

2019 PROGRESS REPORT OF THE TRILATERAL COOPERATION

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



Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat



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Part I

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

In pursuant to the “Agreement on the Establishment of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat” (hereinafter referred to as the TCS) signed by the governments of the People’s Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as China), Japan and the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as the ROK) in 2010, the TCS drafts and submits progress report of the trilateral cooperation to the three Foreign Ministries for approval. The TCS presents the report titled “2019 Progress Report of the Trilateral Cooperation”, covering the period from January to December 2019.

INTRODUCTION

The year of 2019 marked the 20th anniversary of the trilateral cooperation among China, Japan and the ROK. With the continuous efforts of the three countries, the trilateral cooperation enjoyed a strong momentum and gained substantial outcomes in various fields in the year.

In August, at the 9th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the three foreign ministers gathered together and jointly sent a message that the three countries would cooperate closely to deal with issues of common interests including regional and global uncertainties. The 9th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting which was successfully held in late August paved the way for the next Trilateral Summit. In December, the 8th Trilateral Summit was consecutively convened after the 7th Trilateral Summit a year ago. The leaders of the three countries reviewed the history and achievements of the trilateral cooperation during the past 20 years and reaffirmed their political commitment to the future cooperation. The “Trilateral Cooperation Vision for the Next Decade” adopted at the 8th Trilateral Summit charted the shared vision among the three countries to better promote their cooperation to a higher level.

The three countries also continued to enhance the cooperation in terms of non-traditional security including disaster management, nuclear safety and cybersecurity, and maintained regular communication on regional and international issues in 2019.

With regard to economic and trade cooperation, the three countries held the 15th and 16th rounds of CJK FTA negotiations. The 12th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting, 19th Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting, 11th Tripartite Governors' Meeting among the Central Banks, 4th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology, 2019 Meeting of the Heads of the Supreme Audit Institutions and 19th TRIPO Heads Meeting were held in the period.

The three countries also kept strengthening cooperation in sustainable development. The 21st Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting and working consultations on fisheries and jellyfish were held to share national policies and come up with new priority areas for future cooperation.

Furthermore, the trilateral people-to-people exchanges and socio-cultural cooperation were further deepened in the year. The 11th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting, 9th Trilateral Tourism Ministers' Meeting, 12th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting, 8th Heads of Personnel Authorities Meeting were successfully held. Additionally, a series of cooperative projects related to culture, local government, think-tanks, sports, education and youth were conducted among the three countries.

Part II

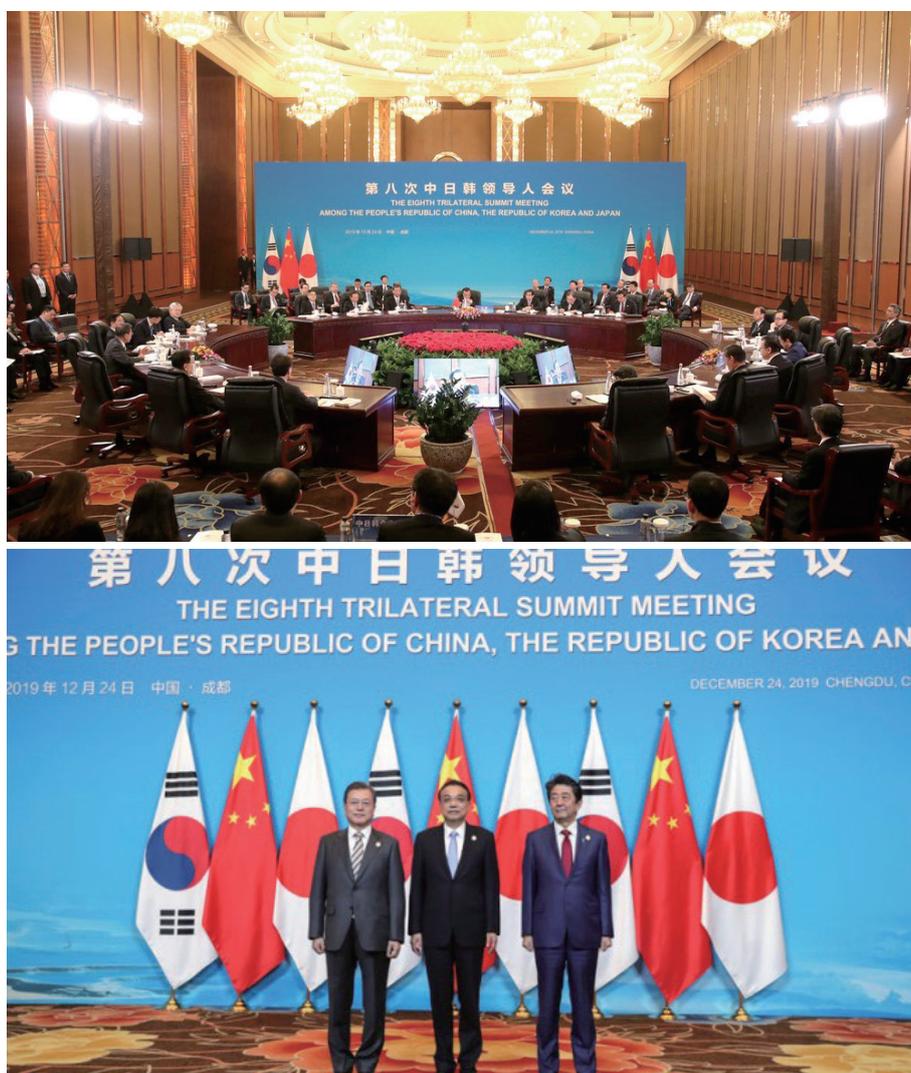
COOPERATION PROGRESS

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

01

Trilateral Summit

The 8th Trilateral Summit among China, the ROK, and Japan was held in Chengdu, China on December 24, 2019. The leaders discussed the progress of trilateral cooperation and regional and international issues, and adopted the “Trilateral Cooperation Vision for the Next Decade”, “Joint Declaration on Active and Healthy

8th Trilateral Summit

Aging Cooperation” and “Trilateral+X Cooperation Early Harvest Projects”. The leaders reaffirmed the importance and achievements of trilateral cooperation made over the past 20 years, and agreed to continue working together for the new decade. The leaders also acknowledged the achievements made by the TCS.

The leaders shared the views that they would expand the depth and width of trilateral cooperation. They will advance the ‘Trilateral+X’ cooperation by jointly making plans and taking collective actions to expand cooperation with other countries, help narrow regional development gaps and achieve common development. They agreed to continue their efforts to uphold the spirit of free trade and multilateralism, and discussed the importance of enhancing cooperation in the areas such as science, innovation, finance, transport and logistics, while speeding up the negotiations on the Trilateral Free Trade Agreement. In addition, highlighting the significance of people-to-people exchanges, the leaders decided to promote cooperation in the fields of culture, education, sports and tourism. The leaders stressed the importance of the international cooperation including dialogue and diplomacy for the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, reaffirming that maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula as well as in Northeast Asia is the common interest and responsibility of the three countries. They also reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, eradicating poverty and enhancing the cooperation in economic, social and environmental dimensions.

The 9th Trilateral Summit will be held in the ROK.

02

Politics and Security

Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting



9th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting

The 9th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in Beijing, China, on August 21, 2019. Foreign ministers of the three countries participated in the meeting and confirmed the significance of the trilateral cooperation. The ministers recalled the development of the trilateral cooperation over the past two decades and agreed that the three countries would work together to strengthen trilateral cooperation.

In particular, the ministers shared the views on the importance of strengthening practical cooperation that can provide more benefits to the people of the three countries. Recognizing that promoting peace and stability in Northeast Asia is a common responsibility among the three countries, the ministers also agreed to continue working together to achieve complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The ministers also spoke highly of the achievements of the TCS and the efforts by its leadership, assuring that they would continue to provide support for the TCS. The meeting adopted the “Concept Paper on ‘Trilateral+X’ Cooperation”.

The meeting was followed by a launching ceremony of the “Beautiful China-Japan-Korea” Picture Book and the Joint Press Conference where the ministers reiterated the significance of strengthening the trilateral cooperation in a future-oriented manner.

Disaster Management

The **6th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management** was held on December 5, 2019 in Seoul, the ROK. The meeting was chaired by Vice-Minister for Disaster and Safety Management of Ministry of the Interior and Safety of the ROK, and attended by State Minister for the Cabinet Office of Japan, and Vice-Minister of Ministry of Emergency Management of China.

The three sides reaffirmed the significance of the trilateral cooperation in disaster management, reviewed the outcomes of the previous meeting as well as each other’s policies for preventing major disasters in recent years, and also agreed to develop practical cooperation in areas such as the sharing of disaster prevention policies



6th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management

and the exchange of experience and expertise in the future. To commemorate the 10th anniversary of trilateral disaster management cooperation, the TCS published a booklet titled “10 Years of Development of Trilateral Disaster Management Cooperation 2009-2018” and distributed at the meeting. After the meeting, the three sides signed the “Trilateral Joint Statement on Disaster Management Cooperation”.

Nuclear Safety

The 12th **Top Regulators' Meeting (TRM) on Nuclear Safety** among Ministry of Ecology and Environment/National Nuclear Safety Administration (MEE/NNSA) of China, Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) of Japan, and Nuclear Safety and Security Commission (NSSC) of the ROK was held on November 28, 2019 in Beijing, China. The three sides presented the current status and progress of nuclear safety activities in each country, and reviewed the outcomes of working groups including Working Group on Human Resources Development (WGHRD) and Working Group on Emergency Preparedness and Response (WGEPR). They also reviewed the outcomes of Joint Emergency Drill (JED).



12th Top Regulators' Meeting (TRM) on Nuclear Safety

The 7th **Top Regulators' Meeting Plus (TRM+) on Nuclear Safety** was held on the following day. To strengthen technical communication on nuclear safety among the three countries, experts from the three countries shared experiences on the topics such as “Experience Feedback on Operation of Nuclear Power Plants” and “Adoption of IAEA Safety Principles and Guidelines”. The next TRM and TRM+ was agreed to be held in Japan in 2020.

The **6th Joint Emergency Drill (JED)** was conducted on the occasion of the on-site comprehensive emergency exercise at Taishan NPP in Guangdong province, China on November 26, 2019. The participants shared the experience by observing the emergency headquarter, fire brigade station, and fire extinguishing system. They also visited on-site emergency assembly point, mobilized diesel generator, and on-site emergency management center. The 7th JED would be held in the ROK in the latter half of 2020.

Cyber Affairs

The **4th Trilateral Cyber Policy Consultation** was held in Beijing on November 18, 2019. Coordinator for Cyber Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, Ambassador for International Security Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK, and Ambassador in charge of Cyber Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, as well as representatives from relevant ministries and agencies attended the consultation.

In this consultation, the three countries exchanged views on cyber issues of common concern.

Arctic Affairs

The **4th Trilateral High-Level Dialogue on the Arctic** was held in Busan, the ROK on 25-26 June 2019, Ambassador for Arctic Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK, Ambassador in charge of Arctic Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Special Representative for Arctic Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China attended the meeting.

The three parties shared their respective Arctic policies and recent activities in the international fora, and exchanged views on the future improvement of the Dialogue. A Trilateral Arctic Expert Group (TAEG) meeting was also held in connection with the Dialogue, and recent developments, activities and relevant Arctic issues were discussed. Potential areas of cooperation were presented respectively.

The **5th Trilateral High-Level Dialogue on the Arctic** will be held in Japan. The timing will be coordinated through diplomatic channels among the three countries.

Latin American and Caribbean Affairs

On January 17, 2019, the **12th Consultation on Latin American affairs** of China, Japan and the ROK was held in Tokyo. Director-General of the Department of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, Director-General of the Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Foreign

Trilateral Partnership Program

Affairs of the ROK and Director-General of the Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan participated in the consultation.

The three sides exchanged views on Latin American situation, respective policies towards Latin America as well as other topics.

The 12th China-Japan Consultation, the 15th Japan-ROK Consultation and the 16th China-ROK Consultation on Latin American affairs were respectively held on the same day.

The 7th **Trilateral Partnership Program** was held in Tokyo and Hiroshima in Japan on March 27-30, 2019. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan hosted the program by inviting working-level officials from various ministries of the three countries to enhance mutual understanding and exchange views on the significance of the trilateral cooperation. During the program, the participants paid visits to Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and the incumbent member of House of Councilors (former Deputy Secretary-General of the TCS), which was followed by group discussions among the participants on the important areas of trilateral cooperation, namely, economy, environment and people-to-people exchanges. The participants also took a train trip to Hiroshima on the following day to visit Peace Memorial Park and had a dialogue with a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bomb.

Through this 4-day program, participants shared the view that it is important to promote mutual friendship among neighboring countries, and agreed to continue



7th Trilateral Partnership Program

communication and cooperation in the future. The 8th Program will be followed in China, in 2020.

Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tanks (NTCT)

The 4th Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tanks (NTCT) National Focal Points Meeting & 2019 NTCT Conference was held in Tokyo, Japan on December 17, 2019. The event was co-hosted by Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR), Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) and the TCS.

At the 4th NTCT National Focal Points Meeting, the representatives discussed the contents of NTCT Memorandum which aims at providing policy recommendations regarding common interests among the three countries and exchanged views on the plan of NTCT in 2020. On the occasion of 20th anniversary of the trilateral cooperation, all representatives agreed to upgrade the current intellectual exchange and cooperation to bring more concrete outcomes to the people of the three countries.

At the 2019 NTCT Conference, scholars from the three countries exchanged views on future trilateral cooperation and interacted with the participants under the themes of “Prospects of Trilateral Cooperation in the Age of Power Transition” and “Prospects of Trilateral Cooperation in the Free and Open Global Economy”. The conference highlighted key issues including regional and global power transition and its effect on the trilateral cooperation and the pressing efforts to keep the right direction of the trilateral cooperation under the new era of challenges and uncertainties.



4th NTCT National Focal Points Meeting & 2019 NTCT Conference

03

Economy

Trilateral Business
Summit7th China-Korea-Japan Business Summit

The 7th **China-Korea-Japan Business Summit** was held in Chengdu, China on December 24, 2019. It was convened by China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), and Keidanren (Japan). The meeting invited renowned business representatives to provide insights into two main themes “Achieving Technology-led Cooperation and Innovation-driven Growth” and “Deepening Cooperation in the Environmental Sector and Fostering Industries around Healthy Aging”.

Economy and
Trade

The 12th **Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers’ Meeting** was held among Ministry of Commerce of China, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the ROK, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan in Beijing, China on December 22, 2019. The three ministers discussed topics related to regional and international cooperation such as RCEP and CJK FTA and pragmatic topics including digital economy, connectivity, energy, and aging society. The three ministers agreed to take cooperative action for the trilateral cooperation on e-commerce based on the Final Report of the **Trilateral Project “Joint Study for the Trilateral Cooperation on**



12th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting

E-Commerce” which was submitted to the three ministers by the TCS.

The 15th and 16th rounds of CJK FTA negotiations were respectively held in Tokyo, Japan on April 9-12, 2019, and in Seoul, the ROK on November 27-29, 2019. During the negotiations, the three parties had discussions on market access and rules such as e-commerce, and agreed to continue negotiations toward comprehensive, high-level, and mutually beneficial agreement with its own value, based on the progress of RCEP.

The 18th Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technology Exchange Conference was held in Jining, China on November 20-22, 2019, under the theme of “Promotion of Exchange between Regions” and “Creation of New Industries and New Markets through Innovation”. The conference brought together representatives from Ministry of Commerce of China (MOFCOM), Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the ROK (MOTIE), Kyushu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) Japan, as well as representatives from local governments, business associations and companies in China, Japan and the ROK.

Transport and Logistics

The 1st and 2nd Directorial Meeting for the 8th China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics among Ministry of Transport of China, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, and Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the ROK were held respectively in Tokyo, Japan on June 12-13, 2019 and in Seoul, the ROK on December 3-4, 2019. The three ministries discussed on the progress and future plan of the Action Plans.

Intellectual Property Rights

The **20th Northeast Asia Port Director-General Meeting** was held in Changwon, the ROK on November 7, 2019 to share the medium and long-term plan on port cooperation among the three countries. The **20th Northeast Asia Port Symposium** was held on November 8, 2019 with the theme of “Port Strategy to Prepare for International Environmental Regulations”, gathering approximately 200 participants from the three countries.

The **19th TRIPO Heads Meeting** among Japan Patent Office (JPO), Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), and China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) was held in Kobe, Japan, on December 4, 2019. The three commissioners introduced each country’s current IP development and had in-depth discussions on various topics for trilateral cooperation activities such as the fields of trials and appeals, designs, development of human resources, and trademarks. Towards the 20th anniversary of the mechanism in 2020 and in the face of rapid technological development, three parties shared a common view to further strengthen trilateral cooperation among the three offices.

The **7th TRIPO User Symposium** was held under the theme of “Latest trends in administrative and judicial protection system of IP”, back-to-back with the 19th TRIPO Heads Meeting.

The **Heads Meeting of IIPTI, INPIT, and CIPTC**, was held in the ROK on October 30, 2019. The three organizations shared the information on development of IP-related



19th TRIPO Heads Meeting

human resources such as examiner training system and trainings for enterprises.

The **10th China-Japan-Korea Design Forum** was held in Wuxi, China, in May 26, 2019. At the forum, representative from IP offices of China, Japan, and the ROK and experts from private sectors of the three countries exchanged the views on the design protection of home appliances.

The **1st TRIPO Trademark Experts Meetings and the 1st TRIPO Trademark User Symposium** were held in Beijing, China, on March 28-29, 2019. At the TRIPO Trademark Experts Meeting, CNIPA, JPO and KIPO exchanged views on the latest trends in the field of trademarks and similarity codes at each office. At the symposium, the three offices and users made presentations on the latest initiatives and experiences in trademark practices.

Customs

In 2019, three Customs administrations continued to promote their cooperation in the areas of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Customs Enforcement and Intelligence, Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) and Customs Procedures.

Finance

The **19th Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting** was held in Nadi, Fiji on May 2, 2019. The finance ministers and central bank governors from three countries exchanged views on global and regional economic developments and potential risks, discussed vision for the future of regional financial cooperation on its 20th anniversary, and agreed to further enhance communication and coordination among the three countries.

The **11th Tripartite Governors' Meeting** among People's Bank of China (PBC), Bank of Japan (BOJ), and Bank of the ROK (BOK) was held in Fukuoka, Japan on June 10, 2019. At the meeting, the three governors exchanged views on recent economic and financial developments in the three countries.

Science and Technology

The **4th Korea-Japan-China Science and Technology Ministerial Meeting** was held among Ministry of Science and ICT of the ROK, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, and Ministry of Science and Technology of China in Seoul, the ROK on December 26, 2019. The three ministers shared science and technology policies and exchanged opinions on the necessity to enhance research



4th Korea–Japan–China Science and Technology Ministerial Meeting

capabilities for strengthening cooperation in science, technology and innovation and addressing global issues of common interest.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

The 18th Northeast Asia Open Source Software (OSS) Forum was held in Seoul, the ROK on November 21, 2019 among National IT Industry Promotion Agency of the ROK, Korea OSS Promotion Forum, Japan OSS Promotion Forum and China OSS Promotion Union. The Forum was organized by Ministry of Science and ICT of the ROK (MSIT) and supported by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI) and Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China (MIIT). Participants shared outcomes of 4 working groups, “Technology Development & Assessment”, “Talents Education and Incentives”, “Study on Standardization & Certification” and “Application Promotion”.

Standardization

The 18th Northeast Asia Standards Cooperation (NEAS) Forum was held in Takamatsu, Japan on July 16-18, 2019, convening more than 100 participants representing from public and private standard organizations of the three countries, including Japanese Industrial Standards Committee, Korean Agency for Technology and Standards, and Standardization Administration of China. Participants shared information on each country’s standardization policies, presented ongoing cooperative items led by each country, and provided 20 new cooperative item proposals. CJK-SITE (China, Japan, Korea-Standards Cooperation on IT and Electronics) plenary meeting and working group meetings were held in parallel with the Forum.

Consumer Policy



8th Consultative Meeting on Consumer Policy

The 8th Consultative Meeting on Consumer Policy was held in Shanghai, China on December 12-13. The delegations from State Administration for Market Regulation of China (SAMR), Consumer Affairs Agency of Japan (CAA) and Korea Fair Trade Commission (KFTC) attended the meeting. The three parties shared laws, cases and mechanisms related to consumer policy, and agreed on further strengthening the cooperation of protecting consumers' rights in cross-border e-commerce area.

Audit

The 19th Meeting of the Heads of the Supreme Audit Institutions of China, Japan and Korea was held among National Audit Office of China, Board of Audit of Japan and Board of Audit and Inspection of the ROK in Moscow, Russia on September 26, 2019, for exchanging opinions and sharing information among the Heads of the three Supreme Audit Institutions.

The 15th Working Level Meeting of the Supreme Audit Institutions of China, Japan and Korea was held in Changsha, China on June 11-13, 2019. National Audit Office of China, Board of Audit of Japan, and Board of Audit and Inspection of the ROK attended. The three parties discussed topics on "Human Resources Management in Supreme Audit Institutions", and "Audit on Scientific and Technological Development Project/Policies".

04

Sustainable Development

Environmental Protection



21st Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM21)

The 21st **Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM21)** was held among Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Ministry of Environment of the ROK and Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China in Kitakyushu, Japan on November 23-24, 2019. The three ministers introduced the latest developments of national environmental policies and shared key strategic goals of their countries to address regional and global environmental challenges. The ministers also discussed new priority areas under the “Tripartite Joint Action Plans (TJAP) 2020-2024”.

As side events of the Ministers' Meeting, the **Tripartite Roundtable on Environmental Business**, and the **Youth Forum** were held among business and youth representatives from the three countries.

1) Air Quality Improvement

The 6th **Tripartite Dialogue on Air Pollution (TPDAP)** was held in Tokyo, Japan on February 21-22, 2019 and policy developments of each country were shared. **Working Group I & II on Air Pollution** were held back to back with the 6th TPDAP.

The “Air Quality Policy Report” by the TPDAP that includes air management policy

and achievements of the three countries was reported at TEMM21.

The 14th **Dust and Sandstorms (DSS) Director-General Meeting** and the 13th **DSS Steering Committee Meeting** were held in Kitakyushu, Japan in October, 2019. The 12th **Working Group I Meeting** was held in Busan, the ROK in September 2019 and the 12th **Working Group II Meeting** was held in Xining, China in December 2019.

2) Biodiversity

The 6th **Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity (TPDBD)** was held in Kunming, China in April 2019. The three countries exchanged information regarding the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the management of invasive species.

3) Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response

The 13th **Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemical Management (TPDCM)** was held in Fukuoka, Japan on October 28-30, 2019. The 13th **Tripartite Expert Seminar on Chemical Management (TESCM)** was held back to back.

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

The 13th **Sound Material-Cycle Society/ Circular Economy/ 3R and Transboundary Movement of E-waste Seminar** was held in Beijing, China in December 2019. The latest trends of 3R policies for plastic litters were introduced by the three countries.

5) Climate Change Response

Under the Joint Research Project on Cities towards Decarbonization and Sustainable Development, the 1st **Technical Meeting** was held in Beijing, China in May 2019 and the 2nd **Joint Research Project Workshop** was held in Yokohama, Japan in July-August 2019.

6) Conservation of Water and Marine Environment

The 5th **TEMM-NOWPAP Joint Workshop** and the annual **Marine Litter Focal Point Meeting** were held in Dalian, China on September 24-26, 2019. The participants discussed ways to improve waste management to reduce waste leakage into the marine environment. The 2nd **expert group meeting of the NOWPAP special project** was held back to back.

7) Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Corporate Social Responsibility

The 20th **Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN)** symposium and workshop was held in Hangzhou, China in October 2019. The 19th **Environmental Training for Officials** was held in Kitakyushu, Japan on September 16-20, 2019. The **TEMM21 Youth Forum** was held back to back with the TEMM21 in Kitakyushu, Japan in November 2019.

The 2nd **Trilateral Environmental Teacher's Exchange Program** was held in Tokyo, Japan on August 26-29, 2019. Through hands-on activities, site visits and dialogues, participants discussed ways to improve environmental education in each country.

8) Transition to Green Economy

The 3rd **Tripartite Environmental Industry & Technology Joint Exhibition and Tripartite Environmental Industry & Technology Forum** was held in Tokyo, Japan on December 5-7, 2019.

Agriculture and Fisheries

The 14th **Forum for Agricultural Policy Research in Northeast Asia** was held in Qingdao, China on September 19, 2019. The Forum was co-hosted by Institute of Agricultural Economics and Development of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (IAED/CAAS), Japan Policy Research Institute of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (PRIMAFF), and Korea Rural Economic Institute (KREI). The Forum was themed "Rural Revitalization" and consisted of two sessions in the format of experts' presentations and ensuing discussions: 1) Rural industry revitalization and development model, and 2) Implementation of rural revitalization of the support policy and future direction.

The **China-Japan-Korea Nongovernmental Fisheries Agreement Meeting** was held in Hakodate, Japan on October 23, 2019. The meeting was co-hosted by the Chinese Fishery Association, Japan's Fisheries Association and Korea's Fisheries Association. The three parties shared the progress on maintaining maritime operations order during 2017-2018. Reports were made on measures to conserve fishery resources and the three parties agreed to promote person to person communication and cooperation in fisheries.

The 11th **NIFS-CAFS-FRA Presidential Meeting** was held among National Institute of Fisheries Science of the ROK (NIFS), Chinese Academy of Fishery Science

(CAFS), and Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA) in Busan, the ROK on November 20-22, 2019. The three heads discussed the progress on trilateral cooperative projects in 2019 and future cooperation on joint research on culturing technology, ocean environment and fishery resources and sustainability. The seminar on fisheries disease and its management was held back to back with the meeting.

The **16th China-Japan-Korea International Jellyfish Workshop** was held among NIFS, CAFS and FRA in Busan, the ROK on December 3-5, 2019. Experts from the three countries reviewed the jellyfish studies which were conducted in 2019 and shared results of nemopilema nomurai monitoring and eco-physiological studies.

05

Social and Cultural Exchanges

Culture



11th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting

The 11th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting was held in Incheon, the ROK on August 30, 2019. At the meeting, the three ministers reviewed and shared the recognition that this meeting had played an important role in promoting the cultural understanding and cooperation of three countries based on the spirit of mutual respect and consideration, and promoting the understanding of cultures of each country and signed the "Incheon Declaration". At the announcement ceremony of the Culture City of East Asia (CCEA) in conjunction with the signing ceremony of the agreement, the three ministers announced the designation of China's Yangzhou, Japan's Kitakyushu and the ROK's Suncheon as CCEA 2020. In the "Incheon Declaration", the three countries committed to working together for the following decade on subjects such as youth exchanges, climate change, aging societies and the fourth industrial revolution. Also pledged in the trilateral declaration were joint cultural programs on the sidelines of the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo and the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, as well as closer cooperation in cultural content creation, copyright protection and preservation of heritage assets.

The 12th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum was held in Busan, the ROK on November 14-15, 2019. The forum was chaired by Ministry of Culture, Sports and

Tourism of the ROK, participated by Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan. The forum convened public and private sectors concerning the cultural content industry in the three countries, as a platform to share the recent trend and direction of the industry, as well as for the participants to network. During the forum, a Joint Declaration was signed by the representatives of the three countries' governments for continuous cooperation, and a MOU was signed by representatives of the three countries' eSports industries.



12th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum

The launch ceremony for the **ASEAN plus China, Japan and ROK Culture Cities Network** was held in Yangzhou, China, on October 25, 2019. About 200 participants attended the event, including representatives of the Culture Cities of East Asia (CCEA) from China, Japan and the ROK, and cultural officials of the ASEAN Cities of Culture from ASEAN countries, as well as diplomats from these countries' embassies in China. The launching ceremony coincided with the Mayors' Forum of the CCEA cities and ASEAN countries, which concluded with the announcement of the ASEAN Plus China, Japan and ROK Culture Cities Yangzhou Initiative. They all agreed to 1) strengthen mutual understanding and trust, and 2) promote cultural exchanges and cooperation, 3) encourage tourism industry cooperation, and 4) boost youth exchange.

Tourism

The **9th Trilateral Tourism Ministers' Meeting** was held in Incheon, the ROK on August 30, 2019. The meeting was hosted by Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the ROK with the participation of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

9th Trilateral Tourism Ministers' Meeting

of Japan and Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China. The three tourism ministers discussed ways to expand and strengthen tourism cooperation among the three countries based on the common ideas agreed upon through the past eight meetings.

After the meeting, the ministers signed the “Joint Statement of the 9th Trilateral Tourism Ministers’ Meeting” and agreed on the visions of tourism cooperation among the three countries to promote peace in Northeast Asia, to realize inclusive growth, and to lead the future of Northeast Asia. In addition, various programs including the Regional Tourism Linking Festival and the Trilateral Tourism Future Generation Forum were held as side events that provided a platform for exchanges between travel agents, local government officials and students of the three countries.

Health

The 12th Tripartite Health Ministers’ Meeting was held in Seoul, the ROK on December 14-15, 2019. The three ministers discussed three main agendas including 1) achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through Information and Communication Technology (ICT), 2) infectious disease preparedness and response, and 3) active and healthy aging. The meeting adopted the “Joint Statement of the Twelfth Tripartite Health Ministers’ Meeting” and renewed “Joint Action Plan on Preparedness and Response against Pandemic Influenza and Emerging/Re-emerging Infectious Diseases of Common Concern”. The three ministers also agreed to submit the “Joint Declaration on Active and Healthy Ageing Cooperation” to the 8th Trilateral Summit. In addition, the delegations paid a visit to National Health Insurance Service (NHIS) of the ROK in Wonju and had vigorous exchanges on the utilization of ICT



12th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting

in national health insurance system, and shared common concerns and relevant countermeasures.

The 13th China-Korea-Japan Forum on Communicable Disease Control and Prevention & the Second Symposium on Collaborative Research of Infectious Diseases - Tropical Disease Control and Prevention were held in Shanghai, China from November 19 to 21, 2019. Delegates from each country presented control and prevention measures taken in their countries to deal with tropical disease, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), vector-borne diseases, and possible pandemic influenza. Together with Director-Generals of Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), Korean Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) and National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) of Japan, the participants also discussed how to cooperate each other in this regard. Since experts from the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar also attended the meeting, the ways to strengthen the regional cooperation for capacity building in disease control and prevention were additionally discussed.

Sports

The 27th Trilateral Junior Sports Exchange Meet was held from August 23 to 29, 2019 in Changsha, Hunan Province, China. Athletes from China (including Changsha City), Japan and the ROK participated in the event. The athletes from the three countries engaged in joint training and friendly matches in 10 sports (track and field, soccer, tennis, volleyball, basketball, handball, soft tennis, table tennis, badminton, and rugby). The athletes participated in various cultural tour events as well, to promote mutual understanding.

Education

The 7th **CJK Committee for Promoting Exchange and Cooperation among Universities** was held from September 4 to 5, 2019 in Tokyo, Japan. The meeting was attended by committee members from the education ministries, national higher education quality assurance organizations, CAMPUS Asia university representatives and the private sector. Represented organizations include Ministry of Education of China, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, Ministry of Education of the ROK, China Higher Education Evaluation Center, Japan National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), and Korean Council for University Education. The committee members discussed the expansion “Scheme of CAMPUS Asia in the Mode 3” and the results from joint monitoring of CAMPUS Asia.

The 16th **China-Japan-ROK Children’s Story Exchange (CSE)** was held in Beijing, China, on August 17-23, 2019 under the theme “Garden” and the TCS served as the co-organizer responsible for the alumni program for the third year since 2017. The TCS program developed for the alumni included site visits to the Great Wall and the Botanical Exposition, hands-on activities using paper fans, and CSE alumni remembrance storybook making activity.

The 2nd **CAMPUS Asia Alumni Workshop** was held in Seoul, the ROK on December 14, 2019. Approximately 50 young professionals and students who graduated from or are enrolled in CAMPUS Asia Program attended the event. The workshop was co-hosted by University of Tokyo GraSPP (Graduate School of Public Policy) CAMPUS Asia Office. Workshop participants from Seoul National University Graduate School of International Studies, Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Renmin University of China, and Peking University School of International Studies engaged in discussions and mentoring activities.

Youth

The **Trilateral Youth Summit 2019** was held from August 4 to 8 in Tokyo and Nagano, Japan. The program was co-hosted by the TCS and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



Trilateral Youth Summit 2019

(MOFA Japan) and organized by Japan Overseas Cooperative Association (JOCA). The theme of 2019's program was, "20th Anniversary of Trilateral Cooperation: Seeking the Possibilities of the East Asian Region – Rejuvenating Society". 30 student delegates (10 from each country) were selected to participate in the program. The students conducted group discussions, followed by a presentation on the last day. The delegation leaders signed a Joint Statement during the final presentations.

Personnel Management

The **8th Heads of Personnel Authorities Meeting among China, Japan and Korea** was held on September 5, 2019 in Sapporo, Japan. The meeting was chaired by President of National Personnel Authority of Japan (NPA) and attended by Chief of National Civil Service Administration of China (NCSA), and Minister of the Ministry of Personnel Management (MPM) of Korea.

The **9th Director-General Level Meeting** was held on June 4, 2019 in Seoul, the ROK. Director-General level officials from National Civil Service Administration (NCSA) of China, National Personnel Authority (NPA) of Japan and Ministry of Personnel Management (MPM) of Korea adopted the "9th Cooperation Plan".



8th Heads of Personnel Authorities Meeting

The **12th Symposium on Personnel Administration of China-Japan-Korea** was held on November 6, 2019 in Guangzhou, China. The forum convened experts from National Civil Service Administration (NCSA) of China, National Personnel Authority (NPA) of Japan, and Ministry of Personnel Management (MPM) of Korea

to deliver presentations under specific themes and discuss the contents after the presentations. The main theme of the 12th Symposium was “Recruitment Systems in Three Countries”, and the sub-themes were “How to make the civil service recruitment fair”, and “How to make civil service recruitment scientific”.

The 12th Joint Training Program for Young/Middle-level Public Employees among the Three Personnel Authorities was held in Daejeon and Seoul, the ROK from December 3-5, 2019. Young and middle-level staff from National Civil Service Administration (NCSA) of China, National Personnel Authority (NPA) of Japan and Ministry of Personnel Management (MPM) of Korea convened and discussed each administration’s concerns and challenges.

Local Government Exchanges

The 21st Trilateral Local Government Exchange Conference was held in Ehime, Japan from October 28 to 31, 2019. Under the theme of “Creating Attraction by Utilizing Regional Resources of Northeast Asian Local Governments”, this year’s conference consisted of an Opening Session, Keynote Speech, and three Sub-sessions that each touched upon the topics of hands-on tourism, SDGs, and aging society. Over 480 representatives of the three countries’ local governments and relevant organizations attended the event, shared best practices and exchanged cooperative ideas on various topics. Promotional booths and “Exchange Square” for CJK local governments were also held as side events.



21st Trilateral Local Government Exchange Conference

In the year of 2019, the TCS spared no effort to facilitate the trilateral cooperation mechanisms and exchanges in various areas. At the 8th Trilateral Summit, the leaders of the three countries acknowledged the achievements made by the TCS and supported its continuous capacity-building.

In this year, the TCS was invited to and supported the 8th Trilateral Summit, 9th Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 6th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management, 12th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting, 19th TRIPO Heads Meeting, 4th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology, 21st Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM21), 9th Trilateral Tourism Ministers' Meeting, 11th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting, 12th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting, 8th Heads of Personnel Authorities Meeting and working-level inter-governmental consultations. Moreover, the TCS Secretary-General MICHIGAMI Hisashi attended the 22nd ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Bangkok, Thailand.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the trilateral cooperation, the **2019 International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC)** was hosted by the TCS on May 10 in Beijing, under the theme of “Trilateral Cooperation 3.0 – Charting New Pathways to Shared Vision”. This forum revisited the meaning and outcome of the trilateral cooperation in the past two decades through 3 sub-sessions of “Reshaping Vision for Trilateral Cooperation: Strengthening Interconnectivity for Future-oriented Partnership”, “New Model for Trilateral Economic Cooperation - Shaping Trilateral Common Modality” and “Creating Synergy between Culture, Sports, and Tourism”. The forum gathered high-profile government officials, renowned scholars, journalists and diplomatic community, and attracted more than 300 participants from the three countries.

The TCS organized the **Public Seminar of Trilateral Disaster Risk Reduction and Relief Cooperation** on June 19, 2019 in Seoul, the ROK. The seminar was supported by Ministry of Emergency Management of China, Cabinet Office of Japan and Ministry of the Interior and Safety of the ROK. Following the agreement at the 5th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management, the Seminar brought together representatives from the governments, NGOs and education and training

institutes on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and relief located in China, Japan and the ROK to strengthen capacity building by introducing their experiences and efforts. The seminar served as the platform for sharing challenges, good practices and exchanging views on possible cooperation among different levels of stakeholders engaged in the field in the three countries. It was also open to the public to raise public awareness of the importance of DRR and relief cooperation among the three countries.

The TCS and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Office for Northeast Asia and Global Education and Training Institute (UNDRR ONEA-GETI) co-organized the **Northeast Asia Forum on Capacity Development of Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** on December 16-17, 2019 in Incheon, the ROK. The forum was implemented as part of the collaboration among the designated education and training institutes based in the three countries, namely UNDRR ONEA-GETI, National Disaster Reduction Center of China (NDRCC), and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) of Japan under the mechanism of the Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management. The forum shared the three institutes' approaches for capacity development on the theme of technology for DRR. The representatives of Indonesia, the Philippines and Mongolia also shared what the major gaps are and needs for capacity development on technology for DRR.

The TCS hosted the **Crested Ibis International Forum 2019** in Seoul, the ROK on July 11, 2019, supported by the three local governments of Changnyeong County of the ROK, Sado City of Japan and Hanzhong City of China. Under the main theme of "New Journey, New Heights - Towards Sustainable Trilateral Cooperation on Crested Ibis", the forum brought together more than 200 participants including officials of central and local governments from the three countries, diplomatic corps, experts, and students, etc. At the forum, Changnyeong County of the ROK, Sado City of Japan, Hanzhong City of China and the TCS signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on promoting crested ibis related cooperation. Elementary school students from the three countries also provided a joint performance of Korean Crested Ibis Song.

The TCS organized the **2019 Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum** on July 22, 2019 in Seoul, the ROK, under the theme of the "4th Industrial Revolution and the Future of CJK Innovative Entrepreneurs". The forum invited young innovative entrepreneurs re-shaping the rapidly changing world through specialized technologies such as automated investment management, smart manufacturing service solution, big data-based information platform, and mobility platform. The speakers shared their business experience, future direction of CJK business environment to adapt to the

upcoming era of the 4th industrial revolution and shared their insights and tips for the future CJK innovative entrepreneurs.

The TCS organized the **2019 Young Ambassador Program (YAP)** from August 9 to 17 in Seoul and Jeju, the ROK. To enhance the public understanding of trilateral cooperation and to foster a sense of community and friendship among the young generation of the three countries, the YAP was joined by 19 highly qualified undergraduate and graduate students from the three countries. The participants were engaged in dialogues with the diplomats of China, Japan and the ROK, and paid visits to the EU Delegation to the ROK and the UNESCAP-ENEA.

The TCS, Research Center for Korean Youth Culture and Soorim Cultural Foundation co-hosted the **13th Asia International Youth Film Festival (AIYFF)** from October 25 to 28 in Seoul, the ROK. With the theme of “Communication”, the young film directors from China, Japan and Korea shared their cultures and ideas through films and 24 finalists displayed their award-winning works at the festival. The TCS also hosted the **East Asia Youth Film Forum** on October 26 during the Film Festival. Around 70 students, professors and film directors shared their views and ideas about film cultures of the three countries.

Part III

CONCLUSION

The year of 2019 witnessed the thriving development of the trilateral cooperation in various areas among China, Japan and the ROK. Although the three countries still faced bilateral difficulties and regional and global challenges in the year, the aspirations and efforts for the better trilateral cooperation never faded.

With the successful 8th Trilateral Summit, great momentum was gathered to the future trilateral cooperation. The three countries will keep enhancing the pragmatic cooperation and bring more benefits not only to the people of the three countries but also to the peace and prosperity of the region and world. The unstable and uncertain situation in the world needs the three countries' stable cooperation and collective efforts.

Under the guidance of the three countries, the TCS will also keep facilitating the multi-level inter-governmental and non-governmental mechanisms and enhancing its capacity-building to better promote the public understanding of and support towards the trilateral cooperation among China, Japan and the ROK.

ANNEXES

1. Trilateral Cooperation Vision for the Next Decade
2. Concept Paper on 'Trilateral+X' Cooperation
3. 19th Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting Joint Message
4. Memorandum of Cooperation on Public Personnel Administration
5. Joint Communiqué of the 21st Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Japan, Korea and China
6. Trilateral Joint Statement on Disaster Management Cooperation
7. Joint Statement of the Twelfth Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting (THMM)
8. Joint Media Statement of the 12th China-Korea-Japan Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting
9. List of Trilateral Ministerial Meetings in 2019

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of China-ROK-Japan Cooperation, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Keqiang, President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in and Prime Minister of Japan Abe Shinzo held the Eighth Trilateral Summit on 24 December 2019, in Chengdu, China, to review the course of trilateral cooperation and look ahead to a brighter future.

We recalled that two decades ago, visionary leaders of China, the ROK and Japan launched the trilateral cooperation in the wake of the Asian financial crisis. Over the past 20 years, the three countries have constantly enhanced mutual trust, deepened cooperation, and pursued common development. We have established 21 ministerial meetings and more than 70 dialogue mechanisms, which have combined to serve as a main platform for discussions on greater cooperation among the three countries. We have also established the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat in 2011 with the aim to further promote trilateral cooperation. Trade volume among the three countries increased from US\$130 billion in 1999 to more than US\$720 billion in 2018. The combined GDP of the three countries as a percentage of the global total rose from 17% to 24%. Trilateral cooperation has played an important role in promoting regional and global economic growth as well as driving regional integration process.

We shared the view that the next decade will witness profound changes in the international community, the emergence of new global growth drivers and rapid advance of the scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation. The interests and future of all countries are more intertwined than ever before. It is increasingly important for us, as important countries responsible for peace and stability in Asia, to enhance trilateral cooperation and work together with other countries to make active and due contributions to a wide range of issues facing the region and the international community. Stronger trilateral cooperation serves the common interests of our countries and peoples, and will contribute significantly to the peace and development of the region and world. We reaffirmed that sound bilateral ties are an important foundation for the trilateral cooperation, and that the deepening of trilateral cooperation, in turn, contributes to each bilateral relationship. Reaffirming that the three countries share everlasting history and infinite future, we will continue to cooperate according to the common recognition reached at the

2018 Trilateral Summit. We should plan the trilateral cooperation from a long-term and strategic perspective and work to develop a future-oriented cooperation model featuring peace, friendship and mutual benefit to make the trilateral cooperation a platform for peace, stability and regional cooperation and an important force for world development and prosperity. We will keep our joint efforts to further enhance regional dialogue and trust, including holding academic discussions under framework of Trilateral Cooperation with participations from other relevant partners.

With this in mind, we jointly decided to:

- 1** Work together to improve trilateral cooperation. We concur on the significance of holding the Trilateral Summit and the Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting on a regular basis to promote the healthy and stable development of trilateral cooperation. We will make joint efforts to create positive atmosphere for regularizing those meetings. We acknowledge the achievements made by the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) and support the continuous capacity-building of the TCS. We share the view that the Trilateral Cooperation Fund can provide support for projects aiming to promote trilateral cooperation.
 - 2** Maintain durable peace and security. We will enhance communication on strategic issues and political mutual trust, in the spirit of mutual respect, manage differences properly and develop long-term relations of peace and friendship. We are committed to the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. We reaffirm that maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula as well as in Northeast Asia is our common interest and responsibility. In this regard, we recall the Joint Statement on the '2018 Inter-Korean Summit' by the Leaders of Japan, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea. Endeavoring to achieve peace, security and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, we stress that it is only the international cooperation including dialogue and diplomacy on and the comprehensive resolution of concerns of the parties, in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, that can achieve the complete denuclearization and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. The leaders of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea hope that the abductions issue between Japan and the DPRK will be resolved through dialogue as soon as possible.
 - 3** Advocate open and win-win cooperation. Regarding each other's development as opportunities, we will synergize our development strategies and raise our cooperation to higher levels. To this end, the three countries will strive to realize
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a free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment and to keep our markets open. We reaffirm our support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization to improve its functions.

Understanding the crucial role of a rules-based multilateral trading system, we uphold the spirit of free trade and multilateralism and will work together to enforce existing international rules and to ensure a level playing field to foster an enabling business environment. We reaffirm our commitment described in the Joint Leaders' Statement on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership released in 2019. Building upon the RCEP negotiations, we will speed up the negotiations on the Trilateral Free Trade Agreement, aiming to realize a comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial Trilateral Free Trade Agreement with its own value.

We encourage more trilateral cooperation among local governments as well as enterprises through existing mechanisms. We will explore new areas and models of cooperation, and work together to promote economic globalization and free trade, to bring greater stability and certainty to the global economy.

Welcoming the successful holding and outcomes of G20 summits including the Osaka summit, the three countries will continue to enhance cooperation and show leadership under the frame of G20.

- 4 Lead the way in the scientific and technological revolution. We will advance science and innovation cooperation to address common regional and global issues through existing mechanisms. We will encourage cooperation on digital economy and telecommunication. We will continue a high degree of communication and coordination among the three countries to cope with possible financial instability. We will enhance the regional financial cooperation including by strengthening the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) and the capacity of ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO).
 - 5 Enhance regional connectivity and infrastructure cooperation including transport and logistics areas. Infrastructure is a driver of economic growth and prosperity. We stress the importance of maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development, as well as the importance of economic, social, financial, fiscal and environmental sustainability of projects, and reaffirm the need to promote sustainable, high quality infrastructure in line with broadly accepted international principles, to facilitate trade, investment and service competitiveness in the region.
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6 Reaffirm our commitment to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We stress that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We will further enhance our cooperation in economic, social and environmental dimensions. We underline the significance of cooperation in circular economy and resource efficiency, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and arctic. We will continue to support and promote the joint efforts to tackle issues of common interest including marine plastic litter, air pollution, biodiversity loss, invasive alien species management, and trans-boundary animal diseases. We will promote healthy and active ageing through comprehensive policy measures. We will also continuously strengthen cooperation in disaster risk reduction in line with the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030” and universal health coverage supported by robust financing in a sustainable manner. We recognize the urgent need to address climate change by taking feasible and concrete actions. We reiterate our strong commitment to fully implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Paris Agreement.

7 Promote mutual learning in the fields of culture and people-to-people exchange.

We will carry forward East Asia's cultural traditions, and foster East Asian win-win cooperation. Taking the historical moment of the Olympic and Paralympic Games held successively in the three countries, we will promote further the spirit of friendship and collaboration by enhancing sports cooperation. Through diverse cultural and educational exchange activities for people-to-people engagement, we will continue to enhance understanding and trust among our peoples, and lay a stable, healthy and friendly social foundation for the trilateral cooperation. We will actively promote tourism exchange and deepen the mutual trust among our peoples.

8 Achieve overall revitalization and common development. We will expand the depth

and width of the trilateral cooperation, fully harness each other's comparative advantages, and extend the benefits of the trilateral cooperation to other countries and regions. We will advance the “Trilateral+X” cooperation, by jointly making plans and taking collective actions to expand cooperation with other countries, help narrow regional development gaps and achieve common development.

I. Background

China, the Republic of Korea and Japan, have advanced cooperation in a wide range of areas including political, economic, social affairs and sustainable development since the leaders of the three countries first gathered on the margin of ASEAN related Summit Meetings in Manila in 1999. At the 7th Trilateral Summit Meeting in May 2018, the three leaders renewed their commitment to making further efforts towards deepening and broadening cooperation in the region. In this regard, they shared the intention to explore “Trilateral+X” cooperation modality for sustainable regional development.

Given the large number of developing countries in Asia and the acute problem of uneven and inadequate development Asia faces, it is imperative to explore new areas and models to improve trilateral cooperation, building upon the positive development so far achieved as confirmed at the 7th Trilateral Summit Meeting. The “Trilateral+X” modality is worth exploring particularly in those fields where the three countries possess many successful experiences and know-how to share with other countries.

II. Goal

Building mutual understanding among the three countries, promoting trilateral cooperation, and harnessing mutual complementarity in a joint effort to promote sustainable common development in the region and beyond.

III. Principles

- i. Voluntary. Cooperation programs will be demand-based from recipient partner countries and implemented through full communication on a voluntary basis.
- ii. Equal-footed. Models of cooperation will be jointly decided among the three countries and recipient countries for shared benefits.
- iii. Open. Cooperation will be open to other countries and regions beyond the three countries and to new areas and models.

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- iv. Win-win. Cooperation will be conducted through joint participation for mutual benefit, common development, and win-win outcomes.
 - v. Transparent. Cooperation will be conducted in a transparent manner for the people in the three countries and beyond.
 - vi. Sustainable. Cooperation programs will be sustainable with due considerations for the environment and economic efficiency.

IV. Major cooperation areas

- i. Sustainable Economy.
Building on their respective economic advantages, the three countries may explore ways to promote common development in the region and beyond.
 - ii. Ecological and Environmental Conservation.
The three countries have conducted close and effective cooperation in the field of environment, and will continue to play an important role in promoting regional and international cooperation on environment including marine plastic litter, biodiversity, air pollution and climate change.
 - iii. Disaster Risk Reduction.
As disaster-prone countries, the three countries have rich experiences and advanced technologies in disaster risk reduction. They may explore ways to help regional countries to improve disaster prevention, reduction and relief capability as well as to increase public education and awareness about disaster risk reduction.
 - iv. Health.
Through extensive, practical exchanges, the three countries have laid a solid foundation for cooperation on infectious diseases and aging. Building on existing cooperation, they may explore cooperation with other countries in this field.
 - v. Poverty Alleviation.
The three countries have been active in sharing their poverty alleviation experiences with regional countries as reflected in China's "East Asia Poverty Alleviation Initiative", Japan's poverty reduction cooperation through micro-finance and the ROK's "3P's (People, Peace and Prosperity) policy" based on actual needs of partner countries, and they may explore cooperation with other countries in this field.
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vi. People-to-People Exchange.

The governments of the three countries and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat have been hosting varieties of people-to-people, cultural and educational exchange programs in order to deepen mutual understanding and trust among the peoples. Building upon those experiences, they may explore cooperation with other countries.

vii. Other Areas.

The three countries share the intention to explore the “Trilateral+X” modality in other areas as appropriate.

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V. Implementation Approach

Models and projects of cooperation will be explored and decided by the line agencies of the three countries in coordination with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs through dialogue and consultation. If necessary, joint workshops, personnel exchanges and training could be held.

The Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) will also play a role, as appropriate, in exploring and conducting “Trilateral+X” cooperation projects in the future.

VI. Timeline

- i. Distributing the Concept Paper to interested countries at an appropriate timing.
 - ii. Working towards identifying the early harvest projects at the 8th Trilateral Summit.
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19th Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting Joint Message

- 1** We, Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of China, Japan and Korea, held the 19th trilateral meeting in Nadi, Fiji, under the chairmanship of H.E. Liu Kun, Minister of Finance of China, and exchanged views on the latest developments in global economy and regional financial cooperation.
 - 2** We discussed recent global and regional economic developments and potential risk factors in financial markets and underlying economic conditions. We recognize that the ASEAN+3 region continues to be a key driver of global economic growth and expect the ASEAN+3 region to remain steadfast, despite a more challenging global environment with trade frictions, softer external demand and tighter global financial conditions. We will remain vigilant against the downside risks, and reaffirm our commitment to resisting all forms of protectionism, upholding an open and rule-based multilateral trade and investment system, and accelerating intra-regional trade and investment activities. We agreed to further enhance communication and coordination among China, Japan and Korea to contribute to strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.
 - 3** At the juncture of the 20th anniversary of the ASEAN+3 Finance Process this year, we discussed our vision for the future regional financial cooperation, and agreed to work together in the strategic directions of maintaining financial stability, fostering economic growth and promoting integration towards a more resilient, inclusive and integrated ASEAN+3 region. We will also work with all ASEAN+3 members to further improve procedures and institutional arrangements to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the ASEAN+3 Finance Process to better cope with future challenges.
 - 4** We welcome the successful conclusion of the first CMIM Periodic Review and expect the early entry-into-force of the amended CMIM Agreement. We acknowledge the progress made in updating the CMIM Operational Guidelines (OGs), developing the CMIM conditionality framework and conducting further test runs to enhance the operational readiness of the CMIM. We welcome the “General Guidance on Local Currency Contribution to the CMIM” and will continue to explore the future direction of the CMIM.
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- 5 We commend AMRO's continuous efforts in enhancing regional macroeconomic surveillance, supporting the implementation of the CMIM and providing technical assistance to ASEAN+3 members, which greatly contribute to the regional economic and financial stability. We extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Junhong Chang, Director of AMRO, for her dedication to the advancement of AMRO towards a premier international organization over the past three years. We will continue to support the incoming Director, Mr. Toshinori Doi, to lead AMRO to greater heights.
 - 6 We support the new ABMI Mid-term Road Map 2019-2022 to further promote the development of local currency bond markets and foster regional financial integration. We welcome the concrete progress of the capital increase of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) and its efforts in exploring the innovative proposal of Infrastructure Investors Partnership (IIP). We are also pleased with the steady progress under the ASEAN+3 Bond Market Forum (ABMF) and the Cross-Border Settlement Infrastructure Forum (CSIF).
 - 7 We welcome the participation of Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Singapore in the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF). We also welcome the progress toward operationalizing the catastrophe risk insurance pool for Lao PDR and Myanmar this year and the initiation of preparatory work to expand coverage to other ASEAN member countries.
 - 8 We appreciate China and Thailand's leadership as the Co-chairs of ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in 2019. In addition, we agree to support Japan and Vietnam to chair the 23rd ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting in 2020.
 - 9 We believe that the Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting will continue to serve as an effective platform for enhanced policy dialogue and coordination, and decided to meet again in Incheon, Korea in 2020.
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Memorandum of Cooperation on Public Personnel Administration

The National Civil Service Administration of the People's Republic of China, the National Personnel Authority of Japan, and the Ministry of Personnel Management of the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as "the Participants"),

Acknowledging the significance of the cooperation among the three countries: China, Japan, and Korea in the area of public personnel administration to bring common prosperity in Northeast Asia for the Twenty-First Century in consideration of their geographic proximity and similarity in traditional culture;

Seeking to strengthen the cooperation among the three countries by developing cooperative relationships in the area of public personnel administration under the principle of equity, mutual benefit and reciprocity.

Share the view as follows:

Paragraph 1 Objective

The Participants will make necessary efforts to cooperate in the area of public personnel administration and human capital management and its development.

Paragraph 2 Framework of Cooperation

The Participants will hold meetings of the Heads of the Participants and Director-General level meetings to discuss and decide on the cooperation plans. The Director-General level meetings will be held on a regular basis. The meetings of the Heads of the Participants will be held on a non-regular basis to address the major policy recommendations discussed previously at the Director-General level meetings.

Paragraph 3 Scope of Cooperation

The Participants will cooperate in the following areas:

1. Planning and implementing of improvements on public personnel administration systems;
 2. Public policy on human capital management;
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3. Training and education of civil servants; and
4. Other areas as decided by the Participants.

Paragraph 4 Methods of Cooperation

The Participants will conduct cooperation activities, which may include:

1. Public personnel exchange among the three countries, including trilateral and bilateral training programs and courses;
2. Seminars and joint research with the aim of information exchange concerning personnel policies; and
3. Other cooperation activities as decided by the Participants.

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Paragraph 5 Expenses

The Participants will assume respective costs for activities pursuant to this Memorandum of Cooperation unless otherwise decided by the Participants. This Memorandum of Cooperation will be implemented subject to the respective budgetary appropriation.

Paragraph 6 Status

This Memorandum of Cooperation will commence on the date of its signature and will continue for three years. Any modifications to this Memorandum of Cooperation will be made with the written consent of the Participants. In the event of discontinuation of this Memorandum of Cooperation, the Participant, which intends to do so, will inform the other two Participants of discontinuation through a written notification. The discontinuation of this Memorandum of Cooperation will not affect any cooperation activities in progress at the time of discontinuation.

This Memorandum of Cooperation is written in triplicate in English. Each Participant will keep one text of this Memorandum of Cooperation.

Signed in Sapporo, Japan on September 5, 2019.

Joint Communiqué of the 21st Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Japan, Korea and China

I. Preamble

1. At the invitation of Minister KOIZUMI Shinjiro of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Minister CHO Myungrae of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea and Minister LI Ganjie of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China visited Kitakyushu, where the three Ministers met for the 21st Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM21) on 23-24 November 2019.

II. Overview of TEMM21

2. The Ministers exchanged the latest developments in environment policies of each country following TEMM20. Minister KOIZUMI presented “Japan’s Environmental Major Policies”, Minister CHO presented “Korea’s Environmental Policies for Sustainable Future”, and Minister LI presented “Guided by Ecological Priority and Green Development to Promote High-Quality Economic Development and Sound Ecological and Environmental Protection”. The Ministers shared the understanding that these policies contribute to the sustainable development in North-east Asia and lay the foundation to solve the environmental problems on the regional and global scales.
 3. Alongside TEMM21, three sub-forums were held with the participation of business representatives, youths, and researchers from the three countries, and the results of the discussions of these forums were reported to the Ministers. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the Tripartite Roundtable on Environmental Business (TREB) which discussed “Initiative for Realizing a Virtuous Cycle of Environment and Growth”, the TEMM Youth Forum which discussed “Vision for Transforming the World to Sustainable for Everyone”, and the Forum of the Tripartite Joint Research Project on Cities towards Decarbonization and Sustainable Development which discussed “good practices implemented by leading cities in each country”.
 4. The Ministers congratulated and commended the winners of the TEMM Environment Award. Dr. Uchida Keiichi from Japan, Dr. Lee Jong-Jae from Korea
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and Professor Chai Fahe from China, who were awarded for their contributions to the tripartite environment cooperation.

5. The three Ministers recognized with appreciations the role of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) in advancing trilateral environmental cooperation, including holding the 2nd Trilateral Environmental Teacher's Exchange Program in Tokyo, Japan in August 2019, and expected its continuous participation in the TEMM mechanism.

III. Recent progress in the implementation of the Tripartite Joint Action Plan 2015-2019

6. The Ministers reviewed the progress in the implementation of the Tripartite Joint Action Plan for Environmental Cooperation 2015-2019 (TJAP 2015-2019) adopted at TEMM17 in April 2015 in Shanghai. They confirmed with satisfaction the cooperative activities carried out under the nine priority areas of the TJAP after TEMM20 and noted major achievements.
 7. In the priority area of Air Quality Improvement, the Ministers welcomed the meetings of the Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution (TPDAP) and its two Working Groups (WG) held in Tokyo in February 2019 as well as the publication of "Air Quality Policy Report" by the TPDAP that includes air management policy and achievements of the three countries in the recent years. They also appreciated the experts from the three countries for their efforts in finalizing the Summary Report for Policymakers of the Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution in Northeast Asia (LTP) which was released on 20th November 2019. They welcomed the results of the meetings of the Dust and Sand Storm (DSS) Working Group (WG) I (the 11th and 12th Meeting), DSS WG II (the 11th Meeting).
 8. In the priority area of Biodiversity, the Ministers welcomed the 6th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity (TPDBD) held in April 2019 in Kunming, which reiterated the necessity of in-depth information exchange and cooperation on invasive alien species including red imported fire ants, and reaffirmed the importance to continue exchanging ideas on the development and implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
 9. In the priority area of Climate Change, the Ministers welcomed the progress of the Joint Research Project on Cities towards Decarbonization and Sustainable Development, including the 2nd Workshop held in Yokohama from July to August 2019 and their reports such as the Synthesis report of China-Japan-
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Korea Joint Research Programme on Cities towards Decarbonization and Sustainable Development, and the City Climate Action Report. They recognized the importance of promoting decarbonization at the city level and encouraged the three countries to share the research results with municipalities in the three countries and with global community at COP25.

10. In the priority area of Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response, the Ministers welcomed that the 13th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemical Management (TPDCM) and the 13th Tripartite Expert Seminar on Chemical Management (TESCM), held in October 2019, exchanged the latest policies and research information of the three countries and appreciated their continued efforts to improve chemical management in the three countries.
11. In the priority area of Circulative Management of Resources/3R/Transboundary Movement of E-Waste and Marine Environment area, the Ministers welcomed the results of the 12th Sound Material-Cycle Society/Circular Economy/3R and Transboundary Movement of E-Waste Seminar held in December 2018 in Seoul, where measures to reduce plastic wastes were shared. They appreciated the 5th TEMM-NOWPAP Joint Workshop on Marine Litter Management and International Coastal Cleanup Activities held in September, 2019 in Dalian.
12. In the priority area of Environmental Education and Public Awareness, the Ministers welcomed that the 19th and 20th Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN) were held in Kitakyushu in October 2018 and in Hangzhou in October 2019 respectively.
13. The implementation status of each priority area is summarized in the Annex.

IV. New priority areas for the next Tripartite Joint Action Plan (2020-2024)

14. The Ministers discussed the new priority areas with which the next Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation for the period from 2020 to 2024 (TJAP 2020-2024) will be shaped.
 15. The Ministers shared the recognitions that the next TJAP needs to be in line with the efforts of the international community by taking into consideration of global and regional environmental milestones, which have taken place since the adoption of the TJAP 2015-2019, including the following:
 - (i.) The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, which highlight environmental dimension as well as social
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and economic dimensions, were adopted by the Heads of States at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015.

(ii.) The Paris Agreement was adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on 12 December 2015 which aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change.

(iii.) The G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth held in Karuizawa, Japan in June 2019 produced significant outcomes including “the G20 Karuizawa Innovation Action Plan on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth”, “the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter”, and “the G20 Action Agenda on Adaptation and Resilient Infrastructure”. The G20 Osaka Summit shared “G20 Osaka Blue Ocean Vision” as well as endorsement of these outcomes at the abovementioned Ministerial Meeting. The progress under the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litters has been made including sharing information on the relevant policies, plans and measures of the G20 countries.

(iv.) Concerning biodiversity, the efforts are undertaken towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be adopted in 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held next year in China in order to continue and develop the efforts on the global scales based on the lessons learned from the achieving of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

(v.) To implement air-related SDGs, related discussions and cooperation were developed under the UN framework, such as the third session of UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3), which adopted the Resolution on “Preventing and Reducing Air Pollution to Improve Air Quality Globally” in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2017, the 27th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held in Bangkok, Thailand in May 2019, which adopted the Resolution of “Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Tackle Air Pollution Challenges in Asia and the Pacific”, and the global celebrations of World Environment Day 2019 held in Hangzhou, China on 5 June 2019 under the theme “Beat Air Pollution”.

16. In developing the next TJAP and setting the new priority areas, the Ministers agreed to bear in mind following principles:

(i.) Cooperations in the TEMM framework will contribute to achieve the SDGs

goals of the three countries.

(ii.) Joint activities under the next TJAP will be promoted in consideration of the interlinkages among the priority areas as well as the interdependence across the goals and targets of the SDGs and conducted in a way to maximize the synergies.

(iii.) TEMM will further explore activities with the “3+x” modality to promote sustainable development in the region and beyond, through making best use of the multilateral frameworks such as G20, ASEAN+3, and APEC into the activities under next TJAP and seeking partnerships with other countries and international organizations with consensus of the three countries.

(iv.) The TEMM activities are to be developed on the basis of mutual respects, mutual benefits, each country’s available resources and respect one another’s difference in the stage of development, and will be reviewed and renewed from time to time to seek the effective and efficient mechanism.

17. Reviewing the implementation of the TJAP 2015-2019 and taking into consideration of the aforementioned milestones and principles, the Ministers adopted the new TEMM priority cooperation areas for the period from 2020 to 2024 as following:
 - (1) Air Quality Improvement
 - (2) 3R/Circular Economy/Zero Waste City
 - (3) Marine and Water Environment Management
 - (4) Climate Change
 - (5) Biodiversity
 - (6) Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response
 - (7) Transition to Green Economy
 - (8) Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Engagement
 18. The Ministers agreed that the three countries will work together to build on the above priority areas to develop the TJAP 2020-2024 with a view to adopting it at TEMM22.
 19. The actions under these priority areas will be developed based on the above principle. For example, activities under Marine and Water Environment Management including activities to tackle marine plastic litters would be promoted in connection with other areas such as 3R/Circular Economy/Zero Waste City and/or Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response, as appropriate. Joint activities under Environmental Education,
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Public Awareness and Engagement would be pursued in conjunction with other areas such as Climate Change and Biodiversity. Activities under Climate Change would be developed in a way to also contribute to Air Quality Improvement and Transition to Green Economy.

20. According to the principles of sharing, efficiency, and integration, in the area of Air Quality Improvement, the Ministers recognized with appreciation the positive progress of EANET, and encouraged the further cooperation on policy dialogue, information sharing, technical facilitation, as well as capacity building. The Ministers also encouraged policy dialogue under the other inter-governmental cooperation frameworks such as North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership, etc.
21. In order to implement the joint research on DSS efficiently and effectively, the Ministers agreed to renew its implementation structure, by integrating the function of the Tripartite Directors General Meeting on DSS into the Directors General Meeting for TEMM and of the Steering Committee Meeting for joint research on DSS into both DSS WG meetings, which composes of both researchers and officials. They also endorsed the Mid-term Action Plan of WG I for joint research on DSS (2020-2024) and invited the DSS WG II to formulate their draft Mid-term Action Plan (2020-2024) at the next TEMM.

V. TEMM22 and future events

22. The Ministers decided that TEMM22 will be held in 2020 in Korea. The date and venue will be proposed by the host country and confirmed by China and Japan.
23. The Ministers welcomed that the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) will be hosted by China in October 2020, and expressed their willingness to cooperate towards the success of the COP.
24. The Ministers welcomed that Korea will host the 2nd P4G (Partnering for Green Growth and Global Goals 2030) Summit in June 2020, and the 4th Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific in September 2020.

VI. Closing

25. The Ministers expressed their satisfactions with the success and fruitful outcomes of TEMM21. Minister CHO Myungrae and Minister Li Ganjie expressed their deep appreciations to Minister KOIZUMI Shinjiro, the Japanese Government, and the Kitakyushu Municipal Government for hosting the Meeting and extending great hospitality to all participants.
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Trilateral Joint Statement on Disaster Management Cooperation

We, the heads of government agencies on disaster management of the Republic of Korea, Japan and the People's Republic of China, participated in the 6th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management held in Seoul, Korea on December 5, 2019.

We expressed our heartfelt condolences to the victims for the loss of lives and damages to property caused by natural disasters including typhoons, floods, earthquakes and landslides and large scale accidents that took place not only in Korea, Japan and China but also around the world.

We reaffirmed the importance of our trilateral cooperation and information sharing among the three countries and agreed upon the need for focusing on prevention in disaster management in order to minimize damage from various hazards that are on the rise due to climate change and urbanization.

We reviewed the outcomes of the 5th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management, shared prevention policies on disasters implemented by Korea, Japan and China, and developed effective and practical measures towards disaster risk reduction in the three countries.

With the aim to improve disaster prevention capacity of Korea, Japan and China by sharing prevention policies on disasters, we decided to actively promote cooperation among the three countries in the following areas:

- 1** Reinforce the trilateral cooperation framework among the three countries by sharing the direction of the prevention policies, the results of root cause analysis on high profile disasters, and relevant disaster prevention and reduction information.
 - 2** Create opportunities for mutual learning on advanced disaster management systems deployed by the three countries, respectively, for the prevention of disasters.
 - 3** Explore measures to expand the exchange of disaster and safety experts among the three countries while recognizing the significance of fostering disaster and safety experts in establishing an advanced disaster prevention system.
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We appreciated the efforts made by the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) to promote our joint cooperation on disaster management. We will involve the TCS in the follow-up process of the Joint Statement to the maximum extent. The host country will be responsible for follow-up procedures of determined agendas of the meeting until the next meeting.

Based on the principle of the biennial hosting of the meeting, we reached a consensus on Japan's hosting of the 7th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management. We signed this Joint Statement in Seoul, Korea on December 5, 2019 and exchanged this Joint Statement.

Joint Statement of the Twelfth Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting (THMM)

We, the Korean, Chinese, and Japanese Health Ministers met in Seoul, Korea on December 15th, 2019, to review the achievements of the THMM since the first meeting and discuss future cooperation among three countries in the area of health. The agenda of the meeting included Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response, and Active and Healthy Aging.

I. Achieving UHC through ICT

We support the political declaration adopted at the 2019 UN High-Level Meeting on UHC and reaffirm the right of every human being to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. We welcome the statement of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Health Working - “Promoting Universal Health Coverage: Sharing a Prosperous and Healthy Future” (2019) - presented to the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage. We recognize that UHC is fundamental for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is an action in the health sector to leave no one behind, a core spirit of SDGs. National efforts to strengthen health systems, in accordance with national contexts and priorities, will also help improve preparedness to a variety of health challenges and achieve UHC.

Discussion on how to use ICT and big data to promote health of patients is an important policy issue for the three countries. We share the recognition that efficiency in the overall health system can be enhanced via comprehensive utilization of big data and ICT through, for example predicting individual health status and risks at the primary healthcare stage and promoting adequate medication and self-care by providing customized health information.

We recognize the need to identify people who require healthcare services based on scientific evidence and provide community-based healthcare and welfare services. We will endeavor to provide a wide-range of medical services at a lower cost by sharing good practices of effective and ethical use of personal health data and technologies that can promote utilization of ICT and big data in the healthcare sector. We encourage the study and application of medical health data standards to better

serve the health of people in three countries.

2. Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response

Infectious diseases, easily spread across national borders, continue to be a major threat to our region. Given the geographical proximity of the three countries and rising exchange of people and goods, the need for close cooperation at the regional level to respond to the outbreak of infectious diseases is imminent.

Korea, China, Japan have effectively responded to a number of global public health emergencies, including pandemic influenza A (H1N1), avian influenza (H7N9), and Ebola Virus Disease under the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) and the Joint Action Plan on Joint Response against Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) and Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases of Common Concern, which were revised twice, respectively.

We reemphasize the importance of preventive measures against infectious diseases and support strengthening cooperation to improve infectious disease response through the revision of the Joint Action Plan, to emphasize the importance of crisis communication, include cooperation in crisis assessment, and add information on creating a mechanism for trilateral communication through IHR national focal points.

We welcome the convening of the 13th China-Japan-Korea Forum for Communicable Disease Control and Prevention which involved some of ASEAN countries as observers to share information on the topics with common interest.

We will continue to work closely with the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) and the Asia-Pacific countries to further strengthen preparedness and response capacity in the region against infectious diseases through the implementation of the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED II). We will continue to improve rapid information sharing among the three countries, monitor public health threats in the region, and promote capacity building to respond to threats resulting from infectious diseases outbreaks.

3. Active and Healthy Aging

The rate of population aging is getting faster and more serious in the three countries than in other nations. In response, a variety of policies are implemented to prepare for population aging, with different policy approaches in line with the national context. Korea aims to reduce the financial burden of elderly citizens by providing

health insurance benefits for essential healthcare services while increasing financial sustainability of the health insurance system by improving resource management. Meanwhile, China focuses on advancing its medical sector and strengthening the combination of medical and elderly care services to address health issues of elderly citizens and Japan conducts policies to strengthen community-based integrated care including preventive long-term care activities led by residents in the community and also to promote dementia-inclusive society as well as risk reduction of dementia.

As such, the three countries face the common challenge of population aging and are building respective response measures. We understand that active and healthy aging is a prerequisite to ensuring sustainable growth and strive to ensure high quality of life and independent life for elderly citizens. We recognize the need for taking multi-sectoral approach in policy development, by involving housing, healthcare, and care services departments and endeavor to provide cohesive and comprehensive policies.

We continue our discussion on low birthrate and aging population, which started in 2010 through the platform to share policies, experiences and best practices among the three countries facing the challenge of population aging. We adopted the Joint Declaration on Active and Healthy Ageing Cooperation which will be adopted on the Trilateral Summit on 24 December, 2019 in Chengdu, China, which states that active and healthy aging policies should be a national priority, emphasizes the need for a multi-sectoral approach, and aims to increase independence of elderly citizens by protecting their rights, freedom, and dignity.

4. Next meeting

We reaffirm the common recognition that the Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting will be held on a regular basis with involvement of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) and that all relevant activities will be conducted on the basis of equality, reciprocity, and mutual benefit. We will coordinate the activities and objectives of other international health institutions, as appropriate, and promote the establishment of inter-agents and individual contact.

The next Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting will be held in China in 2020.

Joint Media Statement of the 12th China-Korea-Japan Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting

We, the Economic and Trade Ministers of People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Japan, met in Beijing, China, on 22nd December, 2019, to hold the 12th China-Korea-Japan Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting.

As the three major economies in East Asia, we believed that trilateral cooperation plays an important role in maintaining economic growth, prosperity and stability of regional and global economy. Facing with the challenges of downsided risks of global economy and intensified trade and geopolitical tensions, we shared the view that we should fully utilize the three countries' industrial complementarity, and enhance trade and investment cooperative level, in the aim of contributing to regional economic integration and sustainable development. We reiterated that we are determined to build an open and inclusive global economy and reaffirm our support for the necessary WTO reform to maintain and strengthen the multilateral trade system that is open, free, fair, inclusive, transparent, non-discriminatory, predictable, and rule-based. We reaffirm our pledges against all forms of protectionism. We also reconfirmed the importance of ensuring a level playing field to foster an enabling business environment. We will work with others toward a successful MC12 to be held in 2020 in various fields such as ongoing E-commerce negotiations and investment facilitations.

We reaffirm our commitment described in the Joint Leader's Statement on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership released in 2019. Building upon the RCEP negotiations, we will speed up the negotiations on the Trilateral Free Trade Agreement, aiming to realize a comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial Trilateral Free Trade Agreement with its own value. To implement the consensus reached by Joint Declaration of the 7th CJK Trilateral Summit in 2018, we task officials to take actions to accelerate the Trilateral Free Trade Agreement negotiations. We would continue to strengthen cooperation under the frameworks such as APEC, G20, WTO etc. We reiterated that we would continue to promote local-level cooperation, enhance mechanisms like The Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technology Exchange Conference, and support pragmatic cooperation of various forms at local level.

We recognized the importance of regional connectivity cooperation taking into

considerations of the G20 principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, and respect for international laws. We had meaningful discussion on our CJK+ cooperation as well as cooperation in areas of energy and coping with aging society. As for the discussion on energy, we stress the need to successfully transform energy systems and cooperate in the process of energy transition, while, at a worldwide level, it is important to acknowledge that fossil fuels still play a major role.

We appreciated the completion of Joint Study Report “Trilateral Cooperation on E-Commerce” coordinated by Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat and agreed to take cooperative action based on the recommendation of the report.

We decided to hold the next Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers’ Meeting in the host country of the 9th Trilateral Leaders’ Summit.

1 For more details of the trilateral ministerial meetings, please refer to TCS online database.

Trilateral Ministerial Meetings in 2019

| | Date | Meeting | Venue |
|----|----------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | May 2 | 19 th Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting | Nadi, Fiji |
| 2 | June 10 | 11 th Tripartite Governors' Meeting among the People's Bank of China (PBC), the Bank of Japan (BOJ), and the Bank of the ROK (BOK) | Fukuoka, Japan |
| 3 | August 21 | 9 th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting | Beijing, China |
| 4 | August 30 | 11 th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting | Incheon, ROK |
| 5 | August 30 | 9 th Trilateral Tourism Ministers' Meeting | Incheon, ROK |
| 6 | September 5 | 8 th Heads of Personnel Authorities Meeting | Sapporo, Japan |
| 7 | September 26 | 2019 Meeting of the Heads of the Supreme Audit Institutions | Moscow, Russia |
| 8 | November 23-24 | 21 st Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting | Kitakyushu, Japan |
| 9 | December 4 | 19 th TRIPO Heads Meeting | Kobe, Japan |
| 10 | December 5 | 6 th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management | Seoul, ROK |
| 11 | December 14-15 | 12 th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting | Seoul, ROK |
| 12 | December 22 | 12 th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting | Beijing, China |
| 13 | December 26 | 4 th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology | Seoul, ROK |

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

2019

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