

Trilateral Joint Statement on Disaster Management Cooperation

1. We, the heads of government agencies on disaster management of Japan, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea held the first commemorative Trilateral Meeting on Disaster Management in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan on 31st October 2009 to strengthen cooperation on disaster management among the three countries based on Trilateral Joint Announcement on Disaster Management Cooperation issued at the First Trilateral Summit held in December 2008.

2. Every year natural disasters occur frequently around the world especially in Asia, inflicting damage on the lives and property of many people. We would like to express our heartfelt condolences and solidarity toward the people and areas affected by the natural disasters.

3. The three countries have always been under threats of natural disasters such as earthquakes, typhoons, floods and sediment related disasters. Moreover, the risk is expected to rise concerning water related disasters including typhoons, floods and sediment related disasters due to climate change as the result of global warming. However, we are convinced that the three countries have accumulated invaluable expertise to prevent and overcome the damages in the future.

In the meeting today, we confirmed the necessity for the three countries to make continued efforts and to strengthen trilateral cooperation on disaster management.

4. Based on the recognition that it is important to share information on the past efforts and current challenges facing each of the three countries in order to promote concrete trilateral cooperation in the future, we confirmed that we will share the information on the following areas, with the cooperation of relevant government agencies in each country. We also affirmed that we should collectively promote research and other efforts on the specific areas in which we reached consensus through the process of sharing information.

(1) Sharing information and technology on the countermeasures to the

disasters which are expected to increase due to climate change, and deepening discussion on future technological developments and their utilization among the three countries;

(2) Discussing the future cooperation to promote earthquake-proofing of buildings in the three countries by sharing information on the current efforts and other information on earthquake-proofing of buildings;

(3) Considering the information sharing on the current efforts by the three countries to utilize satellite technologies for disaster management, and, from the viewpoint of humanitarian concern in the wake of disasters, discussing the possibility of cooperation for more efficient and effective operations of utilizing satellite images.

Moreover, we reaffirmed to discuss ways to promote further information sharing regarding knowledge, experience and lessons learned from the past disasters in the three countries.

5. We exchanged views on the further trilateral cooperation on disaster management in the following areas, with cooperation among the relevant government agencies of each country:

(1) Holding expert-level seminars on the training for human resources of disaster management and sharing expertise in this field including training curricula, in light of the importance of human resources development in disaster management;

(2) Strengthening cooperation with international disaster management organizations located in the three countries and in international disaster management conferences to be held in the three countries.

6. We shared the view to hold the trilateral heads of government agency meeting on disaster management in rotation. The next meeting will be held in 2011 in China.

Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, 31st October 2009

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