

## **The Fourth Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting**

### **-2024 ROK-Japan-China Education Innovation Statement-**

We, the Ministers of Education of the Republic of Korea, Japan, and the People's Republic of China, gathered in Seoul, Korea on June 15, 2024, for the Fourth Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting.

The Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting was launched by the decision of the three Leaders of Korea, Japan, and China at the Sixth Trilateral Summit Meeting on November 1, 2015, in Seoul, Korea, during which the three Leaders reaffirmed the importance of education for promoting mutual understanding and shared development among the three countries.

The Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan and the Minister of Education of the People's Republic of China welcomed the resumption of the meeting, which had been suspended for four years due to the COVID-19 situation, and voiced their appreciation for the efforts made by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of the Republic of Korea, the Chair country, in hosting the meeting.

We welcomed the continued participation of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) in the meeting, reaffirmed the role of TCS in enhancing education cooperation, and expressed our hope to advance our cooperative relations.

We reiterated the importance of people-to-people exchanges recognized at the Ninth ROK-Japan-China Trilateral Summit in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on May 27, 2024.

We recognized the importance of exchanges among the young people of future generations to foster mutual understanding and trust, and cultivate innovative talents amidst rapid technological and environmental changes. In this respect, we reiterated the need to continuously strengthen education cooperation and exchanges among the three countries based on past accomplishments.

Taking the aforementioned into account, we discussed the following joint agenda and decided on the directions for future cooperation as follows.

#### **1. Enhancing Trilateral Cooperation on Future Education in the Age of Digital Transformation**

1.1. We reached the common recognition that educational transformation and innovation are imperative in adapting to the era of digital transformation, and affirmed the

importance of cooperation to address the challenges faced by the three countries in the field of digital education, including enhancement of teachers' digital capabilities, classroom innovation, and digital education tools.

1.2. We concurred on sharing the digital education policies and best practices to systematically promote digital transformation in all areas of education, and acknowledged the need to hold teacher seminars and forums to discuss cooperation avenues on digital education innovation among the three countries, including securing digital infrastructure and content, improving education systems and environments, and enhancing the digital capabilities of teachers and students.

1.3. We decided to share fundamental principles that should be applied to digital education, and work together to explore various solutions to collaborate on addressing concerns related to the utilization of technology, such as digital disparities, cyber security and stability.

## **2. Promoting Trilateral Cooperation for the Exchange of Future Generations**

2.1. We commented positively on the essential role of the ROK-Japan-China Children's Story Exchange Programme, which has been held continuously since 2002, in promoting the understanding of East Asian cultures among the youth of the three countries, and welcomed the resumption of the program in Korea in 2023 after its temporary suspension due to COVID-19 in recent years. We concurred on continuing to promote active interest in and support for the success of the program, which will be held in Japan in August this year.

2.2. We reaffirmed the achievements made through the meetings for the trilateral university students exchange program, which was initiated at the First Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting, including addressing joint solutions to global issues. We also welcomed China's hosting of the third trilateral university student exchange program.

2.3. We encouraged exchange, mutual visit and cultural experience among the primary and secondary school students among the three countries and support various activities including youth sports and cultural events to enhance understanding and friendship among the future generation.

## **3. Sharing Achievements of CAMPUS Asia and the Way Forward**

3.1. We highly commended the positive role of CAMPUS Asia, which has developed into a pan-Asian student exchange program by expanding the scope and number of consortia and participating countries such as ASEAN, and increasing the number of students, thus contributing to the expansion of opportunities for mutual understanding as the Program enters its Mode 3. We appreciated the accomplishment of CAMPUS Asia, which 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.

3.2. We positively assessed that the CAMPUS Asia has laid the foundation for fostering innovative talents needed in Asia and promoting mutual understanding among the three countries through university student exchange program in Korea, Japan, China as well as ASEAN countries.

3.3. Hoping to see the advancement of the CAMPUS Asia Program into an internationally renowned exchange program, not only within Asia but also on a globe scale, we will continue to cooperate in developing joint curricula, credit exchange programs, and joint/dual-degree programs among universities across Asia; facilitating exchanges, including both in-person and virtual activities; and promoting quality assurance standards among the three countries.

3.4. Looking ahead to the Mode 4 of CAMPUS Asia, we reaffirmed our mutual commitment to trilateral cooperation among the three countries, and decided to continue working to actively support the Program's further development. In this regard, we welcomed the holding of the Eighth Meeting of the China-Korea-Japan Committee for Promoting Exchange and Cooperation among Universities, which will be convened in China.

3.5. We welcomed the decision to launch the Second Trilateral Rectors' Forum during the Fifth Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting in Japan, aimed at strengthening higher education cooperation and network building among universities of the three countries.

#### **4. Strengthening Trilateral Education Cooperation for the Advancement of Global Education**

4.1. Recognizing the essential role of the trilateral education cooperation in advancing Asian and global education, we reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening multilateral partnerships, especially including ASEAN+3, the East Asia Summit and ASEM.

4.2. We committed to working closely together to ensure the success of the APEC Leaders' Meeting to be held in Korea in 2025.

4.3. We welcomed the convening of the Fifth Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting to be held in Japan.