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# **China-Japan-ROK Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Water Resources**

## **Joint Statement**

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### **China-Japan-ROK Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Water Resources at the 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum**

**—Addressing Climate Change and Building Resilient Water Infrastructure**

**May 20, 2024, Bali, Indonesia**

We, the Ministers of Water Resources from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, met in Bali, Indonesia on May 20, 2024 on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum under the theme of "Water for Shared Prosperity".

We assembled to further develop the spirit of the Memorandum of Cooperation on the Mechanism of Ministerial Meeting among the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, and the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs of the Republic of Korea signed in France on March 13, 2012, and reaffirmed the importance of trilateral cooperation for resolving water problems in China, Japan and ROK.

This Ministerial Meeting, in line with Paragraph 3 of the aforementioned Memorandum of Cooperation, decided upon its topic for "Addressing Climate Change and Building Resilient Water Infrastructure" (the theme), discussed as follows and decided to strengthen trilateral cooperation therein:

1. We recognize that climate change is a common challenge facing the world and improving water infrastructure resilience is an effective way to address the challenge, and we share the recognition that it is extremely important to further expand and strengthen the practical cooperation among our three countries in this area.
2. We recognize that the UN Water Conference, held in New York, USA, in March 2023, completed a midterm review of the implementation of the objectives of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", and

adopted the Water Action Agenda, a milestone document containing more than 840 commitments to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and protect "humanity's most precious global common good." The fruitful interactive dialogues on topics such as "Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment" at the conference provided useful reference for this Ministerial Meeting.

3. We recognize that the theme of this ministerial meeting is closely related to the Kumamoto Declaration released at the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS) in Kumamoto, Japan in April 2022, and will contribute to the enhancement of water infrastructure resilience in our three countries so that we can better meet the challenge of climate change.
4. We recognize that the *Beijing Declaration* released at the XVIII World Water Congress, held in Beijing, China in September 2023, hands over the international cooperation on climate change to the next generation, providing useful reference for this Ministerial Meeting in promoting cooperation among the younger generation. The active participation of the younger generation in tackling the water challenges posed by climate change will put new strength into this great endeavor.
5. We recognize that China thoroughly follows the water governance principles of "prioritizing water conservation, spatial balance, systematic governance, and the dual efforts of market allocation and government regulation" to enhance the country's capacity to ensure water security on all fronts. In order to address the water security challenges amid climate change, China has adopted a systematic approach to planning the construction of reservoirs, river channels and embankments, and flood storage areas, enhanced the capabilities to make forecasts, issue early warnings, conduct simulations and draft contingency plans, and implemented unified command and coordination of water projects within a river basin. China is accelerating the construction of a national water grid to build a network of modern, high-quality water infrastructure. China is working to build a digital twin system for river basins, water supply networks and water projects, and develop a "three-fold defence line" composed of meteorological satellites and rain radars, precipitation stations, and hydrological stations for rainfall monitoring and forecasting to support forward-looking, scientific and safety-oriented decisions. China is willing to exchange and share China's water management concepts and successful experiences with countries around the world, including Japan and ROK, especially the publication of *Water Governance in China: Perspectives of Xi Jinping* and *River Ethics and China's Practices* in the 10th World Water Forum.
6. We recognize that Japan stresses the "by ALL" approach to enhance resilience in

water infrastructure against climate change impacts. Japan commits to three key areas: a. For water-related disaster management, Japan promotes "River Basin Disaster Resilience and Sustainability by All," involving all stakeholders across river basins. b. In water resource management, Japan aims to advance risk management-based policies for comprehensive water management, engaging by ALL basin stakeholders in flood control, water use, environment, and energy. c. Japan also focuses on maintaining and restoring a sound water cycle, including groundwater management, as per the updated "Basic Act on Water Cycle" (2021) and "Basic Plan on Water Cycle" (2022), emphasizing "Water Cycle Management at Watershed" by ALL stakeholders.

7. We recognize that ROK has developed solutions for climate change-induced water-related disasters and set goals for the future water management based on the "Master Plan for National Water Management" (2021) and the "Master Plan for Basin Water Management" (2023). It will be the foundation on which ROK builds deep underground rainwater tunnels and flood-control dams to address large-scale floods as well as developing alternative water resources to strengthen its capability of water supply in response to extreme droughts. ROK is committed to adopting science-based digital technologies for water management, such as AI-based flood early-warning system, GIS-based data on flood risk areas, and Digital Twin forecasting for river inundation. Furthermore, ROK aims to share its discharge measurement system and technologies, promote exchanges among relevant institutions in our three countries, and support relevant activities for advanced water management in Asia.
8. We believe that the Joint Statement on Implementing Water-related SDGs and Sharing Applicable Experience at the 3rd Trilateral Ministerial Meeting, held in Brasilia, in March 2018, is essential. Our three countries are ready to make important contributions in the area of climate change impacts on water resources and adaptation strategies.
9. We believe that the 3rd Asia International Water Week is a good platform and opportunity to deepen regional water cooperation, improve water governance in Asia and address water issues in Asia and the world at large. We are willing to make use of this platform to actively carry out water cooperation and exchanges and build an Asian family of win-win cooperation.
10. Based on this statement, we welcome the opportunity to exchange information among our three countries, which will be held to share applicable experience in our activities and to prepare brief reports of it in collaboration with the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) as follow-up process.

11. We appreciate the valuable contributions made by the TCS to the preparation of the 4th Ministerial Meeting and the Trilateral Expert Dialogue and support the TCS to continue its role as a hub for trilateral cooperation in the water sector.

Bali, Indonesia

May 20, 2024

**Minister of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China**

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**Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan**

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**Deputy Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea**

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