

2021 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 2011, the TCS drafts and submits progress report of the Trilateral Cooperation to the three Foreign Ministries for approval. The TCS presents the report titled "2021 Progress Report of the Trilateral Cooperation," covering the period from January to December 2021.

INTRODUCTION

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues into its second year, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) strengthened the cooperation and partnership to seize the opportunity to create more resilient, sustainable, and prosperous societies in the year 2021.

Despite COVID-19 hurdles, Trilateral Cooperation gradually gained momentum with the continuous efforts made by the three countries in the field of political affairs. The **13th Top Regulators' Meeting (TRM)** was held via video conference in November. In addition, the three countries continued to enhance cooperation on disaster management through communication at the working level. Meanwhile, **the 6th Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tanks (NTCT) National Focal Points Meeting and the 2021 NTCT Conference** were convened virtually in December.

In the area of economic cooperation, Trilateral Cooperation gained substantial outcomes. In May, **the 21st Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting** was held virtually. In August, **the 8th China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics** was held in a virtual format. Later in the year, **the 21st Trilateral Intellectual Property Offices (TRIPO) Heads Meeting** was held online in November. In December, **the 9th Consultative Meeting on Consumer Policy among China, Japan and Korea** was held online.

The three countries also kept deepening cooperation in the field of sustainable development. The **22nd Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting** was held online in December. In addition, workshops and meetings on environmental education and environmental research were organized to share policies and promote future cooperation.

In the area of socio-cultural cooperation, the **11th Trilateral Meeting of the Directors of National Museums** was held online in July. The **12th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting** was held online in August. Following the meeting, the **2022 Culture City of East Asia (CCEA)** was announced. In September, the **13th Symposium on Personnel Administration of China-Japan-Korea** was held. In October, the **14th China-Japan-ROK Cultural Content Industry Forum** was held. Later in December, the **14th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting** was convened online. In addition, a series of cooperative projects were held to enhance cooperation in education, sports, youth, and local governments among the three countries.

Part II

COOPERATION PROGRESS

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

01

Politics and Security

Nuclear Safety

The 13th Top Regulators' Meeting (TRM) on Nuclear Safety among Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) of Japan, and Nuclear Safety and Security Commission (NSSC) of the ROK, and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment/National Nuclear Safety Administration (MEE/NNSA) of China was held via video conference on November 30 and December 1, 2021. In the meeting, the three authorities presented the current status and progress of nuclear safety activities in each country. The next TRM was agreed to be held in the ROK in 2022.

13th Top Regulators' Meeting on Nuclear SafetyDisaster
Management

The Trilateral Working-Level Consultation Meeting on Disaster Management was convened online by the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) on March 25, 2021. Representatives from the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) of China, Cabinet Office (CAO) of Japan, and the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) of the ROK, as well as delegates from three education and training institutes – National Disaster Risk Reduction Centre of China (NDRCC), Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC) and UNDRR Office for Northeast Asia & Global Education and Training

Institute (UNDRR ONEA & GETI) – attended the meeting. The participants shared their responses to recent high-profile disasters and discussed suggestions for follow-ups to the last Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management. They also exchanged views on future cooperation and the preparation work for the next Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management planned to be hosted by Japan.



Trilateral Working-Level Consultation Meeting on Disaster Management

A booklet on “**Trilateral Best Practices: Application of Technology for Reducing Disaster Risks in China, Japan and Korea**” was published by the TCS in collaboration with the UNDRR in July 2021. Supported by the authorities of the three countries, the NDRCC, ADRC, MOIS, National Disaster Management Research Institute (NDMI) of the ROK, and UNDRR ONEA & GETI contributed 14 cases in total, in which the good experiences, impacts and results, lessons and challenges that the three countries have learned from their disaster risk reduction practices are introduced.



Trilateral Best Practices:
Application of Technology for
Reducing Disaster Risks in
China, Japan and Korea

An online seminar themed as **Inter-regional Dialogue on Regional Cooperation: Application of Cutting-Edge Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction in China, Japan, and Korea** was jointly held by the TCS and the UNDRR on October 13, 2021, marked as the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. Specialists from the NDRCC, ADRC, and NDMI joined in to shed light on the contemporary science, technology, and innovation in disaster management in their respective countries. The Chair of the Asia Pacific Science Technology and Academia Advisory Group (APSTAAG) also participated in the event to suggest the future directions of inter-regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction, especially through cross-sectoral partnership and multidisciplinary research cooperation.



Inter-regional Dialogue on Regional Cooperation: Application of Cutting-Edge Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction in China, Japan and Korea

Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tanks (NTCT)

The **6th Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tanks (NTCT) National Focal Points Meeting and 2021 NTCT Conference** were convened virtually on December 29, 2021, by China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU), the host of the year, with the presence of the Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR), Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), and the TCS.

The representatives reviewed the progress of the Working Groups initiated at the 5th Meeting. They agreed to accelerate the joint studies led by each Working Group to fulfil the mandate granted by the Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting and provide suggestions to the three governments for promoting Trilateral Cooperation in the new era. Being aware of the unique role of the NTCT among other trilateral research platforms, they discussed and agreed on the NTCT working plan for 2022.



6th NTCT National Focal Points Meeting and 2021 NTCT Conference

02 Economy

Trade and Economy

The 19th Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technological Conference was held in an online-offline hybrid format on November 16, 2021. The Conference was hosted by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Kyushu Bureau) of Japan, Kyushu Economy International (KEI), Kyushu Economic Federation, Kumamoto City, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the ROK, Korea-Japan Economic Association, and the Ministry of Commerce of China.

Under the themes of “Building a New Model of Regional Economic Exchange in the Yellow Sea Rim to Solve Social Problems” and “Promotion of Regional Exchanges”, business representatives and local governments from the three countries presented or promoted their business models and best practices in the fields of response to infectious disease, environment/energy, and regional exchanges. The Conference attracted more than 400 participants from the government, business associations, companies, academic institutions and media of the three countries.

Transport and Logistics



8th China–Japan–Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics

The 8th China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics was held online on August 20, 2021. At the Conference, the three Ministers exchanged views on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change on international and domestic logistics and discussed measures of stepping up cooperation in transport and logistics under the three new major goals, including 1) Promotion of a Resilient Logistics Network, 2) Creation of a Seamless Logistics System, and 3) Establishment of Environmentally Friendly Logistics. In this respect, they affirmed the importance of Digital Transformation (DX) in logistics as well as Green Logistics to achieve carbon neutrality. *The Joint Statement of the 8th China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics* attached with the Action Plan was adopted at the Conference, followed by a side event of the China-Japan-Korea Transport and Logistics Development Forum hosted by the Kobe City of Japan.

The launch of the **Official Website for the Trilateral Cooperation on Transport and Logistics** was announced at the 8th China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics. Endorsed at the 7th China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics held in 2018, the website has been developed by the TCS in close coordination with the Ministry of Transport of China, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the ROK.



28th Technical Meeting of Northeast Asia Logistics Information Service Network

As a part of the Action Plans of China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics, the **28th Technical Meeting of Northeast Asia Logistics Information Service Network (NEAL-NET)** was held in Wenzhou, China from

June 10 to 11, 2021. Japan and ROK participants attended the meeting online. Three countries' participants discussed the improvement of the standard regarding logistics information sharing and application on sea-rail transport, the innovation of NEAL-NET data cooperation model. They also exchanged views with representatives from the International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA) and the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of the Republic of Belarus.

The 21st Northeast Asia Port Director-General Meeting & Northeast Asia Port Symposium was held online on November 24, 2021. With the theme of “Ensure the stability and smooth flow of maritime logistics supply chains in Northeast Asia”, experts from governments and maritime policy research institutions of China, Japan and ROK discussed the cooperation proposals. The participants introduced each country's port policies and reviewed the progress of four research projects promoted jointly by the three countries, including Smart Port Construction Technology and Policy, Maintenance of Navigation Channels and Basins. In addition, under the theme of “Wisdom gives Effectiveness, Promote the Port's Digital Transformation”, officials and experts from the three countries discussed the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution on ports and response plans in the Northeast Asia Port Symposium.

Intellectual Property Rights



21st TRIPO Heads Meeting

The 21st TRIPO Heads Meeting among the China National Intellectual Property

Administration (CNIPA), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) was hosted by CNIPA through a video conference on November 30, 2021. At the meeting, the three Offices reported respectively on the current status of their national IP systems and reviewed the latest TRIPO cooperation activities in the areas of trademark and design, trial and appeal, human resources, and IP societies. The three Offices discussed future cooperation plans in these TRIPO cooperation activities. In addition, the three Offices agreed to explore the feasibility of pursuing TRIPO cooperation, within their mandate, to facilitate efforts in achieving the carbon neutrality goal.

The **9th TRIPO User Symposium** under the theme “Latest Developments in IP Policies and Laws in TRIPO Offices in Face of the COVID-19’s Challenges” was held via video conference on the same day. Via the Symposium, TRIPO Offices and IP users were able to learn about the latest efforts of the TRIPO Offices to improve their respective IP systems towards greater user benefits.

The **2021 TRIPO Trademark and Design Forum** was held under the theme of “Protection of Brand and Design in the Digital Economy” via video conference in June 2021. The forum deepened mutual and IP users’ understanding from an integrated perspective of each Office’s efforts to improve their trademark and design system. Communications and discussions at the **3rd Trademark Expert Meeting** were conducted through email exchanges.

The **8th Joint Expert Group for Trial and Appeal (JEGTA)** was held via video conference in November 2021. The meeting deepened mutual understanding in the field of trials and appeals among the TRIPO Offices.

The **12th Cooperation Meeting on Human Resources Development among CIPTC, INPIT and IIPTI** was held via video conference in September 2021. The meeting helped the TRIPO Offices to have a better understanding of the developments of human resources at each Office, and in particular, recognize the importance of implementing IP education for school students.

The **2021 China-Japan-Korea IP International Symposium on Academics** was held among the China Intellectual Property Society, the Intellectual Property Association of Japan and the Korea Intellectual Property Society via video conference in October 2021. The meeting deepened mutual understanding and strengthened collaboration among the IP societies of the three countries.

Finance

The 21st **Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting** was held virtually on May 3, 2021. The Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from the three countries exchanged views on the recent global and regional economic developments, and policy efforts to push forward the economic recovery from the joint effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the progress of ASEAN+3 financial cooperation.

The three countries expressed commitment to providing necessary measures to achieve inclusive recovery, preserve long-term fiscal sustainability and maintain financial stability. They also welcomed the entry-into-force of the amended *Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM) Agreement* on 31 March 2021, commended the significant progress the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) has made in its 10th anniversary, supported continuous progress of the Asian Bond Markets Initiative, welcomed the establishment of four Working Groups and committed to facilitating the activities in line with “Strategic Directions of ASEAN+3 Finance Process”.

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Consumer Policy

The 9th **Consultative Meeting on Consumer Policy among China, Japan and Korea** was held on December 6, 2021, in a virtual format, hosted by the Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA), Government of Japan, with the participation of representatives from National Consumer Affairs Center (NCAC) of Japan, the State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR) of China, China Consumers Association (CCA), Korea Fair Trade Commission (KFTC) and Korea Consumer Agency (KCA). At the meeting, participants exchanged information on each country's consumer policy trends and issues in the era of COVID-19 such as e-commerce, misleading representations, and SDGs, as well as cross-border enforcement cooperation and consumer dispute resolution. The meeting was followed by an open symposium under the theme of addressing consumer problems on online transactions in the three countries.

03

Sustainable Development

Environmental Protection



22nd Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting

The **22nd Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM22)** was virtually held among the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan on December 7, 2021. The Ministers adopted the *Tripartite Joint Action Plan (TJAP) 2021-2025* which prescribes the vision, principles, objective, as well as the planned activities and implementation arrangement of the tripartite environmental cooperation under eight priority areas. The Ministers committed to further promoting regional environmental cooperation while utilizing multilateral frameworks.

The **8th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution (TPDAP)** was held virtually in September 2021 to exchange their recent policies on air pollution and discuss plans for 2022.

The **14th meeting of the Working Group I on Dust and Sandstorms (DSS WGI)** was virtually held in September 2021. The **14th meeting of the Working Group II on Dust and Sandstorms (DSS WGII)** was virtually held in December 2021 to discuss implementation of the WG II Mid-term Action Plan 2020-2024. WG I and WG II

enhanced their collaboration and outreach through the **DSS Extended Workshop** in September 2021 to share the latest research and discuss prospects. On the Workshop, the launch of TEMM DSS Online Portal website was announced.

The **7th TEMM-NOWPAP Joint Workshop on Marine Litter Management** was virtually held in September 2021. Participants shared the progress of all actions about delivery of the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter.

The **Korea-China-Japan Carbon Neutral Cities Forum** was virtually held in December 2021 to exchange experience in promoting carbon neutral cities.

The **8th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity** was virtually held in July 2021 to discuss goals, targets, indicators, implementation and monitoring mechanism, and measures for evaluation of the *Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework* to be adopted at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15).

The **15th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemical Management (TPDCM)** and the **Tripartite Expert Seminar on Chemical Management (TESCM)** were virtually held in November 2021.

The **6th Tripartite Roundtable on Environmental Business (TREB)** was held virtually in December 2021.

The **22nd Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN)** symposium and workshop were virtually held in November 2021 under the theme “Our proactive choice for 2050: Implementation of decarbonized society”.

The **22nd Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting Youth Forum** was virtually held in December 2021 under the theme “Raise Youth Voices for Climate Action”.

The **18th Tripartite Presidents’ Meeting** among the National Institute for Environmental Studies of Japan, the National Institute of Environmental Research of the ROK, and the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Science was virtually held in November 2021. The three parties discussed activities to promote environmental research in the region.

04

Social and Cultural Exchanges

Culture



12th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting

The 12th **Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting (TCMM)** was held online on August 30, 2021, HAGIUDA Koichi, Minister of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan presided over the virtual meeting, with HU Heping, Minister of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT) of China, and HWANG Hee, Minister of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST) of the ROK in attendance.

During the meeting, the three Ministers discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and exchanged ideas on how to further enhance trilateral cultural cooperation, recognizing the growing presence of leading technology in the field of culture and arts. They agreed to promote cultural exchange in the following five respects: 1) Furthering the branding of the Culture Cities of East Asia (CCEA) as well as the exchange among them, 2) Practical cooperation between cultural and art institutions, 3) Promoting continuous development of the cultural and tourism industries, 4) Strengthening coordination for protecting cultural heritage, 5) Seizing the opportunity of the Olympic/Paralympic games to implement joint cultural and art programs. These principles were reflected in the 'Kitakyushu Declaration', which the three ministers adopted with applause.

Following the meeting, the announcement ceremony of the **2022 Culture City of East Asia (CCEA)** was held. The three Ministers announced the designation of Wenzhou

and Jinan (China), Oita (Japan) and Gyeongju (ROK) as 2022 CCEA.

The 13th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting will be hosted by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China.



14th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum

The 14th **Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum** was convened online on October 27, 2021. The Forum was chaired by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT) of China and attended by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST) of the ROK and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan. The 14th Forum consisted of the intergovernmental meeting among the three ministries and relevant agencies, as well as the **Exchange Conference for Digital Culture Enterprises** from China, ROK and Japan participated by private sector businesses. The intergovernmental meeting included keynote speeches on “Future Directions for Development of the Cultural Industries after COVID-19” and presentations on “Promoting Collaboration and Cooperation in the Content Industries of China, the ROK and Japan”. Based on discussions, the three Ministries adopted the *Joint Statement of the 14th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum* agreeing to strengthen exchanges and collaboration between the cultural content industries of the three countries and support international cooperation between private sector businesses. The Exchange Conference for Digital Culture Enterprises included four sub-sessions each under the topic of, “Online Performance”, “Immersive Contents”, “Digital Music” and “Animation”.

The 15th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum will be hosted by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST) of the ROK.



11th Trilateral National Museum General Directors' Meeting

The 11th **Trilateral National Museum General Directors' Meeting** was held online on July 14, 2021. Hosted by the Tokyo National Museum of Japan, the Directors from the National Museum of China and the National Museum of Korea attended. The meeting included the presentations of recent status by each museum, discussions on cooperative ideas, and the signing ceremony of the Memorandum.

The 12th Trilateral National Museum General Directors' Meeting will be hosted by the National Museum of China.

Education

The **Collective Action for Mobility Program of University Students in Asia (CAMPUS Asia)** announced “Mode 3” of its program, expanding to universities belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). During the period of Mode 3, participating universities from China, Japan, Korea and ASEAN implement a total of 20 projects. This is an increase from the total number of 17 projects in Mode 2. Mode 3 will continue until February 2026.

Personnel

The 13th **Symposium on Personnel Administration of China-Japan-Korea** was held on September 7, 2021, online. Hosted by the Ministry of Personnel Management (MPM) of the ROK, it convened experts from the MPM, the National Civil Service Administration (NCSA) of China, and the National Personnel Authority (NPA) of

Japan. Under an overarching theme of “Digital Personnel Management”, the three personnel administrations delivered presentations on “Flexible Work and Digital System for Public Officials in Response to COVID-19”, “Advancing Sustainable Development of Digitalization of Human Resource Management” and “Promoting the Use of ICT in Human Resources Administration”.



13th Symposium on Personnel Administration of China-Japan-Korea

The 14th Symposium on Personnel Administration of China-Japan-Korea will be hosted by the National Personnel Authority (NPA) of Japan.

Health



14th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting

On 21 December 2021, the **14th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting** was convened online. The Meeting was hosted by Minister GOTO Shigeyuki, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan. Minister KWON Deok Cheol, Ministry of Health and Welfare of the ROK, Vice Minister LI Bin on behalf of Minister MA Xiaowei, National Health Commission of China, Dr. KASAI Takeshi, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, and Amb. OU Boqian, Secretary-General of TCS attended the Meeting.

At the Meeting, the following agendas were discussed: 1) Sharing experience for responding to COVID-19, 2) Healthy aging and non-communicable diseases, 3) Achieving and strengthening Universal Health Coverage (UHC). After the panel discussion, the Meeting adopted the *Joint Statement of the Fourteenth Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting (THMM)* and *Joint Action Plan on Preparedness and Response against Infectious Diseases with Pandemic or High Consequence Potential of Common Concern*.

The 15th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting will be hosted by the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the ROK.

05

TCS

The year 2021 marks the 10th anniversary of the TCS. To commemorate the 10th anniversary and promote public awareness of the importance of Trilateral Cooperation, the TCS hosted 6 commemorative symposiums, touching upon those common issues and challenges faced by the three countries including regional cooperation, rural revitalization, aging society, and urban regeneration.

The International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation 2021, the longstanding and signature event of the TCS, was held successfully in April in an online-offline hybrid format, under the theme of “In Light of the TCS 10th Anniversary: The New Trilateral Cooperation Partnership in the Next Decade”. The forum brought together high-profile government officials, prominent scholars, and experts to share their insights.

To commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the TCS, CHUNG Eui-yong, Minister of Foreign Affairs of ROK, MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and WANG Yi, State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China, delivered written congratulatory messages to reconfirm the importance of Trilateral Cooperation and give future guidance for TCS.

In addition, the **10th anniversary Photo Exhibition** was also inaugurated by the TCS to showcase the history and past achievements of the TCS while broadening public awareness of the Trilateral Cooperation. The TCS also launched the new Trilateral Statistics Webpage on the TCS website to provide a comprehensive understanding of the development trend of the three countries.

Apart from 10th anniversary events, the TCS also organized a series of events and meetings amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. In March, the TCS hosted the **online 2021 Trilateral Working-level Consultation Meeting on Disaster Management** to exchange views and learn about each other’s experiences in the recovery phase of disasters. In May, the TCS co-hosted the **14th Asia International Youth Film Festival** to display films created by CJK youth. In June, the TCS hosted the **Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum 2021** in an online format, under the theme of “Business Innovation for Active Ageing Societies: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities”. In the same month, the TCS organized the **China-Japan-Korea Journalism Seminar**

in an online-offline hybrid format at the Foreign Press Center Korea to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on journalism, digital transformation in the media business, and the TCS' role in promoting trilateral media cooperation.

Furthermore, the TCS published several booklets to promote further understanding of Trilateral Cooperation in various fields. For example, the booklet, **Trilateral Best Practices: Application of Technology for Reducing Disaster Risks in China, Japan, and Korea**, includes 14 best practices on the application of technology for reducing disaster risks. **The First 10 Years: Photo Booklet of Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat and Trilateral Cooperation to the Next Decade** as a Special Issue of *China Report* were published to commemorate the TCS 10th anniversary.

Part III

CONCLUSION

While COVID-19 has suspended face-to-face meetings and exchanges, the year 2021 witnessed Trilateral Cooperation keeping its momentum by continuing cooperation and communication through online platforms and channels. Although the three countries faced uncertainty and challenges brought by COVID-19, the efforts and determination to drive the Trilateral Cooperation forward never faded.

Under the guidance of the three governments, the TCS has carried on its endeavors by organizing webinars and promoting publications over the past year. As the TCS enters another decade of development, the TCS will continue its efforts in capacity-building and serving the bridging role in the Trilateral Cooperation to contribute its due part to the realization of the “Trilateral Cooperation Vision for the Next Decade”.

ANNEXES

1. Joint Statement of the 8th China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics
2. Joint Communiqué The 22nd Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Korea, China, and Japan
3. Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environment Cooperation 2021-2025
4. Joint Statement of the 14th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum
5. Joint Statement of the 14th Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting
6. List of Trilateral Ministerial Meetings in 2021

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE 8TH CHINA-JAPAN-KOREA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

August 20, 2021

1. We, the Transport and Logistics Ministers of China, Japan, and Korea, held the 8th Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics online on August 20, 2021. We appreciated the progress of the Action Plans during the previous seven Ministerial Conferences, rearranged the major goals and the Action Plans, taking the impact of COVID-19 on international logistics into consideration, and encouraged continuous achievements of the Action Plans.
- 2.1. We recognized that the three countries play a critical role in the development of the world economy and trade. The total aggregated GDP of the three countries is approximately 25.3% of the world economy in 2020 (IMF), and the trade value generated by the three countries amounted to approximately USD 6,456 billion, accounting for 18.7% of the world total in 2020 (IMF).
- 2.2. With the rapid development of the cross-border supply chain, we recognized that logistics plays an important role in the three countries' increasingly close economic interdependence. We also recognized that trilateral cooperation in the field of transport and logistics would contribute to the development of industries in each country and lead to mutually beneficial trilateral relations.
- 3.1. Although nearly one and a half years have passed since the World Health Organization declared a pandemic and vaccinations are underway, COVID-19 cases/deaths are still increasing around the world. We express our deepest condolences for all those who lost their lives and convey our sincerest sympathies for the many people that suffered.
- 3.2. COVID-19 had a major impact on international logistics. For example, the significant reduction in passenger flights led to a tightening of air transport space. Some factors such as rapid growth in transport demand and significant efficiency reduction in maritime supply chain led to a shortage of international maritime transport containers and transport space.
- 3.3. We present our sincerest appreciation and respect to the logistics workers at the forefront of logistics who have been making dedicated efforts to secure the supply chain and to support people's lives and economic activities.

-
- 3.4.** With a view to confirming and strengthening cooperation among the three countries in securing and maintaining a steady and smooth logistics system against the backdrop of COVID-19, we held the Special Session of this Ministerial Conference and adopted the Joint Statement on June 29, 2020.
- 3.5.** Given the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on logistics, we recognized the importance of a common understanding of the state of logistics and showing the paths towards a resilient logistics network among the three countries at this moment.
- 4.1.** Since the 1st Ministerial Conference in 2006, we have identified and carried out the Action Plans under the three major goals for logistics cooperation: “Creation of a Seamless Logistics System,” “Establishment of Environmentally Friendly Logistics” and “Achievement of Balance between Security and Efficiency of Logistics.”
- 4.2.** Considering the fact that international logistics was disrupted by COVID-19 and the resilience of the supply chain was recognized as an important policy issue, we decided to set “Promotion of a Resilient Logistics Network” as a new major goal, taking over “Achievement of Balance between Security and Efficiency of Logistics.”
- 4.3.** We also rearranged the Action Plans according to the major goals at this Ministerial Conference, thereby further specifying the nature of trilateral cooperation.
- 4.4.** The Joint Action Plans will be “Cooperation and Coordination among the Three Countries toward a Resilient Logistics Network” and “Promoting Digital Transformation (DX) in Logistics.” The rest of Action Plans will be respectively led by China, Japan and Korea.
- 4.5.** China will continue to lead “Efforts to Establish and Expand an Inter-Connected Logistics Information Network,” “Best Practice Sharing and Cooperative Development of the Intermodal Transport in Northeast Asia” and “Promoting Close Cooperative Relations for Ports Sector.”
- 4.6.** Japan will continue to lead “Standardization of Transport Items,” “Efforts to Realize the Seamless Logistics System” and “Introducing Environmentally Friendly Logistics Policies.”
- 4.7.** Korea will continue to lead “Measures to Balance between Logistics Security
-

and Efficiency,” “Promoting Information Sharing and Cooperation on Sustainable Arctic Shipping” and “Logistics and Facilitating Trilateral Cold Chain Network.”

5. Promotion of a Resilient Logistics Network

The disruption by COVID-19 in logistics, mainly in the areas of maritime and air transport, caused damage to the supply chain, which we had taken for granted, and reminded us of the importance of securing a resilient logistics network.

5.1. We will strive to secure a resilient logistics network by strengthening cooperation among the three countries. We recognize the importance of the coordination in international logistics policies to address challenges that hinder the achievement of this goal and encourage our officials to continue to share experiences and best practices in international and domestic logistics policies with each other.

5.2. We will promote information-sharing on logistics security and studies on logistics security technologies in the three countries in order to improve the safety and efficiency of logistics.

6. Creation of a Seamless Logistics System

With the progress of technological innovation and the spread of new lifestyles triggered by COVID-19, the seamless logistics that we have been working on since the 1st Ministerial Conference has become increasingly important, and there is benefit in the continued promotion of such efforts.

6.1. Recognizing the importance of Digital Transformation (DX) in Logistics that will dramatically change the nature of logistics through automation and digitalization, we will promote the development of the transport and logistics sectors and ensure that the three countries play a leading role in this field.

6.2. In order to promote Digital Transformation (DX) in Logistics, it is important to standardize each element of logistics as a prerequisite. We recognize that standardization of logistics leads to optimization of the entire supply chain, and from this perspective, we appreciate the achievements on the standardization of pallets by the Asian Pallet System Federation (APSF). We will continue to cooperate for the standardization of logistics items including pallets in the three countries.

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- 6.3. We noted the expansion of the international cold chain network and an increase in the volume of fresh produce transport in response to lifestyle changes caused by COVID-19, and shared the view that a smooth cold chain network leads to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by improving food safety and reducing food waste. To this end, we will cooperate on international standardization in the field of cold chain and encourage the implementation of joint studies.
 - 6.4. We recognized that mutual access of trailer chassis enables speedy and quality sea-land intermodal transport, thus improving connectivity among the three countries. In this regard, we will endeavor to promote mutual access of trailer chassis, taking needs of the private sector into consideration.
 - 6.5. We will continue to expand the coverage of ports participating in the information-sharing network and strengthen cooperation with ports in other regions in order to further enhance the information-sharing services in the NEAL-NET. We will also work to improve services based on the needs of NEAL-NET users in Asia and to strengthen connections with other transport modes.
 - 6.6. In order to determine the future direction of sea-land intermodal transport of containers and the nature of cooperation among the three countries, the three countries will research the current status and issues of sea-land intermodal transport and share information.

7. Establishment of Environmentally Friendly Logistics

As the leaders of the three countries expressed the goal of carbon neutrality in 2020, and social awareness of the need to address the SDGs is growing, it is getting more important to build a sustainable logistics network.

- 7.1. We will be looking for ways to establish environmentally friendly logistics. We recognized that carbon neutrality is a shared goal among the three countries. We will work to ensure the sustainability of the global environment by further improving the efficiency of logistics through promoting modal shifts, and by promoting carbon neutrality in each mode of transport and logistics facilities. We will enhance trilateral and public-private cooperation through sharing of policies in each country and strengthening joint studies for environmentally friendly logistics.
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- 7.2. We recognized that the use of Returnable Transport Items (RTI) would greatly contribute to reducing logistics costs with an eco-friendly logistics system, and we will cooperate in addressing the issues that hinder the expansion of RTI use.
 - 8.1. We reaffirmed the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS)'s role in advancing trilateral cooperation and expressed support for the broader participation of TCS in the trilateral transport and logistics mechanism. TCS celebrates its 10th anniversary this year and has held many events to promote cooperation among the three countries.
 - 8.2. We have started the operation of our official website on August 6, 2021 with full support from TCS. Through the official website, we will share the achievements of the past 15 years, facilitate cooperation and coordination among the three countries, exchange the three countries' policy and research. The website will also enable the people of the three countries to better access the information of the Ministerial Conference.
 9. The next Ministerial Conference will be hosted by China.
 10. The Ministry of Transport of China and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of Korea expressed their appreciation to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan and the City of Kobe, for hosting this Ministerial Conference.
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Joint Communiqué

The 22nd Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Korea, China, and Japan

(7 December 2021, Video Conference, hosted by Korea)

Preamble

1. Minister HAN Jeoung-ae of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, Minister HUANG Runqiu of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China and Minister YAMAGUCHI Tsuyoshi of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan met virtually on 7 December 2021 for the 22nd Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM22).

Recent Progress in Environmental Policies in Korea, China, and Japan

2. The Ministers shared recent progress in environmental policies in each country since TEMM21. Minister HAN presented “Korea's Journey towards Green Future”, Minister HUANG presented “Adhere to the Path of Green and Low-carbon Development, Build a Clean and Beautiful Homeland”, and Minister YAMAGUCHI presented “Review and Outlook of Japanese Environmental Policies”. The Ministers shared the view that such efforts of the three countries will contribute to achieving sustainable development in Northeast Asia as well as to solving national, regional, and global environmental problems.

Recent Progress in Tripartite Environmental Cooperation

3. The Ministers appreciated with satisfaction that the Tripartite Joint Action Plan 2015-2019 (TJAP 2015-2019) has been successfully concluded with significant achievements in improving the three countries capacity of environmental management, enhancing public awareness, and consolidating TEMM as a well-functioning tripartite cooperation mechanism for addressing regional and global environmental challenges as well as for achieving sustainable development.
 4. Highlighting the importance of continuing and further strengthening TEMM cooperation in the time of global crisis caused by COVID19, the Ministers spoke highly of the three countries' concerted efforts to keep the cooperation momentum going by implementing the joint activities through online communication such as video conference.
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5. The Ministers welcomed the results of the 7th and 8th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution (TPDAP) respectively held in July 2020 and September 2021 as video conferences. They acknowledged that the implementation of the 2nd Five-Year Implementation Plan (2021-2025) will contribute to improving the air quality of the three countries with a particular focus on PM2.5 and O3. The Ministers welcomed the cooperation progress made in implementing the Mid-Term Action Plan (2020-2024) of the Working Group I on Dust and Sandstorms (DSS WG I) through the 13th and 14th meeting respectively held in October 2020 hosted by China and in September 2021 by Japan. They also appreciated that the Working Group II on Dust and Sandstorms (DSS WG II) established its Mid-Term Action Plan (2020-2024) at the 13th meeting held in December 2020 hosted by Japan. The Ministers noted the collaboration between the DSS WGI and II through the DSS Extended Workshop held in September 2021 and encouraged the continued collaboration. They also appreciated the launch of DSS Portal website.
6. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the 7th and 8th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity respectively held in September 2020 hosted by Japan and in July 2021 hosted by Korea as video conferences which discussed goals, targets, indicators, implementation and monitoring mechanism, and measures for evaluation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be adopted at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15) in Kunming, China, as well as measures against invasive alien species. They also welcomed that the three countries will strengthen further cooperation on biodiversity.
7. The Ministers welcomed the Joint Research on Cities towards Decarbonization and Sustainable Development that was approved by the three countries on the occasion of the 22nd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP22) to conduct in cooperation with Korea Environment Institute (KEI), National Centre for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC), and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) with its outcome of good practices towards decarbonization and sustainable city. They also welcomed that the three countries will strengthen further cooperation on adaptation at city level.
8. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the TEMM-NOWPAP Joint Workshop on Marine Litter Management held in September 2021 hosted by Japan including sharing about the progress of all actions pertaining to delivery of the

G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter.

9. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the 13th Sound Material-Cycle Society/ Circular Economy/3R Seminar held in December 2019 in China and the 14th Seminar held in December 2020 virtually through which the three countries exchanged their policies on promoting circular economy and plastic waste reduction and management.
10. The Ministers noted the meaningful discussion about the latest regulatory information and experience on chemical management at the 14th and 15th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemical Management (TPDCM) and the Tripartite Expert Seminar on Chemical Management (TESCM) respectively held in November 2020 hosted by Korea and November 2021 hosted by China as video conference.
11. The Ministers noted the fruitful discussions to enhance multilateralism to achieve green recovery, carbon neutrality, biodiversity conservation, and the Sustainable Development Goals made at the 2nd P4G Seoul Summit, the 4th Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, CBD COP15 – Part One and UNFCCC COP26 with the active participation of the three countries.

Adoption of Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation 2021-2025

12. Recalling the commitments made at the Trilateral Summits and stated in the Joint Statement on Environmental Cooperation in 2015 and the Trilateral Cooperation Vision for the Next Decade in 2019, the Ministers adopted the Tripartite Joint Action Plan 2021-2025 (TJAP 2021-2025) which prescribes the vision, principles, and objective of the tripartite environmental cooperation for the period by 2025 and sets out the specific actions and implementation plans in the following eight priority areas adopted at TEMM21:
 - (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
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(8) Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Engagement

13. The Ministers shared the commitment to the successful implementation of the TJAP 2021-2025 through efforts among the three countries. They expected that carrying out the joint actions will contribute to achieving global goals such as Sustainable Development Goals, UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement as well as to promoting green transformation in the region and to tackling environmental issues of the three countries' common interest. They also encouraged continued and enhanced participation of various stakeholders such as youth, businesses, academia, local government and civil society in the implementation of the TJAP based on the consensus among the three countries.
14. The Ministers will submit the TJAP 2021-2025 to the 9th Trilateral Summit which is to be held in Korea.
15. The Ministers acknowledged the contribution of Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) in the framework of TEMM and welcomed continuous collaboration with TCS under the TJAP 2021-2025.

Promoting Green Recovery from Global COVID-19 Pandemic

16. The Ministers underlined the importance of exerting wisdoms among the three countries to strive to minimize the impacts of the global COVID19 pandemic on the economy, the society, and the environment. They shared the view that the actions to build forward better and greener from COVID19 need to promote the transition to a green, low-carbon/decarbonized/carbon neutral, and resilient economy in light of their respective national circumstances as well as the effective protection of the environment, with the idea of prioritizing ecological conservation and achieving green development. The Ministers expressed willingness to make the best use of the TEMM mechanism for exchanging the policies and best practices relevant to the green and inclusive recovery from COVID19 and also to share experience through other platforms such as the Online Platform on Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from COVID19.

Advancing TEMM Cooperation

17. The Ministers highlighted the significant steps they have made recently to commit to achieve net-zero GHG emissions or carbon neutrality respectively and to strengthen policies to reach the goal. The Ministers emphasized the urgent need to increase their efforts to control and reduce emissions through

accelerated action and implementation of domestic mitigation measures, especially in the critical decade. The Ministers emphasized the importance of further collaboration with various stakeholders and sharing good practices for the climate actions of local governments. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of the arrangement on the implementation of the Article 6 (market and non-market mechanisms) of the Paris Agreement, and emphasized the importance of the implementation of Article 6 for emission control and reduction. The Ministers expressed their willingness to call on other countries to set long-term goals and strengthen policies to implement the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, and cooperate with them as appropriate.

18. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of the Kunming Declaration at the Part One of CBD COP15, which was successfully convened in October 2021 in Kunming, China. They decided to work closely together to ensure the development, adoption and implementation of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework to reverse the current loss of biodiversity and ensure that biodiversity is put on a path to recovery by 2030 at the latest, towards the full realization of the 2050 Vision of “Living in Harmony with Nature”. The Ministers also stressed the importance of the protection and restoration of endangered species and conservation of ecosystems such as forests and wetlands as carbon sinks.
 19. The Ministers expected that the three countries will expand their cooperation including exploring the possibility of “Trilateral+X” cooperation and strengthening their collaboration in broader multilateral environmental processes on the issues of common interest such as marine plastic litter, biodiversity, and carbon neutrality. They decided to encourage close cooperation among the three countries at upcoming major environmental events in regional and global scale including the Resumed 5th Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), CBD COP15
– Part Two, UNFCCC COP27, and 2022 G20 Environment Ministers Meeting.
 20. Recognizing the importance of research cooperation which would provide scientific basis for policy cooperation, the Ministers noted with appreciation the cooperation among the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER) of Korea, the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) of Japan, and the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES) of China under the Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM). They were willing to encourage TEMM to interact with the TPM which is an independent platform for finding
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and facilitating research collaborations, so that the two tripartite mechanisms mutually support each other.

TEMM23

21. The Ministers decided that TEMM23 will be held in 2022 in China. The date and venue will be proposed by the host country and confirmed by Japan and Korea.

Closing

22. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful outcome of TEMM22. Minister HUANG Runqiu and YAMAGUCHI Tsuyoshi expressed their deep appreciation to Minister HAN Jeoung-ae for hosting the meeting.

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Ministry of the Environment
Japan

HAN Jeoung-ae
Minister
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HUANG Runqiu
Minister
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People's Republic of China

I. Introduction

1. Background

- 1.1. Since created in 1999, the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Korea, China and Japan (TEMM) has played as an effective high-level regional environmental cooperation mechanism in Northeast Asia.
 - 1.2. Sharing the understanding that Northeast Asia shares common challenges and interests on the environment, TEMM has addressed varying environmental issues of the three countries' common interest in a systematic and participatory way. From academia to business sector and civil society, broad stakeholders have contributed to TEMM cooperation by providing inputs to or taking part in the TEMM activities. The multi-layered structure of TEMM comprising the Ministers Meeting, TEMM DGM, and pre- TEMM and post-TEMM Working Level Meeting has enabled effective implementation management, review and assessment, and constant improvement of the cooperation.
 - 1.3. For the purpose of addressing key environmental challenges in a targeted manner, five- year Tripartite Joint Action Plans were developed and implemented under TEMM respectively for the period from 2010 to 2014 (First TJAP) and from 2015 to 2019 (Second TJAP). Implementing the TJAPs has significantly strengthened the TEMM cooperation both in scale and depth and contributed to environmental improvement and green development in the region.
 - 1.4. Despite the accomplishments it has made over the last two decades, TEMM is called to assume a greater role in seeking environmentally sustainable way to overcome and recover from the crisis caused by the global COVID19 pandemic as well as in achieving the global goals such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.
 - 1.5. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, TEMM22 which had been scheduled in 2020 in Korea was postpone to 2021 as well as the adoption of the 3rd TJAP.
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Therefore, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (hereinafter referred to individually as a "Side" and collectively as "the Three Sides") consented to extend the period of the 2nd TJAP up to the adoption of the 3rd TAJP and have continued the implementation of the activities under 2nd TJAP.

2. Overall Review of the Tripartite Joint Action Plan 2015-2019 (Second TJAP)

- 2.1. The Second TJAP set out nine Priority Areas: (1) Air Quality Improvement; (2) Biodiversity; (3) Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response; (4) Circulative Management of Resources/3R/Transboundary Management of E-Waste; (5) Climate Change Response; (6) Conservation of Water and Marine Environment; (7) Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Corporate Social Responsibility; (8) Rural Environmental Management; and (9) Transition to Green Economy.
- 2.2. Cooperative activities under the nine Priority Areas of the Second TJAP were conducted in various forms with a variety of topics aiming to meet the visions and objectives set out in the Plan. Overall progress of their implementation was significant while the degree of achievement varied by area and by topic. Building common political will, support by the Three Sides, early consensus on cooperation topics and working methods, and close communication among focal points or implementing entities were key to making progress in those activities with outstanding performance.
- 2.3. In the majority of the Priority Areas, regular meeting mechanisms in the form of policy dialogue, seminar, or forum functioned as a platform on which multiple action topics in the area were addressed in an integrated manner.
- 2.4. Through the implementation of the Second TJAP, tripartite cooperation on conventional environmental issues such as air pollution and environmental education has been advanced further. In the meantime, the three countries also conducted timely cooperation on emerging issues such as disaster wastes, marine plastic litter and microplastics, invasive alien species and low carbon cities.
- 2.5. In many areas, activities were carried out in the context of major international process including multilateral environmental agreements such as the UNFCCC

and the CBD, and several activities were conducted through or in connection with other regional environmental programs including NOWPAP and WEPA.

- 2.6. Through the implementation of the second TJAP (2015-2019), the three countries strengthened exchange of information, experience and best practices in the priority areas, improved their capacity of environmental protection, enhanced public awareness, and developed a well-functioning coordination and communication mechanism for jointly addressing regional and global environmental challenges. As a result, TEMM has played an increasingly significant role in regional and global environmental cooperation.

II. Vision, Principles, and Objective

1. Vision

- 1.1. To promote cooperation to tackle environmental issues of the three countries' common interest, taking into account the three countries' respective efforts such as Ecological Civilization/Living in Harmony with Nature/Green Transformation, in light of the commitments made at the Trilateral Summits and stated including in the Joint Statement on Environmental Cooperation in 2015, Joint Declaration of the Seventh Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit in 2018, and the Trilateral Cooperation Vision for the Next Decade in 2019.
- 1.2. To better cooperate together closely and contribute to achieving global goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals and UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement in the three countries and to support the endeavor to build forward better and greener in the post- COVID19 era through green recovery, redesign of socio-economy, and coordinated advancement of economy and the environment.

2. Principles

- 2.1. Cooperation in the TEMM framework will contribute to achieve the SDGs of the three countries.
 - 2.2. Joint activities under the Third 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.
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- 2.3. In the fields where three countries have experience and know-how, and the willingness to share with other countries, TEMM will further explore possible “3+X” cooperation to promote sustainable development in the region and beyond, while utilizing multilateral frameworks such as G20, ASEAN+3, and APEC and seeking partnerships with other countries and international organizations with consensus of the three countries.
- 2.4. 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.

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3. Objective

- 3.1. The Three Sides will endeavor to further enhance their joint actions to meet the visions in paragraph II.1 in accordance with the principles in paragraph II.2. The objective of the Tripartite Joint Action Plan 2021-2025 (Third TJAP) is to present such actions to be promoted under TEMM for the period from 2021 to 2025.

III. Priority Areas, Activities, and Actions

1. Priority Areas

- 1.1. At TEMM21, the Ministers adopted the new Priority Areas of TEMM cooperation for the period from 2020 to 2025 as follows:
 - (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

2. Activities

2.1. An Activity is a tripartite gathering in the form of policy dialogue, seminar or forum through which Actions may be planned, conducted, coordinated, facilitated, or supported. The Activities which have been established or will be newly launched under the eight Priority Areas are as following:

- (1) Air Quality improvement
 - Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution (TPDAP)
 - Working Group I & II on Dust and Sandstorms (DSS WG I & II)
- (2) 3R/Circular Economy/Zero Waste City
 - Tripartite 3R/Circular Economy/Zero Waste City Seminar
- (3) Marine and Water Environment Management
 - TEMM-NOWPAP Joint Workshop
 - Tripartite Forum on Water Policies and Technologies
- (4) Climate Change
 - Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Climate Change, Carbon Neutrality, and Sustainable Recovery
- (5) Biodiversity
 - Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity (TPDBD)
- (6) Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response
 - Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemical Management & Expert Seminar (TPDCM & TESCM)
 - Ad Hoc Tripartite Dialogue on Environmental Emergency Response
- (7) Transition to Green Economy
 - Tripartite Roundtable on Environmental Business Plus (TREB+)
- (8) Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Engagement
 - Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN)
 - Environmental Training for Officials
 - TEMM Youth Forum

3. Actions

3.1. An Action is a basic component of cooperation under this TJAP, which has a specific topic, purpose, and modality of implementation. An Action may be

planned, conducted, and/or supported by the Activity under the Priority Area either individually or in connection with other Actions.

- 3.2. The list of Actions and their descriptions are set forth in the Annex. The Actions may be modified or updated through consultation among the three countries taking into consideration of changing circumstances and cooperation interest during the implementation period of this TJAP.

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IV. Implementation Arrangement

1. Implementation Mechanism

- 1.1. For every Action under paragraph III.3, at least one focal point will be appointed from each Side. The focal points of an Action from the Three Sides communicate with each other for any matters concerning the implementation of the Action. They will discuss, plan, and implement the Action, summarize the result, and report it to pre-TEMM or post-TEMM Working Level Meeting. They may update or improve the topics and modality of the Action responding to emerging issues and new cooperation demand.
- 1.2. The individual Actions may be conducted on or supported by the Activities under paragraph III.2.
- 1.3. The pre-TEMM and post-TEMM Working Level Meetings (WLMs) are responsible for coordinating overall TEMM cooperation. It identifies problems arising from the implementation of Actions and coordinates their solving, and facilitates communication among focal points of each Action. On an annual basis, the WLMs will review the progress in the Actions under the Priority Areas and prepare a TJAP progress report to be reviewed by TEMM DGM.
- 1.4. The Directors General Meeting (DGM) will review the TJAP progress report submitted by pre-TEMM, provide its considerations and recommendations for improvement, and adopt the report to be presented to TEMM. DGM will also be reported with and confirm the progress of the tripartite joint research on dust and sand storms (DSS).
- 1.5. The Ministers Meeting (TEMM) oversees the general progress and achievements

of the Activities and provides guidance.

2. Implementing entities

- 2.1. This TJAP will be implemented jointly by the Three Sides, and/or implementing organizations nominated by the Sides taking into consideration of their specific national circumstances.
- 2.2. Based on consensus of the three countries, cooperation under this TJAP may be promoted in collaboration with or with the support from other organizations including the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat.

3. Resources

- 3.1. Resources necessary for the implementation of the TJAP will be jointly contributed by the Three Sides considering their specific national circumstances.

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Joint Statement of the 14th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum

I. Summary of the 14th Forum

The 14th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum was held virtually on October 27, 2021. The forum, hosted and chaired by the People's Republic of China, was attended by GAO Zheng, Director General of the Department of Industry Development of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China, KIM Young-soo, Director General of Content Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea, NOHARA Satoshi, Director-General of Commerce and Information Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, representatives from the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat and other participants from the industries and related government agencies of the three countries.

The three countries discussed the opportunities and modes of cooperation in the cultural content industries. They agreed that the digital culture industry is an essential area of cooperation in the cultural content industries, playing a vital role in promoting the restoration and prosperity of the cultural content industries, meeting people's cultural needs and enhancing their moral strength. The three countries agreed to keep discussing, among others, these subjects in the future editions of the Forum and support practical cooperation and common development between their digital culture businesses and organizations.

The three countries reconfirmed that the Forum holds great significance for continuous exchange and cooperation in the cultural content industries between not only the governments but also their respective industries. They agreed to continue organizing the Forum on a regular basis by hosting it alternately.

II. Promotion of exchange and cooperation in the cultural content industries of the three countries

The three countries will further strengthen inter-governmental communication and cooperation and promote exchange of information on cultural content industry policies, measures and development experience. They will also build support and service platforms to facilitate exchange and cooperation between cultural companies

and industry organizations.

The three countries will promote exchange and cooperation between their companies in the cultural industry and encourage them to participate in online and offline international trade shows, matchmaking events and business negotiations in accordance with the pertinent pandemic containment requirements.

The three countries will support cultural companies in establishing a trilateral digital culture industry incubation mechanism, holding online events on a regular basis and strengthening talent exchange in the field of the digital culture industry.

III. The next Forum

The three countries have agreed that the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea will host the 15th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum. The People's Republic of China and Japan will positively support the Republic of Korea vis-à-vis the participation of related government agencies and industries in the Forum.

This joint statement has been adopted at the 14th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum held on October 27, 2021 in Chinese, Korean, Japanese and English, each text being equally valid. In case of any divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Joint Statement of The Fourteenth Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting (THMM)

(21 December 2021, Video Conference)

We, the Health Ministers of Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea, on December 21st, 2021, held the Fourteenth Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting (THMM) via video conference.

We reaffirmed the necessity of activities/efforts among the three countries to deal with emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases such as COVID-19, which are common challenges of the three countries, and the importance of continued international cooperation to minimize the severe impact of outbreaks on people's health, livelihood, safety, well-being, and socio-economy. The meeting agenda included infectious disease preparedness and response, healthy aging and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and universal health coverage (UHC).

1. Sharing information and experiences on prevention, preparedness and response to infectious diseases with pandemic or high consequence potential of common concern

As reaffirmed by the COVID-19 pandemic, infectious diseases have the potential to be cross-border threats to our region. Considering the geographical proximity of the three countries and the frequency of international travel and transportation, there is a great need for stronger cooperation at the regional level to respond to infectious disease outbreaks collaboratively.

Over the past decade, based on the "Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on the Joint Response to Novel Influenza among China, Japan and Korea" and the "Joint Action Plan on Preparedness and Response against Pandemic Influenza and Emerging/ Re-emerging Infectious Diseases of Common Concern (revised in 2019)", the three countries have been working together not only to effectively protect public health in each country but also to contribute to global health emergency management, such as measures against novel influenza (A/H1N1) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). To control the COVID-19 pandemic and achieve a better recovery among the three countries, it is necessary to cooperate with various international organizations and other countries. Of note, we, the three nearby countries, confirmed the importance of responding through solid coordination and collaboration with each

other.

As suggested by various bodies and panels, we reaffirmed the importance of building a robust healthcare system focused on prevention, preparedness, and response to pandemics such as the COVID-19. We concur on open, transparent, accountable, and timely information sharing on prevention, control, surveillance, and response measures, focusing on collaborative management of the virus. We also acknowledged the importance of continuous collaboration before and during pandemic outbreaks for more effective prevention and response to the current COVID-19 pandemic and future outbreaks of other novel infections, in line with each country's context. Through the Japan-China-Korea Forum on Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, the Joint Symposium on COVID-19 after Vaccination and Way Forward, and the networking and exchange of experts and officials to enhance human resources and capacity building, we emphasized the significance to share information and knowledge, and cooperate in research, and decided to revise the Joint Action Plan.

Regarding the global health architecture, we will continue to support the World Health Organization (WHO), which plays an essential role in global health governance when an international health crisis occurs, including pandemics.

Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response is currently committed to developing a new instrument, a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument, on pandemic preparedness and response. The working group is also actively discussing how to strengthen the International Health Regulations (IHR (2005)). We will actively contribute to these discussions to prevent, prepare, and respond to global health crisis.

We will promote cooperation in global health by following the activities and goals of WHO and other international organizations and continuing to implement measures to control the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, we will work closely with the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific and Asia-Pacific countries to further strengthen preparedness and response to health crises in the region. We will continue to share information in compliance with domestic laws monitor threats to public health in the area, and strengthen our capacity to respond to any health crisis caused by infectious disease outbreaks.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic have taught us that unequal international access to diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines (DTVs) can lead to prolonged pandemics and sustained health and economic damage. We will continue our generous efforts and support to other countries, especially Low- and Middle- Income Countries

(LMICs), in managing the

COVID-19, share experiences in the development of medicines and vaccines, and contribute to ensuring the equitable access to vaccines in LMICs in cooperation with international frameworks such as the COVAX Facility.

2. Healthy Ageing and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

The WHO Western Pacific region is experiencing a rapid population ageing. Japan and Korea are among the countries with the fastest ageing population in the world, and China has the largest elderly population in the world, with more than 190 million people over the age of 65. In addition, the three countries are experiencing a decline in birthrate continuously. It is an urgent issue to deal with the change in the demographic structure of the three countries, where the burden of social security is increasing. For a sustainable development of the three countries, it is necessary to examine the challenges and measures based on latest research and scientific evidence on both the declining birthrate and the ageing population. We will promote medium- to long-term policies that respects social conditions and individual values. As in the seminar held this year with experts from Japan, China and Korea, the three countries will continue to exchange information and share knowledge in this field, which is becoming increasingly important.

Living in an ageing society, we propose to strengthen information and experience sharing, human resource development, and project cooperation in areas of common interest among the three countries, including creating sustainable age-friendly environments, protecting the rights and interests of older persons in the digital age, promoting social participation of older persons, health services for older persons and integrated medical and social care, and encouraging and supporting scientific research institutions to develop joint scientific research, so as to meet the needs of older persons in the three countries and improve the well-being of these people. Among the three countries, extending healthy life expectancy, rather than simply extending life expectancy, has become an even more important issue. In particular, dementia is a topic that requires early response and prevention efforts, as well as multi-sectoral policies including nursing and medical care to realize healthy ageing, and it is very meaningful to share efforts of the three countries.

Not only dementia, but also non-communicable diseases are common health issues among the three countries with ageing populations which requires significant medical resources and active investment. Non-communicable diseases have led to a rapid increase in government spending on health care. For this reason, it is vital

to promote integrated measures focusing on primary and secondary prevention of chronic diseases, encourage healthy diet, exercise, smoking cessation, and screening for appropriate early detection. We, three countries, will promote cooperation on prevention and early treatment of non-communicable diseases to promote healthy ageing and share good practices, epidemiological and science-based evidence, experiences, and research, so that more of the population and older persons can enjoy their lives.

3. Achieving and Strengthening Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

Achieving UHC is a fundamental issue for Sustainable Development and also one of the priorities in the WHO's 13th General Programme of Work. Moreover, strengthening health systems to promote UHC leads to better preparedness for a variety of health challenges, including infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, and ageing, as we have observed again in the recent COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize the importance of maintaining resilient health systems in the face of changing demographic and economic conditions, and reaffirmed the importance of supporting Asian neighbors in their efforts to achieve UHC. In addition, as the UN High-Level Meeting on UHC is scheduled to be held in 2023, the three countries confirmed that they will work together to foster political momentum for the meeting and strengthen cooperation to adopt a meaningful and comprehensive political declaration.

Furthermore, in recent years, natural disasters has posed serious threats and challenges to people's health and lives of the three countries. In times of disaster, vulnerable population, such as older persons, women, children, and people with disabilities, are more likely to be at risk for health and livelihood damages. Therefore, recognizing the importance of maintaining an effective health system that ensures timely and appropriate delivery of health and medical services to all citizens, including the vulnerable groups, even in times of disaster, we concur to share the experience of the three countries in managing health risks. In order to ensure "No One Left Behind", we also acknowledge to build resilient health and medical systems that are resilient to disasters through efforts to achieving UHC. Mutual sharing of experiences in disaster response will help strengthen our countries' capacities to respond to disasters. The three countries will work to share information and expertise and strengthen the region's capacity to respond to disaster-related health crises in close collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific.

4. Next meeting

We reaffirm the common recognition that the Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting will be held regularly with the cooperation of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat and that we will conduct all relevant activities based on equality, reciprocity, and mutual benefit.

The next Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting will be held in Korea in 2022.

List of Trilateral Ministerial Meetings in 2021¹

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

Trilateral Ministerial Meetings in 2021

	Date	Meeting	Venue
1	May 3	21 st Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting	online
2	August 20	8 th China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics	online
3	August 30	12 th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting	online
4	November 30	21 st Trilateral Intellectual Property Offices Heads Meeting	online
5	December 7	22 nd Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting	online
6	December 21	14 th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting	online

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.

2021

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE TRILATERAL COOPERATION



Published in June 2022

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