

Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

Annual Report

FY2023

September 2023 – August 2024



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한중일 3국협력사무국
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中日韩合作秘书处



Trilateral
Cooperation
Secretariat

CONTENTS

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 FY2023 contains activities and events engaged by TCS during the 2023 fiscal year (September 2023 – August 2024).

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.

5 **Foreword**

6 **About the TCS**

8 **Highlights**

I. Providing Support for Trilateral Consultative Mechanisms

Political Affairs

1. Summit and Foreign Affairs

Economic Affairs and Sustainable Development

1. Economy and Trade
2. Transport and Logistics
3. IPR
4. Environment Protection
5. Water Resources
6. Forestry

Social and Cultural Affairs

1. Culture
2. Health
3. Education
4. Public Personnel Administration

II. Exploring and Facilitating Cooperative Projects

Cross-departmental Projects

Political Affairs

1. TCS-organized projects
2. TCS-facilitated projects
3. TCS-participated projects

Economic Affairs

1. TCS-organized projects
2. TCS-participated projects

Social and Cultural Affairs

1. TCS-organized projects
2. TCS-facilitated projects
3. TCS-participated projects

III. Communicating and Coordinating with Stakeholders

1. International and Regional Organizations
3. Local Governments
5. Academia

2. Ministries, Lawmakers and Foreign Missions
4. Public and Business Organizations
6. Media

IV. Compiling Database, Conducting Research and Publications

1. Progress Report 2023
2. Annual Report FY2022
3. Trilateral Best Practices Report: Tools and Technologies for Earthquake Risk Management: Sharing Experience from Northeast Asia
4. Trilateral Economic Report (TER) 2024
5. Advisory Expert Group Meeting on the Trilateral Statistics Hub (TSH)
6. TYEN Website Upgrade

**LEE Hee-sup**

Secretary-General,
Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

It is my great honor to present the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023 (September 2023 - August 2024).

The past year has been transformative for trilateral cooperation, marked by significant diplomatic breakthroughs and renewed commitment to regional collaboration. Most notably, the historic 9th Trilateral Summit in May 2024 demonstrated our three countries' shared resolve to strengthen partnerships amid global challenges. This Summit served as a pivotal moment in reinforcing the foundation of trilateral cooperation and charting a course for enhanced regional stability and prosperity.

The TCS, as an intergovernmental organization that serves the three countries, produces this Annual Report that records our endeavors to promote peace, prosperity, and cultural understanding among China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. It reflects our ongoing commitment to fostering multilateral dialogue and practical cooperation in an increasingly complex global environment.

Throughout the year, we have committed to fulfilling our mandate of supporting trilateral consultative mechanisms in various fields. A series of ministerial meetings were held with the participation of the TCS, including the 10th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Trilateral Senior Officials' Meeting, 26th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, 9th CJK Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics, 24th Tripartite Environmental Ministers' Meeting, 4th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Water Resources, 14th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting, 16th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting and 4th Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting. Through these meetings, the three governments reinforced their dedication to maintaining and expanding cooperative initiatives in diverse areas.

Aside from supporting governmental mechanisms, the TCS continued to develop its signature projects such as the International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation, CJK Spirit: Word of the Year, TCS Day, Trilateral Journalist Exchange Program, Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum, Trilateral Young Rural Leader's Exchange Program, CJK+ASEAN Young Ambassador Program, Trilateral Youth Summit and 'Crested-Ibis Cup' 3rd Trilateral Youth Speech Contest. These initiatives demonstrated the three countries' peoples' strong desire for mutual engagement and collaboration.

Reflecting on FY2023, I am deeply grateful to our stakeholders, partner organizations, and dedicated staff for their unwavering support and commitment. Their collective efforts have been instrumental in advancing our mission of promoting lasting peace, common prosperity, and shared culture.

Looking ahead, the TCS remains dedicated to expanding our role as a Focus Point for trilateral cooperation. We will continue to explore new avenues for collaboration, strengthen existing partnerships, and adapt to emerging regional challenges. Our focus will remain on enhancing dialogue, fostering innovation, and building stronger bonds among the peoples of China, Japan, and Korea.

About the TCS

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 Asian region at large. With a view to solidifying 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

Promoting Understanding of
Trilateral Cooperation

Networking with Other
International Organizations

Compiling Database and
Conducting Research

Structure

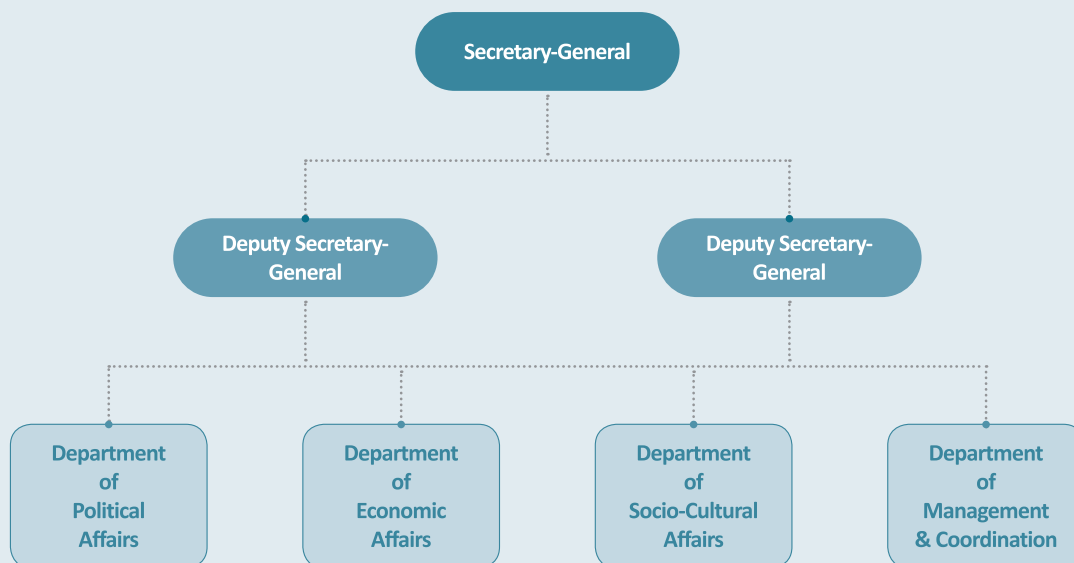
Consultative Board

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.

Departments



Department of Political Affairs

- Politics
- Security
- Regional Issues
- Nuclear Safety
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Think-tank Network
- Media
- Public Relations

Department of Economic Affairs

- Economy & Trade
- Transport & Logistics
- Sustainable Development
- Environmental Protection
- Customs & Standards
- IPR
- ICT
- Science & Technology
- Agriculture & Forestry
- Consumers
- Water Resources
- Statistics

Department of Socio-Cultural Affairs

- Culture
- Education
- Sports
- Tourism
- Health & Welfare
- Public Personnel Administration
- Local Government Exchange
- Youth

Department of Management & Coordination

- Human Resources
- Finance & Accounting
- Audit
- Procurement
- Office Management
- IT Management
- Website & SNS
- Administration
- Legal Support

Highlights

International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) 2024

The 9th Trilateral Summit, which convened in May 2024 for the first time in four-and-a-half years, set the stage for deeper collaboration among China, Japan, and Korea. Commemorating the 25th anniversary of trilateral cooperation, the IFTC 2024 was themed “Institutionalizing Collaboration and Promoting Exchanges for a Brighter Future.” The forum engaged distinguished leaders and experts, attracting interest from various stakeholders and participation of more than 250 people. The speakers of the forum reflected on the outcomes of the Trilateral Summit and the achievements of the TCS, and further explored innovative pathways to enhance cooperation for an inclusive digital transformation in the three countries.

CJK Spirit: Word of the Year 2024

The CJK Spirit Word of the Year, initiated by the TCS, fosters cultural exchange among China, Japan, and Korea through their shared Chinese character heritage. In its second year, the campaign engaged over 10,000 participants to select “交流” (exchange/communication) as the 2024 word, marking the 25th anniversary of trilateral cooperation. This annual event, which will continue with the next selection in 2025, aims to foster understanding and reflection on shared cultures among the three countries by choosing a Chinese character that embodies the spirit of their collaboration for the upcoming year.

Inter-Regional Dialogue 2024: CJK Education and Training Institutes Workshop

The *Inter-Regional Dialogue 2024: CJK Education and Training Institutes Workshop: Sharing Experiences among Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region* took place from May 27-29, 2024. The event served as a valuable platform for government officials and disaster management experts to share challenges, best practices, and innovative ideas related to multi-hazard risk assessment and early warning systems. Approximately 40 participants from 21 countries, including representatives from an intergovernmental institution, attended the event, with participants coming from Northeast Asia, ASEAN, South Asia, and Central Asia.

Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum (TEF) 2024

The TCS organized the Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum (TEF) 2024 as a follow-up project of the 12th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers Meeting. The event, co-organized by CCPIT Zhejiang and ZPPAFFC, focused on the theme “Charting New Frontiers in Trilateral E-Commerce Cooperation: Technological Innovation and Green Logistics.” The forum brought together experts and representatives from the business communities of China, Japan, and Korea. The forum featured two sessions: one on technological innovation in

e-commerce and the other on green logistics, with participants sharing best practices and engaging in discussions. The TEF 2024, an annual TCS event, provided a platform for cross-border business cooperation, attracting around 180 participants from government, business, and academia.

2nd Trilateral Young Rural Leader's Exchange Program (TREP)

The TCS and Jeonbuk State co-hosted the 2nd TREP in Jeonbuk State, Korea. This year, 12 young rural leaders from the three countries participated in smart agriculture facility tours, lectures, discussions, and visits to symbolic rural areas focused on rural revitalization. The participants exchanged ideas on agricultural modernization and industrialization, shared experiences on rural revitalization, and explored youth entrepreneurship opportunities.

2024 CJK+ASEAN Young Ambassador Program

The CJK+ASEAN Young Ambassadors Program (YAP2024) kicked off in Nanning, the capital city of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China. Hosted by the TCS, the YAP2024 was organized by Guangxi University of China and sponsored by China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Guangxi Committee. The Ministries of China, Japan, and Korea also rendered valuable support. Marked as one of the TCS' flagship youth exchange programs since 2013, the YAP2024 for the first time expanded its scope from Northeast Asia to East Asia, with attendance of 50 undergraduates and postgraduates from China, Japan, Korea and the ASEAN countries.

'Crested-Ibis Cup' 3rd Trilateral Youth Speech Contest

In FY2023, the 3rd Trilateral Youth Speech Contest (TYSC) was held offline for the first time in Xi'an, China. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of trilateral cooperation, the contest was titled the "Crested Ibis Cup" to emphasize the friendship between the three countries, under the theme "Tell your CJK Exchange Story." Compared to the previous two TYSCs, the number of finalists this year has been expanded from 12 to 18, with 9 finalists from each category (three from each of CJK), and the number of the onsite audiences increased to nearly 1,000.

Trilateral Youth Summit 2024

The Trilateral Youth Summit (TYS) took place in Seoul, Korea, bringing together 48 undergraduate and graduate students from China, Japan, and Korea to participate in a simulated summit. The five-day exchange program featured activities such as mock delegation and committee meetings, special lectures, and cultural exploration. During the simulated summit, a 'Joint Statement' was issued, proposing collaboration in areas such as Sustainable Development and Disaster Relief, Economy and Trade, Digital Transformation and Public Health, and People-to-People Exchange among the three countries.

I.

Providing Support for Trilateral Consultative Mechanisms



Political Affairs

1. Summit and Foreign Affairs

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4. Environment Protection
5. Water Resources
6. Forestry

Social and Cultural Affairs

1. Culture
2. Health
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4. Public Personnel Administration

“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

Political Affairs

1. Summit and Foreign Affairs

26th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

The TCS delegation, headed by SG LEE Hee-sup, attended the 26th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit on September 6, 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia. The meeting welcomed the good progress made in the implementation of the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2023-2027) and discussed enhanced APT cooperation in a wide range of areas. The Leaders also adopted the *ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Development of Electric Vehicle Ecosystem*. On regional and international issues, the Leaders stressed the importance of continued dialogue and efforts amongst all parties concerned to realize lasting peace, security, and stability in East Asia.

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 was institutionalized in 1999 to strengthen and deepen cooperation in East Asia.

OVERVIEW

Date	September 6, 2023
Venue	Jakarta, Indonesia
Participants	Leaders of ASEAN and the Plus Three countries (China, Japan, and Korea)/ ASEAN Secretariat, TCS, ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO)
Outcomes	<i>Chairman's Statement of the 26th ASEAN Plus Three Summit Jakarta, Indonesia/ ASEAN Plus Three Leaders Statement on Developing of Electric Vehicle</i>



9th Trilateral Summit

The 9th Trilateral Summit was held on May 27, 2024, in Seoul, Korea. The Summit was chaired by the President of Korea YOON Suk Yeol, attended by Prime Minister of Japan KISHIDA Fumio, and Premier of China LI Qiang. The TCS Consultative Board also participated in the meeting as observers.

The leaders reaffirmed the importance of trilateral cooperation, and appreciating the efforts made by the TCS so far, acknowledged that trilateral cooperation has deepened in various areas and benefited the three countries and the peoples. Concurring to institutionalizing trilateral cooperation and carrying out beneficial cooperation to the people of the three countries, the leaders identified mutually beneficial cooperation projects centered on six key areas. On regional and international peace and prosperity matters, the leaders agreed to make efforts for the political settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue and concurred on expanding the 'Trilateral + X' cooperation in the context of ASEAN and multilateral frameworks.

In the Joint Declaration, the leaders acknowledged the achievements made by the TCS and expressed their support to promoting the capacity-building of the TCS, valuing the efforts made by the TCS in projects.

OVERVIEW

Date	May 27, 2024
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Participants	Leaders of the three countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and TCS
Outcomes	<i>Joint Declaration of the Ninth ROK-Japan-China Trilateral Summit/ Joint Statement on Future Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response/ Joint Statement on a 10 Year Vision for Trilateral IP Cooperation</i>



10th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting

The 10th China-Japan-ROK Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in Busan, Korea, presided by H.E. PARK Jin, Foreign Minister of Korea and participated by H.E. KAMIKAWA Yoko, Foreign Minister of Japan, and H.E. WANG Yi, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister of China. The TCS Consultative Board participated in the meeting as observers.

The Foreign Ministers assessed the progress of trilateral cooperation and the future direction of the three countries. They exchanged views on ways to enhance cooperation on the six cooperation areas and discussed regional and global affairs. The three ministers concurred on expediting the preparation for the upcoming Trilateral Summit.

OVERVIEW

Date November 26, 2023

Venue Busan, Korea

Participants Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China



Trilateral Senior Officials' Meeting

The Trilateral Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) was held in Seoul, Korea on September 26, 2023. SG LEE Hee-sup also attended the meeting and delivered remarks.

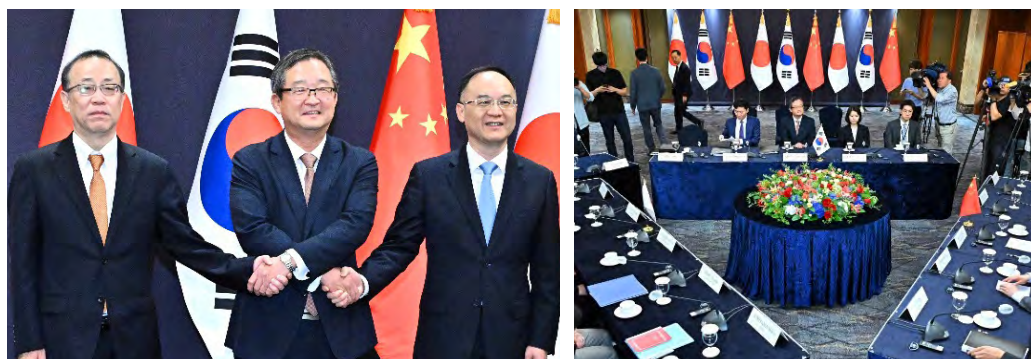
In the meeting, the three senior officials discussed preparatory issues pertaining to the Trilateral Summit, such as the timeline for the Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the summit deliverables, reaffirming to continue close communication for preparation. From the TCS, SG LEE briefed on the status of trilateral cooperation and provided suggestions related to the TCS in preparation for the Trilateral Summit.

OVERVIEW

Date September 26, 2023

Venue Seoul, Korea

Participants Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China



Economic Affairs and Sustainable Development

The resumed Trilateral Summit has a significant impact on trilateral government-level economic cooperation. The TCS actively supported such collective endeavors among the three governments to revitalize collaboration in economy and trade, transport and logistics as well as areas of IPR. As for the field of sustainable development, the TCS has participated in the entire process of environment protection and forestry cooperation which has continued to develop successfully. Additionally, the TCS supported the ministerial meeting on water resources, which fully resumed after a 3-year delay caused by the pandemic since 2018. TCS will continue to support government efforts for economic growth and sustainable future of the three countries.

1. Economy and Trade

Trilateral Business Summit

The 8th Trilateral Business Summit was held in conjunction with the 9th Trilateral Summit. Around 280 government, business, and industry representatives from the three countries attended. The TCS Consultative Board were also in attendance.

President of Korea YOON Suk Yeol, Prime Minister of Japan KISHIDA Fumio, and Premier of China LI Qiang attended the special session and presented proposals for future economic cooperation among the three countries based on the discussions at the 9th Trilateral Summit held earlier on the same day. As a result of the meeting, the three business associations adopted the *Joint Statement of the 8th Trilateral Business Summit* to support the implementation of the 9th Trilateral Summit and the deliverables from the Business Summit.

The Trilateral Business Summit has been convened continuously since the 2nd Trilateral Summit held in Beijing, China in 2009, to expand economic cooperation and exchanges in Northeast Asia. The Business Summit had been suspended in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic since the 8th meeting in Chengdu, China in December 2019 and resumed after four years and five months in Seoul, Korea. The next meeting will be held in Japan.

OVERVIEW

Date	May 27, 2024
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Theme	“Economic Revitalization” and “Sustainable Development”
Organizers	Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Keidanren of Japan and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT)
Participants	Around 280 representatives from governments, business associations and industries from the three countries
Outcome	<i>Joint Statement of the 8th Trilateral Business Summit</i>



21st Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technological Conference

DSG YAN Liang attended and delivered congratulatory remarks at the 21st Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technological Conference. The Conference was held with the theme “Maintain smooth industrial and supply chains and share the achievements of cooperation and development in the Yellow Sea Rim region.” Around 300 people participated in this forum from various fields including government officials, entrepreneurs, professors, and related organizations from China, Japan, and Korea.

The Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technological 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. The TCS has participated in the Conference as an observer since 2014. The 22nd Conference will be held in Oita, Japan.

OVERVIEW

Date	October 29-November 1, 2023
Venue	Dalian, China
Theme	Maintain smooth industrial and supply chains and share the achievements of cooperation and development in the Yellow Sea Rim region
Organizers	Ministry of Commerce of China; Kyushu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan; Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of Korea
Participants	Around 280 representatives including government officials, entrepreneurs, professors, and relevant stakeholders from China, Japan, and Korea



2. Transport and Logistics

9th CJK Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics

TCS delegation led by SG LEE Hee-sup and DSG YAN Liang attended the 9th Trilateral Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics. At the meeting, the three Ministers exchanged information and ideas on the recent progress and future direction in Transport and Logistics in the post-pandemic era. The Ministers reviewed the progress in the implementation of the Action Plan and highlighted 11 priority areas. The three Ministers signed the Joint Statement and reaffirmed the view that efforts under the Trilateral Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics would contribute to the economic recovery and shared prosperity of the three countries. SG LEE introduced the progress of trilateral cooperation and received recognition and support from the three Ministers.

In the Joint Statement, the Ministers appreciated the TCS support for the successful operation and maintenance of the Trilateral Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics Website since 2021, and expected the TCS to continue to contribute to the Trilateral Transport and Logistics mechanism and the Action Plans by its relevant projects and activities that facilitates cooperation and coordination among the three countries.

OVERVIEW

Date	February 29, 2024
Venue	Tianjin, China
Participants	Ministry of Transport (MOT) of China, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) of Korea, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan
Outcome	<i>Joint Declaration of the 9th CJK Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics, Action Plan of the 9th CJK Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics</i>



3. IPR

23rd TRIPO Heads Meeting

SG LEE Hee-sup attended the 23rd TRIPO Heads Meeting and delivered remarks. The meeting was held in Busan, Korea, hosted by the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), with participation by the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO).

At the meeting, the KIPO, CBIPA, and JPO presented the current status of their national IP systems and reviewed the latest TRIPO cooperation activities in the areas of trademark and design, trial and appeal, design, human resources development issues, and IP societies. At the meeting, a special agenda on AI-generated inventions patent examination on AI-related inventions, and a 10-year plan for trilateral IP cooperation were also discussed.

OVERVIEW

Date	November 30, 2023
Venue	Busan, Korea
Participants	Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), Japan Patent Office (JPO)
Outcome	<i>Record of Discussion (RoD) of the 23rd TRIPO Heads Meeting among the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) and Japan Patent Office (JPO)</i>



4. Environment Protection

24th Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting (TEMM24)

In FY2023, the TCS participated in a total of four TEMM events - TEMM24, TEMM24 Director-General Meeting, Pre-TEMM25 Working Level Meeting, and TEMM25 Director-General Meeting. The TCS delegation attended all meetings and delivered remarks to demonstrate support from the TCS.

Since its initiation in 1999, the Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting (TEMM) stands as one of the oldest and most institutionalized mechanisms among the 21 trilateral ministerial meetings. The TCS has been participating in TEMM since 2014 and supported its agenda, particularly on promoting carbon neutrality and environmental education in the region. TEMM24 was held in Nagoya, Japan to discuss recent developments on environment policies and ways to consolidate trilateral cooperation.

OVERVIEW

* TEMM24

Date	November 4, 2023
Venue	Nagoya, Japan
Participants	Ministry of Environment of Japan, Ministry of Environment of Korea, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China
Outcomes	<i>Joint Communiqué of the 24th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting</i>

* TEMM24 Director-General Meeting

Date	September 26, 2023
Venue	Nagoya, Japan
Participants	Ministry of Environment of Japan, Ministry of Environment of Korea, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China

*** Pre-TEMM25 Working Level Meeting**

Date June 14, 2024

Venue Seoul, Korea

Participants Ministry of Environment of Korea, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, Ministry of Environment of Japan

*** TEMM25 Director-General Meeting**

Date August 22, 2024

Venue Jeju, Korea

Participants Ministry of Environment of Korea, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, Ministry of Environment of Japan



5. Water Resources

4th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Water Resources

The 4th China-Japan-Korea Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Water Resources was held on the occasion of the 10th World Water Forum. The theme of this year was “Addressing Climate Change and Building Resilient Water Infrastructure.” The TCS co-hosted the side event “Trilateral Expert Dialogue” after the Ministerial Meeting. SG LEE Hee-sup attended the meeting and introduced the contents of the Joint Statement. The three Ministers expressed appreciation to the TCS for its contribution to the Ministerial Meeting and Expert Dialogue and requested to continue its role as a hub for trilateral water cooperation.

Trilateral cooperation in the water resources sector started in 2006 and the Ministerial mechanism was formally established in 2012. Since then, the three Ministers have organized the Ministerial meeting on the World Water Forum. The TCS has been involved in the mechanism since 2015.

OVERVIEW

Date	May 20, 2024
Venue	Bali, Indonesia
Participants	Ministry of Water Resources of China (MWR), Ministry of Environment of Korea (ME), Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan (MLIT), and experts from China, Korea, and Japan
Outcomes	<i>Joint Statement of the 4th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Water Resources</i>



Director-General Level Meeting for the 4th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Water Resources

The 4th Ministerial Meeting’s Director-General Level meeting was co-hosted by the TCS as a preparation of 4th China-Japan-Korea Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Water Resources. This meeting marked the first face-to-face interaction in six years since the last Ministerial Meeting on Water Resources in 2018.

OVERVIEW

Date	April 15, 2024
Venue	TCS Conference Hall, Seoul, Korea
Participants	Ministry of Water Resources of China (MWR), Ministry of Environment of Korea (ME), Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan (MLIT)



6. Forestry

6th Trilateral Director General Meeting on Forestry Cooperation

The TCS delegation headed by DSG YAN Liang participated in the 6th Director General Meeting on Forestry Cooperation. The meeting was held for the first time after the pandemic to share the current status of forest policy and achievements by three countries, and to discuss the future of trilateral cooperation in forestry.

At the Meeting, the three parties exchanged in-depth discussions in various topics, including current situation of forest and forestry, function of forest for disaster prevention, promotion of wood utilization, promotion of legal timber trade, forest recreation, forest environmental education, and forest health tourism. They inspired each other during dynamic Q&A sessions and exchanged practical proposals for the upcoming trilateral cooperation actions on the relevant agenda.

OVERVIEW

Date	November 15, 2023
Venue	Tokyo, Japan
Participants	Forestry Agency of Japan, National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China, Korea Forest Service



Social and Cultural Affairs

1. Culture

14th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting (Jeonju, Korea)

The TCS delegation, led by DSG ZUSHI Shuji, attended the 14th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting (TCMM) on September 8, 2023, in Jeonju, Korea. Key agreements included strengthening the “Culture City of East Asia” (CCEA) brand, fostering youth exchanges, supporting cultural content industries, and preserving cultural heritage, resulting in the adoption of the “Jeonju Declaration.” This declaration outlines initiatives for cultural exchange among future generations, cooperation on global cultural issues, partnerships among cultural institutions, and cultural events linked to sports competitions. At the CCEA Award Ceremony, Dalian City and Weifang City (China), Ishikawa Prefecture (Japan), and Gimhae City (Korea) were named 2024 CCEAs. Established in 2007, the TCMM aims to enhance trilateral cultural cooperation, with TCS involvement since 2013.

OVERVIEW

Date	September 8, 2023
Venue	Jeonju, Korea
Participants	Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Korea, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China
Outcome	Jeonju Declaration



16th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum (Tokyo, Japan)

The 16th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum was held in a hybrid format on December 7-8, 2023, in Tokyo, Japan. The Director-Generals of the relevant ministries as well as the representatives from public agencies and associations exchanged information on government support measures and recent examples for the topic “EnterTech (Entertainment + Technology) -The World of Content Business Pioneered by Digital Technology-,” and agreed on strengthening cooperation in content businesses opened up by digital technologies in the three countries. TCS DSG highlighted the TCS’s commitment to using cultural content and digital technology for regional exchange. Launched in 2002, the forum aims to share policies and expand a common market for the cultural content industry across the three countries.

OVERVIEW

Date	December 7-8, 2023
Venue	Tokyo, Japan
Participants	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan/ Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism of Korea/ Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China



2. Health

16th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting

On December 3, 2023, the TCS delegation, led by SG LEE Hee-sup, attended the 16th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting (THMM) in Beijing, China, alongside representatives from the Ministries of China, Japan, Korea, and the WHO-Western Pacific Regional Office(WPRO). Under the theme "Work together for a healthier and safer future," the meeting highlighted achievements in trilateral health cooperation and included discussions on public health emergency preparedness, strengthening primary health care, promoting universal health coverage, and enhancing elderly care services. SG LEE emphasized the importance of these regular gatherings and the commitment of China, Japan, and Korea to public health solidarity. The meeting concluded with the endorsement of the Joint Statement of the 16th THMM and the first-ever signing of the *China-Japan-Korea Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation*. Since its start in 2006, the THMM has been a vital forum, with the next meeting scheduled in Japan in 2024.

OVERVIEW

Date	December 3, 2023
Venue	Beijing, China
Participants	National Health Commission of China, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan, Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea, WHO-Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO)
Outcome	Joint Statement / China-Japan-Korea Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation



3. Education

4th Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting

The 4th Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting was held in Seoul on June 15, 2024, to advance education collaboration among China, Japan, and Korea. Discussions centered on adapting education for the digital age, promoting exchanges among future generations, and expanding the CAMPUS Asia Program, with a goal of enrolling 30,000 university students by 2030. The meeting culminated in the “2024 ROK-Japan-China Education Innovation Statement,” which committed to sharing digital education practices, enhancing student exchanges, and fostering youth engagement through cultural and sports events. Additionally, the three countries reaffirmed their commitment to regional and global educational cooperation via platforms like ASEAN+3, the East Asia Summit, and the Asia-Europe Meeting, emphasizing the role of education in addressing broader challenges.

OVERVIEW

Date	June 15, 2024
Venue	The K Hotel, Seoul, Korea
Participants	Ministry of Education of ROK, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, Ministry of Education of China.
Outcome	2024 ROK-Japan-China Education Innovation Statement



4. Public Personnel Administration

15th-16th Symposium on Personnel Administration of China-Japan-Korea

The TCS delegation headed by DSG ZUSHI Shuji participated in the 15th Symposium on Personnel Administration of China-Japan-Korea, which took place on December 20, 2023, in Xi'an, China. The symposium brought together delegations from China, Japan, Korea, under the theme “Laws and Regulations System of Civil Service.” Each country shared insights on their legal frameworks and future developments in civil service management, while discussing key topics such as salary adjustments, gender equality, and the application of big data in public personnel management. At the symposium, DSG ZUSHI highlighted the significance of in-person exchanges after a four-year gap and reiterated the TCS commitment to supporting trilateral personnel policy networks. The Ministry of Personnel Management of Korea was announced as the next host.

OVERVIEW

Date	December 20, 2023
Venue	Xi'an, China
Participants	National Civil Service Administration (NCSA) of China, Ministry of Personnel Management (MPM) of the Republic of Korea, National Personnel Authority (NPA) of Japan

The 16th Symposium, held on June 20, 2024, in Busan, Korea, shifted focus to addressing the challenge of attracting young talent to public service, a common issue in all three countries due to declining birth rates and aging populations. The delegations, including the TCS, shared strategies for improving work environments and addressing structural challenges such as long working hours and low salaries. DSG ZUSHI emphasized the TCS efforts to highlight the societal impact of public service and promote networks like the Trilateral Youth Exchange Network (TYEN) to connect young professionals. The symposium was preceded by a meeting with the Minister of Personnel Management (MPM) of Korea, who underscored the importance of trilateral cooperation and urged support for future collaboration, especially for the upcoming 20th anniversary Heads Meeting. Japan's National Personnel Authority will host the next symposium.

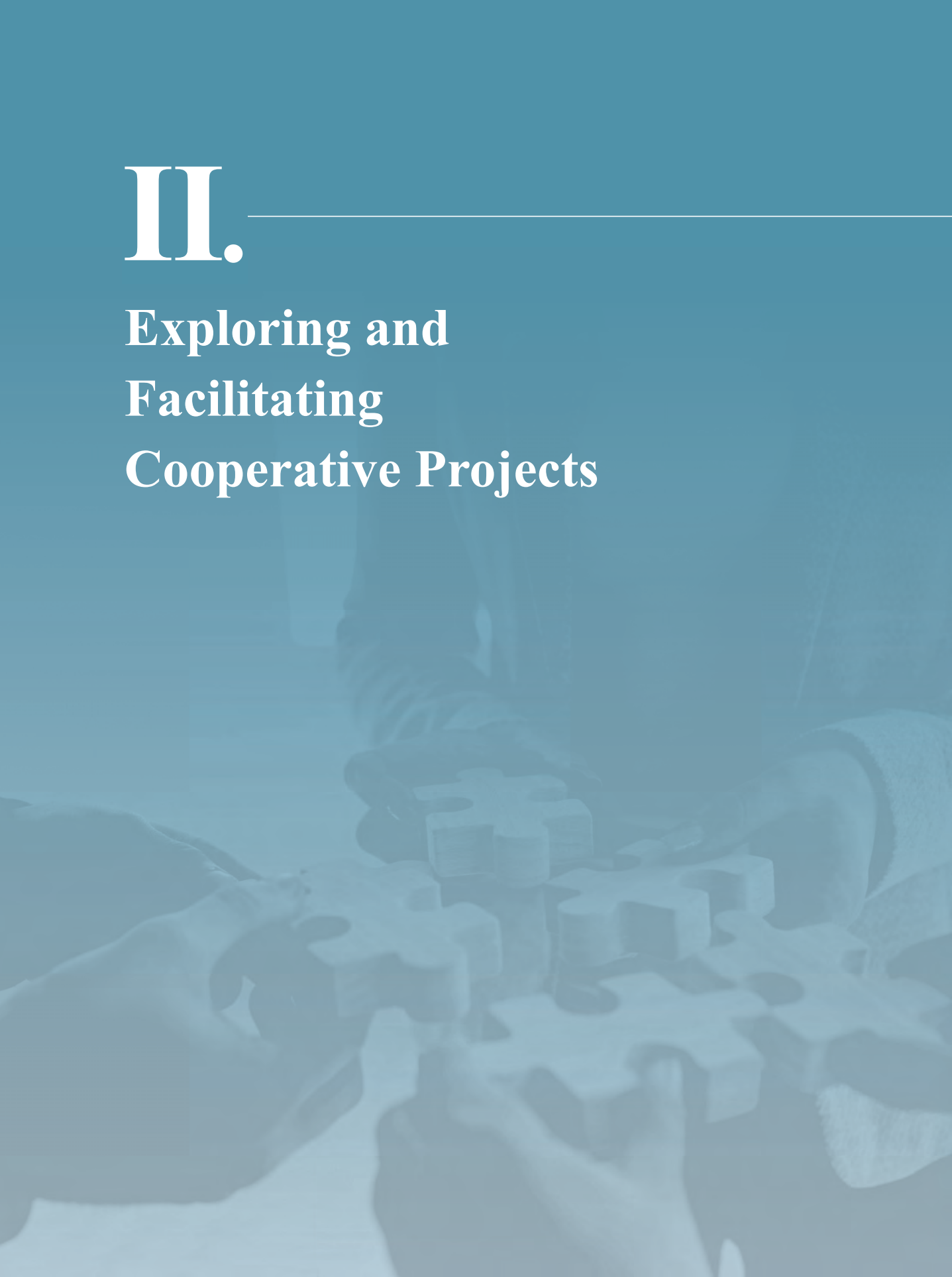
OVERVIEW

Date	June 20, 2024
Venue	Busan, Korea
Participants	Ministry of Personnel Management (MPM) of the Republic of Korea, National Personnel Authority (NPA) of Japan, National Civil Service Administration (NCSA) of China



II.

Exploring and Facilitating Cooperative Projects



Cross-departmental Projects

Political Affairs

1. TCS-organized projects
2. TCS-facilitated projects
3. TCS-participated projects

Economic Affairs

1. TCS-organized projects
2. TCS-participated projects

Social and Cultural Affairs

1. TCS-organized projects
2. TCS-facilitated projects
3. 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

Cross-departmental Projects

International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) 2024

The TCS hosted the International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) 2024 under the theme “25th Anniversary of Trilateral Cooperation: Institutionalizing Collaboration and Promoting Exchanges for a Brighter Future.” The year 2024 marks a significant milestone as the 25th anniversary of trilateral cooperation among China, Japan, and Korea. The 9th Trilateral Summit of May 27 paved the way for the revitalization and further institutionalization of trilateral cooperation. In this context, this year’s IFTC, held at such a crucial juncture, was more meaningful and timelier than ever before, attracting an onsite audience of more than 150 people and a few hundred online participants.

In the two consecutive sessions, veteran politicians, high-level officials, diplomats, prominent scholars, and experts reviewed the past cooperation among the three countries, assessed the current situation, and shared insights on future directions and ways to enhance trilateral cooperation in the future.

Session I “Vision for a Shared Future: Lessons from the Past and the Road Forward”, reviewed past trilateral cooperation and discussed future directions, based on the recent achievements in the trilateral summit. Speakers also discussed a pathway to revitalize trilateral cooperation amidst increasing geopolitical security concerns. In Session II “Digital Nexus: In Search of Solution for Descending Mutual Perception in Trilateral Cooperation”, experts and activists from the three countries and international organizations discussed the impact of social networking service (SNS) on public perception, and explored solutions for fostering an inclusive digital transformation to improve mutual understanding.

Since 2011, the IFTC has been one of the TCS’ annual flagship projects, raising public awareness of trilateral cooperation and providing in-depth policy references on advancing it among the three governments. Next year’s IFTC will be held in Japan.

OVERVIEW

Date	June 18, 2024
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Supporters	Chosun Ilbo, Asahi Shimbun, People’s Daily
Theme	25 th Anniversary of Trilateral Cooperation: Institutionalizing Collaboration and Promoting Exchanges for a Brighter Future
Participants	250+ onsite and online audience



TCS Day

The TCS celebrates “TCS Day” annually on May 30 to commemorate the signing of the “Memorandum on the Establishment of the TCS” by China, Japan, and Korea in 2010. This day marks the official inception of the TCS and serves as a reminder of the commitment of the three countries to foster cooperation and understanding in the region.

In FY2023, the TCS held its annual TCS Day celebration at Cheonggye Plaza in Seoul. The event attracted nearly 4,000 visitors and featured opening remarks by SG LEE Hee-sup, along with congratulatory speeches from diplomatic representatives of China, Japan, and Korea. In partnership with the Korea China Association for Cultural Exchange, Urasenke, and Gyeongju City, TCS Day offered visitors the opportunity to experience traditional Chinese culture, Japanese tea ceremony, and the Silla culture of Korea. The next TCS Day will be held on May 30, 2025.

OVERVIEW

Date	May 30, 2024
Venue	Cheonggye Plaza, Seoul, Korea
Participants	Nearly 4,000 visitors; Chinese Embassy, Japanese Embassy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea



Trilateral Youth Exchange Network (TYEN)

The Trilateral Youth Exchange Network (TYEN) serves as a dynamic platform connecting individuals across China, Japan, and Korea, committed to fostering trilateral cooperation. The TYEN platform enables applications to all TCS Youth Programs through a unified system, facilitates messaging and networking among registered TYEN members, provides access to communities of interest for information sharing, and offers an archive of past programs.

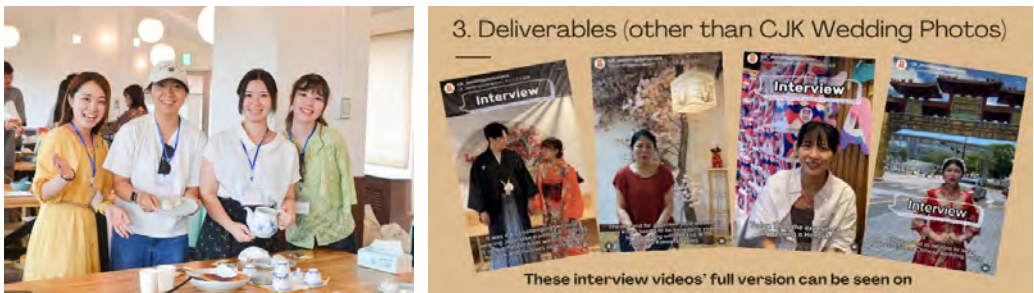
Apart from pre-existing TCS youth programs, the TYEN Fair 2024 - CJK Project Creator and the TYEN Core Team 2nd batch are two pillars especially designed to enhance the experience for TYEN members to deeply immerse in trilateral cooperation.

TYEN Fair 2024 - CJK Project Creator

CJK Project Creators are requested to implement their own CJK youth exchange projects with financial support of 1,500 USD by TCS. From June to July 2024, six Project Creator teams executed unique initiatives such as the CJK Tea Research, the CJK Young Feminist Interview Series, the CJK High School Students Demand Poll, the CJK Cuisine Competition, the CJK Tea-CAMPUS Asia Party, and the CJK Wedding Catalog.

OVERVIEW

Date	June - July, 2024
Venue	China, Japan, Korea
Participants	6 Project Creator teams composed of 1~6 youth from China, Japan, Korea



TYEN Core Team 2nd batch

The TYEN Core Team 2nd batch is a team comprised of 10 young professionals who are either repeat participants in TCS youth programs, CAMPUS Asia Alumni, or former TCS staff, all dedicated to CJK exchange as their lifelong commitment. Their responsibilities include registering on the TYEN website as a mentor or tutor, participating in TCS programs as mentors, speakers, or judges, and serving as the advisory committee for TYEN.

OVERVIEW

Date	January- August, 2024
Venue	China, Japan, Korea
Participants	10 leading youth figures from China, Japan, Korea



TYEN Wrap-up Meeting 2024

On August 10th, 2024, TCS hosted the TYEN Wrap-up Meeting 2024 at its office in Seoul, Korea. The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format, with approximately 30 participants, including TYEN Core Team Members and CJK Project Creators.

OVERVIEW

Date	August 10, 2024
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Participants	CJK Project Creators, TYEN Core Team



Political Affairs

1. TCS-organized projects

CJK Spirit: Word of the Year 2024

The CJK Spirit Word of the Year event, now in its second year, was initiated by the TCS to promote interaction and cultural exchange among citizens of China, Japan, and Korea. The campaign aims to engage the public in selecting a Chinese character that embodies the spirit of trilateral cooperation for the year ahead, thereby encouraging reflection on shared values and common cultures among the three countries.

In FY2023, the TCS announced “交流” (jiāoliú, こうりゅう, 교류), meaning “exchange/communication,” as the CJK Spirit Word of the Year for 2024. This selection marks the beginning of events commemorating the 25th anniversary of trilateral cooperation. The voting process, held from November 15 to December 20, 2023, involved citizens from the three countries choosing from 12 candidate characters. The campaign received over 10,000 votes, a tenfold increase from the previous year, with participants also sharing personal stories related to trilateral cooperation. The next CJK Spirit Word of the Year will be announced on January 1, 2025.

OVERVIEW

Date	January 1, 2024 (announcement)
Venue	Online
Participants	over 10,000 citizens



Trilateral Journalist Exchange Program 2024 (TJEP)

The Trilateral Journalist Exchange Program (TJEP) is one of the TCS’ flagship events, initiated in 2014 to enhance understanding among journalists from China, Japan, and Korea and foster trilateral media cooperation. Since its inception, approximately 100 journalists from the three countries have participated in this program.

In FY2023, the TCS hosted the TJEP under the theme “25th Anniversary of Trilateral Cooperation: The Role of Media for Enhancing Mutual Perception.” Eighteen journalists from China, Japan, and Korea joined the program, which featured lectures by six renowned speakers, including veteran diplomats and prominent scholars from the three countries. The TCS plans to continue organizing TJEP in 2025.

OVERVIEW

Date	March 16-19, 2024
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Participants	18 journalists



Inter-Regional Dialogue 2024: CJK Education and Training Institutes Workshop

The “Inter-Regional Dialogue 2024: CJK Education and Training Institutes Workshop: Sharing Experiences among Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region” took place under the theme of “Tools and Technologies for Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment and Early Warning.”

Over three days, participants engaged in workshops, training sessions, and site visits. The event served as a valuable platform for government officials and disaster management experts to share challenges, best practices, and innovative ideas related to multi-hazard risk assessment and early warning systems. It fostered ongoing collaboration in capacity building for disaster risk reduction among the three countries and beyond, furthering the “Trilateral+X” cooperation initiative. Approximately 40 participants from 21 countries, including representatives from an intergovernmental institution, attended the event, with participants coming from CJK, ASEAN countries, Northeast Asia, South Asia, and Central Asia.

OVERVIEW

Date	May 27-29, 2024
Venue	Incheon, Korea
Hosts	TCS, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Office for Northeast Asia & Global Education and Training Institute (ONEA & GETI), Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China (NDRCC)



2024 Trilateral Young Scholars Forum

The TCS organized the 2024 Trilateral Young Scholars Forum (YSF) in collaboration with Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU) and with support from Shandong University (SDU). The forum focused on strengthening trilateral relations among China, Japan, and Korea, which are essential for fostering peace and cooperation in Northeast Asia. The theme of this year's forum centered on three key principles presented at the Trilateral Summit: "Institutionalizing Trilateral Cooperation," "New Horizons: Revitalizing the CJK Partnership," and "Trilateral + X: Cooperation Beyond." These themes were designed to inspire innovative approaches and introduce fresh perspectives on trilateral cooperation.

The YSF also conducted a joint session with the Trilateral Youth Summit (TYS). Six YSF scholars presented on critical topics of cooperation, followed by an active discussion session which further contributed to the exchange of ideas on enhancing trilateral cooperation.

OVERVIEW

Date	August 6-7, 2024
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Participants	Sungkyunkwan University / Shandong University / 12 CJK young scholars



2. TCS- facilitated projects

8th NTCT National Focal Points Meeting and 2024 NTCT Conference

On March 27, 2024, the 8th Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tanks (NTCT) National Focal Points Meeting and the 2024 NTCT Conference were held online.

During the National Focal Points Meeting, discussions focused on finalizing Working Group reports concerning carbon neutrality, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and security cooperation. During the NTCT Conference, participants engaged in in-depth discussions on various areas of trilateral cooperation, including digital trade and collaboration with ASEAN. Recognizing the complex global environment challenging trilateral cooperation, participants emphasized the importance of fostering dialogue on the future direction of cooperation among the three countries.

The NTCT has been instrumental in promoting academic exchanges on political, economic, and cultural issues among China, Japan, and Korea. Both the National Focal Points Meeting and the Conference serve to enhance communication among scholars and provide constructive policy recommendations to the governments of the three countries. The next NTCT will be hosted by CFAU.

OVERVIEW

Date	March 27, 2024
Venue	Online (hosted by KNDA)
Participants	Korea National Diplomatic Academy / China Foreign Affairs University / Japan Forum on International Relations



3. TCS-participated projects

K-Safety EXPO 2023

The TCS received invitation to the K-Safety EXPO 2023, organized by the Ministry of Interior and Safety (MOIS) and Gyeonggi Province. During the EXPO, SG LEE visited various exhibition booths and engaged with government officials, related organizations, and companies in the safety industry.

K-Safety EXPO is recognized as Korea's largest business platform for the safety industry, featuring over 400 exhibitors and attracting more than 20,000 visitors. The exhibition serves not only as a hub for the security and public safety industry, but also as a communication network for disaster prevention. It introduces products and technologies aimed at mitigating damages caused by natural disasters, thereby contributing to enhancing the safety of vulnerable populations and promoting a culture of safety.

OVERVIEW

Date	September 13, 2023
Venue	Goyang, Korea
Participants	Ministry of Interior and Safety / Gyeonggi Province / relevant stakeholders



International Disaster Resilience Leaders Forum Incheon 2023

The 2nd International Disaster Resilience Leaders Forum Incheon was held under the theme of “Opportunities and challenges of using technology for climate and disaster risk reduction at the regional level.” The forum aimed to bring together representatives from Northeast and Southeast Asian governments, local authorities, and experts to discuss disaster risk reduction (DRR). It also seeks to enhance the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement through shared insights.

SG LEE Hee-sup delivered the opening remarks, highlighting the importance of exchanging DRR experiences and promoting trilateral cooperation among China, Japan, and Korea. As the Framework reaches its midpoint, countries are urged to strengthen their disaster prevention and management strategies to combat challenges such as climate change, economic crises, and conflicts.

OVERVIEW

Date	September 18-19, 2023
Venue	Incheon, Korea
Hosts	Incheon Metropolitan City, Incheon Institute, UNDRR ONEA&GETI, Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS)



International Symposium to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of China's Principle of 'Amity, Sincerity, Mutual Benefit and Inclusiveness' in Neighborhood Diplomacy

On October 24, 2023, the International Symposium to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of China's Principle of 'Amity, Sincerity, Mutual Benefit and Inclusiveness' in Neighborhood Diplomacy was held in Beijing, China. H.E. Xi Jinping, President of China, sent a congratulatory letter to the symposium. H.E. WANG Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, delivered a speech at the opening ceremony.

SG LEE Hee-sup made a presentation at Session 1 "Amity." He briefly introduced the significance and progress of the trilateral cooperation in various areas, highlighting the role and mission of the TCS in promoting trilateral cooperation especially for the exchanges of youth, culture, and local governments.

OVERVIEW

Date	October 24, 2023
Venue	Beijing, China
Hosts	The Office of the CPC Central Commission for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China
Participants	Incumbent and former leaders of Asian countries, senior diplomats, governmental officials, representatives of international organizations, and scholars.



2nd Conference of Global Economic Development and Security Forum of Boao Forum for Asia (BFA)

The 2nd Conference of Global Economic Development and Security Forum of Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), themed “Global Development, Shared Security,” was held in Changsha, China. SG LEE Hee-sup was invited to attend and delivered remarks at the opening ceremony. In his remarks, he pledged the TCS’s commitment to working alongside BFA to jointly promote cooperation, solidarity, stability, and regional development.

OVERVIEW

Date	Oct 29-31, 2023
Venue	Changsha, China
Hosts	Boao Forum for Asia Secretariat



Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2024

The Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2024, themed “Asia and the World: Common Challenges, Shared Responsibilities,” was held in Boao, Hainan province of China. SG LEE Hee-sup was invited to attend the BFA Annual Conference 2024 and address at the panel discussion on “Asia: Building an Epicentrum of Growth.” He expressed the TCS’ commitment to playing its part in bolstering regional and global economic growth, advancing the process of regional integration through elevating and solidifying the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and enhancing the resilience of the regional supply chain.

OVERVIEW

Date	March 26-29, 2024
Venue	Boao, China
Host	Boao Forum for Asia Secretariat



4th RCEP Media and Think Tank Forum

The 4th RCEP Media and Think Tank Forum themed “Shared Benefits, Win-win Cooperation” was held in Haikou, Hainan province of China. DSG YAN Liang delivered remarks, underlining the importance of the RCEP and gave high comments on its achievements since it came into effect two years ago. He also introduced TCS’ efforts in promoting trilateral and regional economic cooperation, such as hosting RCEP expert seminar and TCS’ close engagement with ASEAN stakeholders.

OVERVIEW

Date	May 19, 2024
Venue	Haikou, China
Hosts	China Institute of Reform and Development (CIRD), People’s Government of Hainan Province, China Daily



Eurasia Future Forum

“The Eurasia Future Forum: the strategies and prospects for the development of the multinational framework in Asia” was held and explored collaborative security in East Asia, focusing on critical areas such as food, energy, environment, trade, and investment. Discussions included the potential for an Asia super-grid energy system among East Asian nations and the socio-economic implications of the Trilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) involving China, Japan, and Korea.

SG LEE delivered congratulatory remarks, outlining the role of the TCS and highlighting key outcomes and significance of the 9th Trilateral Summit. To foster substantive cooperation among the three countries, he emphasized the necessity of thorough examination and analysis of current realities. He also asserted that while embracing our differences, we must strive for coexistence and harmony, continuously broadening the foundation for future collaboration through mutual respect and shared benefits.

OVERVIEW

Date	July 19-20, 2024
Venue	Tokyo, Japan
Hosts	Global Asian Institute of Research Alliance Foundation (GAIA), the International Academic Society for Asian Community (ISAC), Belt & Road Initiative Japan Research Center (BRIJC)



Economic Affairs

1. TCS-organized projects

3rd Forum on Carbon Neutrality Goals of China, Japan, and Korea

The TCS, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the Climate Action Team at the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (EOSG/CAT) 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.

In FY2023, the 3rd Carbon Neutrality Forum was held in-person for the first time under the theme “Digital Innovation for Carbon Neutrality,” inviting high-level officials from national and local governments, academics, and businesspeople to share best practices of relevant policies and digital innovations from private sectors. The outcomes of the forum were presented at the subregional dialogue during the 80th ESCAP Commission Session as an achievement of collaboration with ESCAP on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The TCS will continue to cooperate with ESCAP and EOSG/CAT to host the 4th Carbon Neutrality Forum in early 2025.

OVERVIEW

Date	March 7, 2024
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Theme	Digital Innovation for Carbon Neutrality
Organizers	TCS, ESCAP, UN EOSG/CAT
Participants	18 speakers from public and private sector, academia, and international organizations, and approximately 80 onsite attendees



2nd Trilateral Young Rural Leader's Exchange Program (TREP)

Referring to the *Memorandum of Collaboration on Agricultural Cooperation in Rural Revitalization*, adopted at the 3rd Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting (TAMM), where the three parties agreed on the importance of 'enhancing the capacity building of agricultural technicians in rural areas and organizing mutual visits of rural young leaders,' the TCS has been organizing the Trilateral Young Rural Leaders' Exchange Program (TREP) since 2023.

In FY2023, the TCS and Jeonbuk State co-hosted the 2nd TREP under the theme "Agriculture Meets Modern Needs: Future Innovation Cooperation." Rural leaders from the three countries participated in smart agriculture facility tours, lectures, discussions, and visits to symbolic rural areas focused on rural revitalization.

The 3rd TREP is planned to be held in Japan, where participants will exchange ideas on agricultural modernization and industrialization, share experiences in rural revitalization, and explore youth entrepreneurship.

OVERVIEW

Date	July 2 to 5, 2024
Venue	Jeonbuk State, Korea
Supporters	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) of Korea, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of China
Participants	12 young rural leaders from three countries, students majoring in agriculture, and media



2024 Regional Economic Cooperation Seminar

Since 2016, the TCS has hosted an Economic Seminar as a follow-up event of the Trilateral Economic Report. Authors from CJK and ASEAN of the Report are invited as speakers, and participants include government officials, representatives from diplomatic missions, academia, business sectors, and graduate students. The purpose of the event is to raise public awareness of the TCS and regional economic cooperation, as well as to strengthen networking with participants from research institutions, think tanks, and other international organizations.

The 2024 Regional Economic Cooperation Seminar was held on July 17, 2024, at the University of Tokyo, Japan. Under the theme of “Celebrating 25 Years of Trilateral Cooperation: Exploring Regional Economic Integration and the Future of Trilateral Cooperation”, the seminar was co-organized by the TCS and the University of Tokyo’s Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP). In Session I: Economic and Trade Cooperation in East Asia, speakers focused on the economic performance of China, Japan, Korea, and ASEAN. In Session II: Trilateral + ASEAN for Regional Economic Integration, regional trade agreements such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTTP), and the long-awaited CJK Trilateral Free Trade Agreement are analyzed.

The TCS will organize the 2025 Seminar in China to sustain a robust platform for the exchange of ideas and cooperative policymaking to promote regional economic integration.

OVERVIEW

Date	July 17, 2024
Venue	Tokyo, Japan
Supporters	Asia Pacific Institute of China, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP)
Participants	10 leading experts from China, Japan, Korea, and ASEAN, and more than 30 audiences



Preparatory Consultative Meeting for TTEP

The Trilateral Environmental Teachers Exchange Program (TTEP) is a biennial exchange program initiated in 2017 with the aim to provide learning experience and share pedagogical know-hows among environment teachers of the three countries.

The 4th TTEP is scheduled for 2025, making FY2023 a gap year between two programs. Taking this opportunity, the TCS held an interim meeting that serves as a preparatory consultative meeting for the next TTEP. The meeting invited focal points of supporter organizations of the three countries and discussed how to improve and develop TTEP for a better learning experience for the participants.

OVERVIEW

Date	July 31, 2024
Venue	Online
Participants	Representatives from Korea Environmental Conservation Institute, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and Center for Environmental Education & Communication of Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China



Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum (TEF) 2024

The Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum (TEF) 2024 was held under the theme of “Charting New Frontiers in Trilateral E-Commerce Cooperation: Technological Innovation and Green Logistics” as a follow-up project of the 12th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers Meeting and attracted around 180 people from governmental agencies, business sectors, media, and academia from the three countries.

The Forum brought together entrepreneurs from China, Japan, and Korea to share their best practices for domestic and cross-border e-commerce in an increasingly digital and virtualized world. Additionally, business representatives from the local community showcased their efforts to enhance sustainability in logistics practices and highlighted the benefits of green logistics.

The TEF is the TCS annual event that provides a platform to connect, communicate, and share innovative ideas in business sectors, as well as promote cross-border business cooperation among the three countries. The next TEF will be held in Japan in 2025.

OVERVIEW

Date	August 9, 2024
Venue	Yiwu, China
Co-host	China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT Zhejiang)
Organizer	Yiwu Municipal People’s Government
Supporters	China Chamber of International Commerce (CCOIC), Keidanren (Japanese Business Federation), The Federation of Korean Industries (FKI), China Electronics Chamber of Commerce (CECC)
Theme	Charting New Frontiers in Trilateral E-Commerce Cooperation: Technological Innovation and Green Logistics
Participants	Nearly 180 onsite participants from governmental agencies, business sectors, media, and academia



2. TCS- participated projects

15th Asia-Pacific RCE Regional Meeting

The 15th Asia-Pacific RCE Regional Meeting was held under the theme “Empowering Sustainable Community through Education for Sustainable Development.” TCS was invited to share the outcomes of the 3rd Trilateral Environmental Teachers Exchange Program (TTEP), which took place in August 2023.

RCE is a network of formal, non-formal, and informal organizations that facilitate ESD in local and regional communities, comprising of 190 centers around the world.

OVERVIEW

Date	September 15, 2023
Venue	Tongyeong, Korea
Organizer	RCE Tongyeong
Theme	Empowering Sustainable Community through Education for Sustainable Development
Participants	40-60 participants from RCE Centers in Asia-Pacific



20th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CABIS)

TCS DSG YAN Liang attended China-ASEAN Expo opening ceremony and delivered congratulatory remarks at the China-ASEAN Business Leaders Forum & Conference on the 20th Anniversary of CABIS. As a sideline event of the 20th China-ASEAN Expo, the forum aimed to seize RCEP opportunities and promote further cooperation.

The 20th China-ASEAN Expo and CABIS, which opened in Nanning of Guangxi on the same day with the theme “Work Together for a Harmonious Home and a Shared Future Promoting High-Quality Development of the BRI and Nurturing New Epicenter of Growth”, was co-hosted by the Ministry of Commerce of China, economic and trade authorities of ten ASEAN countries, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat.

OVERVIEW

Date	September 17, 2023
Venue	Nanning, China
Organizers	China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), The People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, National Chambers of Commerce and Industry of 10 ASEAN Countries
Theme	Working Together for a Harmonious Home and a Shared Future, Promoting High Quality Development of the BRI and Nurturing New Epicenter of Growth
Participants	State leaders from ASEAN countries, government officials, business leaders, leading enterprises, experts and scholars from RCEP members, leaders of CCPIT, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, heads of relevant international organizations, etc.



10th CJK Cooperation Dialogue

TCS SG LEE Hee-sup attended the 10th CJK Cooperation Dialogue and delivered keynote remarks at the opening session. The Dialogue was held in a complete offline format for the first time since 2019.

Marking the 10th anniversary of the Dialogue, experts from the three countries had an in-depth and vigorous discussion under the theme of “Navigating a Sustainable and Prosperous Future of CJK Cooperation.” The opening session was followed by the feature session on ‘Modelling a Sustainable CJK Cooperation for Next Generation’ and in the afternoon, two main sessions discussed ‘Evaluating the implementation of the RCEP and CJK cooperation for further improving it’ and ‘Achieving carbon neutrality and CJK cooperation focusing on CCUS.’

OVERVIEW

Date	October 12, 2023
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Organizers	East Asia Foundation (EAF) of Korea, China (Hainan) Institute of Reform and Development (CIRD), Japan Economic Foundation (JEF)
Supporter	TCS
Theme	Navigating a Sustainable and Prosperous Future of CJK Cooperation
Participants	More than 100 policymakers, experts, academics, students onsite



9th CJK Industrial Expo

TCS SG LEE Hee-sup attended the 9th China-Japan-Korea Industries Expo and delivered congratulatory remarks at the 2023 China-Japan-Korea Industrial Cooperation & Development Forum. The Expo has successfully been held for eight years in Weifang, China.

With the theme “Openness, Inclusiveness, Cooperation, and Mutual Benefits,” this year’s Expo invited dignitaries, envoys, representatives of business associations, renowned enterprises, experts, and scholars from the three countries to engage in exchanges and seminar discussions. The topics included delivering practical outcomes of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), deepening cooperation among local governments, and ensuring the stability of industrial and supply chains within the three countries.

OVERVIEW

Date	October 20, 2023
Venue	Weifang, China
Organizers	China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), Shandong Provincial Government, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), TCS
Theme	Openness, Inclusiveness, Cooperation, and Mutual Benefits
Participants	Dignitaries, envoys, representatives of business associations, renowned enterprises, experts, and scholars from the three countries



9th UCLG ASPAC Congress

The TCS delegation led by SG LEE Hee-sup attended the 9th United Cities and Local Government Asia Pacific Congress Opening Ceremony and delivered a keynote speech at the Main Forum, with the theme of “RCEP’s Future Growth Engine and Development Potential in East Asia”.

OVERVIEW

Date	November 14, 2023
Venue	Yiwu, China
Organizers	United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), Yiwu Municipal People’s Government
Theme	RCEP’s Future Growth Engine and Development Potential in East Asia
Participants	Local government officials, diplomats, associations, enterprises, experts



2nd ASEAN+3 Economic Cooperation and Financial Stability Forum (AMRO Forum)

The TCS delegation participated in the 2nd ASEAN+3 Economic Cooperation and Financial Stability Forum (AMRO Forum). This annual flagship event, inaugurated in December 2022, serves as a collaborative platform organized by the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) in conjunction with ASEAN+3 member authorities and other partner institutions.

AMRO, established by the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers, plays a vital role in contributing to the macroeconomic and financial resilience and stability of the ASEAN+3 region. The TCS has fostered a close partnership with AMRO since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in April 2019, with an extension in April 2022. This enduring collaboration underscores the TCS's commitment to continue working with AMRO to strengthen "Trilateral+X" finance cooperation, ensuring sustained progress and stability in the region.

OVERVIEW

Date	December 5, 2023
Venue	Kanazawa, Japan
Organizers	ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), Asian Development Bank Institute
Theme	Safeguarding Growth and Stability in a Complex World: Challenges and Solutions
Participants	ASEAN+3 finance ministries, policymakers, experts, academics, international organizations, etc.



6th China-Japan-Korea Business Conference

The TCS delegation headed by DSG YAN Liang attended the 6th China-Japan-Korea Business conference and the 1st RCEP Industry Cooperation Event, and delivered remarks at the general conference. The main theme of this year’s Conference was “Connectivity and Mutual Prosperity.”

The Conference was organized by the China Chamber of International Commerce and Shaoxing Municipal Government. Representatives from governments and business community agreed to continue expanding exchanges and sharing opportunities to achieve common prosperity.

OVERVIEW

Date	December 11, 2023
Venue	Shaoxing, China
Organizers	China Chamber of International Commerce and Shaoxing Municipal Government
Theme	Connectivity and Mutual Prosperity
Participants	Representatives from governments and business community from the three countries



2023 IEFS-EAER-APAEM Conference

The 2023 IEFS-EAER-APAEM Conference was hosted at TCS Conference Hall. SG LEE Hee-sup was invited to deliver congratulatory remarks. Focusing on “China-Korea Economic Cooperation and Development and the Future of Globalization,” the conference not only delved deeply into the challenges faced by Asia, but also focused on how China and Korea can leverage globalization to strengthen economic cooperation, thus leading to faster economic recovery and sustainable development for both countries and the Asian region.

OVERVIEW

Date	December 21, 2023
Venue	Seoul, Korea
Organizers	IEFS, EAER, APAEM
Co-organizers	Peking University, Seoul National University, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy, Kyonggi University, Korean Financial Services Commission
Supporters	Chinese Embassy in Korea, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, TCS
Theme	China- Korea Economic Cooperation and the Future of Globalization
Participants	Mr. KIM Soyoung, Vice President of Korean Financial Services Commission, Mr. DONG Zhiyong, Vice President of Peking University, Mr. LEE Siwook, President of KIEP, and Mr. FANG Kun, Chargé d’Affaires of Chinese Embassy in Korea



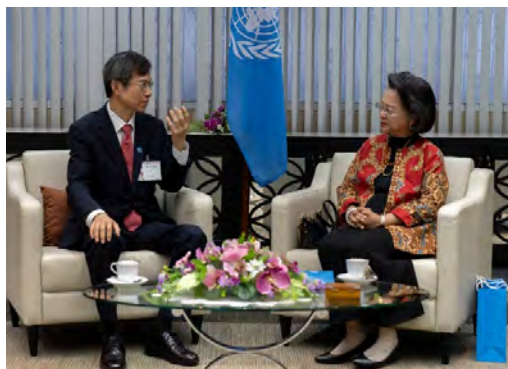
80th Commission of ESCAP

TCS SG LEE Hee-sup attended the 80th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Under the theme “Leveraging digital innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,” TCS was invited at the Subregional Session to introduce and showcase the work of the TCS and trilateral cooperation regarding digital innovation.

After the Subregional Session, TCS co-organized a roundtable side event with ESCAP and the governments of Korea and Mongolia, titled “Boosting SDG Accelerators through Innovation and Cooperation: Lessons and Opportunities for North-East Asia and the Asia-Pacific Region.” The side event invited experts on sustainable development and digital innovation to exchange insights on how digital technologies are prioritized in their national and organizational commitments for accelerating SDGs.

OVERVIEW

Date	April 24, 2024
Venue	Bangkok, Thailand
Theme	Leveraging digital innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
Participants	ESCAP member and associate member states, international organizations, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other relevant entities



Social and Cultural Affairs

1. TCS-organized projects

2024 CJK+ASEAN Young Ambassador Program

The CJK+ASEAN Young Ambassadors Program (YAP2024) launched in Nanning, China, hosted by the TCS, organized by Guangxi University and sponsored by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Guangxi Committee, and with strong support from the Ministries of China, Japan, and Korea. Expanding its reach from Northeast Asia to all of East Asia, YAP2024 brought together 50 undergraduates and postgraduates from China, Japan, Korea, and ASEAN nations.

During the 9-day program, participants attended six expert lectures, including sessions by Professor ZHANG Yunling of the China Academy of Social Sciences, Director LI Kouqing of the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office, and Program Director ICHIHARA Jun from the Bangkok Research Center. The program also included career talks, a TED-style youth session, visits to diplomatic offices, and immersive cultural experiences.

OVERVIEW

Date	February 26 - March 6, 2024
Venue	Nanning, China
Participants	50 students from CJK+ASEAN
Main Activity	Dialogue with Ambassadors, Career Talk, Thematic Lectures, Student Presentation, Youth Talk, Cultural Experiences



‘Crested-Ibis Cup’ 3rd Trilateral Youth Speech Contest

The TCS hosted the 3rd Trilateral Youth Speech Contest (TYSC) with the theme “Tell Your CJK Exchange Story.” This platform supports CJK youth to generate positive perceptions toward each other through sharing ideas related to CJK exchange and acquiring the three languages. The 3rd TYSC was specially titled as the “Crested Ibis Cup,” the symbol of friendship between the three countries, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Trilateral Cooperation.

Young finalists from China, Japan, and Korea shared personal experiences of cross-cultural exchanges, aiming to foster mutual understanding, trust, and collaboration among the three countries. A total of 18 participants competed in two categories: “C.J.K Specialist,” delivering speeches in one non-native language, and “C.J.K Challenger,” requiring speeches in a mixture of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.

OVERVIEW

Date	March 24, 2024
Venue	Xi’An, China
Participants	18 finalists chosen from CJK
Main Activities	Speech Contest, Cultural tour



CAMPUS Asia Alumni Workshop & TCS Session at the Jeju Forum

The TCS organized the CAMPUS Asia Alumni Workshop & TCS Session at the Jeju Forum in Jeju, Korea. 30 CAMPUS Asia Alumni and current CAMPUS Asia students from diverse consortia across China, Japan, and Korea attended the workshop.

Themed “Synergy for Change: Enhancing the CAMPUS Asia Initiatives for a Better World,” the session invited three experts from three countries to discuss on the current status of the CAMPUS Asia Initiatives, opportunities for enhancement, and potential lessons to be learned from the ERASMUS community. Following the session, 30 participants conducted thorough research on the current state of the CAMPUS Asia program and collaboratively drafted two-page policy proposals in groups.

OVERVIEW

Date	May 28-30, 2024
Venue	Jeju, Korea
Participants	30 CAMPUS Asia Alumni
Theme	Synergy for Change: Enhancing the CAMPUS Asia Initiatives for a Better World



Culture City of East Asia (CCEA) SNS Influencers Tour 2024

The TCS organized the “Culture City of East Asia” (CCEA) Social Media Influencers Tour 2024 from April to July, spotlighting the CCEA initiative with influencer-led tours in Chengdu (China), Shizuoka (Japan), and Gwangju (Korea). Each city collaborated with influencers to highlight local culture and heritage through customized itineraries, allowing them to create engaging, authentic content that deepened cultural ties among the three countries. Influencers participated in themed city tours, shared experiences across social media, and attended a Cultural Salon in Chengdu, amplifying the visibility of CCEA cities and enhancing cultural tourism. Launched in 2023 for CCEA’s 10th anniversary, the tour positioned influencers as central figures in promoting unity and cultural heritage across digital platforms.

OVERVIEW

Date	April- July 2024
Venue	Chengdu, China / Shizuoka, Japan / Gwangju, ROK
Participants	9 teams of social media influencers, from China, Japan and Korea
Main Activities	1) Themed Tour to CCEA cities (Chengdu - Shizuoka - Gwangju), 2) Cultural Salon (April 29, Chengdu), 3) Promotion of the Tour (through various SNS channels)



Trilateral Youth Summit 2024

The TCS organized the 2024 Trilateral Youth Summit (TYS) in partnership with the Institute for Global Strategy & Cooperation and the Division of International Studies at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. This five-day program engaged 48 participants from China, Japan, and Korea in delegation meetings, expert lectures, and cultural exchanges.

On the final day, a Model Trilateral Summit brought together student delegations from China, Japan, Korea, and the TCS to discuss trilateral cooperation in Sustainable Development, Disaster Relief, Economy and Trade, Digital Transformation, Public Health, and People-to-People Exchange. The summit concluded with the adoption of the “Joint Statement of the 2024 Trilateral Youth Summit.”

Initiated by Korea’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2014, TYS aims to foster mutual understanding and friendship among students from China, Japan, and Korea, with the host country rotating annually.

OVERVIEW

Date August 5-9, 2024

Venue Seoul, Korea

Participants 48 university and graduate students from CJK

Main Activities Model Summit, Group Discussion, Lectures, Cultural Experiences



18th CJK Children's Story Exchange Program - Alumni Program

From August 17 to 23, 2024, the 18th CJK Children's Story Exchange (CSE) program was held in Tokyo and Gunma, Japan. 100 elementary students from Japan, China, and Korea participated in the main storybook-making program, while 17 alumni participated in a sub-program focusing on cultural exchange activities and networking. Alumni participants took part in orientation sessions, icebreaking activities, game nights, lectures, sight visits, creative workshops, and group performances.

The CJK Children's Story Exchange Program, launched in Japan in 2002, promotes reading and mutual understanding among children from Japan, China, and Korea through storybooks and fairytales. In 2011, it adopted a rotating trilateral format, and in 2013, an Alumni Program was added as a key component. Since the 2017 event in Seoul, TCS has served as the official co-organizer of the Alumni Program, managing its coordination.

OVERVIEW

Date	August 17- 23, 2024
Venue	Tokyo and Gunma, Japan
Participants	17 Alumni



2. TCS-facilitated projects

7th Global Symposium on Population Ageing and Low Fertility

From November 30 to December 1, 2023, the 7th Global Symposium on Population Ageing and Low Fertility was held at the TCS Conference Hall. The Symposium was co-organized by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) and supported by the TCS. DSG YAN Liang attended the event and delivered his congratulatory remarks, along with Mr. CHOI Yeonok, Deputy Commissioner of KOSTAT, and Dr. JULLITA Onabanjo, Director of Technical Division of UNFPA.

This year's Symposium discussed the global challenge of preparing for an older population in the context of other megatrends. Each session contained several opening presentations by experts from the field, followed by interactive discussions among panelists and the audience. The two-day event concluded with the participants sharing essential takeaways and messages for policy makers.

OVERVIEW

Date	November 30 th - December 1 st , 2023
Venue	TCS Conference Hall
Organizer	UNFPA/ KOSTAT
Supporter	TCS
Participants	60 Academia, International Organization representatives, students



Korea Launch of the State of World Population Report 2024 Seminar

The Korea Launch of the *State of World Population Report 2024* took place on June 28, 2024, at the TCS Conference Hall. Co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Korea, the Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population, and Environment (CPE), and the UNFPA Seoul Representational Office (UNFPA SRO), along with support from the TCS, the seminar brought together experts and policymakers to discuss critical population issues.

During the Opening Session, SG LEE Hee-sup delivered congratulatory remarks, emphasizing the importance of regional collaboration in addressing demographic challenges and advancing sustainable development. Under the theme, “Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope: Ending Inequalities in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights,” the seminar focused on strategies to improve sexual and reproductive health services, reduce gender disparities, and manage demographic transitions.

OVERVIEW

Date	June 28, 2024
Venue	TCS Conference Hall
Organizer	UNFPA SRO / ROK MOFA/ CPE
Supporter	TCS
Participants	60 Academia, International Organization representatives, students



3. TCS- participated projects

24th Trilateral Local Government Exchange Conference

On October 16 to 19, 2023, the 24th Trilateral Local Government Exchange Conference was held in Yamanashi, Japan. The conference was organized by three focal points local government organizations, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) of Japan, and the Governors Association of the ROK (GAROK). This was the first offline conference held after 4 years of hiatus since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

The conference was held under the theme of "Creating Future-Oriented Regions among Local Governments of China, Japan and Korea," inviting approximately 500 participants including local government officials, experts and relevant regional and international organizations. The event included keynote lectures and case presentations to share best practices in local government exchange between China, Japan and Korea, and field visits within Yamanashi Prefecture.

OVERVIEW

Date	October 16-19, 2023
Venue	Yamanashi, Japan
Participants	Local governments, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) of Japan, Governors Association of the ROK (GAROK)

16th Trilateral Culture Exchange Forum (Please Note that the title has changed from 16th CJK Cultural Exchange Forum)

The Trilateral Cultural Exchange Forum, an annual event initiated in 2005, is organized by the Korea-Japan Cultural Exchange Council, the Korea-China Friendship Association (Korea), the Chinese Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (China), the Japan Foundation, and the Foundation for Cultural Heritage and Art Research (Japan). Rotating among the three countries, the forum brings together intellectuals, artists, and cultural experts from Korea, China, and Japan to explore the current landscape and future directions of trilateral cultural exchange.

On October 31, 2023, SG LEE Hee-sup attended the 16th plenary session of the Trilateral Culture Exchange Forum. Hosted by the Korea-Japan Cultural Exchange Council, this session gathered around 30 cultural experts, scholars, and forum members to discuss "Cultural Exchange in the Post-COVID Era," exchanging insights on the evolving role of cultural engagement in fostering regional friendships and collaboration.

OVERVIEW

Date	October 30 - November 2, 2023
Venue	Incheon, Korea
Organizer	Korea-Japan Cultural Exchange Council
Participants	30 cultural experts, scholars, and forum members



Culture City of East Asia (CCEA) 2023 Jeonju Closing Ceremony / Culture City of East Asia (CCEA) 2024 Gimhae Opening Ceremony

Since 2014, China, Japan, and Korea have annually designated one or two cities as CCEA for trilateral cultural exchanges, following an agreement at the 2012 Trilateral Culture Ministers’ Meeting.

The CCEA 2023 Jeonju Closing Ceremony, hosted by Jeonju City, celebrated the past year’s efforts with the theme “Memory.” Director in charge of CCEA, Shizuoka Prefecture, Cultural Policy Officer of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Korea, and the Chinese Consul General in Gwangju attended the event. The TCS was also invited to join the closing ceremony.

The event featured an archive exhibition and traditional performances from the CCEA 2023 cities- Chengdu and Meizhou from China, and Shizuoka Prefecture from Japan. Mayor WOO Beom-ki of Jeonju City reaffirmed the city’s dedication to sharing its cultural heritage with the world.

OVERVIEW

Date	December 2, 2023
Venue	Jeonju, Korea
Participants	Culture ministries, CCEA cities (Chengdu & Meizhou, China / Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan / Jeonju, Korea), local governments, culture experts, scholars, media, Jeonju citizens

The TCS delegation, led by DSG ZUSHI Shuji attended the CCEA 2024 Gimhae Opening Ceremony, held on April 22, 2024. The ceremony highlighted Gimhae’s historical importance as the heart of ancient Geumgwan Gaya. Mayor HONG Tae-yong of Gimhae City and DSG ZUSHI both expressed hopes for increased cooperation through cultural exchanges. Traditional performances from the participating CCEA cities also celebrated the beginning of Gimhae’s year-long cultural journey.

For CCEA 2024, Weifang and Dalian from China, and Ishikawa Prefecture from Japan were selected alongside Gimhae City. However, Ishikawa was unable to attend due to earthquake recovery efforts, so Munakata City, Gimhae's sister city, participated in the opening ceremony instead.

OVERVIEW

Date	April 22, 2024
Venue	Gimhae, Korea
Participants	Culture ministries, CCEA cities (Weifang and Dalian, China / Munakata, Japan / Gimhae, Korea), local governments, culture experts, scholars, media, Gimhae citizens



8th East Asia Cultural City Policy Forum

The Incheon Institute and Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences co-hosted the 8th East Asia Cultural City Policy Forum, themed “City-to-City Cooperation for East Asia Development.” This annual forum, alternately hosted by Incheon and Tianjin, gathers experts from East Asia’s cultural cities for international academic discussions. SG LEE Hee-sup delivered a keynote address, focusing on “Promoting Cooperation and Local Government Exchanges among China, Japan, and Korea during the Transition Period.”

SG LEE highlighted the achievements of trilateral cooperation, the TCS, and the outcomes of the 9th Trilateral Summit. He stressed that local government exchanges in China, Japan, and Korea enhance residents’ well-being and boost economic, cultural, and social capacities, strengthening urban competitiveness. These exchanges also complement broader trilateral interactions, reinforcing cooperation. He expressed hopes for increased cooperation between Incheon, Tianjin, and Yokohama, with the TCS supporting future initiatives.

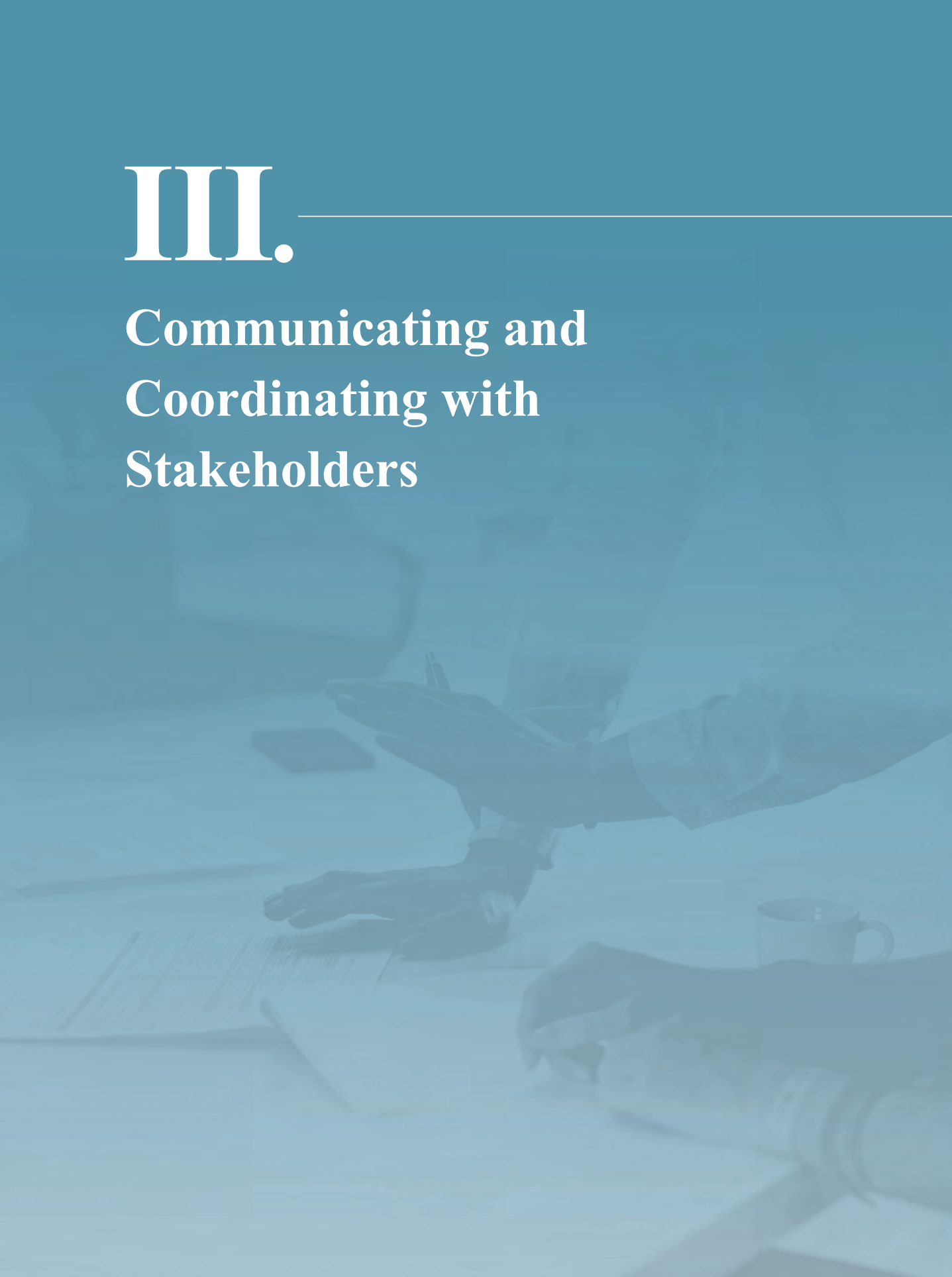
OVERVIEW

Date	June 25, 2024
Venue	Incheon, Korea
Co-organizers	The Incheon Institute and Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences
Participants	Over 80 participants including representatives from the co-organizers (Incheon Institute and Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences), experts, government officials, etc.



III.

Communicating and Coordinating with Stakeholders



1. International and Regional Organizations

2. Ministries, Lawmakers and Foreign Missions

3. Local Governments

4. Public and Business Organizations

5. Academia

6. Media

“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

International and Regional Organizations

In FY2023, the TCS advanced trilateral cooperation through working with key international and regional organizations, focusing on shared regional goals and resilience. Collaborative efforts with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), as well as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) emphasized disaster risk management, while discussions with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) targeted sustainable development initiatives. Through engagements with the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) and ASEAN Centers of China, Japan, and Korea, the TCS explores potential cooperation areas to further enhance the ASEAN+3 framework.

The TCS' meeting with the Boao Forum for Asia and the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments (NEAR) strengthened cooperation to tackle common challenges in the region and explore more opportunities for a better future for Asia.

- [October 23, 2023] LI Baodong, Secretary General of Boao Forum for Asia
- [October 25, 2023] SHI Zhongjun, Secretary-General of ASEAN-China Centre
- [November 2, 2023] ALBRITO Paola, Director of UNDRR headquarter in Geneva
- [November 7, 2023] Ganbold Baasanjav, Head of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific East and North-East Asia Office (UNESCAP-ENEA)
- [November 9, 2023] KIM Hae-yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN-Korea Centre
- [November 20, 2023] HIRABAYASHI Kunihiro, Secretary-General of ASEAN-Japan Centre
- [December 30, 2023] LI Kouqing, Director of ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO)
- [January 23, 2024] LIM Byung-jin, Secretary-General of NEAR
- [February 6, 2024] Ganbold Baasanjav, Head of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific East and North-East Asia Office (UNESCAP-ENEA)
- [January 8, 2024] MORIKIAWA Toru, Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
- [February 15, 2024] PARK Jung-Sook, Secretary-General of the World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO)
- [March 27, 2024] Xavier Castellanos Mosquera, Under Secretary General of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- [April 24, 2024] Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- [May 10, 2024] CHAPAGAIN Jagan, Secretary-General of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- [May 23, 2024] H.E. ZHANG Jun, Secretary-General of Boao Forum for Asia
- [August 22, 2024] Kamal Kishore, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction at the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Sanjaya Bhatia, Head of UNDRR Office for Northeast Asia and Global Education and Training Institute (ONEA & GETI)

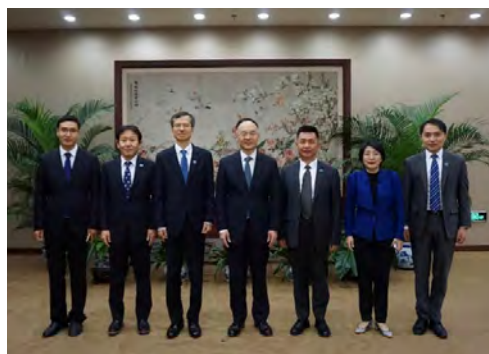


Ministries, Lawmakers and Foreign Missions

1. Ministries

To fulfill one of the TCS' missions to provide support for inter-governmental consultative mechanisms, the TCS maintains close cooperation with key ministries of the three countries. Through courtesy visits and regular meetings, the TCS 7th Consultative Board engages with high-level officials of relevant ministries to keep track of the progress of mechanism meetings. Such meetings also serve as an opportunity for the TCS to discuss with ministries on cooperation opportunities in trilateral cooperation projects.

- [September 15, 2023] H.E. PARK Jin, Foreign Minister of Korea
- [October 24, 2023] H.E. NONG Rong, Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China
- [November 3, 2023] China National Civil Service Administration (NCSA)
- [November 21, 2023] MIZUNO Masayoshi, Director-General of Export and International Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- [November 22, 2023] H.E. HORII Iwao, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and FUNAKOSHI Takahiro, Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
- [December 4, 2023] JIN Hai, Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, Science and Technology, Ministry of Water Resources of China
- [December 4, 2023] XU Jiaai, Vice Minister, Ministry of Emergency Management of China
- [April 8, 2024] H.E. CHO Tae-yul, Foreign Minister of Korea
- [May 30, 2024] Kyushu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry
- [July 19, 2024] TSUGE Yoshifumi, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan





2. Lawmakers and Statespersons

In FY2023, the TCS also met with influential lawmakers and statespersons to foster trilateral cooperation. On November 9, the 7th TCS Consultative Board visited Former UN Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon, who expressed strong support for TCS and encouraged closer government ties for enhanced regional impact. On November 20, TCS officials met with Mr. TAKAHASHI Kenji, Director-General of Japan's Cabinet Office, to discuss ongoing collaboration in disaster management and the upcoming Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management. Both meetings reinforced the importance of government partnerships in advancing trilateral cooperation in various fields.

- [November 9, 2023] H.E. BAN Ki-moon, Former UN Secretary-General
- [November 20, 2023] TAKAHASHI Kenji, Director-General on Disaster Management, Cabinet Office (CAO), Government of Japan



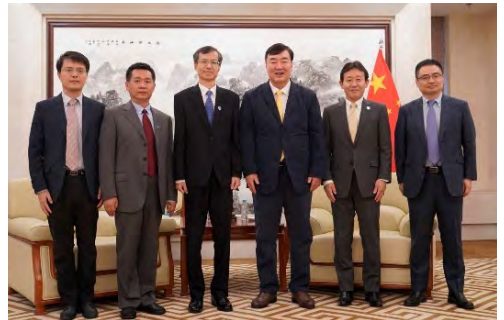
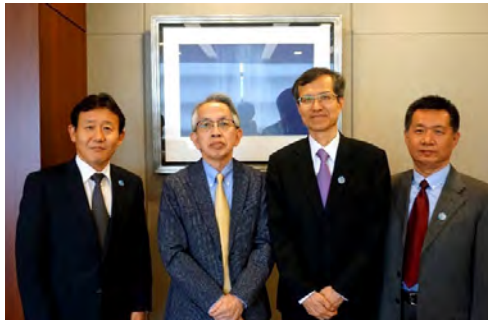
3. Foreign Missions

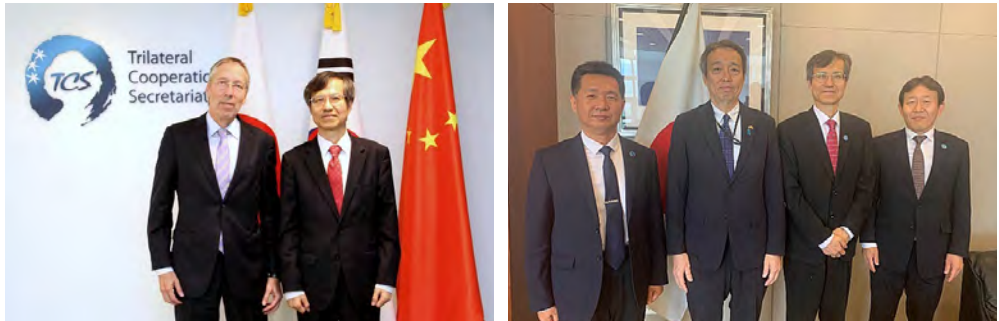
The TCS places a high priority on fostering strong relationships with foreign missions. Based in Seoul, the TCS Board has conducted courtesy visits to the Ambassadors of China and Japan to Korea. Given that many TCS projects rotate among China, Japan, and Korea, the Board also engages regularly with the embassies of China and Japan to sustain momentum and secure support for these initiatives.

Additionally, maintaining active dialogue with stakeholders beyond Northeast Asia is essential for enhancing public awareness and understanding of trilateral cooperation. In FY2023, SG LEE met with H.E. Peter van der Vliet, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Korea, who was subsequently invited to participate as a discussant at IFTC2023.

- [September 12, 2023] H.E. AIBOSHI Koichi, Ambassador of Japan to Korea
- [September 13, 2023] H.E. XING Haiming, Ambassador of China to Korea

- [September 27, 2023] WU Zhijuan, Deputy Director-General of Chengdu Foreign Affairs Office
- [October 24, 2023] H.E. CHUNG Jae Ho, Ambassador of Korea to China
- [October 25, 2023] KOIZUMI Tsutomu, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of Japan in China
- [November 21, 2023] H.E. YUN Duk-min, Ambassador of Korea to Japan
- [November 22, 2023] H.E. WU Jianghao, Ambassador of China to Japan
- [January 26, 2024] AI Hongge, Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of China in Korea
- [May 8, 2024] H.E. Peter van der Vliet, the Ambassador of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Korea
- [June 10, 2024] H.E. MIZUSHIMA Koichi, Ambassador of Japan to Korea

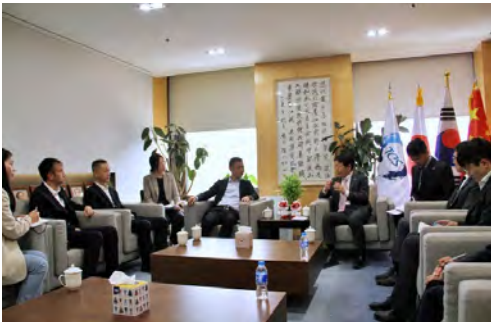




Local Governments

The TCS has actively collaborated with local governments to strengthen trilateral ties through cultural exchange, youth programs, and regional cooperation. Notable engagements with Shaanxi Province and Hanzhong City highlighted successful trilateral initiatives such as the Crested Ibis conservation, emphasizing its role as a symbol of cooperation. In Xi'an, discussions focused on leveraging historical and contemporary connections to foster future-oriented partnerships. These efforts demonstrate TCS's dedication to promoting grassroots collaboration among local governments in the region.

- [December 21, 2023] YAO Hongjuan, Director of Office of Foreign Affairs Work Committee of CPC Shaanxi Provincial Committee
- [December 22, 2023] WANG Hongyan, Vice Mayor of Hanzhong City, China
- [March 25, 2024] XIAO Qi, Vice Mayor of Xi'an, China
- [April 19, 2024] LI Jian, Deputy Secretary of CPC Shuangliu District Committee, Chengdu City, China
- [August 13, 2024] KOO Hong-seok, Seoul Metropolitan City's Ambassador for International Relations



Public and Business Organizations

1. Public Organizations

The TCS has made significant strides in fostering trilateral cooperation by strengthening ties with various public organizations. These efforts span a wide range of sectors, including cultural exchanges, youth programs, and health cooperation. The TCS communicated with organizations including the Japan-Korea Cultural Foundation, Korea-China Association for Cultural Exchange (KCACE), and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) to promote cross-border cultural initiatives, such as the "Year of Cultural Exchange between China, Japan, and the ROK" in 2025-2026 which aims to deepen cultural understanding and enhance people-to-people exchanges among the three countries. Additionally, the TCS has emphasized the importance of youth involvement and collaborative initiatives such as the Children's Story Exchange program (CSE) and the Culture City of East Asia (CCEA) initiative. The TCS's engagement with the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) also highlights its focus on public health cooperation, specifically addressing the challenges of climate change on disease prevention.

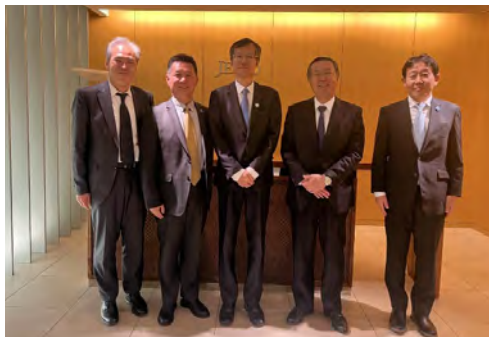
- [September 20, 2023] H.E. KIM Sung-hwan, Chairman of East Asia Foundation (EAF)
- [October 26, 2023] DU Zhanyuan, President of China International Communications Group
- [November 20, 2023] GODA Tetsuo, Deputy Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan
- [November 22, 2023] FURUKAWA Kazu, President of National Institution for Youth Education (NIYE)
- [December 22, 2023] ZHANG Yong, President of Xi'an People's Association with Foreign Countries
- [January 25, 2024] OH Jinhee, Director-General of Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA)
- [March 4, 2024] QU Huan, Head of the Korea China Association for Cultural Exchange
- [March 13, 2024] YUAN Mindao, Vice President of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)
- [June 7, 2024] China Cultural Center in Seoul
- [July 18, 2024] KATORI Yoshinori, President of the Japan-Korea Cultural Foundation
- [August 26, 2024] WU Hailong, the President of the China Public Diplomacy Association (CPDA)



2. Business Organizations

In FY2023, the TCS reinforced its partnerships with key business organizations across China, Japan, and Korea. Through courtesy visits to JETRO, Keidanren, CCPIT, and KOTRA, the TCS delegation discussed a wide range of topics, including promoting RCEP, enhancing supply chain cooperation, and organizing key events like the Trilateral Business Summit. Additionally, at forums such as the CCOIC Special Lecture, the TCS showcased its initiatives and programs aimed at fostering trilateral economic cooperation. These engagements reflect the TCS's dedication to facilitating regional economic integration and strengthening communication among the business communities of the three countries.

- [November 20, 2023] ISHIGURO Norihiko, Chairman of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
- [November 22, 2023] TAKEHARA Reiji, Director of International Cooperation Bureau, Keidanren
- [December 5, 2023] ZHANG Shaogang, Vice Chairman of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade
- [December 6, 2023] YU Jeong Yeol, President & CEO of Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA)
- [December 20, 2023] China Chamber of Commerce (CCOIC) in Korea



Academia

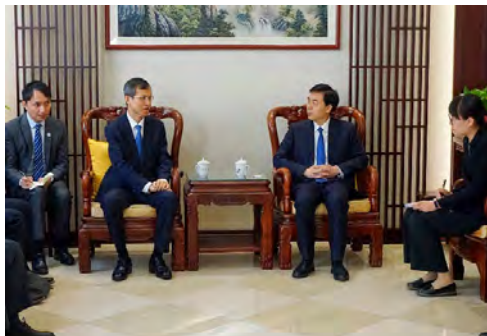
1. Universities

In FY2023, the TCS maintained close networks with universities in China, Japan, and Korea, aiming to promote understanding of trilateral cooperation among the younger generations. The TCS widely engaged with universities and students by paying visits, giving lectures, and attending events.

DSG YAN gave special lectures at Liaoning Normal University, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Kookmin University, and Hainan University. Joined by hundreds of students, he provided an overview of the history and development of trilateral cooperation, highlighting the significance of exchange among youth in shaping a shared future.

The TCS also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Peking University on July 15, 2024. To jointly pursue the consensus reached by the three leaders in the Joint Declaration of the Ninth ROK-Japan-China Trilateral Summit, the TCS and Peking University will enhance mutual visits and communications, support each other's programs, and explore opportunities to jointly organize trilateral youth exchange programs under the CAMPUS Asia framework.

- [October 26, 2023] WANG Fan, President of China Foreign Affairs University
- [October 30, 2023] DSG YAN's lecture at Liaoning Normal University
- [November 21, 2023] University of Tokyo / Waseda University
- [December 1, 2023] DSG YAN's lecture at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
- [March 15, 2024] DSG YAN's lecture at Kookmin University
- [May 18, 2024] DSG YAN's lecture at Hainan University
- [June 5, 2024] Career Fair at Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS)
- [July 15, 2024] MOU with Peking University
- [July 17, 2024] Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP), University of Tokyo





2. Think-tanks

The TCS has actively engaged with think tanks from China, Japan, and Korea to enhance trilateral cooperation in key areas such as economic integration, sustainable development, and youth engagement. Collaborations with institutions like the China Institute for Reform and Development (CIRD) have focused on promoting trade under the RCEP framework, while the Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) and the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) have explored opportunities for youth involvement in trilateral initiatives.

Discussions with the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) have centered on regional stability and economic development. Additionally, the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) proposed a “Trilateral + X” model to broaden think-tank cooperation. These efforts reflect the TCS’s commitment to fostering intellectual exchange, deepening mutual understanding, and advancing trilateral cooperation in the region.

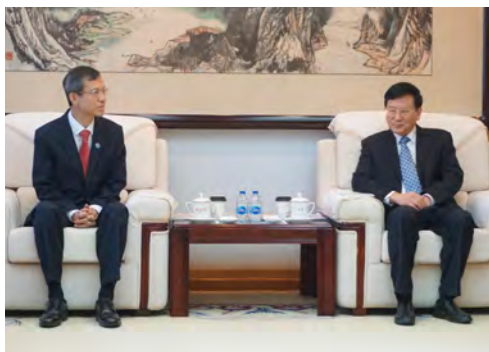
- [October 13, 2023] CHI Fulin, President of China Institute for Reform and Development (CIRD)
- [November 5, 2023] PARK Cheol Hee, Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA)
- [November 17, 2023] National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)
- [November 21, 2023] YOSHIDA Tomoyuki, Director General of the Japan Institute of International Affairs
- [December 4, 2023] ZHANG Yuyan, Director of Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
- [May 28, 2024] LI Kaisheng, Vice President of Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS)



Media

The TCS actively communicated with prominent media organizations to support and promote trilateral cooperation. The Consultative Board met with key media leaders, including those from People's Daily, China News Service, and Asahi Shimbun, expressing appreciation for their ongoing support of TCS projects like the International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) and the Trilateral Journalist Exchange Program (TJEP). These discussions highlighted the pivotal role of media in enhancing public understanding and fostering stronger ties among the three countries, receiving further commitments from these media outlets to continue their support in future TCS initiatives.

- [October 25, 2023] TUO Zhen, President of People's Daily
- [October 27, 2023] ZHANG Mingxin, Editor-in-chief of China News Service
- [November 20, 2023] NAKAMURA Shiro, President and Chief Executive Officer of Asahi Shimbun
- [July 18, 2024] TSUNODA Katsu, President and COO of Asahi Shimbun



IV.

Compiling Database, Conducting Research and Publications



1. Progress Report 2023

2. Annual Report FY2022

3. Trilateral Best Practices Report: Tools and Technologies for Earthquake Risk Management: Sharing Experience from Northeast Asia

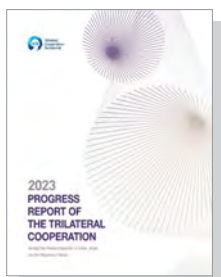
4. Trilateral Economic Report (TER) 2024

5. Advisory Expert Group Meeting on the Trilateral Statistics Hub (TSH)

6. TYEN Website Upgrade

“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



Progress Report 2023



Annual Report FY2022



Trilateral Best Practices Report

1. Progress Report 2023

‘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 ministerial meetings and working-level governmental meetings among the three countries.

2023 Progress Report presents key achievements of trilateral cooperation in politics, security, economy, sustainable development and socio-cultural exchanges.

2. Annual Report FY2022

The TCS Annual Report offers an in-depth and comprehensive overview of the TCS’ wide-ranging activities and achievements over the past financial year. Since its establishment, the TCS has consistently published these reports as a means of keeping stakeholders and the public well informed of its ongoing efforts, progress, and milestones in fostering trilateral cooperation among China, Japan, and Korea. The report serves as a vital reference for tracking the initiatives undertaken by the TCS in various sectors, as well as its contributions to regional stability and collaboration.

The Annual Report FY2022 specifically covers TCS activities and developments from September 2022 to August 2023.

3. Trilateral Best Practices Report: Tools and Technologies for Earthquake Risk Management: Sharing Experience from Northeast Asia

On January 31, 2024, the TCS and the UNDRR ONEA&GETI published the report “Trilateral Best Practices Report: Tools and Technologies for Earthquake Risk Management: Sharing Experience from Northeast Asia.” This report was produced in collaboration with the NDRCC in China, ADRC in Japan, and government agencies, including the Ministry of Emergency Management of China (MEM), MOIS of Korea, and the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan (CAO).

Based on a regional online workshop held in August 2023, the report features eight case studies that highlight advancements in earthquake risk assessment, early warning technologies, community capacity development, and infrastructure resilience in Northeast Asia. It also offers recommendations for enhancing resilience against earthquake risks. This marks the second collaboration between TCS and UNDRR ONEA&GETI on disaster risk reduction, following the 2021 publication on technology applications for reducing disaster risks in the region.



Trilateral Economic Report

4. Trilateral Economic Report (TER) 2024

The Trilateral Economic Report (TER) is one of the TCS' flagship projects and has been published since 2013 to update the macro-economy of China, Japan, and Korea, examine trilateral economic relations, and provide policy recommendations to the three governments. Under the theme of "Celebrating 25 Years of Trilateral Cooperation: Exploring Regional Economic Integration and the Future of Trilateral Cooperation," the 2024 TER was published in collaboration with eight distinguished economic scholars. It delves into the latest regional economic performance and analyzes recent developments in regional economic frameworks in CJK and ASEAN.

5. Advisory Expert Group Meeting on the Trilateral Statistics Hub (TSH)

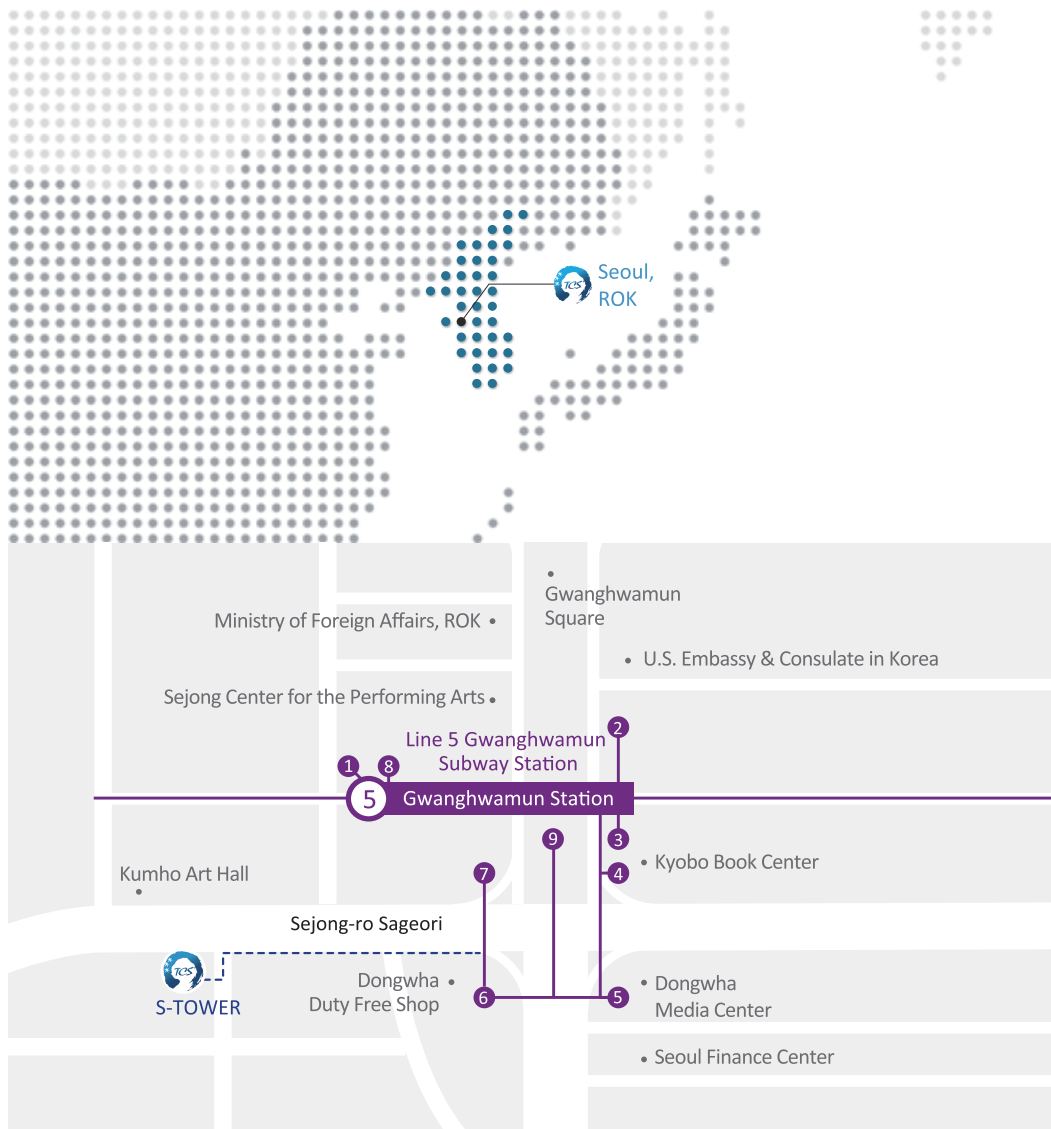
On August 9, 2024, the TCS hosted the Trilateral Statistics Hub Expert Meeting. The TCS invited six experts to the online working group meeting, with two representatives each from China, Japan, and Korea. The scholars provided valuable feedback and recommendations for the further development of the Trilateral Statistics Hub (TSH). The lively discussions at the TSH Expert Consultation Meeting exemplify the shared vision for a more integrated and accessible statistical platform among East Asian societies.

6. TYEN Website Upgrade

TYEN functions as a dynamic cross-CJK, cross-program, cross-university, and cross-industry network that unites TCS program alumni and individuals dedicated to trilateral cooperation. Launched in February 2023, it initially attracted only 200 members due to a mismatch with the needs of young people and user experience challenges. In response, the youth team redefined the platform's purpose and core functions, resulting in significant webpage upgrades.

Following the upgrade, the platform facilitated the recruitment of young talent from three countries for TCS youth initiatives, including the Young Ambassador Program, Trilateral Youth Speech Contest, and CAMPUS Asia Alumni Workshop. Additionally, it now serves as an archive for the history of TCS youth projects, providing a comprehensive resource for review. Within one year, membership registration grew to 700.





Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat Annual Report FY2023

Published in February 2025

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Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

中日韓合作秘書處

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日中韓三国協力事務局



ISSN 3022-747X