

Joint Declaration of the Ninth ROK-Japan-China Trilateral Summit

1. President of the Republic of Korea Yoon Suk Yeol, Prime Minister of Japan Kishida Fumio, and Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Qiang convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea on May 27, 2024, on the occasion of the Ninth Trilateral Summit.
2. Recalling that this year marks the 25th anniversary of the trilateral cooperation, we shared the view that the previous eight Trilateral Summits held since 2008 and the establishment of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) in 2011 have laid a solid foundation for institutionalizing the trilateral cooperation. We reaffirmed our commitment to implementation of the Trilateral Cooperation Vision for the Next Decade adopted at the Eighth Trilateral Summit. We appreciated that the trilateral cooperation has deepened in various areas, benefiting the three countries and peoples and positioning itself as a meaningful platform for regional cooperation.
3. We reaffirmed our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to an international order based on the rule of law and international law. In this context, we shared the importance for states to abide by their commitments under the international law and agreements among states.
4. We shared the view that the Ninth Trilateral Summit carries valuable meaning for revitalizing the trilateral cooperation. Japan and the People's Republic of China expressed appreciation for the Republic of Korea's efforts as the chair country to bring the trilateral cooperation on track in close collaboration with Japan and the People's Republic of China.
5. Recognizing that the Republic of Korea, Japan and the People's Republic of China are neighboring countries sharing everlasting history and infinite future with significant potentials for cooperation across multiple domains, we concurred on the following, but not limited to, three directions in developing the trilateral cooperation:
6. First, we will strive to institutionalize the trilateral cooperation by holding the Trilateral Summit and Ministerial meetings on a regular basis, and continue to promote the capacity-building of the TCS.
7. Second, recognizing that the support of the peoples of the three countries constitutes an important driving force for deepening the trilateral cooperation, we will make efforts to

ensure that peoples of the three countries can enjoy substantive benefits emanating from this cooperation.

8. To this end, we will identify and implement mutually-beneficial cooperation projects centered on six key areas closely related to the everyday lives of the peoples: people-to-people exchanges; sustainable development including through climate change response; economic cooperation and trade; public health and ageing society; science and technology cooperation, digital transformation; and disaster relief and safety. In particular, we will seek to deepen the bonds of cooperation in the field of exchanges between future generations, as we share the view that such exchanges are crucial in consolidating a long-term basis for the trilateral cooperation.
9. Third, we will promote ‘Trilateral+X Cooperation’ to ensure that the benefits of the trilateral cooperation extend to other countries so that the three countries can prosper together with other regions.
10. With this in mind, we decided the following:

Institutionalization of the Trilateral Cooperation

11. Recalling that the three countries decided to hold the Trilateral Summit on a regular basis through the Joint Statement for Tripartite Partnership adopted at the First Trilateral Summit and reaffirmed this through the Joint Declaration for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia adopted at the Sixth Trilateral Summit, we reaffirm the need to hold the Trilateral Summit and the Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting on a regular basis without hiatus in order to further advance the trilateral cooperation. We reiterate that promoting the institutionalization of the trilateral cooperation enhances the respective bilateral relations and fosters peace, stability, and prosperity in the Northeast Asian region and helps to promote a world in which countries, big or small, could be universally benefited.
12. Furthermore, we will strengthen substantive trilateral cooperation through inter-governmental consultative mechanisms such as high-level meetings and Ministerial Meetings in areas including education, culture, tourism, sports, trade, public health and agriculture. In doing so, we commit to working closely together to ensure that our peoples enjoy the tangible benefits of the trilateral cooperation.

Trilateral Cooperation Projects for the Peoples of the Three Countries

13. **(People-to-People Exchanges)** Noting the need to revitalize people-to-people exchanges so as to foster mutual understanding and trust, we concur on the importance of enhancing amity and friendship by facilitating exchanges between peoples from all walks of life, especially future generations, thereby paving the way to strengthen the foundation of future trilateral cooperation. Also, we strive to increase the number of people-to-people exchanges among the three countries to 40 million by 2030 through promoting exchange including culture, tourism and education.
14. Recognizing the importance of cooperation in the education sector in promoting exchanges between future generations, we appreciate the exemplary role of CAMPUS Asia, an inter-university exchange program initiated in 2011, which has expanded to encompass universities in ASEAN member states. We note that the program has garnered the participation of 15,000 university students, and will actively support this project with the goal of having 30,000 students by the end of 2030.
15. We share the view that fostering exchanges and friendship among teenagers and youths of the three countries will serve as an important initial step towards shaping a brighter future for the trilateral cooperation. To this end, we will continue various exchange programs, including the ROK-Japan-China Children's Story Exchange Programme, the Junior Sports Exchange Meet, the Trilateral Youth Camp, and the Joint Training Program for Young Public Servants. Furthermore, we value the efforts of the TCS in conducting various youth exchange projects, including the Trilateral Youth Summit, the Young Ambassador Program, and the Trilateral Rural Young Leaders' Exchange Program.
16. Recognizing that culture plays a bridging role in connecting the peoples of the three countries, we will continue to expand platforms through which our peoples can cultivate a sense of shared understanding and interact with each other through such initiatives as the Culture City of East Asia, the Trilateral Arts Festival, and the Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum. We will also designate 2025-2026 as the Year of Cultural Exchange among the three countries.
17. Welcoming the launch of the Trilateral Visionary Group initiated by the TCS bringing together eminent figures from the three countries, we look forward to the constructive work and proposal to be issued for further improving the trilateral process. We support the Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tanks to upgrade its relevance in trilateral

cooperation. We also share the view that public diplomacy plays an important role in enhancing mutual understanding and deepening friendship among the peoples of the three countries.

18. **(Sustainable Development including through Climate Change Response)** We reaffirm our commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the importance of building a future of peace and prosperity where people live in harmony with the planet. We recognize the need to work together in transitioning toward a net zero greenhouse gases emissions/carbon neutrality, green economy and society. Welcoming that the 24th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting in November 2023 adopted a Joint Communiqué, we will continue our cooperation on eight priority areas. We also welcome that the 4th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Water Resources in May 2024 adopted a Joint Statement, which reaffirms the commitment of trilateral water cooperation to address climate change and build a resilient water infrastructure.
19. We will take solid action and support efforts to achieve the Paris Agreement temperature goal to address the climate crisis in this critical decade, and we will come forward with ambitious next Nationally Determined Contributions, reflecting the outcome of the first global stocktake. We will also contribute to global efforts toward clean, sustainable and affordable energy transitions through various pathways.
20. Through the ‘Trilateral+X Cooperation’ framework, we will collaborate with Mongolia on reducing dust and sandstorms in East Asia. We will promote collaboration on marine environmental conservation to achieve sustainability of the ocean for future generations. We will work together towards the ambition to complete the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution at its fifth session (INC-5) which will be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in November 2024.
21. Recognizing our commitment to end illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which is one of the most serious threats to the conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources, we will carry out robust and effective measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing through various tools. We commit to the swift, full and effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

22. **(Economic Cooperation and Trade)** We share the recognition that joint efforts in the economic and trade field among the three countries play a significant role for the prosperity and stability of the regional and global economy. We will endeavor to narrow the regional development gap and achieve common development.
23. We reaffirm our support for the open, transparent, inclusive, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core. We commit to reforming and strengthening all WTO functions, including having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system by 2024. We call on all WTO members to support the Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement to be incorporated into the legal framework and commit to working towards the prompt conclusion of negotiations on the JSI on E-commerce.
24. Affirming the importance of ensuring implementation in a transparent, smooth and effective manner of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement as the basis of a Trilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA), we will keep discussions for speeding up negotiations for a Trilateral FTA, aiming at realizing a free, fair, comprehensive, high-quality, and mutually beneficial FTA with its own value. Reaffirming that RCEP is an open and inclusive regional engagement, we encourage the RCEP Joint Committee to accelerate the discussion on the accession procedures of new membership to RCEP.
25. We will continue to work to ensure a global level playing field to foster a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, inclusive, and predictable trade and investment environment. We also reaffirm our commitment to keeping markets open and strengthening supply chain cooperation and avoiding supply chain disruptions. We share the need to continue communication in the field of export control. We welcome the Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum to be held in 2024. We will continue to encourage local-level cooperation and enhance cooperative platforms including the Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technology Exchange Conference.
26. Acknowledging the importance of promoting the regional financial cooperation, we welcome the progress made in ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meetings, in particular the endorsement of the establishment of the Rapid Financing Facility with the incorporation of eligible freely usable currencies as its currencies of choice, under the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM). We

also welcome the progress on other initiatives under the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office, the Asian Bond Markets Initiative and the Disaster Risk Financing. We reaffirm our commitment and support to enhance the effectiveness of the CMIM for the regional financial safety net and task our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to explore more robust financing structures and actively discuss various financing structure options with each other as well as with the ASEAN countries.

27. We plan to leverage the ASEAN+3 Cooperation Fund to support startups, such as by hosting an information exchange symposium for startups from the three countries and the ASEAN member states. We recognize the importance of the implementation of the ASEAN +3 Leaders' Statement on Developing of Electric Vehicle Ecosystem.
28. Noting that, at the 23rd Trilateral Intellectual Property Offices (TRIPO) Heads Meeting among the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), and the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), the three countries concurred on expanding the scope of cooperation to encompass new technology sectors and extending our cooperation in pursuit of 'Trilateral+X IP Cooperation', we adopted the Joint Statement on a 10 Year Vision for Trilateral IP Cooperation on the occasion of this summit.
29. **(Public Health and Ageing Society)** Recognizing the critical role of trilateral cooperation in the health field, including cooperation in response to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, we adopted the Joint Statement on Future Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response on the occasion of this summit. In line with the outcome reached at the 16th Trilateral Health Ministers' Meeting in December 2023, we are determined to enhance our collaboration in managing health emergencies including infectious diseases, among the national public health agencies for disease control in the three countries, such as through the Korea-Japan-China Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Forum and Joint Symposium.
30. Furthermore, we will jointly tackle our common challenges facing low birth rate, and the ageing society. Through the exchange between the governments and experts of the three countries, we concur on sharing policy expertise in promoting healthy ageing, including regarding our experience in the fields of technological development, personnel training, medical and long-term care, and income security, with a view to achieving and sustaining universal health coverage.

31. **(Science and Technology Cooperation, Digital Transformation)** Recognizing the growing importance of cooperation in science and technology, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), we will strive to resume the Trilateral Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting and the Trilateral ICT Ministers' Meeting.
32. We note the need to promptly address the possible impacts of AI on the daily lives of humanity, and the importance of mutual communication on AI. We also note the government of the Republic of Korea's contribution to establishing global governance aimed at ensuring safe, secure, trustworthy, innovative, inclusive, and responsible AI by hosting the AI Seoul Summit in May.
33. Sharing the importance of the cooperation in science and innovation to improve our research capacity and the competitiveness of the industrial technology, we recognize the importance of academic exchanges among researchers from the three countries as well as joint research and development in areas such as green and low-carbon society.
34. **(Disaster Relief and Safety)** We will foster a safer environment for the peoples of the three countries through the resumption of the Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management and the Trilateral Counter-Terrorism Consultation mechanism in due course. Acknowledging the importance of women's participation and leadership in disaster response and damage mitigation, we will enhance the trilateral cooperation related to the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, including through dialogue with ASEAN member states. Furthermore, we will strengthen cooperation through the Trilateral Meeting on Police Cooperation to prevent and crack down on transboundary crimes, including fraud and drug-related crimes.

Regional and International Peace, and Prosperity

35. We reaffirmed that maintaining peace, stability and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia serves our common interest and is our common responsibility. We reiterated positions on regional peace and stability, denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the abductions issue, respectively. We agree to continue to make positive efforts for the political settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue.
36. Recognizing that the trilateral cooperation has developed in close partnership with the ASEAN, we concur on the need to continue to expand the trilateral cooperation in the context of ASEAN frameworks such as the ASEAN+3 (APT), the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). We also express our strong support for

ASEAN centrality and unity. We appreciate the Lao People's Democratic Republic's efforts as the ASEAN Chair of 2024.

37. As important countries responsible for peace, stability and prosperity in Asia, we renew our determination to engage in close communication not only within the trilateral framework but also in the multilateral frameworks where all three countries participate, such as the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), given that the three countries are serving as members of the UNSC in 2024. In this context, we will work together for the successful hosting of the 2025 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in the Republic of Korea. We also support the hosting of the Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan, and the 9th Asian Winter Games Harbin 2025 in China.
38. We look forward to the hosting of the Tenth Trilateral Summit by Japan.

Joint Statement on a 10 Year Vision for Trilateral IP Cooperation

We, the leaders of the Republic of Korea, Japan and the People's Republic of China, convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on May 27, 2024, on the occasion of the Ninth Trilateral Summit.

Recalling that on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of the trilateral cooperation among the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), and the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) (hereinafter collectively referred to as “the three offices”), the heads of the three offices held the trilateral meeting on November 30, 2023, in Busan, Republic of Korea, to review the course of the trilateral cooperation and charted a new direction in response to the needs of a new era;

Recalling that the three offices launched the trilateral Intellectual Property (IP) cooperation back in 2001 with the goal of facilitating exchanges and utilization of patent examination information, harmonizing patent examination practices, and establishing international norms;

Acknowledging that over the past twenty-three years, based on geographical proximity and cultural similarities, the three offices have continuously enhanced mutual trust, deepened cooperation in six areas—IP automation, patents, designs, human resources development, trials and appeals, and trademarks—and strengthened patent protection to ensure patentees fully enjoy the exclusive rights in return for their invention and disclosure;

Recognizing that the volume of patent applications handled by the three offices has increased from 40 percent of the world total to over 60 percent while the trademark filing activities of the three offices have increased from 20 percent of the world total to more than 50 percent over the last two decades, which represents the significant role the three offices have played in promoting technological advances and economic growth not just in Northeast Asia but also around the world;

Sharing the view that the next decade will witness more intensive convergence between different industries and technologies and rapid advances in science and technology;

Acknowledging that technological progress and innovation are key to overcoming global crises such as COVID-19, and IP is a catalyzing factor for achieving them, we need to continue to cooperate with each other to promote the creation and utilization of IP by innovators in the three countries, and actively protect IP rights;

Reaffirming that this is the time for us to make concerted efforts to share our accumulated IP experience with more countries to narrow the global IP disparity;

We instructed that over the next decade:

1. The three offices establish an IP system that can accommodate and embrace fast-changing technologies. With the expectation that universities, enterprises and research institutions in the three countries will develop and release innovative goods, services and solutions in the sector of fourth industrial revolution technologies such as AI and IoT, the three offices will work together to improve relevant rules, examination practices and systems to ensure that an appropriate type of IP right is issued to those creations in a timely manner and they are properly protected by law.
2. The three offices make joint efforts to enhance public accessibility and encourage utilization of patent information by the private sector. The three offices recognize that an analysis of patent information may provide an excellent guidance to academia, research groups and industry in setting the direction for their R&D and investment activities as well as developing market entry strategies. In this spirit, the three offices are committed to exchanging patent information with each other, disclosing shared information to the public gratis and supporting the private sector in making the most of the disclosed patent information, thereby supporting other countries' endeavors to achieve technological development and innovation-driven growth.
3. The three offices strive to expand IP cooperation beyond the three countries to include other countries or regions in order to share the valuable achievements which the three offices have made together in pursuit of "Trilateral+X IP Cooperation." As the three offices wish to find partners for IP cooperation, the three offices will primarily consider countries or regional organizations (e.g. ASEAN) with which there is a need for collaboration or scope to generate a synergy. The three offices believe this will mark the first step toward balanced growth in the world by narrowing the global IP disparity.

**Joint Statement on
Future Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response**

We, the leaders of the Republic of Korea, Japan and the People's Republic of China, convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on May 27, 2024, on the occasion of the Ninth Trilateral Summit, and decided as follows:

Reaffirming our commitment to prevention of, preparedness for and response to future pandemics through the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), International Health Regulations (IHR) and General Programme of Work (GPW) of the World Health Organization (WHO);

Recalling that WHA resolution 74.7 (2021) on the global strategy and action plan for infectious disease prevention and control highlights the importance of national roles in leading efforts to address infectious disease outbreaks;

Acknowledging the achievements made with collaboration and exchanges for a collective response to infectious disease outbreaks, and the commitment to the Joint Action Plan on Preparedness and Response against Infectious Diseases with Pandemic or High Consequence Potential of Common Concern, which was based on the original Joint Action Plan adopted in 2008 and revised in 2016, and adopted at the Fourteenth Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting in December 2021;

Acknowledging the efforts for establishing an international cooperation system to respond to the global pandemic through the special ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit on COVID-19, the ROK-Japan-China Foreign Ministers' special video conference on COVID-19, and the Special Video Conference of the Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19 Response held in 2020;

Acknowledging the benefits arising from sharing national policies, strategies, experiences, best practices and lessons through the platform established by the three countries with a view to promoting the effective prevention of, preparedness for and response to future pandemics;

Noting the need for an effective response to the adverse impacts of new health emergencies on economic and social development such as the outbreak of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, as COVID-19 remains a persistent threat including the possibility of the emergence of a new variant of concern, despite the official announcement of the end of the COVID-19 PHEIC (Public Health Emergency of International Concern) in May 2023;

Emphasizing that the Republic of Korea, Japan and the People's Republic of China need to actively address future pandemics and public health emergencies through the implementation of relevant national strategies and activities to enhance international cooperation;

1. We will prioritize future pandemic prevention, preparedness and response as part of our national strategies with the commitment that achieving universal health coverage (UHC) is essential in our efforts to strengthen the global health architecture, and encourage and support related government policies and action plans — such as on mid- and long-term national economic development, public health, healthcare service delivery system and healthcare reform — to incorporate future pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.
2. We reaffirm the importance of equitable access to essential healthcare resources with a view to enhancing global health security, and we will improve equity in access to medical countermeasures (MCM) against infectious diseases including vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics based on public health risks and needs. In this regard, we will also acknowledge the importance of end-to-end approach to MCM from priority settings, R&D, regulatory approval and manufacturing to last-mile deliveries and global collaboration, and endeavor to strengthen health workforce capabilities to reduce the capacity gap in infectious disease response among and within countries. Also, we will join global efforts through international organizations and related funding, thereby contributing to making the world safer from infectious diseases.
3. We emphasize the need to clarify the goals and responsibilities of each sector when implementing measures related to pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and stress the importance of enhancing multi-sectoral approach in dealing with infectious disease outbreaks.
4. We note that the One-Health approach, an integrated and unified approach that aims to balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems, is an important concept in preventing, preparing for and responding to future pandemics and public health emergencies, such as emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases caused by pathogens including the emergence of a new SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern, as well as antimicrobial resistance. We encourage active multisectoral participation, through the One-Health approach to enhance national, regional and global health security.
5. We will pursue strategic cooperation in the area of health security to promote peace and

prosperity in the region. To this end, we will work together to strengthen regional health security through bilateral and multilateral initiatives and partnerships with international organizations of which the three countries are members; encourage relevant joint research, policy dialogue and sharing of experiences; and seek to build long-term cooperation mechanisms, including by strengthening cooperation among the national public health institutes for disease control in the three countries, such as through the Korea-Japan-China Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Forum and Joint Symposium. We will also work together to build a successful model to collectively tackle health emergencies, and foster international and regional cooperation through various activities including the sharing of best practices.