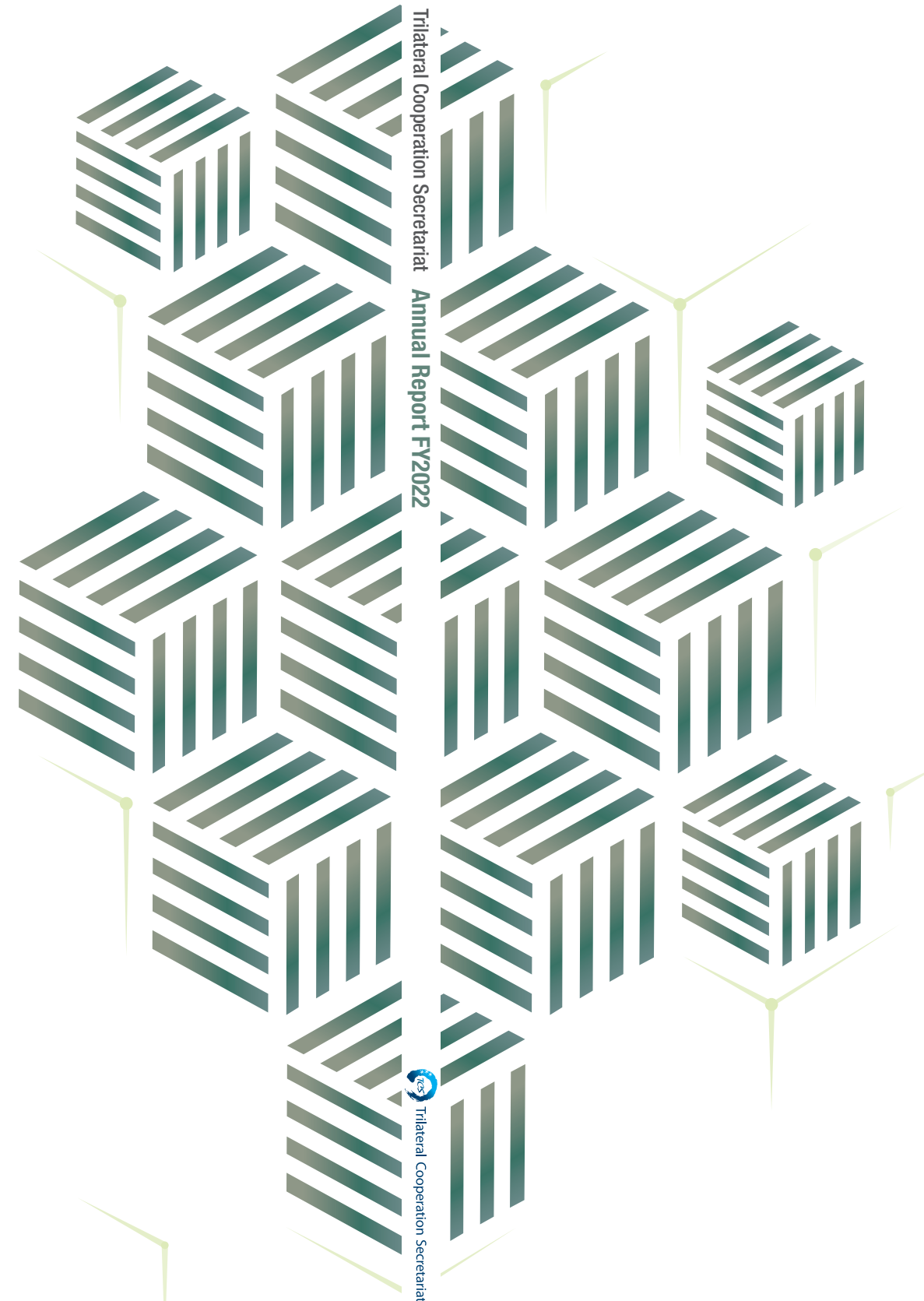


Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

# Annual Report FY2022

September 2022 – August 2023



Trilateral  
Cooperation  
Secretariat

[www.tcs-asia.org](http://www.tcs-asia.org)



Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

中日韓合作秘書處

한일중 3국협력사무국

日中韓三国協力事務局



Trilateral  
Cooperation  
Secretariat



9 773022 747000

ISSN 3022-747X



Trilateral  
Cooperation  
Secretariat



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日中韓三国協力事務局  
中日韩合作秘书处

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# Annual Report FY2022

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September 2022 – August 2023

# CONTENTS

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<b>Foreword</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>About TCS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Highlights</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>1. Strengthening TCS' Advisory Role</b>	
International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation 2023	
Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum and Trilateral Women Startup Program 2023	
1 <sup>st</sup> Trilateral Young Rural Leader's Exchange Program	
<b>2. Expanding Trilateral Youth Exchange Network</b>	
Youth Month and TYEN Launching Ceremony	
Trilateral Youth Summit 2023	
<b>3. Engaging Civil Society</b>	
PR Activities	
Culture City of East Asia (CCEA) Media and Internet Celebrities Tour 2023	



Pursuant to the Agreement on the Establishment of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat signed by the People's Republic of China (China), Japan, and the Republic of Korea (Korea) in December 2010, the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) was established as an international organization in September 2011 in Seoul, Korea. The Annual Report FY2022 contains activities and events engaged by TCS during the 2022 fiscal year (September 2022 – August 2023).

This report, in principle, employs the alphabetical order in listing the names of the three countries; however, the order may vary depending on individual cases such as chair country or visiting order.

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## I. Providing Support for Trilateral Consultative Mechanisms 12

### 1. Political Affairs

Summit and Foreign Affairs  
Non-traditional Security

### 2. Economic Affairs and Sustainable Development

Economy and Trade  
Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)  
Transport and Logistics  
Environment Protection

### 3. Social and Cultural Affairs

Culture  
Health  
Public Personnel Administration  
Sports

## II. Exploring and Facilitating Cooperative Projects 30

### 1. Cross-departmental Projects

### 2. Political Affairs

TCS-organized projects  
TCS-facilitated projects  
TCS-participated projects

### 3. Economic Affairs

TCS-organized projects  
TCS-participated projects

### 4. Social and Cultural Affairs

TCS-organized projects  
TCS-facilitated projects  
TCS-participated projects

## III. Communicating and Coordinating with Stakeholders 74

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. TCS Farewell and Welcome Reception 2023  | 2. MOUs signed in FY2022                      |
| 3. International and Regional Organizations | 4. Ministries, Lawmakers and Foreign Missions |
| 5. Local Governments                        | 6. Public & Business Organizations            |
| 7. Academia                                 |   |

## IV. Publications and Database 90

### 1. Publications

2022 Progress Report  
Trilateral Common Vocabulary Workbook  
2023 Trilateral Economic Report

### 2. Databases

Trilateral Statistics Hub

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Secretary-General, **LEE Hee-sup**  
Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

“

Our mission of promoting  
"Lasting Peace, Common Prosperity, and Shared Culture"  
has guided our endeavors.  
In a world where global challenges are ever-present,  
the need for multilateralism and  
cooperative engagement has never been more critical.

”

It is with immense pride that I introduce the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022 (September 2022 – August 2023).

In a year of unprecedented global change, the TCS has remained a beacon of steadfast dedication and remarkable achievement. We navigated challenges and celebrated triumphs while strengthening our commitment to fostering harmony among People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

Our mission of promoting "Lasting Peace, Common Prosperity, and Shared Culture" has guided our endeavors. In a world where global challenges are ever-present, the need for multilateralism and cooperative engagement has never been more critical.

This Annual Report serves as a testament to our unwavering efforts to champion the principles of trilateral cooperation. From political dialogues to economic initiatives, social programs to cultural exchanges, we have strived to deepen the sense of partnership and shared responsibility among our member states.

The International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) has been a cornerstone of our efforts, fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration among leaders and experts. In IFTC 2023, under the theme of "Revitalizing Trilateral Cooperation in the Post-Covid Era: Communication, Connectivity, and Community", TCS facilitated substantive discussions on political climates, socio-economic cooperation, and strategic cooperation, reinforcing the foundation of trust and mutual understanding among our nations.

TCS also expanded the base of the trilateral cooperation through our various initiatives, such as Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum (TEF) and Trilateral Women Startup Program (TWSP) 2023, featuring women startups in the field of clean energy, and 1<sup>st</sup> Trilateral Young Rural Leader's Exchange Program. Cultural and social initiatives, including the Culture City of East Asia (CCEA) Media and Internet Celebrities Tour, have served to deepen understanding and appreciation of our shared heritage.

Youth engagement has been central to our efforts, with the Trilateral Youth Summit 2023 providing a platform for young leaders to exchange ideas and build friendships. The launch of the Trilateral Youth Exchange Network further exemplifies our commitment to nurturing the next generation of trilateral cooperation enthusiasts.

As we reflect on the past year, we extend our deepest gratitude to our member states, partner organizations, and dedicated staff. Their unwavering commitment has been instrumental in advancing the goals of trilateral cooperation.

Looking ahead, the TCS remains committed to building on the achievements of the past year and exploring new avenues for collaboration and engagement. In a rapidly evolving global landscape, dialogue, cooperation, and mutual respect will continue to guide our collective efforts toward a more prosperous and harmonious future for the peoples of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

The Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) is an international organization established with a vision to promote peace, stability and common prosperity in the East Asian Region. Pursuant to the Agreement on the Establishment of the TCS signed and ratified by the three governments of People's Republic of China (China), Japan and the Republic of Korea (Korea), the TCS was officially inaugurated in Seoul in September 2011. On the basis of equal participation, each country shares one-third of the total operational budget.

The TCS aims to serve as a hub for trilateral cooperation that encompasses a broad spectrum of sectors and stakeholders across the three countries and the East Asia region at large. With a view to solidifying the cooperative ties among the three countries, the TCS will strive to ensure that CJK (China-Japan-Korea) cooperation remains dynamic and future-oriented.

## Functions

**Providing support for trilateral consultative mechanisms**

**Exploring and facilitating cooperative projects**

**Communicating and coordinating with stakeholders**

**Compiling Database, Conducting Research and Publications**

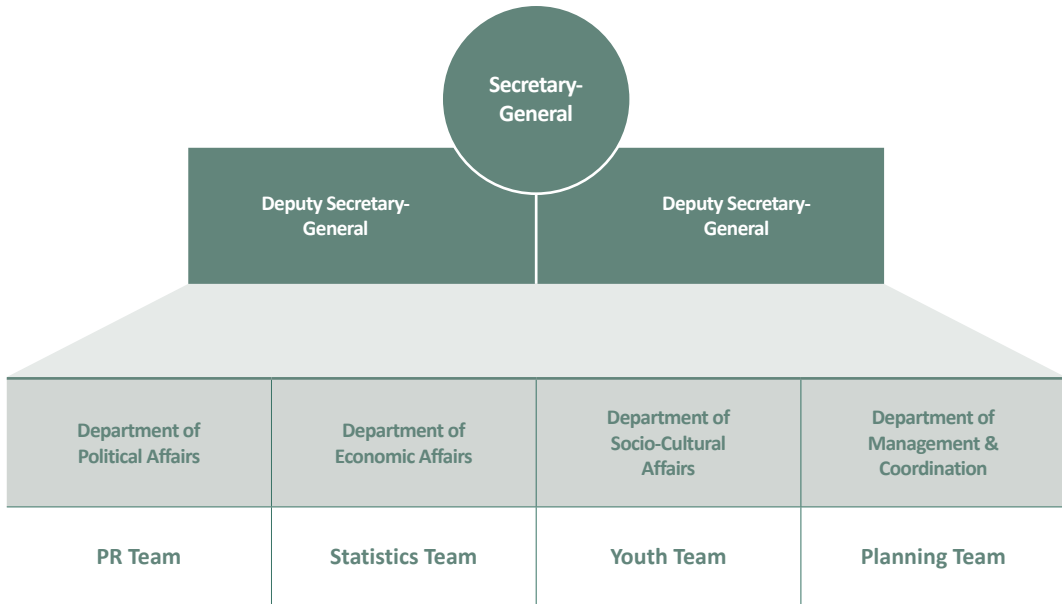
## Structure

### **Consultative Board**

The Board, serving as the executive decision-making entity, consists of a Secretary-General (SG) and two Deputy Secretaries-General (DSGs). These officials are appointed on a rotational basis every two years, with each appointment coming from one of the three countries.

### **Departments**

There are four departments, each led by a Director seconded by the government and staffed with officers selected through a competitive process across the three countries. Under each department is a cross-departmental team that performs specific organizational functions, comprising of members from various departments.



Department of Political Affairs	Department of Economic Affairs	Department of Socio-Cultural Affairs	Department of Management & Coordination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Politics</li> <li>• Security</li> <li>• Regional Issues</li> <li>• Nuclear Safety</li> <li>• Disaster Risk Reduction</li> <li>• Think-tank Network</li> <li>• Media</li> <li>• Public Relations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economy &amp; Trade</li> <li>• Transport &amp; Logistics</li> <li>• Sustainable Development</li> <li>• Environmental Protection</li> <li>• Customs &amp; Standards</li> <li>• IPR</li> <li>• ICT</li> <li>• Science &amp; Technology</li> <li>• Agriculture &amp; Forestry</li> <li>• Consumers</li> <li>• Water Resources</li> <li>• Statistics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Sports</li> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• Health &amp; Welfare</li> <li>• Public Personnel Administration</li> <li>• Local Government Exchange</li> <li>• Youth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Resources</li> <li>• Finance &amp; Accounting</li> <li>• Audit</li> <li>• Procurement</li> <li>• Office Management</li> <li>• IT Management</li> <li>• Website &amp; SNS</li> <li>• Administration</li> <li>• Legal Support</li> </ul>





## Strengthening TCS' Advisory Role

### International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation 2023

As an annual flagship event, the International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) 2023 was co-organized by the TCS, China Public Diplomacy Association and Qingdao Municipal People's Government on 3 July 2023, in Qingdao China, under the theme "Revitalizing Trilateral Cooperation in the Post-Covid Era: Communication, Connectivity and Community". The IFTC 2023 brought together policy makers and eminent scholars to share insights on public diplomacy and mass communication, digital economy and ageing society, as well as mutual perception improvement among the three countries.

### Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum and Trilateral Women Startup Program 2023

The Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum (TEF) is an annual event organized by the TCS to foster connections and promote cross-border business cooperation, focusing on innovative ideas in various business sectors. In FY2022, TCS hosted TEF 2023 in Seoul, themed "Towards Green Growth: Clean Energy Transformation and Challenges in East Asia." The event included the Trilateral Women Startup Program (TWSP), a continuation from TEF 2022, aimed at providing a platform for women startups to showcase their ideas. The forum featured discussions among government officials and entrepreneurs from China, Japan, and Korea in the renewable and hydrogen energy sectors, highlighting achievements and challenges in clean energy development, technology, and market dynamics. Following the forum, a Business Network Reception facilitated networking opportunities among participants and business professionals.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Trilateral Young Rural Leader's Exchange Program

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Trilateral Agricultural Minister's Meeting resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Collaboration on Agricultural Cooperation in Rural Revitalization, emphasizing the importance of enhancing the capacity building of agricultural technicians in rural areas and organizing mutual visits of rural young leaders; subsequently, the 1<sup>st</sup> Trilateral Young Rural Leader's Exchange Program (TREP) was co-organized by the TCS and Foreign Affairs Office of Anhui Provincial People's Government in Huangshan, Anhui Province, China, facilitating knowledge and experience sharing among young agricultural leaders from the three countries, with plans for the 2<sup>nd</sup> TREP to take place in Korea in 2024.

### Expanding Trilateral Youth Exchange

#### Youth Month and TYEN Launching Ceremony

In February 2023, the Trilateral Youth Exchange Network (TYEN) was launched in Tokyo, Japan. TYEN serves as a cross-CJK, cross-program, cross-university, and cross-industry network, bringing together TCS program alumni and individuals passionate about trilateral cooperation. Guests from the MOFA, academia, international exchange promotional agencies, friendship associations, universities and the youth of the three countries presided while the launch of the TYEN Website and Project Contest were announced. Youth projects such as the Trilateral Youth Speech Contest, Young Ambassador Program, CAMPUS Asia Alumni Workshop 2023, Annual Meeting of TYEN Core Team were also held in similar periods as part of the Youth Month, to commemorate this occasion.



### Trilateral Youth Summit 2023

In August 2023, Trilateral Youth Summit (TYS) 2023 was resumed in Beijing and Chengdu, China, after a four-year hiatus, expanding the participating students' numbers from the previous 30 to 100. This 10-days of exchange program invited university and graduate students from China, Japan and Korea to hold a simulated summit meeting, engaging in activities such as mock delegations, subcommittees, special lectures, and cultural exploration. During the simulated summit, a 'Joint Statement' was issued, proposing collaboration in areas such as culture and tourism, education, sports, and health among the three countries.

## Engaging Civil Society

### PR Activities

Since its establishment in January 2022, the PR team, consisting of 3 professional PR officers from the three countries, and 1 team leader, has developed and executed strategic communication plans for the TCS, which include outlining the key messages, engaging diverse stakeholders, drafting press releases, organizing interviews, building and maintain relationships with journalists, managing social media accounts and organizing public events. In the year 2023, the PR team launched flagship initiatives such as TCS Mascot, TCS Day and CJK Spirit Word of the Year 2024 campaign to promote trilateral cooperation and increase public awareness and contribute to enhance mutual perception. Through these efforts, the TCS has not only garnered increased visibility and awareness but has also solidified its position as the primary source when the media reports on trilateral cooperation.

### Culture City of East Asia Media and Internet Celebrities Tour 2023

The TCS initiated the 'Culture Cities of East Asia (CCEA)' Media and Internet Celebrities Tour to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of designating the first CCEAs in 2014. The project aimed to showcase the rich culture and history of the designated Culture Cities of East Asia, fostering mutual understanding, friendship, and unity among the people of China, Japan, and Korea. The program invited up to 18 media and internet celebrities from China, Japan and Korea to visit Gyeongju in Korea, Nara in Japan, and Yangzhou in China. The tour kicked off with an opening ceremony on April 20 in Gyeongju and concluded with the East Asia Culture Symposium on April 28 in Yangzhou, China. Through this initiative, the TCS aimed to strengthen cultural ties and promote the vibrant heritage of East Asian cities on an international scale.

### Trilateral Common Vocabulary Workbook

On June 2023, TCS released the Trilateral Common Vocabulary Workbook (TCVW) as a continuation of the Trilateral Common Vocabulary Dictionary (TCVD). The Trilateral Common Vocabulary Project, initiated in 2016 by experts from the three countries, followed the announcement of 808 commonly used Chinese Characters at the Northeast Asia Trilateral Forum in 2014. The TCVD highlights 658 commonly used two-idiom words, revealing both similarities and differences in meanings across the three nations, accompanied by practical examples for daily use. The TCVW offers a platform for practicing the writing of selected words with a brush pen, incorporating a historical timeline of Chinese Characters' development and an introduction to notable calligraphers and recent calligraphy trends in the respective countries. Additionally, the "CJK Chit Chat" video series presents entertaining and educational content, showcasing creative approaches to learning common words in China, Japan, and Korea.

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# Providing Support for Trilateral Consultative Mechanisms

# I.

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### **1. Political Affairs**

Summit and Foreign Affairs

Non-traditional Security

### **2. Economic Affairs and Sustainable Development**

Economy and Trade

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Transport and Logistics

Environment Protection

### **3. Social and Cultural Affairs**

Culture

Health

Public Personnel Administration

Sports

**“Provide administrative and technical support for the operation and management of such trilateral consultative mechanisms among the Parties as the Trilateral Summit Meeting, the Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, the Three-Party Committee and other ministerial meetings, and the Trilateral Senior Foreign Affairs Officials’ Consultation and send, if necessary, its representatives to attend major consultative mechanisms”**

***Article 3.1(a) of the Agreement on the Establishment of the TCS***

## 1. Political Affairs

In FY2022, TCS kept close contact with the foreign ministries of the three countries at diverse levels on a series of important political and diplomatic agendas.

### SUMMIT AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

#### ◆ 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Summit

On November 12, 2022, the TCS attended the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The TCS observed the APT Leaders' remarks on the review and future direction of APT cooperation and regional and international issues. The Leaders agreed to further strengthen the role of the APT mechanism and discussed new areas in which the APT cooperation could further enhance, including economic cooperation, supply chain and financial stability, innovation and smart agriculture, digitalization and digital economy, and sustainable and resilient development. On regional and international issues, the Leaders stressed the importance of continued dialogue amongst all the parties concerned in order to realize and maintain peace and stability in the region.

The APT cooperation began in December 1997 with the convening of an informal summit between the leaders of ASEAN, China, Japan, and Korea. The APT Summit was institutionalized in 1999 to strengthen and deepen cooperation in East Asia.

#### OVERVIEW

Date	November 12, 2022
Venue	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Participants	Leaders of ASEAN and the Plus Three countries (China, Japan and Korea) / ASEAN Secretary-General / TCS Secretary-General / ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) Director



## NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY

### ◆ 14<sup>th</sup> Top Regulators’ Meeting on Nuclear Safety

On December 9, 2022, the 14<sup>th</sup> Top Regulators’ Meeting on Nuclear Safety (TRM) was held via video conference. The TCS attended the meeting as an observer and delivered opening remarks. The three agencies shared updates on the status and progress of nuclear safety regulatory activities in each country and exchanged information and experiences on topics of common interest.

The annual TRM on Nuclear Safety, inaugurated in September 2008, was given the mandate to promote information exchange on issues and technologies related to nuclear safety regulations and reinforcement of regional cooperation.

OVERVIEW	
Date	December 9, 2022
Venue	Seoul / Online (Hosted by the Nuclear Safety and Security Commission of Korea)
Participants	Nuclear Safety and Security Commission of Korea / Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan / Ministry of Ecology and Environment (National Nuclear Safety Administration) of China



## 2. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

China, Japan and Korea have shown positive economic growth in the post-pandemic times and continue to show generally sound prospects in the future. The three governments have been closely cooperating among each other to ensure the stable growth of the region. In FY2022, trilateral cooperation was promoted in various areas such as trade, intellectual property rights, and transport and logistics. Through these dialogues, the three countries brought together experts of each field and shared knowledge and insights for the common prosperity of the region.

### ECONOMY AND TRADE

#### ◆ 20<sup>th</sup> Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technological Conference

On November 25, 2022, the 20<sup>th</sup> Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technological Conference (hereinafter referred to as "Conference") took place in Busan, Korea in a hybrid format hosted by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of Korea, the Ministry of Commerce of China, the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (Kyushu Bureau) of Japan, Kyushu Economy International (KEI), co-organized by Korea-Japan Economy Association and Korea-Japan Cooperation Foundation for Industry and Technology.

TCS attended the Conference and delivered congratulatory remarks, and highlighted the crucial role of local governments in promoting exchange and cooperation among the three countries, in particular in the Yellow Sea Rim.

The Conference is a trilateral mechanism on economic cooperation and exchange among local cities of China, Japan and Korea bordering the 'Yellow Sea'. Recognizing the need to establish a regular channel among the three countries to promote economic cooperation in the Yellow Sea Rim region, the Conference was officially launched in 2001 and has been held annually in the three countries in a rotational manner. TCS has participated in the Conference as an observer since 2014. The 21<sup>st</sup> Conference will be held in Dalian, China.

#### OVERVIEW

Date	November 25, 2022
Venue	Busan, Korea
Participants	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of Korea / Ministry of Commerce of China / Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (Kyushu Bureau) / Kyushu Economy International (KEI)



## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)

### ◆ 22<sup>nd</sup> TRIPO Heads Meeting

On November 29, 2022, the 22<sup>nd</sup> TRIPO Heads Meeting was held, hosted by Japan Patent Office (JPO), with Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) participating. TCS attended the meeting and delivered congratulatory remarks.

The TRIPO Heads discussed each country's recent trends in IP development and reviewed the major cooperation projects between the three countries. The discussion covered projects such as TRIPO Design Forum, Trademark User Symposium and Experts Meeting, Joint Experts Group for Trial and Appeal, and IP International Symposium on Academics. The heads expressed their appreciation and gratitude to each other for the continued efforts in trilateral IP collaboration.

The Meeting was followed by the 10<sup>th</sup> TRIPO User Symposium, where the TRIPO offices introduced the role of IP in carbon neutrality and related case studies. The next will be hosted by KIPO.

Reflecting the huge number of the patent applications in the three countries that occupies more than half of the total number in the world, increasing importance has been attached to the cooperation among the three countries for the development of intellectual property system worldwide. The TRIPO Heads Meeting, equivalent to Ministerial Level Meeting, has persevered through 22 iterations, meeting without interruption.

#### OVERVIEW

Date	November 29, 2022
Venue	Online
Participants	Japan Patent Office (JPO) / Korea Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) / China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA)





## TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

### ◆ Directorial Meetings for the 9<sup>th</sup> CJK Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics

In FY2022, a total of three Directorial Meetings for the 9<sup>th</sup> CJK Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics were held online. The delegations from Ministry of Transport of China, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of Korea, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan and the TCS participated the meeting. TCS attended 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Directorial Meeting for the 9<sup>th</sup> CJK Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics.

During the meeting, the three ministries discussed preparatory issues pertaining to the 9<sup>th</sup> CJK Ministerial Conference such as logistical details and drafting of the joint statement and reaffirmed their commitment to close collaboration in this regard. TCS will continue to support the mechanism to enhance trilateral cooperation on Transport and Logistics.

#### OVERVIEW

Date	November 15, 2022 / March 24, 2023 / July 27, 2023
Venue	Online
Participants	Ministry of Transport of China / Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of Korea / Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan



## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

China, Japan, and Korea have a long history of cooperation in sustainable development, especially on environmental protection. This longtime effort has not been interrupted even during the pandemic, with relevant stakeholders sustaining cooperation through virtual platforms. TCS continued to support these endeavors in transitioning times of the endemic, opening new possibilities and opportunities for further environment cooperation in the region.

### ◆ 23<sup>rd</sup> Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting (TEMM23)

The TCS has been participating in the Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting (TEMM) as an observer since the 16<sup>th</sup> TEMM in 2014 and has supported its agenda regarding raising public awareness in environmental protection. In FY2022, the TCS delegation virtually attended TEMM23 as an observer. At the meeting, the Ministers of China, Japan, and Korea exchanged information on the recent progress in environmental policies and reviewed the implementation status of Tripartite Joint Action Plan (TJAP 2021-2025). The Ministers also adopted the Joint Communiqué, which recognized the contribution of the TCS by organizing the Trilateral Symposium on Environmental Education and Public Awareness in August 2022. The role of the TCS as a supporting entity in promoting cooperation under the action plan has also been highlighted.

TEMM, which was established in 1999, is one of the oldest and most well-established mechanisms among the 21 trilateral ministerial meetings. TEMM plays an effective role in addressing various environmental issues of the three countries' common interest in a systematic and participatory way. The multi-layered structure of TEMM comprising of the Ministers Meeting, Director-General Meeting, and Director-level Meeting (Pre-TEMM) enables effective implementation and monitoring management of cooperation.

#### OVERVIEW

Date	December 1, 2022
Venue	Online
Participants	Ministry of Environment of Korea / Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China / Ministry of the Environment of Japan



### ◆ Pre-TEMM24 Working Level Meeting

TCS delegation attended the Pre-TEMM24 working-level meeting in Tokyo, Japan. The meeting was held to review the Joint Communique and prepare logistical arrangements of the upcoming 24<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM24)

#### OVERVIEW

Date	August 31, 2023
Venue	Tokyo, Japan
Participants	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea / Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China / Ministry of the Environment of Japan



## 3. Social and Cultural Affairs

### CULTURE

China, Japan, and Korea, sharing a common cultural heritage, have each cultivated unique and distinct cultures shaped by their rich histories. These cultural traditions are not only invaluable intellectual assets but also serve as spiritual cornerstones for the three nations, playing a pivotal role in cultural advancement both regionally and globally. Recognizing the significance of their cultural heritage and the need to collaboratively preserve and enhance it, the three governments established the Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting (TCMM) in 2007.

Since its participation in the mechanism in 2013, the TCS has worked towards expanding its contributions to key initiatives under the TCMM. This involves providing continuous support for the Culture City of East Asia (CCEA) initiative and actively developing a relevant project aimed at promoting the CCEA brand in the region. Additionally, since 2017, the TCS has consistently taken part in the Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum. Through active involvement in these programs, the TCS strives to fortify cultural ties, nurture mutual understanding, and enhance cooperation among China, Japan, and Korea in the realms of cultural exchange and development.

#### ◆ 15<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum

On October 27-28, 2022, the 15<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum was held in Jeju, Korea, in the hybrid format. The Director-Generals of the relevant ministries as well as the representatives from public agencies and associations delivered presentations on the status of 'realistic contents industry' which is based on VR/AR technology and discussed ways to further promote trilateral exchanges. From TCS, Director of Socio-Cultural Affairs attended inter-governmental meeting on October 27, and delivered introductory remarks about the TCS' involvement and expected contributions in this field.

The forum was first held in December 2002 in Shanghai, China, participated by the government officials of the three countries. The purposes of the forum are to share policy and information among the three countries with a view to expanding a common market for the cultural content industry, including business exchange among private companies.

#### OVERVIEW

Date	October 27-28, 2022
Venue	Jeju, Korea / Online (hosted by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Korea)
Participants	Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Korea / Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan / Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China

## ◆ CCEA 2022 Closing Ceremony & CCEA 2023 Opening Ceremony

The TCS received invitations to participate in two notable events hosted by cities of Korea's Culture City of East Asia (CCEA): the 2022 Gyeongju Closing Ceremony in November 2022 and the 2023 Jeonju Opening Ceremony in April 2023. Notably, at the CCEA 2023 Jeonju Opening Ceremony, attended by approximately 2,000 participants, the TCS DSG BEK delivered a congratulatory speech, expressing optimism for the deepening of mutual understanding and the enhancement of East Asian cultural ties through the CCEA initiative.

Since 2014, China, Japan, and Korea have each annually designated one city (two from China since 2021) as CCEA, following the agreement made at the 4<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting (TCMM) in 2012. In 2022, Wenzhou and Jinan in China, Oita Prefecture in Japan, and Gyeongju in Korea actively participated in diverse cultural exchanges as CCEAs. Continuing this tradition, in 2023, Chengdu and Meizhou in China, Shizuoka Prefecture in Japan, and Jeonju in Korea have been designated as the CCEAs.

OVERVIEW	CCEA 2022 Closing Ceremony
Date	November 18, 2022
Venue	Gyeongju, Korea
Participants	Wenzhou & Jinan, China / Oita Prefecture, Japan / Gyeongju, Korea

OVERVIEW	CCEA 2023 Opening Ceremony
Date	April 26, 2023
Venue	Jeonju, Korea
Participants	Chengdu & Meizhou, China / Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan / Jeonju, Korea



## HEALTH

Due to the close geographical proximity and regular interactions, collaborative efforts addressing shared health challenges at the regional level have become crucial to enhance health security. Trilateral cooperation mechanisms in the field of health serve various objectives, including the exchange of pertinent knowledge and best practices, the formulation of regional plans for the efficient prevention and eradication of diseases, and the enhancement of overall public health. In recent times, the health authorities of the three countries have acknowledged the challenges posed by an aging population and the COVID-19 pandemic as pressing public health issues. They consistently reaffirm their dedication to working closely together to address these challenges.

Besides actively participating in the Trilateral Population Policy Forum held by the three ministries on rotation, TCS has been exploring ways to follow up on the initiatives developed under the framework of the Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting and to carry out relevant activities. During the flagship event International Forum of Trilateral Cooperation, TCS together with UNESCAP, organized a panel session on the theme "From Exclusion to Inclusion: Connecting the Digitalized World", focusing on the social engagement of the aging population.

### ◆ 15<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting

TCS attended the 15<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting and delivered opening remarks online. The Meeting was chaired by Minister CHO Kyoo Hong of the Ministry of Health and Welfare of Korea. Vice Minister ZENG Yixin of the National Health Commission of China, Minister KATO Katsunobu of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, and Dr. Zsuzsanna JAKAB, DDG of WHO participated in the Meeting. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a Joint Statement containing the three countries' endeavors to strengthen cooperation on the agenda discussed at the meeting, such as Pandemic Prevention Preparedness and Response (PPR), Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and Healthy Aging.

During the meeting, the three ministers stressed the importance of cooperation in responding to the regional public health crisis and revitalization of both online and offline cooperation. In addition, the ministers also exchanged their national policy measures for UHC and efforts to increase healthcare access through digital health. As one of the urgent tasks facing the three countries in common, each country's experiences and solutions to an aging society were shared.

#### OVERVIEW

Date	December 16, 2022
Venue	Online (hosted by the Ministry of Health and Welfare of Korea)
Participants	Ministry of Health and Welfare of Korea / National Health Commission of China / Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan



### ◆ 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Population Policy Forum

The TCS attended the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Population Policy Forum held on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, respectively. The 10<sup>th</sup> Forum was held online, hosted by China Population and Development Research Center (CPDRC), and the 11<sup>th</sup> Forum was hosted by the Ministry of Health and Welfare of Korea. During the Forum, the three countries have exchanged good practices addressing the pressing situations of fertility declining and population aging, and explored a successful path of transitioning from population-driven development to technology and innovation-driven development.

The Population Policy Forum was launched in accordance with the decision made by the 1<sup>st</sup> Trilateral Summit held in Fukuoka, Japan, in December 2008, and has witnessed 10 editions rotationally organized in the three countries until 2022. It is a DG-level meeting, addressing common challenges of the three countries including aging society and declining fertility.

OVERVIEW	10th Population Policy Forum
Date	November 10, 2022
Venue	Online (hosted by China Population and Development Research Center (CPDRC))
Participants	Ministry of Health and Welfare of Korea / CPDRC (with the support of National Health Commission of China) / Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan

OVERVIEW	11th Population Policy Forum
Date	July 19, 2023
Venue	Online (hosted by the Ministry of Health and Welfare of Korea)
Participants	Ministry of Health and Welfare of Korea / National Health Commission of China / Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan



## PUBLIC PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

The development and reformation of personnel management systems of the three governments makes international cooperation and information exchange a necessity. Through the Memorandum of Cooperation on Public Personnel Administration signed at the first Heads of Personnel Authorities Meeting, the three governments agreed to cooperate in diverse fields including: planning and implementation of public personnel administration systems, public policy on human capital management, as well as training and education of civil servants.

The three governments implemented various mechanisms to share best practices of public personnel administration and to further institutionalize cooperation in the field, such as the Heads of Personnel Authorities Meeting, Symposium on Personnel Administration and Joint Training Program for Young/Middle-level Public Employees. Since its first participation in the Heads of Personnel Authorities Meeting in 2015, TCS has maintained close contacts with the three personnel authorities to render continuous support.

### ◆ 15<sup>th</sup> CJK Personnel Policy Network Joint Training Program

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the 15<sup>th</sup> China-Japan-Korea Personnel Policy Network Joint Training Program for Young/Middle-level Public Employees was held at the TCS conference hall. This year's program was the first event held offline since the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Hosted by the Korean Ministry of Personnel Management, civil servants from the National Civil Service Administration of China and the National Personnel Authority of Japan attended.

TCS Deputy Secretary-General BEK Bumhym delivered a welcoming remark, encouraging participants to continue their interest in trilateral cooperation. The TCS has provided a lecture about the TCS' history, its institutional arrangements, and its activities in diverse fields as well as a workshop on similarities and differences of the working cultures of China, Japan, and Korea.



The program has been held annually on a rotational basis since 2007. The program gathers young/middle-level public employees from the three personnel authorities together to share views on issues related to the public personnel, with a view to deepening their mutual understanding.

**OVERVIEW**

Date	June 27-29, 2023
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Participants	Young and middle-level public employees of China, Japan and Korea


**◆ 9<sup>th</sup> CJK Personnel Policy Network Heads' Meeting**

On February 22, 2023, the TCS joined the 9<sup>th</sup> China-Japan-Korea Personnel Policy Network Heads' Meeting. The meeting was hosted by China National Civil Service Administration, and attended by Mr. XU Qifang, Chief of the National Civil Service Administration, Ms. KAWAMOTO Yuko, President of Japan National Personnel Authority, and Mr. KIM Seung Ho, Minister of Personnel Management of Korea. The three sides reviewed the past three year's cooperation outcomes and signed the Memorandum of Cooperation for the next three years.

The Triennial China-Japan-Korea Personnel Policy Network Heads' Meeting started in 2005 among China National Civil Service Administration, Japan National Personnel Authority and Ministry of Personnel Management of Korea. The next meeting will be hosted by the Ministry of Personnel Management of Korea in 2025.

**OVERVIEW**

Date	February 22, 2023
Venue	Online (hosted by China National Civil Service Administration)
Participants	China National Civil Service Administration / Japan National Personnel Authority / Ministry of Personnel Management of Korea



## SPORTS

### ◆ 4<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Sports Ministers' Meeting

The TCS attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Sports Ministers Meeting as an observer. Mr. PARK Bo-gyoon, Minister of Culture, Sports, and Tourism of Korea, led the virtual meeting, with Mrs. NAGAOKA Keiko, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology of Japan, and Mr. ZHOU Jinqiang, Deputy-Minister of the General Administration of Sports of China, in attendance. The three sides adopted the 2023 Seoul Joint Declaration, a joint statement aimed at spreading the Olympic spirit for future generations, promoting solidarity for sustainable sports development, and enhancing cooperation in sports.

The Minister of Korea introduced the 2024 Winter Youth Olympics in Gangwon-do Province and urged active participation from athletes in the three countries, as well as their support. Japanese and Chinese officials pledged efforts for the successful hosting of the event. The Trilateral Sports Ministers' Meeting has been held every two years since 2016, with the next edition slated for next year in Japan. Taking the opportunity of a series of Olympic Games being hosted by Korea, Japan, and China consecutively (PyeongChang Winter Games in 2018, Tokyo Summer Games in 2021, Beijing Winter Games in 2022), Trilateral Sports Ministers' Meeting was established in 2016. The first Trilateral Sports Ministers' Meeting was convened in September 2016 to further strengthen cooperation in the field of sports, especially regarding sports industry, disabled sports, anti-doping, and physical education. The three countries have also initiated various projects such as the Trilateral Junior Exchange Sports Meeting.

## OVERVIEW

Date	February 9, 2023
Venue	Online (hosted by the Culture, Sports and Tourism of Korea)
Participants	Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Korea / Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan / General administration of Sports of China



### ◆ Trilateral Sports Expert Forum

The TCS attended the Trilateral Sports Experts Forum in Seoul, Republic of Korea, as a side event for the 4<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Sports Ministers Meeting. Under the theme of ‘Korea-Japan-China Sports Solidarity with Global Development,’ the Forum was hosted by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Korea, the Korea Institute of Sport Science, and the Korea Sports Promotion Foundation.

TCS DSG BEK underlined the significance of trilateral cooperation in the field of sports and noted that the trilateral efforts in sports are expected to have a positive impact on mutual understanding among the people of the three countries and stressed the TCS’ willingness to further cooperate with relevant sports organizations to promote trilateral cooperation.

OVERVIEW	
Date	November 4, 2022
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Host	Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Korea, Korea Institute of Sport Science, and Korea Sports Promotion Foundation



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# Exploring and Facilitating Cooperative Projects

## II.

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## **1. Cross-departmental Projects**

### **2. Political Affairs**

TCS-organized projects

TCS-facilitated projects

TCS-participated projects

### **3. Economic Affairs**

TCS-organized projects

TCS-participated projects

### **4. Social and Cultural Affairs**

TCS-organized projects

TCS-facilitated projects

TCS-participated projects

**“Explore and identify potential cooperative projects among the Parties, and report those projects to the relevant consultative mechanisms for adoption”**

***Article 3.1(c) of the Agreement on the Establishment of the TCS***

## 1. CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL PROJECTS

### ◆ International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation 2023

The TCS hosted the International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) 2023 on July 3, 2023, under the theme “Revitalizing Trilateral Cooperation in the Post-Covid Era: Communication, Connectivity and Community”. As the first offline IFTC since 2020, the IFTC 2023 was co-organized by China Public Diplomacy Association and Qingdao Municipal People’s Government, attracting more than 300 audience. The Forum was sponsored by the prominent media of the three countries – People’s Daily, Chosun Ilbo and Asahi Shimbun.

TCS Secretary-General Amb. OU Boqian stressed that trilateral cooperation is not only vital to the peace and stability in Northeast Asia, but also of great significance to the prosperity and development of the world. LU Zhiyuan, Deputy Secretary of CPC Shandong Provincial Committee and Secretary of the CPC Qingdao Municipal Committee delivered opening remarks.

H.E. PARK Jin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Korea, and H.E. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, delivered video congratulatory messages on the opening of IFTC 2023. H.E. WANG Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, attended the Forum and delivered a speech entitled "Taking the Right Direction and Revitalizing Asia Jointly."

H.E KANG Chang Hee, Chairman of Woonkyung Foundation and Former Speaker of the National Assembly of Korea delivered remarks at the opening session. KONDO Seiichi, Former Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, and Director of the Kondo Institute for Culture and Diplomacy also attended the forum online and delivered remarks with an emphasis on enhancing empathy by the people of the three countries to achieve real communication and cooperation.

Started in 2011, the IFTC is an annual forum that brings together eminent scholars/policy makers to share and offer new insights into the political climate, economic cooperation, and social-cultural ties among the three countries. The TCS will continue to organize it to further strengthen strategic discussions and enduring communication platforms among CJK.

#### OVERVIEW

Date	July 3, 2023
Venue	Qingdao, China
Theme	Revitalizing Trilateral Cooperation in the Post-Covid Era: Communication, Connectivity and Community
Agenda	1) Public Diplomacy and Mass Communication: Mutual Perception among CJK 2) From Exclusion to Inclusion: Connecting the Digitalized World 3) Mutual Perception Improvement: From the Lens of Local Community Exchanges





## ◆ Announcement of CJK Spirit Word of the Year 2023

On January 9, the TCS announced the CJK Spirit Word of the Year 2023 at the TCS Goodwill Gala: the Chinese character, “和合”, meaning harmony. This is the first time TCS launched a campaign to ask people from the three countries to select a word that can represent CJK spirit in 2023, aiming to promote a shared culture and a better mutual understanding. During the ceremony, Professor LEE Keonsik from Dankook University explained that the 12 candidate words all symbolize cooperation and have a similar meaning of hoping for amicable relations among the three countries.

In closing remarks, TCS Deputy Secretary-General SAKATA Natsuko pointed out that the public choice of the word “和合” represents the common expectation of the people from the three countries that will contribute to common prosperity and harmony in East Asia.

In an exclusive interview with China’s Xinhua News Agency, SG OU introduced that “和合,” means peace, harmony, amity, and cooperation, and embodies the aspirations of the people of the three countries for regional peace, harmonious coexistence, and joint prosperity amid drastic and profound changes taking place in the international landscape.

Looking ahead to 2023, SG OU expressed the hope that TCS will work closely with the three countries to tackle more challenges in the trilateral relations and promote trilateral cooperation and development by carrying out a series of events, such as the International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC), CJK Youth Month, Trilateral Youth Exchange Network (TYEN) and other projects in various fields.

The CJK Spirit Word of the Year 2023 campaign lasted from December 1 to the end of 2022 and received about 1,000 votes from the general public of the three countries. After the first round of voting, experts from the three countries reviewed the result and listed 12 candidates. The winning “和合” received the majority of the votes, while the runner-up was “相生(developing together)”, and “共感 (empathy)”.

### OVERVIEW

Date	January 9, 2023
Participants	Distinguished guests and scholars contributing to CJK cooperation



◆ TCS Day

On May 30, 2023, the TCS hosted ‘TCS Day’ at the Cheonggye Plaza, Seoul. TCS Day was held to jointly commemorate the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Memorandum on the Establishment of the TCS” signed by the governments of China, Japan, and Korea in Jeju on May 30, 2010.

TCS DSG BEK said in his opening remarks that the three countries have consistently strived to establish cooperative organizations and inter-governmental consultation mechanisms over the years. The names of the TCS mascot, Crested Ibis, a bird symbolizing cooperation among China, Japan, and Korea, were revealed at the TCS Day. Selected four names (EN, CN, JP, KR) represent the meaning of friendship and cooperation between the three countries. Following the announcement, various performances took place, including a calligraphy performance showcasing the word of the year, 'Harmony(和合),' as well as Chinese, Japanese, and Korean jazz and dance performances.

Additionally, there were photo exhibitions that reflected on the journey of TCS in promoting cooperation between China, Japan, and Korea. These events at Cheonggye Plaza garnered attention from the public. Also, TCS showcased the commitment to peace and cooperation through opening booths as a meaningful venue for citizens to learn about significant projects on culture, economy, and youth exchange among the three countries.

OVERVIEW	
Date	May 30, 2023
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Participants	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the Republic of Korea, Embassy of Japan in Korea



## 2. POLITICAL AFFAIRS

### TCS-ORGANIZED PROJECTS

#### ◆ 1<sup>st</sup> Trilateral Visionary Group

The 1<sup>st</sup> Trilateral Visionary Group (TVG) was held in Xiamen, China on April 2-3, 2023. The TCS, the China Public Diplomacy Association, the Nakasone Peace Institute, and the Korea Foundation co-hosted the event. This hybrid event brought together 19 veteran governmental officials and prominent scholars from China, Japan, and Korea to engage in in-depth discussions on the progress, challenges, and opportunities of trilateral cooperation in the political, economic, and socio-cultural areas.

The political session began with participants sharing insights on the pressing issues in the region and exchanging views on the significance of enhancing communication and cooperation among the three countries. The economic session centered around constructive discussions to strengthen economic interconnectivity and vitality in the region under the framework of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and other initiatives. During the socio-cultural session, participants engaged in discussions on the importance of mutual understanding and shared culture, especially in the areas of youth, media, and local exchange.

#### OVERVIEW

Date	April 3, 2023
Venue	Xiamen, China / Online
Participants	TCS, China Public Diplomacy Association (CPDA), Nakasone Peace Institute (NPI), Korea Foundation (KF)



### ◆ 2023 Trilateral Young Scholars Forum

On July 4, the TCS and Shandong University co-hosted the Trilateral Young Scholars Forum (YSF) in Qingdao, Shandong Province, China, with support from Sungkyunkwan University of Korea. As the back-to-back event of the International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) 2023, the YSF brought together 12 young scholars mentored by senior scholars from the three countries to make presentations and engage in discussions on the mutual perception among the peoples of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

TCS SG OU delivered the opening remarks, highlighting the importance of engaging with CJK young scholars with great potential for advancing trilateral cooperation. The Young Scholars Forum provides a platform to do that and encourages innovative ideas to make a difference in the region and beyond. She encouraged young scholars to take an active role in promoting trilateral cooperation to shape a better future.

The following three sessions centered on the three questions “Why is mutual perception declining”, “What kind of trilateral relations do we want to achieve?”, “How should we improve mutual perception and achieve the preferred state of trilateral relations?” Professor LI Yuan from Shandong University, Professor LEE Hee-ok from Sungkyunkwan University, and Professor SHIRATORI Hiroshi from Hosei University moderated the three sessions respectively. Chair Professor QIN Yaqing from Shandong University also attended the YSF and delivered valuable comments. The presentations were engaging and informative; the discussions were lively and fruitful, with participants sharing their perspectives and exchanging ideas on how to enhance mutual perception among the three countries in various fields.

OVERVIEW	
Date	July 4, 2023
Venue	Qingdao, China (hosted by Shandong University of China)
Participants	Shandong University, Sungkyunkwan University and Japanese Scholars



## ◆ CJK Education and Training Institutes Online Workshop

On August 2, 2023, TCS organized CJK Education and Training Institutes Online Workshop with UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) in collaboration with Incheon Metropolitan City, Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) of Korea, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), and National Disaster Reduction Center of China (NDRCC). The workshop was held under the theme of “Tools and Technologies for Earthquake Risk Management Sharing Experience from Northeast Asia” and aims to share the experience of Northeast Asia countries in earthquake risk reduction with other countries exposed to seismic risks and promote collaboration for capacity development for earthquake risk reduction between Northeast Asia and other countries/regions. Participants are experts from the China, Japan, and the Korea from national level government, education and training institutes or any other resource persons recommended by the CJK education and training institutes. Over 500 participants from 83 countries and territories participated to the workshop which achieved results from the perspective of “Trilateral Plus X”.

The workshop consists of mainly five parts including opening session, presentation by China, Japan, and Korea’s representatives (sharing DRR related experiences of each country), moderated discussion (Experience and capacity development need for seismic risk management in the Asia Pacific region; Presentation made by government officials of Mongolia), panel discussion (Opportunities and tools for capacity development for earthquake risk reduction) and closing ceremony. From TCS, DSG BEK participated in the workshop and delivered opening and closing remarks. In his remarks, he stated that workshop provides an opportunity for us to share our experience and examples of effective practices, including through the application of technology, infrastructure resilience measures, sustainable and risk-informed recovery and build-back-better approaches. He also mentioned that by working together, we can build a safer and more resilient future and hoped that this opportunity will promote networking of all disaster experts of China, Japan, Korea and other countries.

### OVERVIEW

Date	August 2, 2023
Venue	Online (hosted by TCS and UNDRR ONEA & GETI)
Participants	TCS, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Office for Northeast Asia & Global Education and Training Institute (UNDRR ONEA & GETI), Incheon Metropolitan City, Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) of the Korea, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), National Disaster Reduction Center of China (NDRCC)



### ◆ TCS Guest Scholar Program

TCS Guest Scholar Program is a platform initiated by TCS for scholars and experts to share their insights, perspectives, and suggestions on a wide range of topics regarding trilateral cooperation. From politics and economics to society and culture, guest scholars bring their wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table, offering unique and visionary perspectives that help audiences from the three countries to understand the complex issues facing the region and beyond. Since the program launched in February 2023, 5 well-known scholars, including Amb. SHIN Bongkil, Mr. ZHAO Jinping, Mr. HWANG Jaeho, Mr. RO Jaehun and Miss PARK Danbee, have published 6 opinion articles in the media.

OVERVIEW	
Date	February-August, 2023
Participants	Amb. SHIN Bongkil published an article in the Global Times on February 8, 2023. Mr. ZHAO Jinping published an article in Economy Chosun on February 13, 2023. Ms. PARK Danbee published an article in the China Daily on February 25, 2023. Mr. HWANG Jaeho published an article in the China Daily on April 1, 2023. Mr. RO Jaehun published an article in the Global Times on June 12, 2023. Mr. HWANG Jaeho published an article in the Global Times on July 11, 2023.

### ◆ 2023 TCS SNS Supporters Program

The role of SNS Supporters is to help promote cooperation among China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea and to serve as a communication channel between the TCS and the general public. Under the framework of the Trilateral Youth Exchange Network, the SNS Supporter program aims to encourage CJK youth to actively engage with TCS projects and express their unique perspectives on and passion for trilateral cooperation through social media platforms.



SNS Supporters program initiated in 2022, the second batch of SNS Supporter program was launched in January, attracting over 200 applications from the three countries. From this pool, TCS recruited 116 students, tasking them with creating digital content to promote TCS' programs and various topics regarding trilateral cooperation and had the opportunity to participate in events hosted by TCS throughout the program. TCS hosted a celebration for its 2023 SNS supporters at the TCS Conference Hall on June 23, 2023.

OVERVIEW	
Date	February-August 2023
Participants	116 CJK undergraduate and graduate school students

## TCS-FACILITATED PROJECTS

### ◆ 7<sup>th</sup> NTCT Focal Points Meeting and 2022 NTCT Conference

TCS attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tanks (NTCT) Conference and 2022 NTCT Conference online, hosted by the Japan Forum on International Relations. DSG BEK delivered a keynote speech at the conference and participated in the discussions at the National Focal Points Meeting.

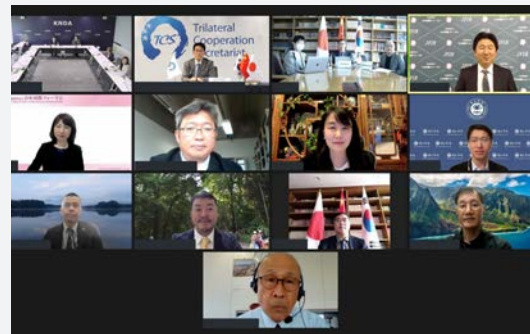
The Focal Points Meeting's discussions centered around the draft reports related to carbon neutrality, RCEP, and security cooperation created by the Working Groups organized by each participating organization. Following lively discussion on the contents of the reports, all those in attendance agreed to make prompt and appropriate revisions to finalize the reports for submission to the three governments as policy recommendations. The TCS reiterated its willingness to support the NTCT deliver its policy recommendations to the three governments.

The conference focused on 'Trilateral Cooperation in the Era of Competition Between Nations'. Participants acknowledged the increasingly complex global environment challenging trilateral cooperation but found numerous areas for potential collaboration such as banking, health, green energy, people-to-people exchange, and third country cooperation.

The NTCT, officially launched in 2015, has been promoting academic exchanges between the three countries on various issues such as security, economy, environment, and regional cooperation. The focal point meeting and the conference aim to provide constructive policy recommendations to the governments of the three countries.

#### OVERVIEW

Date	March 9, 2023
Venue	Online
Participants	TCS, Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR), Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU), Hunan University of Technology and Business, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, National Institute for Defense Studies



### ◆ Trilateral Expert Dialogue

The China-Japan-Korea Trilateral Expert Dialogue was held in a hybrid format. The TCS sponsored the event with the offline portion taking place at the TCS International Conference Hall. SG OU, in her congratulatory remarks, emphasized the importance of trilateral cooperation, touching upon the economic potential of the three countries. She suggested that greater crises and challenges makes further important the strategic significance of trilateral cooperation.

OVERVIEW	
Date	October 17, 2022
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Organizer	Center for Japan Studies at the Sejong Institute, Asian Cultural Studies Research Institute at Gachon University, School of Northeast Asian Studies at Shandong University, Center for Contemporary Korean Studies at Keio University.





## TCS-PARTICIPATED PROJECTS

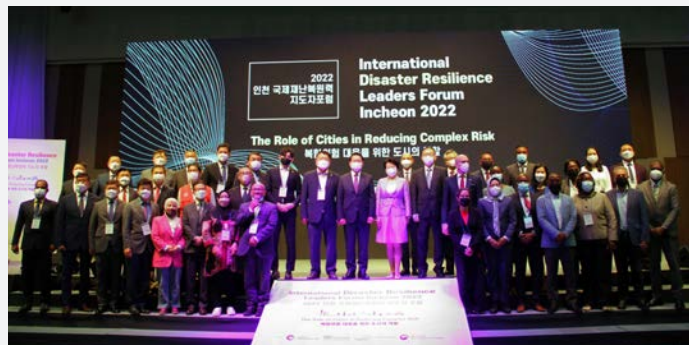
### ◆ International Disaster Resilience Leaders Forum Incheon 2022

On November 28 and 29, 2022 TCS co-hosted International Disaster Resilience Leaders Forum Incheon 2022 with UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Incheon Metropolitan City, The Incheon Institute, Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS), and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The forum convened to capture and share practical experience of “disaster resilience in action” including technology for disaster risk reduction and ensure the region’s experience positively influences the global development policy agenda. It consists of opening ceremony, closing ceremony and three other sessions (Session1: Experience from Northeast Asia and ASEAN Leaders: Reducing Complex Disaster Risks in Practice, Session2: Urban Policy for Disaster Resilience, session3: Advanced Technology Development and Application to Respond to Complex Risk). Presenters from each session are mainly government officials, representatives of local cities and experts on disaster risk reduction (DRR) from various countries.

SG OU participated in the International Disaster Resilience Leaders Forum Incheon 2022 in Incheon Metropolitan City and delivered the opening and congratulatory remarks at the opening session. In her remarks, highlighting the importance of regularly sharing the DRR experiences and policies to learn from each other for further enhanced capacities, SG OU wished that the outcome of the forum with participation of prominent experts and practitioners from all over the world will be a great tailwind for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and noted that TCS is committed to further enhancing regional and international cooperation in DRR in collaboration with key stakeholders. In the forum, Ms. MIZUTORI Mami, Head of UNDRR, and Mr. YOO Jeong-bok Mayor of Incheon Metropolitan City and Mr. DATO LIM Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN, attended and delivered remarks.

#### OVERVIEW

Date	September 28-29, 2022
Venue	Incheon, Korea
Organizer	TCS, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Incheon Metropolitan City, Incheon Institute, Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Participants: government agencies, international organizations, and media, from the three countries



◆ 2022 World Peace Forum

On November 1, 2022, TCS SG OU attended the 2022 World Peace Forum and Appointment Ceremony on Busan International Organizations Advisory Committee hosted by Busan Metropolitan City and Busan Foundation for International Cooperation (BFIC). The heads and representatives of major international/regional organizations located in Korea including the TCS, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, ASEAN-Korea Centre and others were invited as committee members to provide strategic advice for the development of international exchanges among local governments.

The 2022 World Peace Forum themed “Transforming the World, Our Role for a Better Future” was also held on the day. TCS attended as an observer. Distinguished speakers including Mr. PARK Heong-joon, Mayor of Busan, and Mr. BAN Ki-moon, Former UN Secretary-General attended the forum and delivered remarks.

OVERVIEW	
Date	November 1, 2022
Venue	Busan, Korea
Participants	TCS, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, ASEAN-Korea Centre and other international organizations



◆ 13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Northeast Asia Cooperation

The 13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Northeast Asia Cooperation was held online with the host of Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. The TCS joined the symposium as a co-sponsor. SG OU, in her keynote speech, delivered her analysis of the development and significant role of regional cooperation mechanisms in Northeast Asia, as well as the serious challenges they encountered. She suggested that the relevant stakeholders should advance the current cooperation mechanisms, focus more on economic ties and people-to-people exchanges to overcome the difficulties of political and security issues.

## OVERVIEW

Date	November 8, 2022
Venue	Online
Theme	Strengthening Regional Cooperation Mechanisms: Current Challenges and Future Prospects of Northeast Asia
Organizer	Institute of International Relations at Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences of China, Centre for Contemporary Korean Studies at Keio University of Japan, Centre for Chinese Studies at Dongseo University of Korea



## ◆ 2022 Trilateral Media Dialogue

On November 25, TCS SG OU addressed the 2022 Trilateral Media Dialogue via video, hosted by People's Daily with the theme "Exchanges to Reinforce People-to-People Bond, Forge Ahead to Promote Cultural Similarity." The event saw the participation of around 60 representatives from 27 government agencies, international organizations, and media across the three countries. SG OU highlighted the escalating impact of negative online sentiments on people's thoughts, expressions, and behavior, contributing to a decline in mutual perception among individuals from the three nations.

## OVERVIEW

Date	November 25, 2022
Venue	Online
Organizer	People's Daily
Participants	government agencies, international organizations, and media, from the three countries



◆ East Asia Cooperation Forum 2022

The East Asia Cooperation Forum 2022 was held in Seoul by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea, under the theme of “Exploring Cooperation for Freedom, Peace, and Prosperity in East Asia”. TCS SG OU, in her congratulatory remarks, commended the Korean MOFA for their efforts in organizing the forum. She highlighted the value and impact of open discussion as East Asia makes ready for the post pandemic era in which several transnational challenges await. In this light, she urged the East Asian community to cumulate more experiences of cooperation.

OVERVIEW	
Date	December 16, 2022
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Participants	Speakers and panelists from Korea, US, Japan, China, Australia, Singapore and New Zealand



## ◆ Symposium on Northeast Asia Regional Cooperation

On April 10, 2023, TCS SG OU Boqian participated in the Symposium on Northeast Asia Regional Cooperation, co-hosted by the Institute of International Studies of Shandong University and the Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-tanks (NTCT) Weihai Research Center, where 22 scholars and experts were in attendance. During the event, SG OU delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony, addressing the development and crucial role of regional cooperation mechanisms in Northeast Asia. She discussed challenges such as the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising inflation, deteriorating geopolitical conditions, and diminishing mutual perception. SG OU provided a brief overview of the history and evolution of trilateral cooperation, emphasizing its pivotal role in fostering enduring peace and shared prosperity in the region.

### OVERVIEW

Date	April 10, 2023
Venue	Weihai, China
Participants	Institute of International Studies of Shandong University /Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-tanks (NTCT) Weihai Research Center



### 3. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

#### TCS-ORGANIZED PROJECTS

##### ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum on Carbon Neutrality Goals of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Climate Action Team at the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (EOSG/CAT) and the TCS has been jointly organizing a high-level forum since 2021 to create a platform to share policy practices and explore collaboration between China, Japan, and Korea on the carbon neutrality transition.

At this year’s Forum, experts examined the region’s progress in climate response and sustainable transition and shared national, subnational, and sectoral good practices. The Forum invited high-level national and local government officials to share the progress on their respective carbon neutrality goals. In addition, low-carbon technologies in transport and energy sectors were introduced by experts from academia and international organizations. The Forum facilitated discussions on accelerating and strengthening regional climate action, and on ways to mobilize support and cooperation for carbon neutrality.

Outcomes of the Forum were presented at the 79<sup>th</sup> ESCAP Commission Session and its side event. The TCS will continue to collaborate with ESCAP and EOSG/CAT to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum in early 2024.

OVERVIEW	
Date	February 7, 2023
Venue	Online
Participants	455 online and offline participants



## ◆ Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum and Trilateral Women Startup Program 2023

The Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum (TEF) is TCS' annual event that serves as a platform to connect innovative ideas in business sectors, and also to promote cross-border business cooperation in the region.

In FY2022, the TCS hosted the Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum (TEF) 2023 in Seoul May 10, 2023, under the theme of "Towards Green Growth: Clean Energy Transformation and Challenges in East Asia". Government officials and entrepreneurs in the renewable energy and hydrogen energy sectors of China, Japan, and Korea shared their achievements and challenges in the development, technology, and market of clean energy. After the Forum, a Business Network Reception was held to facilitate networking among participants and businesspeople.

As a back-to-back event of the TEF2023, the TCS also hosted the Trilateral Women Startup Program (TWSP) to offer a platform to share innovative ideas and potentials of women startups. TWSP is a follow-up project from TEF2022, where women entrepreneurs of the three countries proposed the initiative of women start-up projects from the TCS.

TCS will hold the next TEF in 2024 with the theme of E-Commerce.

### OVERVIEW

Date	May 10, 2023
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Participants	China Chamber of International Commerce (CCOIC), Keidanren, Federation of Korean Industries (FKI), 300 participants both onsite and online



## ◆ Trilateral Expert Seminar on RCEP & 2023 Trilateral Economic Report Launch

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) officially came into force in January 2022 after eight years of negotiations. Taking this opportunity, TCS organized an expert meeting on RCEP in 2022. The meeting brought together prominent experts from the three countries and beyond to explore trilateral cooperation in the framework of the RCEP to maximize its economic effects, as well as to examine ways to further strengthen regional economic integration in the post-COVID-19 era.

The Trilateral Expert Seminar on RCEP and 2023 Trilateral Economic Report Launch took place on June 22, 2023, in Seoul, Korea. The event aimed to discuss cooperation in RCEP implementation, maximizing its economic impact, and regional economic integration. The Seminar also served as a platform for the launch of the Trilateral Economic Report (TER) 2023. In the Seminar, participants shared their insights on regional economic performance and integration in China, Japan, and Korea, emphasizing the importance of strengthening economic cooperation among the three countries. Discussions were also held on the implementation of RCEP at the national and local levels.

The Seminar underscored the commitment of TCS to sustaining a robust platform for the exchange of ideas and cooperative policymaking to strengthen trilateral economic cooperation. TCS will continue to hold the next Seminar in 2024, ensuring sustained economic cooperation and joint development in the region.

### OVERVIEW

Date	June 22, 2023
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Participants	China Institute for Reform and Development, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy, 18 experts from China, Japan, Korea, and ASEAN





## ◆ 1<sup>st</sup> Trilateral Young Rural Leader's Exchange Program

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trilateral Agricultural Minister's Meeting (TAMM), the three ministers signed the Memorandum of Collaboration on Agricultural Cooperation in Rural revitalization to lay the foundation for future agricultural collaboration, in which, the three parties agreed the importance of "Enhancing capacity building of agricultural technicians in rural areas and organizing mutual visits of rural young leaders".

As a follow-up of this agenda, the TCS and Anhui Provincial People's Government co-organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Trilateral Young Rural Leader's Exchange Program (TREP) in Huangshan, Anhui Province, China. During the program, young agricultural leaders from the three countries were invited to the Program, which included symposiums, seminars and site visits to areas related to rural revitalization. Through these programs, participants shared their knowledge and experiences of rural revitalization and youth entrepreneurship in the three countries.

Building upon the success of the first program, the 2<sup>nd</sup> TREP will take place in Korea in 2024.

### OVERVIEW

Date	August 10-14, 2023
Venue	Huangshan, China
Participants	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of Korea, 5 young agricultural practitioners from each country, and one ministry observer from each country



## ◆ 3<sup>rd</sup> Trilateral Environmental Teachers' Exchange Program

The Trilateral Environmental Teachers' Exchange Program (TTEP) was initiated in 2017 to support one of the priority areas in the Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environment Cooperation of the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM). The Program is comprised of field trips and dialogue sessions to share pedagogical knowledge and know-hows among the environment teachers of the three countries.

In FY2022, the 3<sup>rd</sup> TTEP was held in Ordos, China, under theme of “Reorienting, Reconnecting and Reshaping the Future”, covering topics such as digitalization and environmental education, as well as impacts on biodiversity. The Program served as a network to exchange teaching methods and it also built a bridge to connect educators and stakeholders among the East Asia regions.

TTEP is a biannual program, making the 4<sup>th</sup> TTEP scheduled for 2025. For next year, an interim meeting will be held to bridge the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Program together and brainstorm ideas for the next event.

OVERVIEW	
Date	August 14-19, 2023
Venue	Ordos, China
Participants	14 (teachers and government officials from each country)



## TCS-PARTICIPATED PROJECTS

### Engagement in Trilateral Economic and Business Exchange

In FY22, TCS attended several events in relation to business cooperation among China, Japan, and Korea. FY22 was a critical year in regional economic cooperation; although the global economy was severely impacted by the pandemic, the three countries have shown impressive recovery by resuming trade and investment among each other. In this critical era of revitalization, regional economic cooperation has become more important than ever. Recognizing this momentum, the three countries developed economic and business exchange opportunities by convening business meetings and conferences, providing a platform for experts and businesspeople to share innovative ideas. TCS contributed to these efforts by building new networks and exploring new possibilities with stakeholders from such events.

## ◆ China-Japan-Korea-ASEAN Investment Cooperation Business Conference

### OVERVIEW

Date	September 17, 2022
Venue	Nanning, China / Hybrid
Participants	150 participants both online and offline
Theme	Building consensus on RCEP and strengthening China-Japan-Korea-ASEAN business investment cooperation



## ◆ China-ASEAN Business Leaders Forum & Special Dialogue on RCEP Business Cooperation

### OVERVIEW

Date	September 17, 2022
Venue	Nanning, China (Hybrid)
Participants	Ministry of Commerce of China, economic and trade authorities of ten ASEAN countries, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat.
Theme	Sharing RCEP New Opportunities, Building A Version 3.0 China-ASEAN FTA



### ◆ 8<sup>th</sup> China-Japan-Korea Industries Expo

OVERVIEW	
Date	September 23, 2022
Venue	Weifang, China (Hybrid)
Participants	China Chamber of International Commerce, Japan Association for the Promotion of International Trade and the Korea International Trade Association.
Theme	Mutual Trust, Inclusiveness, Openness, Innovation, Cooperation, Mutual Benefits



### ◆ RCEP Think Tank Network Launching Meeting

OVERVIEW	
Date	September 23, 2022
Venue	Online
Organizer	China Institute for Reform and Development (CIRD)
Participants	13 think tanks in total from 9 RCEP member states



## ◆ 2023 Japan-Korea Imports Expo

### OVERVIEW

Date	June 21- 23, 2023
Venue	Qingdao, China
Participants	More than 600 Representatives from the governments and businesses of China, Japan, and Korea
Theme	Industrial and Financial Innovation, Linking the Future



## ◆ 2023 High-level Forum for RCEP Economic and Trade Cooperation

### OVERVIEW

Date	June 29, 2023
Venue	Qingdao, China
Organizer	Shandong Provincial People's Government and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade
Theme	Collaborating for Common Prosperity



**Participation in Northeast Asian Regional Cooperation**

Recognizing that regional cooperation is the key for achieving common prosperity, TCS actively participated in various events where leading experts and policy makers gathered to discuss the peaceful integration of China, Japan, and Korea. Representatives from the three countries and beyond shared their views and opinions on how to strengthen regional cooperation in different sectors, ranging from trade to environmental protection.

**◆ Asia Economic Community Forum 2022**

OVERVIEW	
Date	November 3, 2022
Venue	Incheon, Korea (Hybrid)
Participants	Leaders from Asia and the world in the fields of academia, politics and business both online and offline
Theme	Existential Global Threats: Challenges to Asia and the Global Economy



## ◆ 9<sup>th</sup> CJK Cooperation Dialogue

### OVERVIEW

Date	November 15, 2022
Venue	Tokyo, Japan (Hybrid)
Co-organizers	Japan Economic Foundation (JEF), East Asia Foundation (EAF), China (Hainan) Institute of Reform and Development (CIRD), China Public Diplomacy Association (CPDA)
Participants	30 experts, scholars and policy makers from the three countries
Topics	Geopolitics, global common challenges, rule-based international trade system



## ◆ 79<sup>th</sup> Session of ESCAP

### OVERVIEW

Date	May 16, 2023
Venue	Bangkok, Thailand
Participants	ESCAP member and associate member states, international organizations, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, private sector, and other relevant organizations
Theme	Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development
Activities	Intervention at the Sub-regional Dialogue, and TCS-organized side event on 'Connecting Local, National and Regional Strategies to Achieve Carbon Neutrality in Asia and the Pacific'.



### ◆ International Forum on Regional Cooperation of China, Japan and Korea

OVERVIEW	
Date	May 25-27, 2023
Venue	Beijing, China (Hybrid)
Organizer	Beijing Foreign Studies University
Theme	China-style modernization, economic recovery, and comprehensive cooperation between China, Japan, Korea and the Asia-Pacific region



### ◆ The 3<sup>rd</sup> Northeast Asia Cooperation Roundtable & 2023 Business Cooperation Forum

OVERVIEW	
Date	August 22, 2023
Venue	Changchun, China
Participants	200 participants from Northeast Asian countries
Objectives	To deepen friendly exchanges and business cooperation among local governments in Northeast Asia





## Support for Sustainable Development Processes

Sustainable development and climate action has become the center of most global agendas, proving that the attention for environmental protection and conservation has risen higher than ever. With China, Japan, and Korea showing strong commitment in tackling such issues, TCS has also demonstrated firm support on these endeavors. TCS took part in three forums in FY22, which discussed low carbon policies and technologies, as well as air pollution issues. Building on this year's active engagement, TCS will continue to cooperate with partners and stakeholders to ensure sustainable development in Northeast Asia and beyond.

### ◆ 2022 Taiyuan Energy Low Carbon Development Forum

#### OVERVIEW

Date	September 1, 2022
Venue	Online
Organizer	People's Government of Shanxi Province
Co-hosts	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, National Energy Administration
Participants	Approx. 2,000 participants from political, business, and academic sectors



## ◆ International Forum on Transboundary Air Pollution

OVERVIEW	
Date	September 8, 2022
Venue	Seoul, Korea (Hybrid)
Organizer	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Air pollution seen from space: What is Geostationary Environment Monitoring Spectrometer, and what we can see from big data</li> <li>2) How science can support policy and technology cooperation addressing the issue of transboundary air pollution</li> <li>3) Envisioning a regional modality on air pollution in the Northeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific</li> </ol>



## ◆ 3<sup>rd</sup> International Forum on Low Carbon Cities

OVERVIEW	
Date	August 29, 2023
Venue	Incheon, Korea (Hybrid)
Participants	200 participants from Northeast Asia region
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Roles of cities and city networks in local climate actions</li> <li>2) Technology and innovation for local climate actions</li> <li>3) Public-Private-Citizen engagement towards low-carbon cities</li> </ol>



## 4. SOCIO-CULTURAL AFFAIRS

### TCS-ORGANIZED PROJECTS

#### ◆ TYEN Launching Ceremony

The TCS organized the Trilateral Youth Exchange Network (TYEN) Launching Ceremony on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan H.E. TAKEI Shunsuke, Ambassador of China to Japan H.E. KONG Xuanyou and Ambassador of Korea to Japan H.E. YUN Dukmin held a high-level dialogue with youth representatives from the three countries during the event. With the attendance of guests from the Japanese Foreign Ministry and Chinese and Korean diplomatic missions in Japan, international exchange promotional agencies, friendship associations and universities of the three countries, and CAMPUS Asia alumni, around 400 people in total attended the event either online or offline.

TYEN serves as a dynamic cross-CJK, cross-program, cross-university, and cross-industry network, bringing together TCS program alumni and individuals passionate about trilateral cooperation. Young people from China, Japan, and Korea can find mentors across borders and pursue their personal and professional development. Youth programs of TCS will be conducted under TYEN, including the Young Ambassador Program, Trilateral Youth Summit, Trilateral Youth Speech Contest, Young Scholars Forum, Young Rural Leaders Exchange, Children's Story Exchange, CAMPUS Asia Alumni Network, TCS Internship Program and TCS SNS Supporters Program. The TYEN Core Team has been initiated with young professionals in East Asian affairs as an advisory group to provide substantial guidance and input to the youth projects.

The Project Contest was also launched on this occasion, in which TCS gathers proposals from the youth of the three countries and financially supports the implementation process of the projects that are deemed to be excellent.

#### OVERVIEW

Date	February 10, 2023
Venue	Tokyo, Japan
Participants	MOFA, International exchange promotional agencies, friendship associations, universities, youth from China, Japan and Korea
Agenda	Launching of TYEN; TYEN Website, Core Team Members, Project Contest



## ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> Trilateral Youth Speech Contest

The TCS organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trilateral Youth Speech Contest(TYSC) in hybrid format on February 10, 2023 in Tokyo, Japan, following the inauguration of the Trilateral Youth Exchange Network. Touching upon various topics including sports, costumes and cuisines, the 12 finalists shared their perceptions towards cultures of the three countries, voicing unanimously on strengthened mutual understandings, trust and friendship among the three countries. Diplomats, journalists and linguists from the three countries were invited as judges for the contest. Participants who have joined offline, also had the opportunity to join a cultural tour including hand-making Edokiriko and Soba.

The TYSC encourages people to acquire Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages to promote smoother communication among the people of the three countries. It also aims to generate positive perceptions among the youth, by sharing innovative ideas related to trilateral cooperation and the shared cultural values of the three countries. The contest consists of two categories, “C.J.K Specialist” and “CJK Challenger”. C.J.K specialists are required to deliver their speech in 1 foreign language among Chinese, Japanese and Korean, while CJK Challengers use all three languages in one speech. 6 finalists have been chosen for each category to compete in the finals in the past two contests.

OVERVIEW	
Date	February 10, 2023
Venue	Tokyo, Japan
Participants	12 finalists chosen from CJK
Main Activity	Speech Contest, Cultural tour



## ◆ Young Ambassador Program 2023

The Young Ambassador Program (YAP) offers a range of opportunities for highly motivated and competent youth of China, Japan, and Korea to enhance understanding of trilateral cooperation and to foster a sense of community and friendship among the future leaders of the three countries.

The 2023 YAP was organized in a hybrid format from February 7 to 21, 2023 in Seoul, Jeonju, and Incheon, Korea. This year's YAP themed on addressing the mutual public perceptions among the three peoples, consisted of a variety of lectures, dialogues, site-visits, cultural immersion, career talks, CJK youth talks, and team projects. Thirty qualified undergraduate and graduate students from China, Japan, and Korea joined the program. During the program, participants learned about trilateral cooperation from TCS, historical and cultural bonds in Northeast Asia from senior CJK professors, mutual public perception insights from seasoned CJK journalists, East Asia regional cooperation review and prospect from senior CJK ambassadors. The online and offline site visits and cultural immersion to Jeonju, Incheon, Xiangyang City, East Asia Foundation, UNDRR ONEA, ASEAN Secretariat and so on enabled participants to have a vivid understanding on the importance of Lasting Peace and Common Prosperity in the region, and first-hand experiences of Shared Culture.

### OVERVIEW

Date	February 7-21, 2023
Venue	Seoul, Incheon and Jeonju, Korea
Participants	30 students from CJK
Main Activity	Dialogue with Seniors, Thematic Lectures on CJK Mutual Perception, Youth Talk, Career Talk, Site Visits, Cultural Experience, Group Project



### ◆ CAMPUS Asia Alumni Workshop 2023

The TCS organized the CAMPUS Asia Alumni Workshop during Youth Month in Tokyo, Japan. A total of 35 offline and online participants residing in China, Japan, Korea, and ASEAN countries attended the workshop.

Themed “Tackle and Design: Community & Solutions,” the workshop invited three experts in community revitalization in China, Japan and Korea to give lectures about different cases of community revitalization and solutions in the three countries.

During the discussion and Q&A session, participants identified the existing risks in the belonging community and the common challenges among the three countries including unemployment, unbalanced development in urban and remote areas, low fertility and aging society, and explored the potential solutions to address the aforesaid risks and challenges.



OVERVIEW	
Date	February 12, 2023
Venue	Tokyo, Japan / Online
Participants	35 Campus Asia Alumni
Theme	Tackle and Design: Community & Solutions

### ◆ 2023 CJK Virtual Marathon

The TCS organized the CJK Marathon 2023 Virtual Run from April 14 to May 22, 2023. Approximately 300 runners from China, Japan, and Korea joined the virtual race in their respective countries, sharing running experiences and comments through a designated website. Participants could choose to run individually, opting for distances of 5km, 10km, a half marathon (21.09km), or a full marathon (42.19km). Alternatively, they could join a team race with friends from CJK (3 people, distance not specified).

The marathon aimed to foster connections among the people of CJK, particularly those interested in sports and health, deepening mutual understanding of each other’s culture and people through the exchange of ideas on the website. On the website’s bulletin board, participants were required to upload their profiles, running records, photo reviews, and route introductions in three different languages (CJK). The newly introduced comment function enabled participants to directly comment on each other’s posts, fostering deeper communication and creating an atmosphere of connectivity and positivity.

The CJK Virtual Marathon 2023 marked the TCS’ first endeavor to hold the opening ceremony outdoors at Gwanghwamun Square. Through collaboration with the TCS Mascot (later named “Tribi”), the ceremony attracted many spectators in the area and helped raise public awareness of trilateral cooperation and the TCS.

## OVERVIEW

Period	April 14-May 22, 2023
Launching Ceremony	April 14, 2023
Venue	Seoul, Korea / Online
Participants	283 marathoners from China, Japan and Korea
Main Activity	Virtual marathon (5km, 10km, half, full and CJK team race)



### ◆ CCEA Media and Internet Celebrities Tour 2023 / East Asia Culture Symposium

The TCS organized the 1<sup>st</sup> ‘Culture City of East Asia’ Media and Internet Celebrities Tour on April 19-28, 2023. This event brought together cultural experts, journalists, and influencers from China, Japan, and Korea to explore Gyeongju, Nara, and Yangzhou—designated as the first destinations of the tour. Themed ‘Shared Culture · Shared Future,’ the tour aimed to stimulate post-pandemic trilateral cultural exchanges, enhance people-to-people connections, and foster mutual understanding among the three nations. The chosen destinations held historical significance in shaping the culture and civilization of each country, and ongoing relationships between these cities since the 1970s contributed to the tour's objectives. The participants, including scholars, influencers, and journalists, played diverse roles, contributing to the success of the program.

The East Asia Culture Symposium, held on the final day of the tour in Yangzhou, served as the concluding event. During the symposium, representatives shared insights on cultural similarities, diversities, and the strengthening of East Asian culture. The event facilitated a Track 1.5 dialogue, featuring Gyeongju Mayor JOO Nak-young, Nara Mayor NAKAGAWA Gen, and Vice Mayor of Yangzhou LIU Liu, discussing the promotion of cultural ties and economic-industrial cooperation among the three cities under the Culture City of East Asia framework. Notable figures such as China Public Diplomacy Association Vice President HU Zhengyue, Korea East Asia Culture Center President RO Jae-hun, and Japan Council of Local Authorities for International Relation Beijing Bureau Chief CHIKAMATSU Shigehiro delivered keynote speeches, contributing to a comprehensive and insightful discussion.

OVERVIEW	
Date	April 19-28, 2023 (East Asia Culture Symposium: April 28, 2023)
Venue	Gyeongju (Korea), Nara (Japan), Yangzhou (China)
Participants	18 consisting of media reporters, SNS influencers and local cultural experts from China, Japan, and Korea
Main Activity	Opening ceremony, themed cultural tour and East Asia Symposium



### ◆ Trilateral Youth Summit 2023

The Trilateral Youth Summit (TYS) 2023 was convened in Beijing and Chengdu, China, from August 13 to 22, 2023. Organized by the TCS in partnership with China Foreign Affairs University and the Foreign Affairs Office of Chengdu Municipal People’s Government, the program featured activities such as delegation and committee meetings, insightful lectures on various topics, and immersive cultural experiences. At the Model Trilateral Summit held on August 20, the student delegations of China, Japan, Korea and the TCS engaged in extensive discussions on cooperation in cultural tourism, education, sports, healthcare, and other areas among the three countries. Following the Summit, the "Joint Statement of 2023 Trilateral Youth Summit" was issued.

The TYS was initiated by the Korean MOFA in 2014, with a view to fostering mutual understanding and cultivating friendships among undergraduate and graduate students. The venue for the TYS rotates annually among China, Japan, and Korea. Following a hiatus due to the pandemic, the 2023 TYS resumed on an expanded scale, welcoming 100 participants from the three countries who actively engaged in the program for 10 days.

OVERVIEW	
Date	August 13 to 22, 2023
Venue	Beijing and Chengdu, China
Participants	100 undergraduate and graduate students from China, Japan, and Korea
Main Activity	Delegation/committee meetings, Model Trilateral Summit, cultural study visits





### ◆ 7<sup>th</sup> Children's Story Exchange Program - Alumni Program

The China-Japan-Korea Children's Story Exchange Program (CSE) was first established 2002 in Japan to encourage reading as well as to promote mutual understanding among the children of the three countries through storybook and fairytale stories. Starting from 2011, the program adopted a trilateral format and the three countries have agreed to host the event on a rotational basis. The event is held for 6 nights and 7 days on an annual basis on a fixed date from August 17 to 23. Each CJK country selects 33 elementary school students in grades 3-6 to participate in the main storybook program and 10 university-level alumni (previous CSE participants) to participate in a sub-program for friendship network. Starting from CSE 2017 held in Seoul, Korea, the TCS was designated as the official co-organizer for the alumni sub-program.

The 2023 Children's Story Exchange Program (CSE) was held from August 17 to 23, 2023 in Seoul and Yangpyeong, Korea. A total of 100 elementary students from each of China, Japan, and Korea participated in the main storybook-making event, and 24 CJK alumni (OB) students (university level students) participated in a sub-program for cultural exchange activities and friendship network. The TCS, as the official co-organizer of the alumni program coordinated the alumni event. The 2023 CSE alumni program content can be categorized into five main categories: 1. Social networking events, consisting of ice-breaking session, game nights, and board game activity; 2. Lectures and workshops on trilateral cooperation & CJK Working Culture, Calligraphy; and Art & Environment; 3. Alumni individual site visits to Nami Island and Yangpyeong Traditional Korean Market; 4. Transgenerational activities with the main (Children) participants such as doodling photo wall activity; and 5. Final presentation.

**OVERVIEW**

<b>Date</b>	August 17-23, 2023
<b>Venue</b>	Seoul and Yangpyeong, Korea
<b>Participants</b>	24 CJK CSE Alumni
<b>Main Activity</b>	1. Social networking events, 2. Lectures and workshops, 3. Alumni individual site visits, 4. Common activities with the main (Children) participants, and 5. Final presentation.



**◆ Youth Session at 2022 Jeju Forum**

The TCS organized a Youth Session at the 2022 Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity in Jeju, Korea, on September 14, 2022. Under the theme “Youth for Future: Embracing Shared Culture in CJK for a Peaceful and Cooperative Northeast Asia” young leaders and professionals from China, Japan and Korea joined the session onsite for a timely and apposite discussion about the future society of Northeast Asia.

The session invited young leaders from the three countries--Mr. LU Rui, currently acting chief correspondent of Xinhua News Agency Seoul Bureau, Ms. KASUGAI Moe, CEO of two companies for Japanese-Korean students exchanges, and Mr. YOO Wonsun, “CAMPUS Asia” Program graduate-- to share their thoughts and voices on ways to objectively view and embrace the cultural similarities and differences among the three countries.

**OVERVIEW**

<b>Date</b>	September 14, 2022
<b>Venue</b>	Jeju, Korea
<b>Participants</b>	3 CJK Young Professionals
<b>Main Activity</b>	Panel Discussion



## TCS-FACILITATED PROJECTS

### ◆ CCEA Yangzhou-Nara-Gyeongju Mayors' Dialogue

On April 27, 2023, the 'Culture City of East Asia' (CCEA) Yangzhou-Nara-Gyeongju Mayors' Dialogue took place alongside the TCS-organized CCEA Media and Internet Celebrities Tour. During this event, Party Secretary Wang Jinjian of CPC Yangzhou Committee of China, Mayor NAKAGAWA Gen of Nara city in Japan, and Mayor JOO Nak-young of Gyeongju city in Korea jointly issued the 'Culture City of East Asia' Yangzhou Initiative.

TCS SG OU, in her speech, underscored the significance of this in-person exchange among the three countries' local governments post-pandemic, expressing confidence in its positive impact on cultural exchanges, industrial integration, and economic growth. She commended the TCS for facilitating the dialogue, emphasizing the historic and cultural significance of Yangzhou, Nara, and Gyeongju. SG OU affirmed TCS's commitment to working closely with the cities and various sectors of China, Japan, and Korea for the betterment of trilateral cooperation, contributing to lasting peace, common prosperity, and shared culture in the region.

The mayors jointly issued the 'Culture City of East Asia' Yangzhou Initiative during the Dialogue, emphasizing the enriching nature of cultural exchange and its promotion through regional cooperation. The three cities concluded the event by signing a memorandum of cooperation.

#### OVERVIEW

Title	'Culture City of East Asia' Yangzhou-Nara-Gyeongju Mayors' Dialogue
Date	April 27, 2023
Venue	Yangzhou, China
Participants	China: Party Secretary Wang Jinjian of CPC Yangzhou Committee Japan: Mayor NAKAGAWA Gen of Nara city Korea: Mayor JOO Nak-young of Gyeongju city



## TCS-PARTICIPATED PROJECTS

### ◆ 10<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Youth Diplomatic Camp

On July 24, TCS SG OU delivered a congratulatory video message at the opening ceremony of the 10<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Youth Diplomatic Camp held at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea. In her message, SG OU emphasized the TCS' dedication to supporting intergovernmental mechanisms and initiatives for mutual understanding, particularly highlighting the significance of youth exchange as a top priority. She also underlined the TCS' ongoing efforts to provide opportunities for the young generation to come together, and stressed the vital role they play in shaping the future of the region.

Trilateral Youth Diplomatic Camp has been hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea annually since 2012. In year 2023, 42 students consisting of Chinese, Japanese and Koreans who study in Korea participated in the four-day camp to promote their youth network and enhance understanding on trilateral cooperation.

OVERVIEW	
Date	July 24, 2023
Venue	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea
Participants	42 CJK university students studying in Korea



## ◆ 1<sup>st</sup> (Gwangju) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (Cheongju) Korean Culture Cities of East Asia Network Events

To explore ways to revitalize exchanges and foster stronger networks among the previous Korean Culture Cities of East Asia (CCEA), the 1<sup>st</sup> Korean Culture Cities of East Asia Network Event was held in Gwangju City from May 17 – 19, 2023 followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Network Event in Cheongju from August 31 – September 1, 2023. City representatives from the past and present CCEAs including Gwangju (2014), Cheongju (2015), Jeju (2016), and Jeonju (2023) participated in both events while representatives from Korea's 2024 CCEA nominated city Gimhae participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> event to receive suggestions for diverse CCEA projects during their implementation year.

The TCS, as a relevant stakeholder for the CCEA project, has also been invited. During the networking seminar, participants shared practical challenges of the current CCEA project and debated diverse ways to overcome such limitations. TCS introduced the CCEA Media and Internet Celebrity Tour, which could remedy some of the challenges addressed during the seminar. The event was a great opportunity for TCS delegates to deepen their relationship with the local government officials, hear about the challenges, and discuss ways to further promote regional cooperation.

Recognizing the value of local government exchanges, the TCS will continue to actively support and participate in the following CCEA Network Events to exchange ideas and suggestions to further promote local partnership and the CCEA-related projects.

### OVERVIEW

Title	Korean Culture Cities of East Asia Network Events
Date	1 <sup>st</sup> event: May 17-19, 2023 / 2 <sup>nd</sup> event: August 31-September 1, 2023.
Venue	1 <sup>st</sup> event: Gwangju, Korea / 2 <sup>nd</sup> event: Cheongju, Korea
Organizer	1 <sup>st</sup> event: Asia Culture City Forum (ACCF) Gwangju / 2 <sup>nd</sup> event: Cheongju Cultural Industry Promotion Foundation
Participants	Representatives from past and current Korean Culture City of East Asia Cities



## ◆ “Beauty of Crested-Ibis” Exchange Program

On November 12, 2022, TCS SG OU delivered a keynote speech at the “Beauty of Crested Ibis” exchange program via video. The event was themed as “Jointly Build a Community of Life for Man and Nature and Trilateral Cooperation”.

In her remarks, SG OU spoke highly of crested ibis as a shared cultural symbol of the three countries, pointing out that crested ibis related trilateral cooperation has gone far beyond species conservation to other fields such as tourism industry and cultural communication. Valuing the importance of cooperation on crested ibis, she said TCS would continue to host the Crested Ibis International Forum in collaboration with relevant cities and institutes of the three countries.

Experts, scholars, and business representatives from China, Japan, and Korea participated in the program and shared insights on strengthening cooperation on crested-ibis conservation as well as promoting trilateral cooperation in economic and cultural aspects.

### OVERVIEW

Date	November 12, 2022
Venue	Shaanxi, China
Organizer	Shanghai People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Shaanxi Provincial People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Shanghai Landscaping and City Appearance Administrative Bureau, and Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Bureau.
Participants	Experts, scholars, and business representatives from China, Japan, and Korea



## ◆ 19<sup>th</sup> Northeast Asia Youth Forum

On August 21, 2023, TCS SG OU attended the 19<sup>th</sup> Northeast Asia Youth Forum, hosted by MRA/Initiatives of Change-Korea and supported by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea. During the event, SG OU delivered a keynote speech on the theme of 'Global Changes and Sustainable Development in Northeast Asia.' Emphasizing the unique geographical proximity and shared culture among China, Japan, and Korea, SG OU highlighted the importance of culture and people-to-people exchanges in empowering young individuals for future-oriented cooperation. She also introduced key TCS programs, such as the 1<sup>st</sup> Trilateral Young Rural Leader's Exchange Program (TREP) and the 2023 Trilateral Youth Summit (TYS), which are now integrated under the Trilateral Youth Exchange Network (TYEN).

### OVERVIEW

Date	August 21, 2023
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Organizer	MRA/Initiatives of Change-Korea
Supporter	Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of Korea
Participants	30 university students from China, Japan and Korea



### ◆ Asia Liquor Festival

On May 13, 2023, TCS SG OU attended the Asia Liquor Festival hosted by the Asia Leaders Club (ALC) and the East Asia Culture Center (EACC). Counsellor SHEN Xiaogang of the Chinese Embassy in Korea and Minister CHUZO Kazuo of the Japan Public Information and Cultural Center in Korea also attended the event, together with 200 participants including representatives from Volunteer Korea, media, artists and celebrities in Korea.

The event was held with the purpose of experiencing a sense of common East Asian culture by tasting and comparing the liquor in the three countries: Chinese “Baijiu”, Japanese “Sake”, and Korean “Soju”.

OVERVIEW	
Date	May 13, 2023
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Organizer	Asia Leaders Club (ALC), East Asia Culture Center (EACC)
Participants	Chinese Embassy in Korea, Japan Public Information and Cultural Center in Korea, Volunteer Korea, media, artists and celebrities in Korea





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# Communicating and Coordinating with Stakeholders

## III.

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1. TCS Farewell and Welcome Reception 2023
  2. MOUs signed in FY2022
  3. International and Regional Organizations
  4. Ministries, Lawmakers and Foreign Missions
  5. Local Governments
  6. Public & Business Organizations
  7. Academia

**“Communicate and coordinate with the Parties, and if necessary, with other international organizations, particularly with other East Asian cooperation mechanisms”**

***Article 3.1(c) of the Agreement on the Establishment of the TCS***

## 1. TCS FAREWELL AND WELCOME RECEPTION 2023

The TCS hosted its 2023 Farewell and Welcome Reception at the Four Seasons Hotel in Seoul on August 28, 2023. This event marked both the departure of the 6<sup>th</sup> Consultative Board and the introduction of the 7<sup>th</sup> Board led by Secretary-General LEE Hee-sup, with Deputies ZUSHI Shuji and YAN Liang. Nearly 200 notable figures from governments, public organizations, businesses, academia, media, diplomacy, and private sectors of China, Japan, and Korea attended.

Outgoing SG OU delivered a moving farewell speech, acknowledging the accomplishments of the 6<sup>th</sup> Board and calling for continued collaboration. The new SG, LEE Hee-sup, in his inaugural address, committed to enhancing trilateral cooperation.

The event also included congratulatory messages from Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Chinese Embassy, and the Japanese Embassy. Deputy Minister CHUNG Byung-won of Korea's MOFA sent a video message, while Ambassador XING Haiming of China and Deputy Chief of Mission KUMAGAI Naoki of Japan spoke in person, acknowledging the outgoing board's efforts and welcoming the new leadership. Plaques of Appreciation from the Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs were presented to the outgoing board members in recognition of their service.

### OVERVIEW

Date	August 28, 2023
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Agenda	Transition ceremony from the 6 <sup>th</sup> to the 7 <sup>th</sup> Consultative board
Participants	200 representatives from governments, public organizations, academia, businesses, media, diplomacy and private sectors



## 2. MOU SIGNED IN FY2022

In the FY2022, the TCS strategically advanced collaboration with various academic and non-academic entities through a series of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). With a strong emphasis on academia, TCS partnered with Busan University of Foreign Studies, Dongseo University, Incheon National University, the University of Tokyo (GraSPP), and Waseda University, as well as China Foreign Affairs University and Shandong University, fostering internships and academic exchanges. Expanding beyond academia, TCS forged agreements with key media and diplomatic institutions, including Xinhua News Agency and the Institute for Global Strategy and Cooperation, underlining its commitment to effective communication, diplomatic relations, and public outreach in the trilateral context.

OVERVIEW	
[December 1, 2022]	Busan University of Foreign Studies
[December 2, 2022]	Dongseo University
[December 15, 2022]	Incheon National University
[February 10, 2023]	University of Tokyo, GraSPP
[April 5, 2023]	Waseda University
[April 6, 2023]	Xinhua News Agency
[April 7, 2023]	China Foreign Affairs University
[June 9, 2023]	Shandong University
[August 7, 2023]	Institute for Global Strategy and Cooperation



### 3. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The TCS actively collaborates with international and regional organizations to enhance disaster risk reduction, economic cooperation, and sustainable development. TCS's engagement with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) emphasizes the implementation of the Sendai Framework, enriching DRR aspects in TCS projects, and involving youth and media. Similarly, discussions with the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) underscore concrete projects aimed at jointly promoting economic recovery and growth in East Asia within the ASEAN+3 framework.

TCS's collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) focuses on projects like the Carbon Neutrality Forum, highlighting the importance of close cooperation and the exchange of ideas. Additionally, TCS strengthens ties with the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments (NEAR), emphasizing communication and cooperation between local governments in Northeast Asia. Joint initiatives, including youth and local government exchange programs, aim to promote regional peace and bridge differences in central government viewpoints.

TCS will continue its commitment to trilateral and international cooperation initiatives.

#### OVERVIEW

[September 28, 2022]	MIZUTORI Mami, Head of UNDRR
[December 7, 2022]	LI Kouqing, Director of AMRO
[December 12, 2022]	BAASANJAV Ganbold, Head of UNESCAP Subregional Office
[May 4, 2023]	LIM Byung-jin, Secretary-General of NEAR



## 4. MINISTRIES, LAWMAKERS AND FOREIGN MISSIONS

### ◆ Ministries

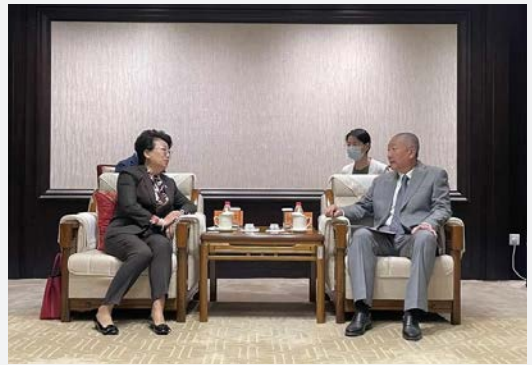
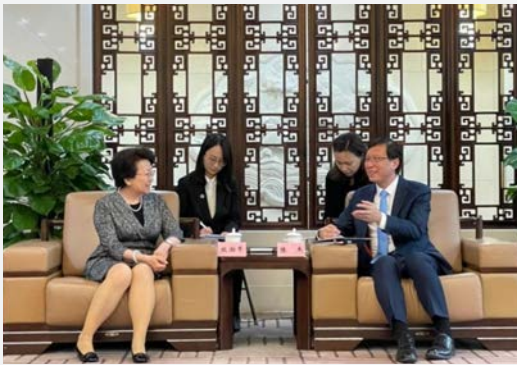
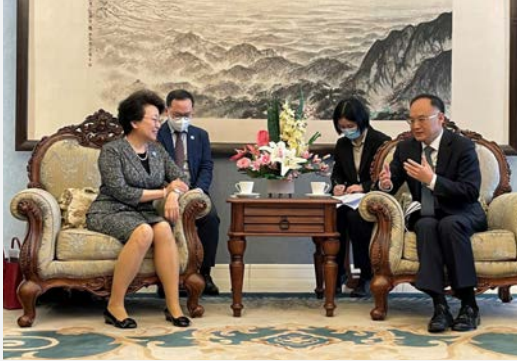
The TCS has actively engaged with key ministries from Korea, Japan, and China. The discussions during interactions with ministries have spanned crucial topics, emphasizing the promotion of lasting peace, common prosperity, and shared culture. TCS has actively contributed through its policy advisory role, implementation of youth programs under the Trilateral Youth Exchange Network (TYEN), and facilitation of educational and cultural exchanges. Noteworthy achievements include TCS' efforts in enhancing public awareness and addressing regional and global challenges such as health, environment and youth issues.

The engagements underscore TCS' commitment to fostering governmental mechanisms, nurturing mutual understanding among the youth, and exploring novel opportunities for collaboration in fields such as statistics, economic integration, and digital education. Through these initiatives, TCS continues to play a vital role in sustaining momentum amid challenges, contributing significantly to the development of a future-oriented trilateral relationship among China, Japan and Korea.

#### OVERVIEW

[September 15, 2022]	H.E. PARK Jin, Foreign Minister of Korea
[September 16, 2022]	MIBAE Taisuke, Deputy Director-General of MOFA, Japan
[October 3, 2022]	OKAMURA Naoko, Director-General of MEXT, Japan
[October 4, 2022]	TAWARA Yasuo, Director-General of MIC, Japan
[October 4, 2022]	H.E. TAKEI Shunsuke, State Minister of MOFA, Japan
[October 4, 2022]	FUNAKOSHI Takehiro, Director-General of MOFA, Japan
[October 5, 2022]	MATSUO Takehiko, Director-General of METI, Japan
[January 12, 2023]	CHOI Young-sam, Deputy Minister of MOFA, Korea
[January 26, 2023]	LEE Eunhyo, Director of Ministry of Personnel Management, Korea
[April 6, 2023]	H.E. NONG Rong, Assistant Minister of MOFA, China
[April 6, 2023]	H.E. CHEN Jie, Vice Minister of Education of China
[April 7, 2023]	GAO Zheng, Director-General of Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China





## ◆ Lawmakers and Statespersons

The TCS has emerged as a key facilitator in fostering enduring cooperation among China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. Notably, TCS' engagement with influential figures, such as Mr. Kawamura Takeo, underscores the organization's pivotal role in supporting youth initiatives like the China-Japan-Korea Children's Story Exchange Program. TCS has consistently demonstrated its commitment to building lasting friendships and promoting shared values among the youth, contributing significantly to trilateral understanding and collaboration.

Furthermore, TCS's strategic appointments, such as the Advisory Group comprising former high-level officials and scholars, highlight its dedication to advancing peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia. Former Prime Minister H.E. Kim Hwang-sik's acknowledgment of TCS's efforts underscores the organization's vital role in navigating complex regional challenges. TCS's commitment to bridging governmental and civil society spheres, such as discussions with Japanese Parliamentarians, reaffirms its position as a catalyst for fostering mutual understanding and cultural exchange, playing a crucial role in strengthening ties among the three nations.

### OVERVIEW

[October 6, 2022]	KAWAMURA Takeo, Former House of Representatives Member of Japan
[December 12, 2022]	H.E. BAN Ki-moon, Former Secretary-General of United Nations
[January 9, 2023]	H.E. KIM Hwang-sik, Former Prime Minister of Korea
[January 16, 2023]	Delegation of Japanese Parliamentarians
[February 13, 2023]	H.E. FUKUDA Yasuo, Former Prime Minister of Japan





## ◆ Foreign Missions

The TCS has been actively engaging with foreign missions to strengthen diplomatic ties. Retaining its frequent dialogues with relevant stakeholders beyond Northeast Asia, TCS SG OU met with H.E. FRANCKE Marthias, the Ambassador of Chile to Korea. TCS showed its dedication to fostering international collaboration, particularly within the framework of the CJK+X cooperation, emphasizing its commitment to promoting economic and technological partnerships beyond China, Japan and Korea. Notably, TCS underscored its focus on youth programs during this diplomatic interaction, showcasing its dedication to nurturing the next generation of leaders.

Continuing its diplomatic endeavors, TCS met H.E. XING Haiming, the Ambassador of China to Korea, on Farewell Dinner for 6<sup>th</sup> TCS Board. H.E. XING acknowledged TCS' contributions to the steady momentum of trilateral cooperation, as well as reaffirming the importance of continued cooperation among the three countries.

TCS remains steadfast in its dedication to fostering economic and technological partnerships beyond China, Japan, and Korea within the framework of CJK+X cooperation.

### OVERVIEW

[February 16, 2023]	H.E. FRANCKE Marthias, Ambassador of Chile to Korea
[August 1, 2023]	H.E. XING Haiming, Ambassador of China to Korea



## 5. LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The TCS recognizes the importance of investing in the youth programs of local governments as a fundamental aspect of trilateral cooperation. Aimed to empower the younger generation through cultural exchanges, educational partnerships, and youth-led initiatives, TCS discussed with leaders of local governments to seek opportunities for the youth to develop global perspectives and leadership skills. TCS seeks to cultivate a generation of leaders committed to international cooperation and enduring friendships among the CJK nations.

Acknowledging the interdependence of CJK economies, the TCS places a strong emphasis on promoting economic collaboration at the local government level. During the meetings and courtesy visits to CJK local governments, TCS delegation discussed about sharing of best practices, addressing common economic challenges, and developing innovative solutions for sustainable growth. By fostering an environment conducive to trade, investment, and economic development, the TCS aims to leverage local government efforts to drive prosperity and enhance the overall economic well-being of the CJK nations.

### OVERVIEW

[October 20, 2022]	Incheon Metropolitan City, Korea
[December 1, 2022]	JOO Nak-young, the Mayor of Gyeongju City, Korea
[April 11, 2023]	YAN Jianbo, Party Secretary of Weihai City, China
[April 18, 2023]	WANG Wei, Vice Mayor of Yiwu City, China
[April 25, 2023]	WANG Jinjian, Party Secretary of the CPC Yangzhou Committee, China
[June 5, 2023]	XU Caishan, Deputy Secretary-General of Jilin Province, China
[July 8, 2023]	WANG Jian, Party Secretary of Yiwu City, China
[July 9, 2023]	LUO Zupan, Mayor of Yiwu City
[August 19, 2023]	ZHOU Jun, Vice Mayor of Dujiangyan City





## 6. Public & Business Organizations

### ◆ Public Organizations

The TCS has actively fostered collaboration with public organizations in China, Japan, and Korea, showcasing a commitment to strengthen trilateral ties. In October 2022, TCS DSG BEK met with Ms. Olga Dzhumaeva, Head of East Asia Delegation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Discussions revolved around disaster management, aging society, and youth exchange, with both parties expressing eagerness to revitalize and reinforce their cooperation. Another significant engagement took place in November 2022 when TCS SG OU met with Korea Foundation President KIM Gheewhan, seeking support for TCS's high-level consultative initiative. The meeting resulted in the establishment of a direct communication channel and a shared commitment to deepen collaboration, contributing to meaningful outputs in the future.

Further reinforcing these efforts, TCS extended its reach to China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Dalian Sub-council (CCPIT Dalian) in April 2023 and Korea China Economy & Culture Education Association (KCCEA) in July 2023, a TCS delegation visited various Chinese organizations to appreciate their contributions to the International Forum of Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) and explore new collaborative opportunities, solidifying TCS's role as a key player in strengthening regional partnerships for the mutual benefit of the participating nations.

OVERVIEW

[October 18, 2022]	DZHUMAEVA Olga, Head of East Asia Delegation of IFRC
[November 25, 2022]	KIM Gheewhan, President of Korea Foundation
[April 10, 2023]	SUN Lianyun, Chairman of CCPIT Dalian Sub-Council
[July 12, 2023]	SHIN Kyung Sook, Secretary-General of KCCEA
[July 20, 2023]	Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress, China
[July 20-22, 2023]	China Public Diplomacy Association Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs Beijing Diaoyutai Convention and Exhibition in Beijing
[July 23-27, 2023]	China Institute for Reform and Development in Hainan Province, China
[July 28-30, 2023]	Charhar Institute, China



◆ Business Organizations

The TCS is actively expanding its engagement beyond government and public sectors to foster cooperation with business organizations in the China-Japan-Korea (CJK) region. On October 3, 2022, SG OU led a TCS delegation to Keidanren in Japan. During the meeting with Managing Director Mr. HARA Ichiro, SG OU expressed gratitude for Keidanren's longstanding support and emphasized the vital role of the business sector in achieving lasting peace and common prosperity among the three countries. The parties agreed to further strengthen their partnership, focusing on trilateral economic cooperation based on shared interests. The TCS has been actively promoting cross-border business cooperation and entrepreneurship, with Keidanren sponsoring projects like the Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum (TEF) since 2014, demonstrating a commitment to advancing economic ties in the region.

In a subsequent engagement on July 18, 2023, TCS, led by SG OU, visited Everland Theme Park in Korea. While acknowledging the park's contribution to giant panda conservation, SG OU shared news about TCS's upcoming Trilateral Youth Summit (TYS) project. The summit will bring together around 100 students from China, Japan, and Korea, with activities held in China's Beijing and Chengdu, the hometown of Pandas. TCS plans to film giant pandas in the three countries as a warm-up event for TYS, symbolizing the spirit of friendship. Everland Zoo, home to five pandas, extended full support for TYS, demonstrating the broader scope of TCS engagement, encompassing not only economic cooperation but also cultural and conservation initiatives that contribute to regional understanding and collaboration.

OVERVIEW

[October 3, 2022]

Keidanren, Japan

[July 18, 2023]

Everland Theme Park, Korea



## 7. Academia

### ◆ Universities

The TCS has been actively collaborating with universities in China, Japan, and Korea. SG OU emphasized the importance of trilateral cooperation during a meeting with Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, highlighting TCS's efforts despite pandemic challenges. TCS aims to deepen academic and university cooperation, focusing on proactive trilateral exchange projects to strengthen political ties. In subsequent engagements with Seoul National University and Japanese universities, Secretary-General OU introduced plans for dedicated alumni networks and the Trilateral Youth Exchange Network, seeking formal partnerships with universities and promoting internship opportunities.

During special lectures at Chiba University, Shandong University and Qingdao University, Secretary-General OU reiterated the historical significance of trilateral cooperation and introduced key youth projects, including the upcoming launch of the Trilateral Youth Exchange Network in Japan. The lectures aimed to deepen understanding among students and encourage active participation in shaping a shared future. A visit by a student delegation from Kobe University and Korea University showcased TCS's role as a bridge between governments and civil society, emphasizing its multi-layered cooperation covering various aspects of people's lives.

#### OVERVIEW

[September 7, 2022]	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Korea
[September 26, 2022]	SG's Special Lecture at Seoul National University, Korea
[October 6-7, 2022]	University of Tokyo / Waseda University / Chiba University, Japan
[October 8, 2022]	SG's Special Lecture at Chiba University, Japan
[March 6, 2023]	Korea University and Kobe University student delegation's visit to TCS
[April 10, 2023]	SG's Special Lecture at Ambassador Forum, Shandong University, Weihai Campus, China
[April 11, 2023]	SG's Special Lecture at Linhai Forum, Shandong University, Weihai Campus, China
[June 8, 2023]	SG's Special Lecture at Qingdao University, China





## ◆ Think Tanks

The TCS also actively engages with think tanks in the China-Japan-Korea (CJK) region to promote cooperation and understanding. These engagements included discussions with President SASAE Kenichiro of the JIIA and President OKAWARA Akio of the JCIE, emphasizing the importance of youth projects and cultural exchange in building confidence and fostering trilateral cooperation. President CHI Fulin of the China Institute for Reform and Development also visited TCS, highlighting the potential for economic cooperation among CJK countries, particularly under the RCEP framework.

Additionally, TCS visited President FUJISAKI Ichiro of NPI and H.E. LEE Choongmyon, President of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) of the Korean National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA). Discussions centered on people-to-people exchange during the ongoing pandemic and strategic ways to address descending mutual perceptions among the three countries. President LEE expressed support for TCS projects, including the Trilateral Visionary Group (TVG) and the International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC), demonstrating the continued commitment of think tanks to furthering trilateral cooperation in the region. President WANG Chao of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) also welcomed TCS's role in promoting trilateral cooperation, emphasizing the importance of people-to-people exchanges and expressing a desire for enhanced communication and cooperation between the CPIFA and TCS to enrich the outcomes of trilateral cooperation.

OVERVIEW

- [October 6, 2022] SASAE Kenichiro, President of Japan Institute of International Affairs  
OKAWARA Akio, President of Japan Center for International Exchange
- [October 7, 2022] FUJISAKI Ichiro, President of Nakasone Peace Institute, Japan
- [January 10, 2023] H.E. LEE Choongmyon, President of IFANS, KNDA, Korea
- [April 7, 2023] WANG Chao, President of the CPIFA, China
- [June 20, 2023] CHI Fulin, President of China Institute for Reform and Development





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# Publications and Database

# IV.

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## 1. Publications

2022 Progress Report

Trilateral Common Vocabulary Workbook

2023 Trilateral Economic Report

## 2. Databases

Trilateral Statistics Hub

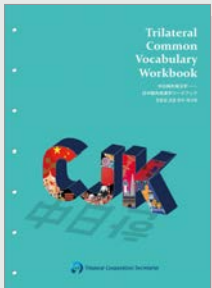
“Evaluate cooperative projects and draft reports on them, compile necessary documents into database, and submit annual progress reports to the Three-Party Committee or the Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting for approval; and conduct research on important issues related to the trilateral cooperation, manage the Secretariat’s website, and promote understanding of the trilateral cooperation”

*Article 3.1(d) of the Agreement on the Establishment of the TCS*

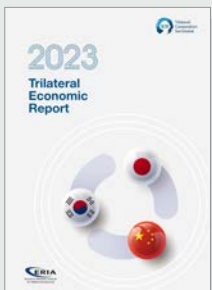
## Publications



2022 Progress Report



Trilateral Common Vocabulary  
Workbook



Trilateral Economic Report

### ◆ 2022 Progress Report

‘The Progress Report of the Trilateral Cooperation’ is an annual report recording the progress of trilateral cooperation each year. Under the approval of the relevant ministries of the three countries, the report summarizes the main events held that year, including the Trilateral Summit, ministerial meetings and working-level governmental meetings among the three countries.

2022 Progress Report presents key achievements of trilateral cooperation in politics, security, economy, sustainable development and socio-cultural exchanges.

### ◆ Trilateral Common Vocabulary Workbook

In June 2023, TCS published the Trilateral Common Vocabulary Workbook (TCVW) following the Trilateral Common Vocabulary Dictionary (TCVD) which has attracted attention from the people of the three countries, especially those interested in language, literature and culture.

Experts from the three countries were gathered to initiate the Trilateral Common Vocabulary Project in 2016, as a follow-up for the 808 commonly used Chinese Characters announced at the Northeast Asia Trilateral Forum in 2014. The TCVD introduces 658 commonly used two idiom words in China, Japan, and Korea displaying the similarities and differences in meanings as well as example sentences to be used to daily life.

The TCVW further provides space to practice writing selected words from the TCVD with a brush pen. It also contains a history timeline of the development of Chinese Characters, and an introduction of prominent calligraphers and recent trends in calligraphy in the three countries. Video series “CJK Chit Chat” provides entertaining and educational contents which showcase unique ways to enjoy learning common words in China, Japan, and Korea.

### ◆ 2023 Trilateral Economic Report

The Trilateral Economic Report (TER) is one of the flagship publications of TCS, being published since 2013. The Report provides annual updates on the macroeconomy of China, Japan, and Korea, and also provides policy recommendations to the three governments.

This year’s theme of TER was “Regional Economic Integration and the Outlook of Trilateral Cooperation in the Post-Pandemic Era”. Collaborating with seven distinguished economic scholars from East Asia and ASEAN, the Report delved into

the economic performance of the region, with a particular focus on the period encompassing the COVID-19 pandemic and the geopolitical risks facing the ASEAN+3 Economy. This year’s report mainly analyzed the role of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in regional economic cooperation. The Report reviewed the progress of regional cooperation in East Asia and ASEAN, offering valuable perspective for the effective implementation of RCEP.

## Databases

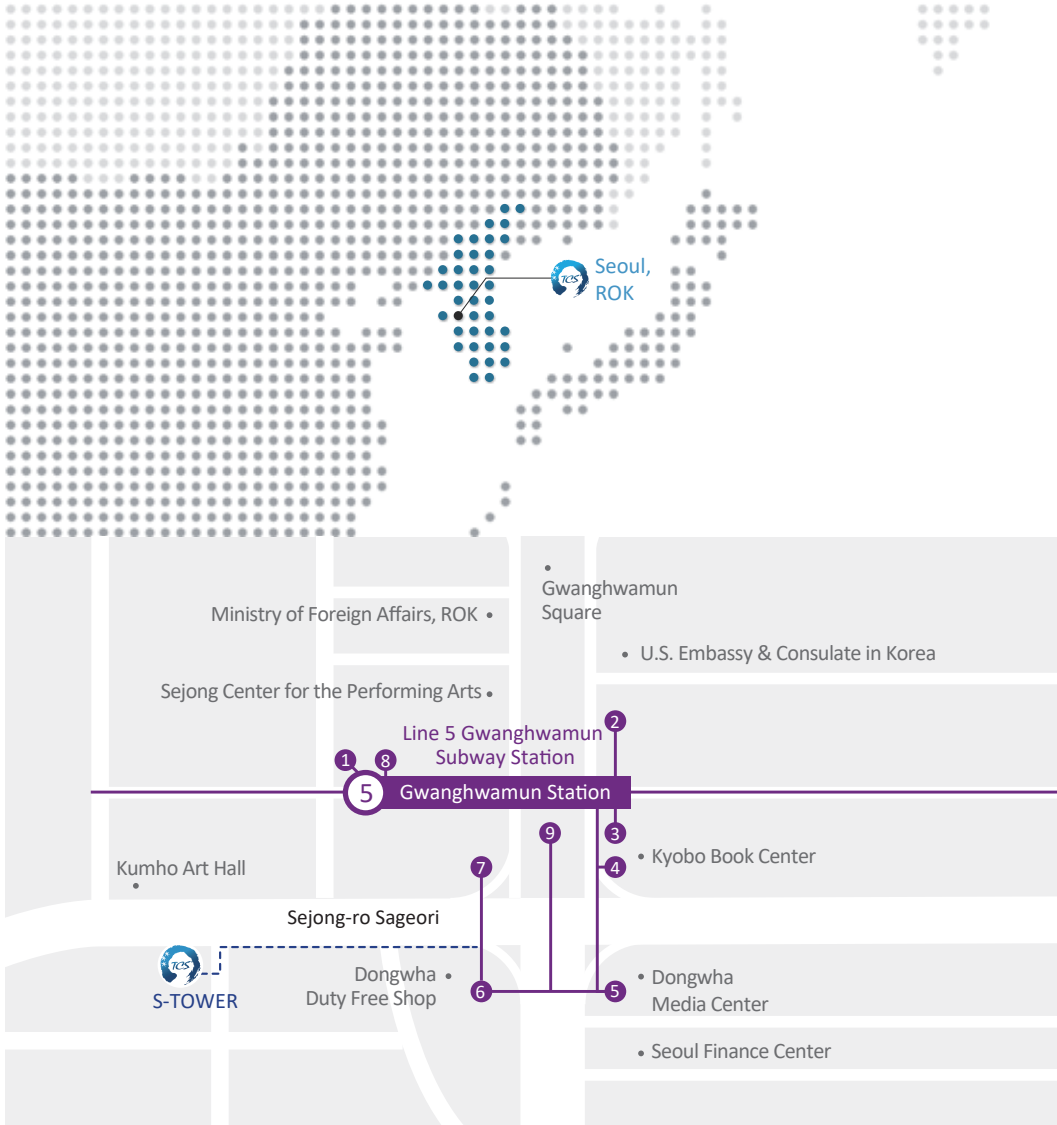
### ◆ Trilateral Statistics Hub

The Trilateral Statistic Hub is a one-stop information hub to provide concrete data on each trilateral cooperation mechanism and project, and a comprehensive understanding on the development trend of the three countries as well as to understand the importance of trilateral cooperation by analyzing the integrated statistics.

Trilateral Statistic Hub is committed to serving the statistical information needs of the peoples, institutions, businesses, and civil societies of China, Japan, and Korea and the wider international community. The Hub covers 12 subject areas and 600+ indicators that explore and refine the statistic terms in various areas, spelled out in the three countries’ strategies for the development of statistics.

To further improve the data coverage, credibility, and public awareness of the Trilateral Statistic Hub, the TCS plans to convene the Trilateral Statistic Expert Meeting, bringing together experts in data science, statistics, and related fields. The meeting aims to comprehensively assess the existing databases and structure of the Statistic Hub, provide recommendations for the future development, and establish a long-term, sustainable cooperation mechanism to offer practical academic support for the Statistic Hub.





## **Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat Annual Report FY2022**

Published in April 2024  
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