

China-Japan-ROK Trilateral Ministerial Meeting Trilateral Joint Announcement on Water Management Cooperation

The ministers responsible for water resources of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea shared their views on the importance of promoting trilateral cooperation in the field of water management at the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul.

The three North East Asia countries have the good tradition of holding annual bilateral conferences in the areas of water resources, river and dam management to exchange information on each other's experience and technology, visit water projects on the site and promote collaborative activities.

However, due to climate change, rapid urbanization, demographic change and financial crisis, the three countries are facing exacerbated water risks, such as floods, droughts, typhoon and sea level rise. Therefore, existing mechanism of cooperation needs to be further strengthened, so as to address common water challenges in a more concerted and coordinated manner.

The three ministers responsible for water resources recognized that they need a platform where the three countries can share information simultaneously and discuss coordinated actions, since these risks are both regional and global. Furthermore, by pooling technology and experience together, the three countries could jointly develop best countermeasures against common risks like floods and droughts, as well as the adaptation strategies to climate change.

To this end, the three ministers responsible for water resources shared the view that it is crucial for the three countries to scale up tri-party cooperation in the effort towards the resolution of their common water-related issues and to strengthen mutual partnerships.

Taking the above into account, the three ministers responsible for water resources shared the view to consider concluding a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to start joint studies, under the fundamental theme, "Integrated river management and water resources management adapting to climate change," and holding a tripartite ministerial meeting when conditions are mature.

Istanbul, 20th March 2009



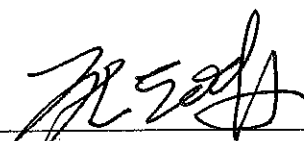
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