

Culture Cities of East Asia (CCEA)

A Large-Scale Cultural Exchange Project among Three Cities



The “Culture City of East Asia” project was established in accordance with the agreements made at the 4th Trilateral Culture Ministers’ Meeting (held in Shanghai on May, 2012). The three countries select a city representing their country’s traditional culture or a city aiming to develop cultural arts. At the selected cities, various cultural arts events, as well as cultural exchange events are held. The project aims not only to promote mutual understanding and a sense of solidarity within East Asia, but also to enhance global competitiveness of East

Asian cultures. The “European Capital of Culture” program run by the European Union since 1985 and the “ASEAN Capital City of Culture” program run by the ASEAN since 2008 both are precedents of the CCEA.



The cities selected as the CCEA utilizes their unique cultural characteristics to promote cultural arts, creative industry, and tourism so as to bring about continuous growth. From this perspective, cities selected as the CCEA continue their cultural and youth exchanges even after the year they were selected. Furthermore, the

three countries are recently endeavoring to enlarge exchanges between CCEA from different years and to link CCEA with the ASEAN Capital Cities of Culture and the European Capital of Culture.

Trilateral exchanges among CJK cities will continue to increase by a set every year if the follow-up projects for CCEA continue smoothly. These sets of triangles are expected to become valuable assets for the promotion of mutual understanding among CJK.

◀ Logos of 2020 CCEA

Sources
Kitakyushu City (top),
Yangzhou City (middle),
Suncheon City (bottom)

Past CCEA

Year	China	Japan	ROK
2014	Quanzhou City	Yokohama City*	Gwangju Metropolitan City
2015	Qingdao City*	Niigata City	Cheongju City
2016	Ningbo City	Yangzhou City	Jeju Special Self-Governing Province*
2017	Changsha City	Kyoto City*	Daegu Metropolitan City
2018	Harbin City*	Kanazawa City	Busan Metropolitan City
2019	Xi'an City	Toshima Ward, Tokyo Metropolis	Incheon Metropolitan City*
2020	Yangzhou City	Kitakyushu City*	Suncheon City

(* Host cities of the Trilateral Culture Ministers’ Meeting)

The 11th Trilateral Culture
Ministers' Meeting
Held in 2019 CCEA,
Incheon Metropolitan City

Source
TCS



CCEA Serve as Host Cities for Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting Since 2014

Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting is a meeting held annually on a rotational basis with the purpose of discussing measures for cultural cooperation and exchange. The three countries, with a consensus on the importance of cultural cooperation, have been running joint programs through this meeting. Hosting the Culture Ministers' Meeting in one of the CCEA began in 2014, the first year of CCEA project. Selection of CCEA for the following year coincides with the Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting as well. The 12th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting is scheduled to be held in Kitakyushu in 2020.

Past Meetings Since 2014

No.	Date	Host City	Outcome Documents
6 th	November 29 2014	Yokohama	'Yokohama Joint Declaration'
7 th	December 19-20, 2015	Qingdao	'Qingdao Action Plan'
8 th	August 27-28, 2016	Jeju	'Jeju Declaration'
9 th	August 25-26, 2017	Kyoto	'Kyoto Declaration'
10 th	August 29-31, 2018	Harbin	'Harbin Declaration'
11 th	August 29-30, 2019	Incheon	'Incheon Declaration'
12 th	2020 [tentative]	Kitakyushu	



◀ CCEA Round-Table Conference

Source
Ningbo City



◀ The Unveiling Ceremony of CCEA Friendship Memorial Stone

Source
Ningbo City

December 2016: “CCEA Round-Table Conference” Held by Ningbo City

On December 7, 2016, Ningbo City held the “CCEA Round-Table Conference” as a part of the closing ceremony of the CCEA which wrapped up the activities throughout the year. The participants of the conference were Nara City and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (both CCEA 2016), Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism (then the Ministry of Culture), and past CCEA and CCEA 2017 including Quanzhou City (2014), Qingdao City (2015), Changsha City (2017), Gwangju Metropolitan City (2014), Cheongju City (2015), and Daegu Metropolitan City (2017).

The representatives of participant cities gave presentations on the theme “The Role of CCEA in Promoting Urban Development and the Measures to Strengthen Cooperation and Exchange among CCEA”, and also signed the “Ningbo Suggestion on CCEA”. The unveiling ceremony for CCEA Friendship Memorial Stone, which has the names of all 12 CCEA from 2014 to 2017 engraved on it in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, was held at the conference as well.

The CCEA Summit ▶

Source
Kyoto City



Signing of “Kyoto Declaration
on CCEA Summit” ▶

Source
Kyoto City



August 2017: “CCEA Summit” Held in Tokyo

The CCEA Summit was held at the Kyoto International Conference Hall on August 26, 2017. The event was co-hosted by Kyoto City (CCEA 2017) and supported by Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs, and the total of 19 representatives and related stakeholders of CCEA 2014 through 2018, and ASEAN Capital Cities of Culture gathered to share experiences with past culture cities performances and to discuss measures to develop CCEA. The “Kyoto Declaration on CCEA Summit” was adopted at the summit. The following contents were included in the declaration: (1) Create opportunities of wide cultural exchanges between companies and groups including the younger generations; (2) Strengthen CCEA network with cooperation from each government; (3) Hold CCEA Summit on a regular basis considering the link with ASEAN Capital Cities of Culture.

Country	Participant City (the year designated as CCEA) / ASEAN
ROK	Gwangju Metropolitan City (2014), Cheongju City (2015), Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (2016), Daegu Metropolitan City (2017), Busan Metropolitan City (2018)
China	Quanzhou City (2014), Qingdao City (2015), Ningbo City (2016), Changsha City (2017), Harbin City (2018)
Japan	Yokohama City (2014), Niigata City (2015), Nara City (2016), Kyoto City (2017, the host city), Kanazawa City (2018)
ASEAN	The Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei



◀ Group Photo of the Launching Ceremony of ASEAN+3 (APT) Culture Cities Network

Source
TCS

October 2019: Launching Ceremony of “ASEAN+3 Culture Cities Network” Held in Yangzhou City, China

The launching ceremony of “ASEAN+3 (APT) Culture Cities Network” was held in Yangzhou City, China, from the 24th to 26th of October, 2019. The Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism (the host), CJK CCEA, representatives of the ASEAN Capital Cities of Culture, and public officials from relevant department in each country were present at the ceremony (total of around 200 participants). The representatives of each city declared the establishment of APT Culture Cities Network, and agreed to enhance mutual understanding and trust, promote cultural exchanges, strengthen cooperation in the area of tourism industry, and increase youth exchange.

2019: Efforts to Develop CCEA by Strengthening Unity among the CCEA within Each Country

◀ CCEA Staff Training Program in China

Source
Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the People's Republic of China



China: “CCEA Staff Training Program”

From August 13 to 14 in 2019, the first CCEA Staff Training Program in China was hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Xi'an City (2019 CCEA). Over 100 participants attended this program, including personnel from past CCEA (2014-2019) in China, Yangzhou City (2020 CCEA), representatives from Tokyo Metropolis Toshima Ward and Incheon Metropolitan City (2019 CCEA in Japan and the ROK, respectively), public officials of related department, and relevant experts. The CCEA cities were able to share their experiences in operating the CCEA project as well as the future plans for the project. Lectures from experts on “Measure to Apply for, Examine, Select, and Manage CCEA”, “Conditions to Applying for CCEA and the Criteria”, and advices on the developing the brand of CCEA, were held as well.



ROK: “2019 CCEA Cooperation Workshop”

The first Korean CCEA, Gwangju Metropolitan City (Asia Culture City Forum), hosted the 2019 CCEA Cooperation Workshop for two days during December 10-11, 2019. The objectives of the workshop, first held in 2019, are to discuss measures to increase the quality of exchange programs and to maintain solidarity in accordance with fluctuations in the conditions of the three countries by close cooperation and communication between the working groups of CCEA in ROK. 15 related public officials from Gwangju Metropolitan City and 4 other Korean CCEA (Cheongju City, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Busan Metropolitan City, and Suncheon City), as well as relevant organizations including the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) participated in the workshop.