **Annual Business Meeting among the Fisheries Research Institute** (Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA), Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences (CAFS) and National Institute Fisheries Science (NIFS) of the ROK) was held in Yokohama, Japan in June 2016. The three countries confirmed the progress of joint research project.

The 13th **Trilateral International Workshop for Research on Giant Jellyfish** was held in Busan, the ROK in November 2016, with the participation of NIFS, FRA and CAFS. The three countries agreed to jointly carry out relevant research on the topic.

The 10th Presidents Meeting among the Fisheries Research Institutes was scheduled to be held in Japan in December 2017.

Arctic Affairs

The 1st **Trilateral High-Level Dialogue on the Arctic** among the three foreign ministries was held in Seoul, the ROK on April 28, 2016. The three heads of delegations exchanged information related to the respective countries’ Arctic policies and activities in areas including international cooperation, scientific research, and business opportunities. The three parties agreed to continue their commitments to

the trilateral Arctic cooperation and shared the view that scientific research is among the most promising areas for trilateral cooperative activities. The three sides agreed that Japan would host the next round of dialogue.

Forestry Cooperation

The 3rd Trilateral Director-General Level Meeting on Forestry Cooperation was held in Tokyo, Japan on September 7, 2016, with the participation of Director-General ORITA Hiroshi, Private Forest Department, Forestry Agency of Japan, Director-General SU Chunyu, Department of International Cooperation, State Forestry Administration of China, and Director-General KIM Yongkwan, International Affairs Bureau, Korea Forest Service of the ROK.



3rd Trilateral Director-General Level Meeting on Forestry Cooperation

In the meeting, the three parties exchanged in-depth discussions in various agendas, including current situation of forest and forestry, function of forest for disaster prevention, forest recreation, forest environmental education, forest health tourism, forest therapy, climate change and forest, and promotion of wood utilization. The three parties also reaffirmed to further strengthen their cooperation in forestry by working out the action plan in the relevant agenda.

The 4th Meeting will be held in China in 2017.

04

Social and Cultural Exchanges

Culture

The **8th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting** was held in Jeju, the ROK on August 27-28, 2016. The three ministers acknowledged that the trilateral cooperation expanded cultural exchange, accelerated mutual understanding, and promoted understanding of socio-cultural tolerance and values among the three countries. Calling for more active efforts and cooperation for furthering trilateral cultural exchange and reinforcing solidarity, the ministers discussed measures to upgrade current cooperative projects and to promote new initiatives. The ministers signed the “2016 Jeju Declaration of the 8th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting” which stipulated series of decisions to promote culture & arts exchange, cooperation among Culture Cities of East Asian (CCEA), exchanges among cultural institutions and artists, cooperation for joint cultural event during the Olympic and Paralympic Games around the three countries, and preservation of cultural heritage. During the meeting, Kyoto of Japan, Changsha of China, and Daegu of the ROK were designated as the “CDEA 2017”. On August 27, **Trilateral Arts Festival 2016** was held as the side event of the Ministers' Meeting.

The **Trilateral Culture & Arts Education Forum 2016** was convened in Seoul, the ROK on May 24, 2016 with the participation of 250 people, including panelists from



8th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting

governments and culture & art education institutions of the three countries. Under the theme of “Artists and Art Education”, the Forum facilitated the exchange of views on the situation of the culture & art education of the three countries, cases of participation of artists in culture & art education, and ideas for trilateral cooperation.

The **9th Trilateral Meeting of Directors of National Museums** was held in Beijing, China from November 3 to 5, 2016. The directors of the National Museum of China, National Museum of Korea, and Tokyo National Museum introduced the recent developments of the respective museums and exchanged their views on 1) the joint research on the relics that shares common cultural background and 2) ways to step up the cooperation on digitalization of the museum. The joint exhibition, “Oriental Art of Painting: Chinese, Korean and Japanese Paintings of the 15th – 19th Centuries” was held on the sideline of the meeting.

The **9th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum** was held after seven years of hiatus in Seoul, the ROK on June 15-16, 2016. During the Forum, the three parties adopted “Joint Agreement of the 2016 Korea-Japan-China Cultural Content Industry Forum” that covered 1) support for co-production and content distribution among the three countries, 2) implementation of exchange among start-ups of the three countries, and 3) implementation of trilateral joint marketing projects. In addition, Korea Creative Content Agency (KOCCA)’s New Offer for Content of Korea (KNOCK) 2016 and International Trade Show for Game (ITS Game) 2016 featuring investment briefing, business consultation and network reception among cultural content companies were held in back to back with the Forum.

Health

The **9th Tripartite Health Ministers’ Meeting** was held in Busan, the ROK on December 3-4, 2016. The three ministers shared health and welfare policies of each country and exchanged views on common concerns among the three countries. They discussed the measures on strengthening tripartite health cooperation in the areas of 1) infectious disease preparedness and response, 2) global health architecture, 3) universal health coverage, 4) aging society, 5) non-communicable disease, and 6) utilization of ICT and big data in health care. At the press conference after the meeting, the three ministers announced the adoption of the “Joint Statement of the Ninth Tripartite Health Ministers’ Meeting”, and renewed “Memorandum of Cooperation” and “Joint Action Plan” on preparedness and response against pandemic influenza and emerging/re-emerging infectious diseases of common concern to encompass the quarantine cooperation. The **1st Tripartite Quarantine Working Group Meeting**



9th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting

was held as the side event of the meeting on December 3 with a view to enhancing emergency preparedness and response against pandemic influenza and emerging/re-emerging infectious disease through effective information sharing among the quarantine authorities of the three countries.

The **10th Trilateral Forum on Communicable Disease Control and Prevention** was held in Beijing, China on December 19 and 20, 2016. The three parties discussed 1) current situation of epidemic and prevention and control of ZIKA, MERS, SFTS and influenza, 2) current situation and future development of antimicrobial resistance, and 3) situation and response to other diseases of concern among the three countries.

The **6th Trilateral High-Level Meeting and Policy Seminar on Aging** was held in Tokyo, Japan on July 5 and 6, 2016. The three parties exchanged views on 1) dementia and 2) hollowing out of rural villages.

The **6th Director-General Meeting on Pharmaceutical Affairs** was held in Seoul, the ROK on November 22, 2016. The three parties examined the progress of the ongoing joint projects including 1) research on ethnic factors in clinical data, 2) information exchange on drug clinical trials, and 3) guideline on regional clinical trials.

Education

The **1st Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting** was held in Seoul, the ROK on January 30, 2016. The meeting, inaugurated based on the agreement made during the 6th

Trilateral Summit, highlighted the significance of human exchange and cooperation in the field of education. During the meeting, the three Ministers discussed the issues of 1) strengthening trilateral education cooperation, 2) education for fostering creative talent, 3) expansion of CAMPUS Asia Program, and 4) education reform trends in each country. The Ministers signed the “Seoul Declaration for Trilateral Education Cooperation” which stated the agreements made between the three parties during the meeting. The 2nd Trilateral Education Ministers’ Meeting to be held in 2017 will be hosted in Japan.

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The 1st Trilateral Rectors’ Forum was held in Seoul, the ROK on December 13, 2016,

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1st Trilateral Education Ministers’ Meeting1st Trilateral Rectors' Forum

organized by Korean Ministry of Education and Korean Council for University Education. The event convened university presidents from China, Japan and the ROK to celebrate the launching of the full-fledged CAMPUS Asia Program and to discuss trends in higher education including mobility programs and global employability. Over 170 university presidents, vice-presidents, professors, and staff members including representatives from the 17 original and new CAMPUS Asia consortia participated. Sub-sessions of the forum introduced perspectives from the private sector and UNESCO on global employability as well as insights from European Union's experience with regional mobility programs.

Personnel Management

The **9th Joint Training Program for Young/Mid-level Public Employees** was held in Sejong and Seoul, the ROK from June 8 to 10, 2016 with the participation of 9 middle-level officials who shared information and exchanged views on civil service systems of the three countries.

The **10th Trilateral Symposium on Personnel Administration** was held in Sejong, the ROK on October 20, 2016. The three parties shared their views on three countries' trends of human resource development in the public sector.

Youth

The **2016 Trilateral Youth Summit** was held in Tokyo and Kanazawa, Japan from August 22 to 26, 2016. 30 student representatives of the three countries held a model summit, exchanged their views, and made policy proposals on the issues of low fertility and population aging.

Local Government Exchanges

The **18th Trilateral Local Government Exchange Conference** was held in Okayama, Japan from October 18 to 21, 2016. The Conference was hosted by Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) in Japan, alongside Okayama City, and was co-hosted by Governors Association of Korea (GAOK), and Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC). Around 460 local government representatives from the three aforementioned countries participated in the event. The main theme of the conference was "Vitalization of Northeast Asia through Local Government Exchanges". Representatives from local governments participated in panel discussions regarding the subthemes of 1) Regional-level Studies and Practices for Society's Sustainable Development, 2) Regional Vitalization through Culture and Art, and 3) Promotion of Tourism through Local Government

Cooperation. Participants also attended the “Trilateral City Exchange Square”, where they were given the opportunity to network with other foreign local government representatives.

Sports

The **1st Trilateral Sports Ministers’ Meeting** was convened in Pyeongchang, the ROK on September 22 and 23, 2016. During the meeting, the three ministers discussed the issues of achieving peace and prosperity in the Northeast Asian region through sports and interaction between the field of sports, economy, culture and tourism. The ministers particularly emphasized the significance of making joint efforts for the successful organization of the Olympics to be held in Pyeongchang, Tokyo and Beijing and for regulating doping incidents during sports games. After the meeting, the three ministers signed the “2016 Pyeongchang Declaration of the 1st Trilateral Sports Ministers’ Meeting” concerning cooperation and information sharing for the consecutive organization of Olympic and Paralympic games, exchange on regulatory efforts regarding doping in sports, and regularization of the Trilateral Sports Ministers’ Meeting. As a side event to the ministerial meeting, Trilateral Sports Ministers’ Meeting Expert Forum was hosted by the ROK Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Korea Sport Industry Association, and Korea Sports Promotion Foundation.

The **24th China-Japan-Korea Junior Sports Exchange Meet** was held in Ningbo, China from August 23 to 29, 2016. The event was hosted by All-China Sports Federation with the participation of Japan Sports Association and Korean Sport &



1st Trilateral Sports Ministers’ Meeting

Olympic Committee. Around 1,000 young athletes competed in 11 sports: athletics, soccer, tennis, volleyball, basketball, weightlifting, handball, soft tennis, table tennis, badminton, and rugby. The 25th Japan-China-Korea Junior Sports Exchange Meet will be held in Ibaraki, Japan, in August 2017.

As an international organization established in 2011, the TCS aims to promote peace and common prosperity among China, Japan and the ROK in the areas ranging from politics and security, economy, environment, health and welfare, to human and socio-cultural exchanges. Since established, the TCS has been doing its best to institutionalize the trilateral cooperation by playing the role of “Stabilizer and Thruster” to support the existing mechanisms and exploring new initiatives for the trilateral cooperation.

In 2016, the TCS promoted the trilateral cooperation not only by participating in and providing support to existing trilateral consultative mechanisms, but also by organizing programs aiming to push forward the trilateral cooperation.

In this year, the TCS participated in the 8th Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, 11th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers’ Meeting, 6th Trilateral Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics, 16th Trilateral Policy Dialogue among JPO, KIPO and SIPO, 8th Trilateral Culture Ministers’ Meeting, 9th Tripartite Health Ministers’ Meeting, 1st Trilateral Education Ministers’ Meeting, 1st Trilateral Sports Ministers’ Meeting and many working-level governmental meetings. Moreover, the TCS Secretary-General YANG Houlan attended the 19th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on September 7, 2016.

The TCS also hosted the 4th **CJK FTA Seminar** in Seoul, the ROK on April 7, 2016, back-to-back with the 10th CJK FTA Negotiation (DDG/DG), in cooperation with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the ROK; Ministry of Commerce of China; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan. The speakers highlighted that CJK FTA would be a great opportunity for the three countries to gain potential for invigorating their economies and moving towards East Asian economic integration. The seminar was followed by the **Trilateral Business Network Reception** which gathered representatives of major business organizations of the three countries to provide opportunities to build up new networks.

To follow up the 10th and 11th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers’ Meetings, the TCS organized the 3rd (June 27-28, 2016) and 4th (August 18-19, 2016) **Working**

Group of Joint Project “Trilateral Cooperation for Improvement of Supply Chain Connectivity (SCC)” in Seoul, the ROK. To follow up the 18th Tripartite Environment Ministers’ Meeting (TEMM18), the TCS organized the **Tripartite Environmental Consultation Meeting on General Public Awareness Improvement** in Seoul, the ROK on June 16, 2016.

Moreover, the TCS has conducted various cooperative projects with the aim of promoting public understanding of the trilateral cooperation. It organized the **International Forum for the Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) 2016 and the Trilateral Forum on Public Diplomacy** in Beijing, China on April 29, 2016 in collaboration with China Public Diplomacy Association. Under the theme of “Deepening dialogue and communication, pushing trilateral cooperation to a new level”, dignitaries and session speakers from the three countries shared their wisdom on the trilateral cooperation in the areas of politics, economy and people-to-people exchanges respectively.

The TCS also organized the 3rd **Trilateral Journalist Exchange Program (TJEP)** in Japan, China, and the ROK from June 27 to July 6, 2016. During the Program, the journalist delegation visited governmental agencies, businesses, and cultural heritages of the three cities and were briefed on tourism policies, history and culture, as well as efforts to vitalize economy and increase international cooperation. The journalists also engaged in a series of in-depth dialogues and discussed the media environment of the three countries and the role of media in strengthening trilateral cooperation.

Besides, the TCS organized the 4th **Young Ambassador Program (YAP)** from August 1 to 12, 2016 in Seoul and Jeju, the ROK. The YAP was joined by 16 highly qualified undergraduate and graduate students of the three countries. The program consisted of lectures on the major fields of trilateral cooperation: history and development, political affairs, economic cooperation, and social issues, as well as briefings by each department of the TCS to help enhance the participants’ understandings of the functions and activities of the TCS. The participants also paid visits to government agencies, international organizations and think tanks, as well as engaged in team projects and cultural activities.

In addition, the TCS has carried out a full-scale research on resource mobilization and partnership strategies of other international organizations in order to establish a sound fund mechanism, thus further improving the Terms of Reference of **Trilateral Cooperation Fund (TCF)** for facilitating its establishment as stipulated in the “Joint Declaration of the 6th Trilateral Summit”.

Part III

CONCLUSION

A stable and peaceful relationship among the three countries will greatly contribute to regional peace, stability and prosperity. While the three countries are still facing with bilateral challenges, the trilateral cooperation among the three countries has been steadily advanced in the areas of politics and security, economy, sustainable development and environmental protection, as well as social and cultural exchanges in 2016.

Looking into the future, for the good of the people, it is strongly recommended that the three countries work together to lay a solid foundation and hold the Trilateral Summit regularly on a rotational basis. The Trilateral Summit will infuse the most powerful vitality into the trilateral cooperation. For regional peace and prosperity, the three countries need to properly handle bilateral differences and cooperate closely to tackle pressing challenges in Northeast Asia.

The TCS would like to express its sincere gratitude to the three governments for their substantial support on TCS' participation in various levels of trilateral cooperation mechanisms. The TCS will continue to serve as the "Stabilizer and Thruster" for promoting the trilateral cooperation in various fields, to enhance public communication, deepen mutual understanding among the general public of the three countries, as well as to make greater contributions to the future-oriented trilateral cooperation.

ANNEXES

List of Trilateral Ministerial Meetings
in 2016

List of Trilateral Ministerial Meetings in 2016¹

1 Regarding the documents of trilateral ministerial meetings, please refer to TCS online database.

Trilateral Ministerial Meetings in 2016

No	Date	Title	Venue
1	1/30	1 st Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting	Seoul, ROK
2	4/26~27	18 th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting(TEMM 18)	Shizuoka, Japan
3	5/3	16 th Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting	Frankfurt, Germany
4	7/28	6 th Trilateral Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistic	Hangzhou, China
5	8/24	8 th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting	Tokyo, Japan
6	8/27~28	8 th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting	Jeju, ROK
7	9/22~23	1 st Trilateral Sports Ministers Meeting	Pyeongchang, ROK
8	10/11	8 th Tripartite Governors' Meeting among the Central Banks	Tokyo, Japan
9	10/29	11 th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting	Tokyo, Japan
10	12/4	9 th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting	Busan, ROK
11	12/8	16 th Trilateral Policy Dialogue Meeting among the JPO, KIPO and SIPO	Kanagawa, Japan

Pursuant to the “Agreement on the Establishment of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS)” signed by the governments of the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea in December 2010, the TCS was established as an international organization in September 2011 in Seoul. The TCS aims to serve as a hub for trilateral cooperation that encompasses a broad spectrum of sectors and actors.

2016

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