

# 2017

# PROGRESS REPORT OF THE TRILATERAL COOPERATION

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



Trilateral  
Cooperation  
Secretariat





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## Part I

# INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND

In pursuant to the “Agreement on the Establishment of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat” (hereinafter referred to as the TCS) signed by the governments of the People’s Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as China), Japan and the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as the ROK) in 2010, the TCS drafts and submits progress report of the trilateral cooperation to the three Foreign Ministries for approval. The TCS presents the report titled “2017 Progress Report of the Trilateral Cooperation”, covering the period from January to December 2017.

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# INTRODUCTION

In 2017, the trilateral cooperation among China, Japan and the ROK was steadily developed in politics and security, economy and trade, sustainable development, as well as social and cultural exchanges.

Although the political and security situation of Northeast Asia faced severe challenges, the trilateral cooperation gradually gained momentum with the continuous efforts made by the three countries. Reconvening the Trilateral Summit at an early date had become an important consensus among the three countries. Meanwhile, the three countries kept strengthening non-traditional security cooperation in disaster management and nuclear safety and conducted policy consultations on regional and international issues.

In the area of economy and trade, the three countries concluded the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> rounds of the CJK FTA negotiations. The three countries also successfully held a series of ministerial meetings including 17<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Governors' Meeting among the People's Bank of China (PBC), Bank of Japan (BOJ), and Bank of Korea (BOK), 6<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Customs Heads' Meeting, and 17<sup>th</sup> TRIPO Heads Meeting in the year.

The three countries also maintained the cooperation in the area of sustainable development. The 19<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM19) and other consultative meetings focusing on agricultural policy, fisheries, jellyfish, air pollution, dust and sandstorms, biodiversity, e-waste and environmental education were held to promote trilateral exchange and cooperation in this area.

The socio-cultural ties among the three countries were deepened. The 9<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting and 10<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting were held in the year. Moreover, a series of events were organized to enhance the trilateral cooperation in public health, youth, sports, personnel, culture content industry and local government exchange.

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## Part II

# COOPERATION PROGRESS

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

# 01 Politics and Security

## Disaster Management



5<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management

The 5<sup>th</sup> **Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management** among Ministry of Civil Affairs of China, Ministry of Public Safety and Security of the ROK, and Cabinet Office of Japan was held in Tangshan, China on September 7, 2017.

At the meeting, the three Ministries reviewed the progress in the field of disaster management in each country and exchanged ideas on future cooperation among them. Reaffirming that the common action by the three countries was needed to deal with climate change and effectively reduce disaster risks and losses to a maximum extent for the benefit of the three countries and their people, the heads of delegations signed the “Trilateral Joint Statement on Disaster Management Cooperation”, which stipulated the measures on strengthening trilateral disaster management cooperation in the areas of 1) promoting continued implementation of the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR)”, and 2) strengthening capacity building on disaster risk reduction and relief. The next meeting will be held in the ROK in the latter half of 2019.

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## Nuclear Safety

The **10<sup>th</sup> Top Regulators' Meeting (TRM) on Nuclear Safety** among Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) of Japan, Nuclear Safety and Security Commission (NSSC) of the ROK, and Ministry of Environmental Protection/ National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA/MEP) of China was held on December 5, 2017 in Tokyo, Japan. The three authorities presented the current status and progress of nuclear safety activities in each country and reviewed the outcomes of Joint Emergency Drill (JED), as well as three working groups which were established under TRM framework: Working Group on Human Resources Development (HGHRD), Working Group on Online Information Sharing (WGOIS), and Working Group on Emergency Preparedness and Response (WGEPR). The three authorities also discussed the three topics on TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, carbon segregation, and safety culture.

On December 6, 2017, the three authorities also organized the **5<sup>th</sup> Top Regulators Meeting Plus (TRM+) on Nuclear Safety**. With the aim of strengthening technical communication on nuclear safety among the three countries, experts from the three countries exchanged views on "Countermeasures against Earthquake", "Emergency Preparedness and Response", and "On-site Inspection at Nuclear Power Plants". The 11<sup>th</sup> TRM and 6<sup>th</sup> TRM Plus will take place in the ROK in 2018.

The **4<sup>th</sup> Joint Emergency Drill (JED)** was conducted on the occasion of the ROK's 2017 Unified Radiological Emergency Response Exercise at Hanul nuclear power plants, Uljin, the ROK on November 2, 2017. In the 4<sup>th</sup> JED, the three authorities made a progress such as initiating Information Sharing Exercise by sending general



10<sup>th</sup> Top Regulators' Meeting (TRM) on Nuclear Safety

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emergency notification forms through emergency contact points. The 5<sup>th</sup> JED will be held in Japan in the latter half of 2018.

## Cyber Affairs

The 3<sup>rd</sup> **Trilateral Cyber Policy Consultation** among Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea was held in Tokyo, Japan, on 10 February 2017. Ambassador in charge of the Cyber Policy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Coordinator for Cyber Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and Ambassador for International Security affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK as well as representatives from relevant ministries and agencies attended the meeting.

In this Consultation, the three parties discussed the recent environment in the field of cyber affairs as well as the strategies and policies of each country on cyber issues. They also exchanged views on international cyber issues such as the United Nations Groups of Governmental Experts (UNGGE) and efforts of CBMs and capacity building assistance made in various fora on bilateral, regional and international basis. The three countries also deepened understanding in each other's policies and corresponded to the view that it was important to continue this dialogue through the discussion on future cooperation in the context of the trilateral partnership. Furthermore, they confirmed that the three countries continue to exchange in the area of cyber affairs on the diplomatic channel, in order that they might keep on the dialogue.

## Arctic Affairs

The 2<sup>nd</sup> **Trilateral High-Level Dialogue on the Arctic** was held in Tokyo, Japan on 8 June 2017, bringing together Ambassador in charge of Arctic Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Special Representative for Arctic Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, and Ambassador for Arctic Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK. The respective delegates also included officials from other relevant governmental agencies.

The three parties reiterated the dialogue as an important platform for strengthening cooperation over the Arctic and exchanged views on common challenges and opportunities over the Arctic through presenting each country's activities on the Arctic. Identifying scientific research as the most promising area for joint activities, the three parties also requested their experts to identify specific cooperative projects on scientific research and underscored the importance of enhancing engagement

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with international fora, such as the Arctic Council, in order to contribute to the efforts of international community. A joint statement was adopted at the dialogue.

## **Latin American and Caribbean Affairs**

On January 25, 2017, the **10<sup>th</sup> Consultation on Latin American affairs** of China, Japan and the ROK was held in Beijing. Director-General of Department of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, Director-General of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Director-General of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK participated in the consultation. The three sides exchanged views on Latin American situation, respective relations with and policies towards Latin America as well as other topics.

The 10<sup>th</sup> China-Japan Consultation, the 14<sup>th</sup> Japan-ROK Consultation and the 14<sup>th</sup> China-ROK Consultation on Latin American affairs were respectively held on the same day.

## **Police Authorities**

The **3<sup>rd</sup> Trilateral Meeting on Police Cooperation** among China, Japan and the ROK was held in Tokyo, Japan on November 14-16, 2017. The three parties positively assessed the progress of the practical police cooperation among the three countries and looked forward to continued joint efforts of the three sides.

## **Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tanks (NTCT)**

On October 13, 2017, the **2<sup>nd</sup> Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tanks (NTCT) National Focal Points Meeting & 2017 NTCT Conference** was held in Seoul, the ROK. The event was co-organized by Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU), Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR) and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS).

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> NTCT National Focal Points Meeting, the participants exchanged views on the importance of enhancing trilateral think-tanks cooperation. They further clarified the mechanism of the NTCT, and discussed ways to strengthen the function of the NTCT. They also welcomed the TCS to continue supporting the NTCT National Focal Points Meeting and to push forward the implementation of its research series.

The 2017 NTCT Conference was composed of three sessions under the themes of “Regional Security Situation and Cooperation”, “Economic Cooperation between

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2<sup>nd</sup> NTCT National Focal Points Meeting

Korea, China and Japan”, and “Environmental Cooperation between Korea, China and Japan”. Distinguished scholars from the three countries shared their insights and offered recommendations on pressing issues in the region, ranging from Northeast Asian security to trilateral economic and environmental cooperation.

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# 02

# Economy

## Economy and Trade

The **11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> rounds of the CJK FTA Negotiations** were held in Beijing, China on January 9-11, 2017 and in Tokyo, Japan on April 10-13, 2017. In the two rounds of negotiations, the three parties discussed trade in goods, trade in services, investment and so on.

The **16<sup>th</sup> Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technology Exchange Conference** was held in Kagoshima, Japan on November 29-30, 2017, under the theme of “Promotion of Exchange between Regions” and “Creation of New Industries and New Markets through Innovation”. The Conference brought together representatives from Ministry of Commerce of China (MOFCOM), Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the ROK (MOTIE), and Kyushu Bureau of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI), as well as representatives from local governments, business associations and companies in China, Japan and the ROK.

In light of the importance of e-commerce in the generation of new economic value, the MOFCOM, METI and MOTIE agreed to launch a joint study on e-commerce. The TCS participated in the joint study as a facilitator which was decided at the 11<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers’ Meeting in Tokyo, Japan on October 29, 2016.

Based on the agreement, the TCS facilitated three **Director-level Working Group Meetings** among governments and designated research institutions.

	Date	Venue	Participants
1 <sup>st</sup>	May 25, 2017	Seoul, ROK	MOFCOM, METI, and MOTIE, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), TCS
2 <sup>nd</sup>	August 8, 2017	Beijing, China	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	September 12, 2017	Tokyo, Japan	

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## Transport and Logistics

The **18<sup>th</sup> Northeast Asia Port Director-General Meeting** among Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, Ministry of Transport of China and Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries of the ROK was held in Qingdao, China on November 7, 2017 with the main theme of “Smart Ports”. Japan, China and the ROK introduced the port development status of each country. The **18<sup>th</sup> Northeast Asia Port Symposium** was held on November 8 with the main theme of “Intelligent Logistics System” and “Automated Container Terminal”, gathering approximately 130 participants from the three countries.

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## Intellectual Property Rights

The **17<sup>th</sup> TRIPO Heads Meeting** among Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO) and Japan Patent Office (JPO) was held in Jeju, the ROK on December 6, 2017. At the meeting, the three commissioners introduced each country’s current status and had an active discussion on various topics for trilateral cooperation activities regarding the field of Intellectual Property (IP).

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The **5<sup>th</sup> TRIPO User Symposium** was held in Jeju, the ROK on December 7, 2017, back-to-back with the 17<sup>th</sup> TRIPO Heads Meeting under the theme of “Intellectual Property Strategy corresponding to the Fourth Industrial Revolution”.

The **8<sup>th</sup> Korea-China-Japan Design Forum** was held in Seoul, the ROK on May 16, 2017. Under the theme of “Legal protection of Character Designs”, representatives from IP offices of China, Japan, and the ROK and experts from private sectors of the

17<sup>th</sup> TRIPO Heads Meeting

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three countries exchanged the view on the intellectual property of character designs.

The **5<sup>th</sup> Joint Experts Group for Trial and Appeal (JEGTA) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Administrative Judge Discussion** was held in Daejeon, the ROK on September 26-27, 2017. At the meetings, the experts from the three countries exchanged views on Protection of Patent Right after Patent Grant and had in-depth discussions on detailed cases to improve mutual understanding.

The **8<sup>th</sup> Heads Meeting of IIPTI, CIPTC, and INPIT** was held in Osaka, Japan on September 15, 2017. At the meeting, the three organizations exchanged information on the latest training activities and shared the contents of e-learning.

## Customs

The **6<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Customs Heads' Meeting** was held in Tokyo, Japan on November 30, 2017, among Customs and Tariff Bureau of Ministry of Finance of Japan, General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) and Korea Customs Service of (KCS). The three Parties exchanged views on common challenges and effective measures to address anti-terrorism measures, efforts against smuggling of illicit goods, cooperation against commercial fraud in particular gold bullion smuggling, effective means to achieve facilitation and control of the massive flow of passengers and trade facilitation. The three Parties welcomed the progress of achievements under the 4 working groups (IPR, Customs Enforcement and Intelligence, Authorized Economic Operators, and Customs Procedures) and adopted the newly revised version of the "Action Plan for the Tripartite Customs Cooperation".

## Finance

The **17<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting** was held in Yokohama, Japan, on May 5, 2017. At the meeting, the finance ministers and central bank governors from the three countries exchanged views on the latest developments in the global economy and regional financial cooperation.

The **9<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Governors' Meeting** among People's Bank of China (PBC), Bank of Japan (BOJ), and Bank of Korea (BOK) was held in Incheon, the ROK on September 13-14, 2017. At the meeting, the three governors exchanged views on recent economic and financial developments in the three countries.

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## Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

The 16<sup>th</sup> Northeast Asia Open Source Software (OSS) Forum was held in Tianjin, China on November 16, 2017, among China OSS Promotion Union, Japan OSS Promotion Forum and Korea OSS Promotion Forum. The forum was supported by Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China (MIIT), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI), and Ministry of Science and ICT of the ROK (MSIT). Participants shared the outcomes of 4 Working Groups, “Technology Development & Assessment”, “Talents Education and Incentives”, “Study on Standardization & Certification” and “Application Promotion”.

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## Standardization

The 16<sup>th</sup> Northeast Asia Standards Cooperation (NEAS) Forum was held in Jeju, the ROK on July 3-5, 2017, convening more than 100 participants representing public and private standard organizations of the three countries, including Korean Agency for Technology and Standards, Standardization Administration of China, and Japanese Industrial Standards Committee. Participants shared information on each country’s standardization policies, presented ongoing cooperative items led by each country, and provided 11 new cooperative item proposals. China, Japan, Korea-Standards Cooperation on IT and Electronics (CJK-SITE) plenary meeting and working group meetings were held in parallel with the Forum.

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## Audit

The 13<sup>th</sup> Working Level Meeting of the Supreme Audit Institutions of China, Japan and Korea was held in Seoul, the ROK on July 10-12, 2017. National Audit Office of China, Board of Audit of Japan, and Board of Audit and Inspection of the ROK attended the meeting, and discussed topics on “Audit of the Sustainable Development Goals” and “Audit on IT System Management”.

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## Agriculture and Fisheries

The **China-Japan-Korea Nongovernmental Fisheries Agreement Meeting** was held in Hefei, China on June 15, 2017. The meeting was co-hosted by Chinese Fishery Association, Japan's Fisheries Association and Korea's Fisheries Association. The three parties shared the progress on maintaining maritime operations order during 2016-2017. The three parties agreed to conserve the marine fishery resources, and to promote person to person communication and cooperation in fisheries.

The **12<sup>th</sup> Forum for Agricultural Policy Research in Northeast Asia** was held in Saitama-Shintoshin, Japan on October 12, 2017. The forum was co-hosted by Japan Policy Research Institute of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (PRIMAFF), Korea Rural Economic Institute (KREI) and Institute of Agricultural Economics and Development of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (IAED/CAAS). The forum focused on themes of “structural changes in agriculture and agricultural communities, and problems for core farmers” and “marketing of agricultural products”.

The **10<sup>th</sup> FRA-CAFS-NIFS Presidential Meeting** was held in Sapporo, Japan on December 17-20, 2017. Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA), Chinese Academy of Fishery Science (CAFS) and National Institute of Fisheries Science (NIFS) of the ROK attended the meeting. The three parties shared the progress of cooperative projects in 2016-2017. The three parties agreed to strengthen cooperation in research activity on the impact of climate change on the marine environment, fisheries resources, aquaculture and aquatic food safety.

The **14<sup>th</sup> China-Japan-Korea International Jellyfish Workshop** was held in Shanghai, China on November 27-30, 2017. The meeting was co-hosted by CAFS, FRA and NIFS and joined by relevant CJK institutes. The three parties exchanged points of view on the situation of giant jellyfish in the water of Northeast Asia and discussed the work objectives for the next year.

The **2017 Symposium on Prevention and Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in East Asia** was held in Tokyo, Japan on September 20, 2017. The symposium was hosted by Ministry of Agriculture,

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Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, and attended by veterinarians and experts from Japan, the ROK, China and Mongolia, and other relevant agencies in East Asia. Participants discussed to take appropriate response and preventive measures towards FMD and HPAI, to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation in information sharing, research activity, as well as monitoring.

## Forestry Cooperation

The 4<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Director-General Level Meeting on Forestry Cooperation among State Forestry Administration of China, Korea Forest Service, and Forestry Agency of Japan was held in Xining, China on July 18, 2017. The three parties discussed topics such as the promotion of legal timber trade, multi-functional utilization of forest, forest and vegetation restoration in the arid area, climate change response on forestry, and promotion of timber building.



4<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Director-General Level Meeting on Forestry Cooperation

## Environmental Protection

The 19<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM19) was held among Ministry of Environment of the ROK, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China and Ministry of the Environment of Japan in Suwon, the ROK on August 25, 2017. At the meeting, the three ministers introduced the latest development of environmental policies in each country and discussed major policies to address global and regional environmental issues. The ministers also reviewed the progress of 9 priority areas of the "Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation (2015-2019)".



19<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM19)

On the occasion, the **Tripartite Roundtable on Environmental Business** themed “Social Responsibility of Environmental Industry for Improving Green Economy Performance”, and the **Youth Forum** themed “Bio-Cultural Diversity and Youth Participation” were held among business and youth representatives from the three countries.

### 1) Air Quality Improvement

The 4<sup>th</sup> **Tripartite Dialogue on Air Pollution (TPDAP)** was held in Hangzhou, China on February 23-24, 2017 to further strengthen the cooperation among the three countries on countermeasures against air pollution.

The 11<sup>th</sup> **Dust and Sandstorms (DSS) Steering Committee Meeting** was held in Seoul, the ROK in February 2017. The 12<sup>th</sup> **DSS Director-General Meeting** was held in Suwon, the ROK in March 2017. The 10<sup>th</sup> **Working Group I & II on Dust and Sandstorms (DSS)** were held in Lanzhou, China on November 1, 2017 and in Yamanashi, Japan in December 2017, respectively. The 2<sup>nd</sup> **Tripartite Joint Workshop between Working Group I & II** was held in Seoul, the ROK on February 1, 2017.

### 2) Biodiversity

The 4<sup>th</sup> **Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity (TPDBD)** was held in Shizuoka, Japan from August 31 to September 1, 2017. The three countries shared existing agendas and exchanged views on the challenges of disaster management utilizing biodiversity.

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### 3) Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response

The 11<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemical Management (TPDCM) was held in Yeosu, the ROK in November 2017. The 11<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Expert Seminar on Chemical Management (TESCM) was held back to back with the 11<sup>th</sup> TPDCM.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Presidents Meeting among National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES, Japan), National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER, the ROK), and Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES, China) was held in Tsukuba, Japan on October 25-27, 2017, respectively.

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

The 11<sup>th</sup> Sound Material-Cycle Society/ Circular Economy/ 3R and Transboundary Movement of E-waste Seminar was held in Tokyo, Japan on December 12, 2017. Information on green development and economy was exchanged.

### 5) Climate Change Response

The 1<sup>st</sup> TEMM Seminar on Response to Climate Change was held in Beijing, China in December, 2017.

### 6) Conservation of Water and Marine Environment

The 3<sup>rd</sup> TEMM-NOWPAP Joint Workshop and the annual Marine Litter Focal Point Meeting were held in Toyama, Japan on September 19-20, 2017. Policy updates and information on reducing microplastic were shared.

### 7) Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Corporate Social Responsibility

The 18<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN) Symposium and Workshops were held in Suwon, the ROK from October 31 to November 4, 2017. Participants discussed environmental education and education for sustainable development while incorporating bio and cultural diversity perspectives. The 17<sup>th</sup> Environmental Training for Officials was held in Jeju, the ROK on October 16-20, 2017. Under the theme of “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development”, participants actively exchanged information on environmental policies.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Trilateral Teacher’s Exchange Program on Public Awareness was held in Seoul, the ROK in August 2017 under the theme of “Eco-friendly Smart Technology

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towards an Environmentally Sustainable Society”. Participants learned skills to enhance environmental teaching.

### **8) Rural Environmental Management**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Tripartite Rural Environment Policy Dialogue (TREPDP) was held in Tokyo, Japan in December, 2017.

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# 04

## Social and Cultural Exchanges

### Culture

The 9<sup>th</sup> **Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting** was held in Kyoto, Japan, on August 26, 2017. At the meeting, the three ministers reviewed the progress of the follow-ups of “Qingdao Action Plan” and “Jeju Declaration 2016” and acknowledged the achievements made in the field of trilateral cultural cooperation and exchange. Under the recognition of the need to consolidate the future-oriented trilateral relations by promoting cultural exchange in different levels, the ministers signed the “Kyoto Declaration 2017”, which stipulated a series of decisions to facilitate cooperation in 1) Culture City of East Asia (CCEA) Program, 2) exchange among artists and youth of the three countries, 3) joint cultural program during the Olympic and Paralympic Games, 4) exchange among cultural institutions, 5) preservation and succession of cultural heritages, and 6) cultural industry and intellectual property protection. The ministers at the press conference also announced the designation of Harbin of China, Kanazawa of Japan, and Busan of the ROK as the CCEA 2018.



9<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting

In addition to the trilateral meeting, various events were held back to back with the Ministers' Meeting. On August 25, the **Trilateral Arts Festival 2017**, one of the key cooperative projects of the Ministers' Meeting was held as the side event under the



10<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Culture Content Industry Forum

theme of “Dance, Connect, Surpass”. In addition, **Culture City of East Asia Summit** was held on August 26, inviting the delegations from the 15 previous, present, and future cultural cities among the three countries.

The **10<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum** was held in Tokyo on June 28-29, 2017. During the forum, the three vice ministers discussed how to implement the consensus that was reached at the 6<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Summit in 2015 and to address the practical needs for the development of trilateral cooperation in the new period. They also discussed how to create a policy environment favorable for cultural content industry cooperation and provide support and service for trilateral cooperation.

## Health

The **10<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Health Ministers’ Meeting (THMM)** was held in Jinan, China on November 11-12, 2017. Celebrating the momentous 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the THMM, the three ministers reviewed the developments of the tripartite health mechanisms and highly recognized the progress accomplished in addressing common health issues among the three countries including infectious diseases, Universal Health Coverage, healthy aging, non-communicable diseases, and so on. The ministers also discussed the measures on furthering tripartite cooperation in the areas of 1) prevention and control of infectious diseases, 2) healthy aging, 3) prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, 4) application of information and communication technology (ICT) in the field of health, and 5) traditional medicine. At the press conference after the meeting, the three ministers announced the adoption of the “Joint Statement of the Tenth Tripartite Health Ministers’ Meeting”.

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10<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting

The 11<sup>th</sup> Korea-China-Japan Forum on Communicable Disease Control and Prevention was held in Seoul, the ROK on November 7, 2017. Representatives from Korean Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC), Chinese Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC) and National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) of Japan attended the forum and exchanged the ideas on the agendas of avian influenza A (H7N9), severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome (SFTS), dengue fever and Zika fever, and their efforts for infectious disease control in the region.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Policy Dialogue on Healthy Aging was held in Jinan, China on November 12-13, 2017, as the side event of the 10<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting. Governmental officials at Director-General level representing the relevant ministries of the three countries and relevant experts attended the dialogue and discussed the agendas of 1) integration of home-based care and medical care at community level, and 2) healthy aging.

## Education

The 6<sup>th</sup> CJK Committee for Promoting Exchange and Cooperation among Universities was held from November 22-23, 2017 in Seoul, the ROK, organized by Ministry of Education of the ROK and Korean Council for University Education. Representatives from Ministry of Education of Japan, Chinese Embassy in the ROK, national higher education qualification agencies, CAMPUS Asia universities and the firms of the three countries participated. The committee members discussed the agendas on sustainable development and expansion of CAMPUS Asia program,



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quality assurance and monitoring of CAMPUS Asia and the creation of a conducive environment for active student exchange and capacity-building.

The 14<sup>th</sup> **China-Japan-ROK Children's Story Exchange (CSE)** was held on August 17-23, 2017 in Seoul and Jeju, the ROK, under the theme "Sound". The event was co-hosted by Seoul National University of Education (SNUE), China National Committee for the Wellbeing of Youth and Japan National Institute for Youth Education (NIYE). The CSE is a short-term student exchange program for students at the primary school level (grades 4-6). The TCS participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> CSE as the co-organizer of the CSE alumni program. Some of the CSE alumni students were invited to participate in this year's CSE to create a sustainable community between the new and previous CSE participants.

## Youth

The **2017 Trilateral Youth Summit** was held in Beijing and Changchun, China on September 25-30, 2017. Under the theme of "Towards Economic Integration in Northeast Asia", 30 student representatives of the three countries held a model summit, exchanged their views, and made policy proposals on how to improve trilateral political and security trust to consolidate the foundation of regional economic integration and how to strengthen trilateral people-to-people exchanges to promote regional economic integration process.



2017 Trilateral Youth Summit

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## Sports

The 25<sup>th</sup> **Trilateral Junior Sports Exchange Meet** was held in Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan from August 23 to 29, 2017. Athletes from Japan (including Ibaraki Prefecture), the ROK, and China participated in the event. The athletes from the three countries engaged in joint training and friendly matches in 11 sports (track and field, soccer, tennis, volleyball, basketball, weightlifting, handball, soft tennis, table tennis, badminton, and rugby). The athletes participated in various cultural tour events as well to promote mutual understanding.

## Personnel Management

The 10<sup>th</sup> **Joint Training Program for Young/Middle-level Public Employees among Three Personnel Authorities** was held on April 25-27, 2017 in Tokyo, Japan. In the program, officials from the personnel authorities of China, Japan and the ROK received training together, and discussed each country's personnel policies.

The 8<sup>th</sup> **Director-General Level Meeting** was held on December 13, 2017 in Beijing, China. Director-General level officials from the National Civil Service Administration (NCSA) of China, National Personnel Authority (NPA) of Japan and the Ministry of Personnel Management (MPM) of Korea adopted the 8<sup>th</sup> Cooperation Plan.

## Local Government Exchanges

The 19<sup>th</sup> **Trilateral Local Government Exchange Conference** was held in Ulsan, the ROK, from August 28 to September 1, 2017. The conference was co-hosted by Governors Association of Korea (GAOK) and Ulsan Metropolitan City, and supported by Japan's Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) and Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC). The theme of the conference was "Exploring Cooperative Measures for Northeast Asian Local Governments through a New Paradigm", with sessions discussing the "Integration of Tourism and Industry", "Eco-cities and Sustainable Development", and "Policy Recommendations for Aging Societies and Lowering Birth Rates". The conference was attended by over 500 participants and included the "Exchange Square" for 27 local governments of the three countries, China-Japan-ROK promotional booths, and site visits.

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With the continuous support from China, Japan and the ROK, the TCS further strengthened its capacities to facilitate the trilateral inter-governmental mechanisms and to organize events to deepen the people-to-people exchanges in the year.

The year 2017 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation (APT). The TCS Secretary-General, Mr. LEE Jong-heon attended the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Commemorative Summit in Manila, the Philippines. The TCS continued to participate in the trilateral inter-governmental meetings including 19<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM19), 9<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting, 10<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting, 17<sup>th</sup> TRIPO Heads Meeting and working-level consultations.

The TCS hosted the **2017 International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC)**, titled "Strengthening Trilateral Cooperation in the Face of New Challenges" on April 18 in Seoul, the ROK. The 2017 IFTC revisited the significance and outcome of the trilateral cooperation through 3 sub-sessions of "Revisiting the essence of trilateral cooperation in the context of global uncertainty", "International Economic Policy at a Crossroads – an Opportunity for Trilateral Cooperation", and "Towards the Promising Future – Practices of the Trilateral Youth Empowerment". The forum gathered high-profile governmental officials, renowned scholars, journalists and diplomatic community, and attracted more than 300 participants from the three countries.

The TCS organized the **Trilateral Business Networking Symposium and Reception – Improvement of Supply Chain Connectivity** on July 21, 2017 in Qingdao, China. The symposium was based on the joint study on Trilateral Cooperation for Improvement of Supply Chain Connectivity, a project tasked by the three ministers at the 10<sup>th</sup> Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting, facilitated by the TCS, and conducted by Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), and Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) to assess the current situation, issues, and future direction for the trilateral supply chain connectivity. This TCS' annual event provided a valuable opportunity

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for the corporates, business associations, and entrepreneurs to exchange information, share experience, and explore cooperative opportunities.

The TCS launched its first **Young Scholars/Researchers Exchange on Trilateral Cooperation** on 7-10 August in Seoul, the ROK. The program aimed at creating a platform for academic exchange/network among young professionals, inviting their new perspectives toward pressing issues in the region, and attracting their interest in the trilateral cooperation. The program was designed as a pilot initiative to promote the active exchanges among young leaders of the three countries, while encouraging them to see trilateral cooperation in a more positive light and as a potential subject for their studies.

The TCS organized the **Seminar on Regional Education Cooperation: CAMPUS Asia in China, Japan and the ROK** from May 11 to 12, 2017 in Seoul, the ROK. The CAMPUS Asia professors and staff from the 35 universities (17 consortia) in the CAMPUS Asia Program participated in the seminar. The participants attended a cross-consortia networking, interest-based thematic subgroup discussions, and a presentation from EU's experts on the Erasmus Program. Best practices and difficulties in program implementation from the program pilot period from 2011 to 2015 were shared among the participants. The results of the discussion from the seminar were published in the form of an Outcome Report and were shared with Ministries of Education of the three countries.

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**Part III**

# **CONCLUSION**

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# CONCLUSION

The situation in Northeast Asia and the world underwent unprecedented changes in 2017. Regional uncertainties created more challenges for the trilateral cooperation among China, Japan and the ROK. The three countries' continuous efforts ensured the stable development of the trilateral cooperation.

In the year, the trilateral cooperation was more valued for its significance by the three countries and showed its strong vitality and sustainability. Under the guidance of the three countries, the TCS will spare no effort to support the trilateral inter-governmental and non-governmental cooperation mechanisms among the three countries.

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# ANNEXES

List of Trilateral Ministerial Meetings  
in 2017

## List of Trilateral Ministerial Meetings in 2017<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Regarding the joint documents adopted at trilateral ministerial meetings, please refer to TCS online database

### Trilateral Ministerial Meetings in 2017

No	Date	Meeting	Venue
1	May 5	17 <sup>th</sup> Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting	Yokohama, Japan
2	August 25	19 <sup>th</sup> Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM19)	Suwon, ROK
3	August 26	9 <sup>th</sup> Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting	Kyoto, Japan
4	September 13-14	9 <sup>th</sup> Tripartite Governors' Meeting among the People's Bank of China (PBC), the Bank of Japan (BOJ), and the Bank of the ROK (BOK)	Incheon, ROK
5	November 11-12	10 <sup>th</sup> Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting	Jinan, China
6	November 30	6 <sup>th</sup> Tripartite Customs Heads' Meeting	Tokyo, Japan
7	December 6	17 <sup>th</sup> TRIPO Heads Meeting	Jeju, ROK

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

2017

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