



Trilateral
Cooperation
Secretariat

2023 PROGRESS REPORT OF THE TRILATERAL COOPERATION

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



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Part I

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the Agreement on the Establishment of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (hereinafter refer to as 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 2011, the TCS drafts and submits progress of the Trilateral Cooperation to the three Foreign Ministries for approval. The TCS presents the report titled “2023 Progress Report of the Trilateral Cooperation,” covering the period from January to December 2023.

>> Introduction (Cooperation Progress)

In 2023, the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic was less severe, and face-to-face exchanges were increased significantly. China-Japan-Korea governments advanced further trilateral cooperation and are unwavering in their commitment to working closely with each other.

In the field of political affairs, three countries deepened cooperation through the **Trilateral Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)** in September and the **10th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting** in November both convened in person.

Economic cooperation has also persevered through the **23rd Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting** in May, the **21st Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technological Conference** in October, the **23rd Northeast Asia Port Director-General Meeting and Port Symposium** and the **23rd TRIPO Heads Meeting** in November.

In the area of sustainable development, the three countries continued to advance further institutionalization of trilateral cooperation by sustaining such robust platforms as the **24th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM24)** and the **6th Director General Meeting on Forestry Cooperation**.

Socio-cultural cooperation was also enhanced through various mechanisms. In February, the **4th Trilateral Sports Ministers' Meeting** was held in virtual format, and '2023 Seoul Joint Statement' was signed. The **9th China-Japan-Korea Personnel Policy Network Heads' Meeting** was also held in February. The **14th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting (TCMM)** was held in September and reached a consensus on fostering youth exchanges, promoting the cultural content industry, and preserving cultural heritage. In the field of health, the **16th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting** was held in December.

Part II

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1. Politics and Security

>> Politics

The 10th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in Busan, the ROK on November 26, 2023. The meeting was presided over by H.E. PARK Jin, Foreign Minister of the ROK, and participated by H.E. KAMIKAWA Yoko, Foreign Minister of Japan, and H.E. WANG Yi, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister of China.

The Foreign Ministers assessed the progress of trilateral cooperation and discussed the future direction of the three countries. Recognizing the revitalization of the trilateral mechanism, the three ministers concurred on the importance of developing future-oriented and practical cooperation among the three countries.

The three ministers reaffirmed the necessity of holding a trilateral summit, the pinnacle of trilateral cooperation, and agreed to expedite preparations for the upcoming summit.



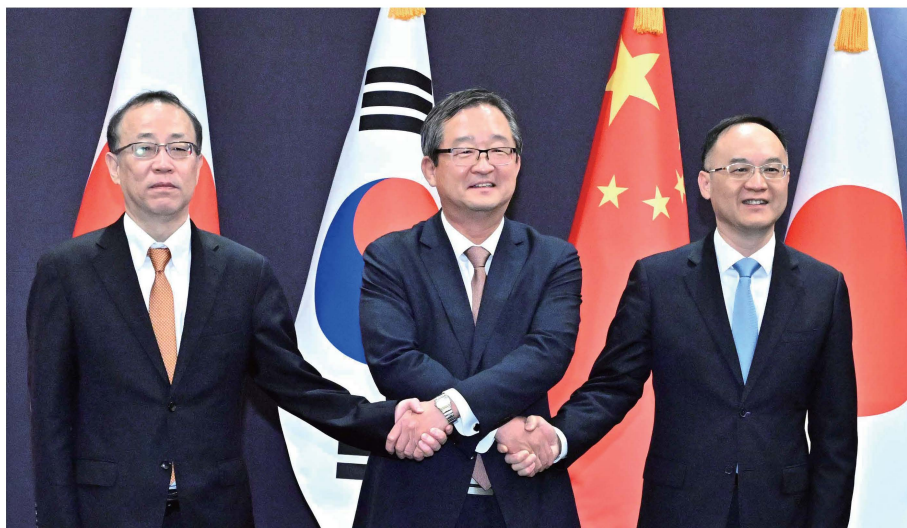
Part II.
COOPERATION PROGRESS

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The Trilateral Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) was held in Seoul, the ROK, on September 26, 2023. The meeting was presided over by Mr. CHUNG Byung-won, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the ROK, with the participation of Mr. FUNAKOSHI Takehiro, Senior Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and Mr. NONG Rong, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of China.

During the meeting, the three senior officials conducted in-depth discussions on promoting the steady revitalization of trilateral cooperation and agreed to hold a foreign ministers' meeting in a couple of months and maintain communication on promoting the Trilateral Summit at the earliest convenient time for the three countries.





>> Think-Tanks

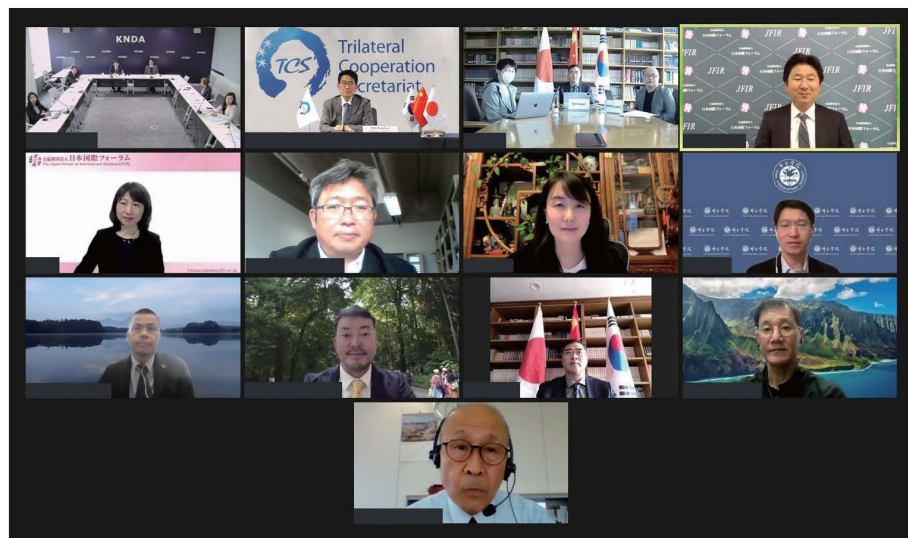
The 7th Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tanks (NTCT) National Focal Points Meeting & 2022 NTCT Conference was held online on March 9, 2023. The event was hosted by the Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR), and participants include the Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU), and the TCS.

The Focal Points Meeting's discussions centered around the draft reports related to carbon neutrality, RCEP, and security cooperation created by the Working Groups organized by each participating organization. Following lively discussion on the contents of the reports, all those in attendance agreed to make prompt and appropriate revisions to finalize the reports for submission to the three governments as policy recommendations. The TCS reiterated its willingness to support the NTCT deliver its policy recommendations to the three governments.

The 2022 NTCT Conference focused on the theme of "Trilateral Cooperation in the Era of Competition Between Nations". Participants acknowledged the increasingly complex global environment challenging trilateral cooperation, as well as finding numerous areas for potential collaboration such as banking, health, green energy, people-to-people exchange, and third-country cooperation.

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2. Economy

>> Economy and Trade

The 21st Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technological Conference took place on October 31, 2023, in Dalian, China, hosted by the Ministry of Commerce of China with participation of, Kyushu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, Kyushu Economic Federation, and Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the ROK. The Conference was held under the theme of “Maintain Smooth Industrial and Supply Chains and Share the Achievements of Cooperation and Development in the Yellow Sea Rim Region”. Around 300 people participated from various fields including government officials, entrepreneurs, scholars, and related organizations from the three countries. Participants shared their insights on boosting regional economy and people-to-people exchanges in the region and to put forward trilateral cooperation in the areas of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), supply chains, e-commerce, green economy, ICT, etc.



>> Transport and Logistics

The 2nd Directorial Meeting for the 9th CJK Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics was held online on March 24, 2023. The delegations from the Ministry of Transport of China, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the ROK, and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan participated in the meeting. The meeting discussed the preparations for the 9th Ministerial Conference and reaffirmed their commitment to close collaboration in this regard.

The 3rd Directorial Meeting for the 9th CJK Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics was held virtually on July 27, 2023. The three ministries discussed preparatory issues pertaining to the 9th CJK Ministerial Conference such as logistical details and drafting of the joint statement.

The 23rd Northeast Asia Port Director-General Meeting and Port Symposium was held in Busan, ROK, from November 1 to 3, 2023. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) of the ROK hosted the meeting under the theme of “Port Redevelopment and Urban Regeneration.” During the meeting, the research outcomes on four collaborative projects, namely carbon-neutral ports, smart ports, cruises, and port management guidelines, conducted jointly by research institutions from the three countries since 2022, were presented. The participating research institutions include the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI), the Korea Institute of Ocean Science & Technology (KIOST), the Research Institute of Highway, Ministry of Transport (CATS), and the Water Transportation Institute (WTI) from China, and the National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management (NLIM) and Port and Airport Research Institute (PARI) from Japan.

>> Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

The 23rd TRIPO Heads Meeting was held in Busan, the ROK on November 30, 2023 hosted by the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), with participation by the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) and Japan Patent Office (JPO). At the meeting, the TRIPO Offices presented the current status of their national IP systems and reviewed the latest cooperation activities in the areas of trademark, trial and appeal, design, human resources development and IP societies. A special agenda on AI-generated inventions (i.e. inventions generated by AI) and examination of AI-related inventions was also discussed.



The 11th TRIPO User Symposium was held in Busan, the ROK, under the theme of the “Role of Intellectual Property for Innovative SMEs” the day after the 23rd TRIPO Heads Meeting. The symposium showcased in-depth discussions on how the IP system can contribute to the growth of Innovative SMEs.

The 5th TRIPO Trademark Experts Meeting and User Symposium was hosted virtually by JPO with participation from CNIPA and KIPO on October 16, 2023. The experts from the TRIPO offices exchanged information on the status of trademark act revisions in each of the three countries. The TM User Symposium was also held on the same day for the users of each country. It was attended by approximately 80 people, and presentations were made on themes related to the latest developments of the trademark system and providing use of trademarks.

The 10th Joint Experts Group for Trial and Appeal (JEGTA) was hosted by the Trial and Appeal Department (TAD) of JPO, the Patent Reexamination and Invalidation Department of the Patent Office of CNIPA and the Intellectual Property Trial and Appeal Board (IPTAB) of KIPO on December 12, 2023 in Tokyo, Japan. The experts discussed issues including “Requirements for Post-Grant Patent Corrections (Amendments)” and “Improved Efficiency of Trial and Appeal Operations.”

2023 TRIPO Design Forum was held by the CNIPA in China on October 30, 2023 under the theme of the “Opportunities and Challenges for Design Protection with the Development of Artificial Intelligence”. This forum served as a meaningful opportunity to have a timely discussion on the important and far-reaching topic and deepen their as well as IP users’ mutual understanding in each Office’s efforts to improve their design systems.

The 14th Heads Meeting of Intellectual Property Training Institutes was held on November 15, 2023 by National Center for Industrial Property Information and Training (INPIT) of Japan, with participation from the China Intellectual Property Training Center (CIPTC), and the International Intellectual Property Training Institute (IIPTI) of the ROK. The meeting enhanced each Institute's understanding of the latest policies and operation in the area of human resources development.

2023 Korea-China-Japan IP International Symposium on Academics was held by the Korea Intellectual Property Society with participation from the China Intellectual Property Society and the Intellectual Property Association of Japan (collectively referred to as "Three Societies") in December 2023. The TRIPO Offices expressed their expectation on continuing such cooperation among the Three Societies.

>> Finance

The 23rd Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting was held in Incheon, ROK, on May 2, 2023. The Ministers and Governors from the three countries exchanged views on recent macroeconomic and financial market developments, as well as policy efforts to support economic recovery.

The three countries expressed their commitment to facilitate the ASEAN+3 Finance Process by further enhancing cooperation and communication with each other as well as ASEAN countries. They welcomed the discussion on new facilities and financing structures of the Regional Financing Arrangement (RFA) and updated CMIM Operational Guidelines which enables members to provide liquidity in both their own domestic and other members' currencies. They welcomed the successful implementation of the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI)'s Medium-Term Road Map 2019-2022, and supported a new Mid-Term Road Map 2023-2026. They acknowledged the importance of Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) discussed under the WG3 led by Japan, and supported DRF initiative as a regular initiative of ASEAN+3 Finance Process. In addition, the three parties welcomed the substantial progress made in deepening and broadening ASEAN+3 financial cooperation, including those made under two new initiatives, Financial Digitalization led by Japan and transition finance led by China.



The 12th Tripartite Governors' Meeting among the Bank of Korea (BOK), the People's Bank of China (PBC), and the Bank of Japan (BOJ) was held in Yokohama, Japan, on July 23, 2023. Under the chairmanship of the BOK, the three Governors exchanged views on recent economic and financial developments.

>> Science and Technology

The 18th China-Japan-ROK Trilateral Science and Technology Policy Seminar took place in Beijing, China in a hybrid format on November 1-2, 2023, with participation of five science and technology policy think tanks from the three countries, namely Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED), Institutes of Science and Development of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CASISD), National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP) of Japan, Korea Institute of Science and Technology Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP), Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI) of Korea. This year's seminar focused on the theme of "Sustainable Development and Scientific and Technological Innovation," structured into six sessions covering topics such as i) highlights of research activities in 2023, ii) measurement of technological innovation and STI policies, iii) cultivation, flow and international cooperation of S&T talents, iv) new economic growth engines and STI policies, v) S&T foresights and SDGs empowerment to STI policy, and vi) open innovation ecosystem under SDGs.

The National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF), the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) announced the selection of two new supported projects for the **2023 A3 Foresight Program** on July 3, 2023. This collaborative project among the three countries was solicited under the theme “Cellular Senescence: From Pathophysiology to Treatment” on November 18, 2022, and after evaluations by the three countries, the final projects were selected from the jointly submitted proposals. By the agreement reached by the three institutions in 2005, this program has been supporting two projects per year for five years on agreed-upon themes.

The 20th A-HORCs Meeting, Heads of Research Council in A3, was held on November 21, 2023, at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China. Aimed at promoting scientific and technological cooperation among the three countries, this meeting has been held annually since 2003 in rotation among the three countries. In 2023, the theme was “Effective funding mechanism for highly-creative research,” where research council heads from the three countries presented and exchanged views.

The 24th Northeast Asia Symposium was held on November 21-22, 2023, for two days at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China. This symposium, supported by the NRF, NSFC, and JSPS, aims to facilitate sharing of scientific and technological research status in the Northeast Asia region and to build R&D partnerships among the three countries. This year, over 30 experts from the three countries presented and discussed under the theme “New Generation Databases and Data-Empowering Technologies.”

>> Audit

The 18th Working Level Meeting of the Supreme Audit Institutions of China, Japan and Korea was held in Jinan, China, on July 3 to 7, 2023. The National Audit Office of China, the Board of Audit of Japan, and the Board of Audit and Inspection of Korea attended. The three parties discussed topics on “Follow-up on Audit Recommendations” and “Audit on the Implementation of Energy Policy”.

3. Sustainable Development

>> Environment Protection

The 24th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM24) was hosted by the Ministry of Environment of Japan in Nagoya, Japan on November 4, 2023, with the participation of the Ministry of Environment of the ROK and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China. At the Meeting, the Ministers presented environment policy achievements of their respective countries and exchanged views on future environmental cooperation in the region. The meeting also discussed the implementation status of the Tripartite Joint Action Plan (TJAP) 2021-2025. The Ministers examined the outcomes of TJAP's eight priority areas and commended the achievements of the past year. As a result of the Meeting, the Joint Communiqué was adopted by the three countries.



The TEMM24 Director General Meeting was held on September 26, 2023, in Nagoya, Japan. At the meeting, detailed arrangements of TEMM24 and the progress of TJAP were reviewed by Director Generals of the three countries. In addition, two TEMM working groups on Dust and Sandstorms (DSS WG I, WG II) delivered presentations on their joint research outcomes.

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The Pre-TEMM24 Working Level Meeting was held on August 31, 2023, in Tokyo, hosted by Japan. Director-level officials from the three countries discussed the contents of the Joint Communiqué and the progress of TJAP. In addition, the delegates discussed the arrangements for TEMM24.

The 10th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution (TPDAP) was held on September 20, 2023, hosted by China through an online format. The Dialogue served as a platform for sharing policies and technologies on prevention and control of air pollutants, and latest technology on measuring air pollution.

The 16th Meeting of Dust and Sandstorms Working Group I (DSS WGI) was held on December 5, 2023, hosted by China through an online format. The meeting checked the progress of continued WGI activities and discussed the expansion of data sharing for joint research, especially on the topic of sharing real-time data for early warning systems.

The 16th Meeting of Dust and Sandstorms Working Group II (DSS WGII) was held on November 8, 2023, in Tokyo, hosted by Japan, where experts and researchers shared scientific views on research for DSS mitigation and collecting good practices, as well as establishing a concrete regional cooperation platform.

The 16th Tripartite Online Seminar on 3R/Circular Economy/Zero Waste was held in December 2023, hosted by China. The Seminar exchanged knowledge on policies, practices, and progress related to plastic waste management and circular economy.

The Japan-Korea-China Carbon Neutral Cities Forum took place in October 2023, hosted by the Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES) of Japan, Korea Environment Institute (KEI), and National Center for Climate Change Strategy

International Cooperation (NCSC) of China. The Forum aimed to expand and deepen exchanges and cooperation on climate actions at city level.

The 9th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity (TPDBD) was held in July 2023, in Hainan, China. The Dialogue was hosted by China, and the environment ministries of the three countries conducted information exchange regarding the views including on the implementation of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, invasive alien species, Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources, and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-10).

The 17th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemical Management (TPDCM) and Tripartite Expert Seminar on Chemical Management (TESCM) was held in November 2023, in Jeju, the ROK. The dialogue and seminar promoted cooperative relations among the three countries by sharing information on chemical management policies and testing methods in each country.

The 7th Tripartite Roundtable on Environmental Business (TREB7) was held on February 15, 2023, in Beijing, China, in a hybrid format. The theme of the meeting was “Synergistic Treatment of Pollution Reduction and Carbon Reduction in Emissions Intensive Industries and Green Sustainable Recovery”, where participants discussed initiatives related to the theme in each country.

The Tripartite Working-level meeting on Eco-labelling took place on September 14 to 15, 2023, hosted by the ROK. The meeting discussed the establishment of common criteria item for “Wood Plastic Composite Products”.

The 24th Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN) Symposium was held in November 2023, in Jeju, the ROK. The Symposium served as an open event for officials and experts from research institutes and private organizations to share information on environmental education.

The TEMM24 Youth Forum was held November 2-4, 2023, in Nagoya, Japan, under the theme “Towards the Harmonious Coexistence with Nature: Inspiring Education for the Future”. Youth representatives from the three countries exchanged the progress of the environmental efforts made by each country, and exchanged opinions among delegates. The result of the Forum was presented at the Ministers Meeting.

The 3rd Trilateral Environmental Teachers’ Exchange Program was held August 14-19, 2023, in Ordos, China, under the theme “Reorienting, Reconnecting and Reshaping the Future”, covering topics such as digitalization and environmental education, as well as impacts on biodiversity and wetland protection. The Program served as a platform for educators to exchange insights and knowledge on environmental education.

The 20th Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM20) was held from October 30 to November 2, 2023, in Tokyo, Japan. To commemorate the 20th TPM, the Presidents reviewed the past twenty years of cooperations and joint research in the environmental field among National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER) and the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES) and confirmed continuous contribution on improvement of environmental issues in Northeast Asia.

>> Agriculture

The 1st Trilateral Young Rural Leader's Exchange Program (TREP) was co-organized by the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) and Anhui Provincial People's Government in Huangshan, China, from August 10 to 14, 2023. Supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the ROK, the TREP aimed to contribute to enhancing capacity building of agricultural technicians in rural areas and organizing mutual visits of young rural leaders, advocating the outcome of the 3rd Trilateral Agricultural Minister's Meeting (TAMM). During the program, young farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs from the three countries participated in seminars/dialogues with experts and local government officials, site visits to symbolic rural areas related to rural revitalization and workshops among participants on challenges, good practices, reflection and cooperation. The program served as an excellent platform to raise awareness of the importance of trilateral cooperation in agriculture, to form a community of practice among rural young leaders and agricultural entrepreneurs, equipping them with network, information, and tools.



>> Forestry

The 6th Director General Meeting on Forestry Cooperation took place on November 15, 2023, in Tokyo, hosted by Forestry Agency of Japan, marking the first convening since the pandemic. The National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China, and the Korea Forest Service attended as participants. This meeting aimed to share the status of forest policies and achievements among the three participating countries, while also delving into discussions regarding the future of trilateral cooperation in forestry. During the meeting, the three parties engaged in in-depth discussions on various topics, including the current situation of forests and forestry, the function of forests for disaster prevention, the promotion of wood utilization, the promotion of legal timber trade, and the forest recreation, forest environmental education, forest health tourism.



>> Fisheries

The China-Japan-Korea Non-governmental Fisheries Agreement Meeting was held in Ningbo, China on October 25, 2023. The meeting was co-hosted by the China Fisheries Association, Korea Fisheries Association and Japan Fishers Association. The three parties discussed the progress on maintaining maritime operations order, fishery resource management and further exchanges and cooperation in fishery.

The 17th China-Japan-Korea International Jellyfish Workshop was held among the Chinese Academy of Fishery Science (CAFS), Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA) and Korea's National Institute of Fisheries Science (NIFS) in Hangzhou, China from December 19 to 21, 2023. Experts from the three countries shared results of *nemopilema nomurai* monitoring from 2020 to 2023 and national study outcomes in each country. They also exchanged opinions on future cooperation for the jellyfish studies.

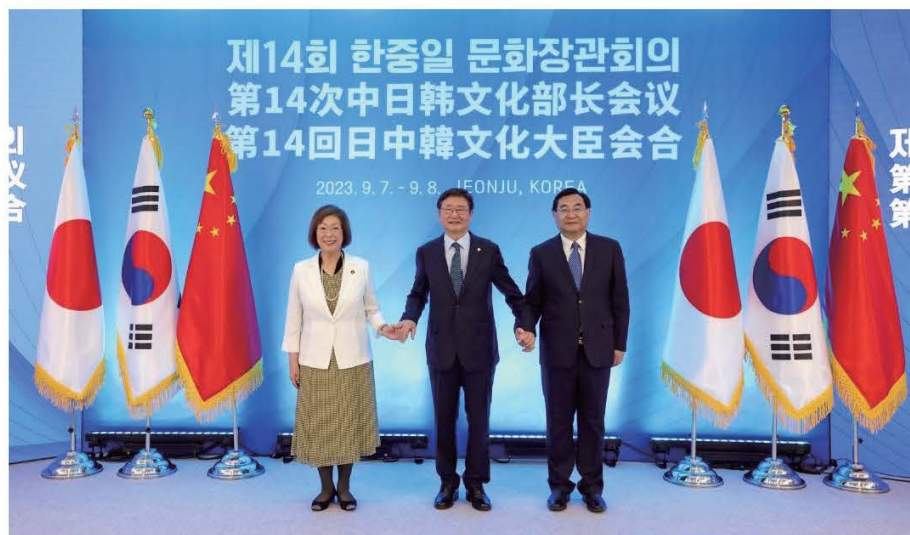
4. Social and Cultural Exchanges

>> Culture

On September 8, 2023, the 14th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting (TCMM) was held in Jeonju, the Republic of Korea. The meeting was chaired by Mr. PARK Bo-gyoon, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the ROK, with Ms. NAGAOKA Keiko, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan and Mr. HU Heping, Minister of Culture and Tourism of China in attendance.

During the meeting, the three Ministers reached a consensus to deepen their cooperation in advancing the "Culture City of East Asia (CCEA)" brand, fostering youth exchanges, promoting the culture content industry, and preserving cultural heritage. These shared initiatives were solidified in the "Jeonju Declaration," which was adopted as a significant outcome of the meeting.

In the following CCEA Award Ceremony, Dalian City and Weifang City (China), Ishikawa Prefecture (Japan), and Gimhae City (the ROK) were designated as the 2024 CCEAs.





On December 7, 2023, the 16th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum was held in hybrid format in Tokyo, Japan. The forum was hosted by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, and was participated by Director-Generals of Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism of the ROK offline, and Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China online. Participants shared views and practices on the theme “EnterTech (Entertainment + Technology) -The World of Content Business Pioneered by Digital Technology-”. The three sides adopted the Joint Statement which aims to strengthen cooperation in content businesses opened by digital technologies in the three countries.



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>> Sports

The 4th Trilateral Sports Ministers Meeting (TSMM) was held via video conference on February 9, 2023. The meeting was hosted by Mr. PARK Bo-gyoon, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the ROK, with Mrs. NAGAOKA Keiko, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan and Mr. ZHOU Jinqiang, Vice Minister of General Administration of Sports of China in attendance.

In the '2023 Seoul Joint Statement', the three ministers agreed to promote cultural exchange in the following three aspects: 1) Promotion of the Olympic and Paralympic spirit for future generations, 2) Solidarity for sustainable sports development which covers people with disabilities, the elderly, underdeveloped countries, and the green environment, 3) Strengthening trilateral cooperation in high performance sports, anti- doping, youth sports, and the sports industry.



>> Health

The 16th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting was held in Beijing on December 3, 2023. Chaired by Vice Minister LEI Haichao of National Health Commission of China, the Meeting was attended by Vice Minister OSHIMA Kazuhiro of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, Vice Minister PARK Minsoo of Ministry of Health and Welfare of the ROK, WHO Acting Regional Director for the Western Pacific Zsuzsanna Jakab, and Secretary-General LEE Hee-sup of Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat.

Under the theme “Work together for a healthier and safer future”, the Meeting explored more possible cooperation on the three countries' practices and sharing experiences related to prevention, preparedness and response to public health emergencies including pandemics, building and strengthening resilient primary health care system, the promotion of universal health coverage, and improvement of elderly care services and measures for healthy aging. The Meeting endorsed the *Joint Statement of the 16th Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting*, and the three Vice Ministers signed the *China-Japan-Korea Memorandum of Cooperation on Health Cooperation* for the first time.



The 11th Population Policy Forum 2023 was held in Seoul on July 19 and 20, 2023. The Forum was organized by Ministry of Health and Welfare of the ROK, with the support of The Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, Children and Families Agency of Japan, National Health Commission of China (NHC), China Population and Development Research Center (CPDRC) and China Population Welfare Foundation (CPWF). Population policy-related officials and experts attended the sessions to discuss the 1)Evaluation of Low Fertility Rate Policy, Effectiveness of Feedback System, and Control Tower and 2)Social Participation and Health Care Policies for Retirement Support: Status and Challenges.

>> Personnel

On February 22, 2023, the 9th Heads' Meeting of Personnel Administration Network among China-Japan-Korea was held online. The meeting was hosted by the National Civil Service Administration of China, and attended by Mr. XU Qifang, Chief of the National Civil Service Administration of China, Ms. KAWAMOTO Yuko, President of the National Personnel Authority of Japan, and Mr. KIM Seung Ho, Minister of the Ministry of Personnel Management of the Republic of Korea. At the meeting, the heads of personnel management agencies exchanged their experiences and strategies for personnel innovation under the theme of 'Reform and Innovation of Civil Service for Development in a New Era.' The three sides also reviewed the past three year's cooperation outcomes, and signed the Memorandum of Cooperation for the next three years.



On December 20, 2023, the 15th Joint Symposium Concerning Personnel Administration was held in Xi'an, China. Hosted by Director-General CHEN Longfa, Bureau I of Civil Service Management of the National Civil Service Administration of China, the Symposium was attended by delegations of the National Personnel Authority of Japan headed by Deputy Director-General Harada Mitsuyoshi, Human Resources Bureau, the Ministry of Personnel Management of the Republic of Korea headed by Director-General PARK Yong Su of Planning and Coordination Bureau. DSG ZUSHI of TCS also attended the symposium and delivered congratulatory remarks at the opening ceremony. Under the theme of "Laws and Regulations System of Civil Service," each side made retrospective on the establishment of the legal system on civil service of the belonging country as well as its outlook on future development, highlighting their distinctive features. They also had candid discussions on such

topics as salary adjusting survey, betterment of human resource allocation against population aging and low fertility, gender equality, application of big data in public personnel management, among others.



On June 27th, the 15th China-Japan-Korea Personnel Policy Network Joint Training Program for Young/Middle-level Public Employees was held offline at Sejong City and TCS conference hall. Hosted by the Ministry of Personnel Management of the Republic of Korea, civil servants from the National Civil Service Administration of China and the National Personnel Authority of Japan attended. This Joint Program is an annual program held since 2007, intended to improve the efficiency of human resources management systems in the three countries and to enhance mutual understanding through exchange and cooperation in the field of human resource administration. All the participants presented different topics and were able to share the different personnel administration systems of the three countries. While visiting TCS, DSG BEK welcomed the participants and delivered a welcoming remark, encouraging them to continue their interest on trilateral cooperation. Furthermore, the participants were given a lecture about the TCS's history, its institutional arrangement, and its activities in diverse fields.

>> Local Government Exchange

On October 17, 2023, the 24th Local Government Exchange Conference was held in Yamanashi, Japan. The conference was hosted by the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) of Japan and attended by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and Governors Association of the Republic of Korea (GAOK). Under the theme of "Creating Future-Oriented Regions among Local Governments of China, Japan and Korea", the three sides shared best practices and policies, discussed common challenges, and promoted their local regions.

5. TCS

In 2023, as we entered the post-COVID era, trilateral cooperation marked a shift from holding events online to offline. Since more face-to-face events are conducted, cooperation between China, Japan, and the ROK has revitalized and accelerated further.

In this year, TCS was invited to and supported 10th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Trilateral Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), 23rd TRIPO Heads Meeting, 24th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM24), 14th Trilateral Culture Minister's Meeting (TCMM), 4th Trilateral Sports Ministers' Meeting, 16th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting, 9th Head's Meeting of Personnel Authorities, and other trilateral Director-General level and working-level meetings. Furthermore, the TCS Secretary-General LEE Hee-sup attended the 26th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The TCS' annual flagship event, the **International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) 2023** was held in July under the theme "Revitalizing Trilateral Cooperation in the Post-Covid Era: Communication, Connectivity and Community". It is the first offline IFTC since 2020 and attracted more than 300 audiences. It consists of three sessions; 1. Public Diplomacy and Mass Communication: Mutual Perception among China, Japan and Korea, 2. From Exclusion to Inclusion: Connecting the Digitalized World and 3. Mutual Perception Improvement :From the Lens of Local Community Exchanges. The forum raised public awareness of trilateral cooperation, as well as provided in-depth policy references on advancing the trilateral cooperation to the three governments.

H.E. WANG Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs attended the Forum and delivered a speech entitled "Taking the Right Direction and Revitalizing Asia Jointly." H.E. PARK Jin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the ROK, and H.E. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan also delivered congratulatory messages on the opening of the forum. They stressed the importance and necessity of advancing trilateral cooperation to cope with various challenges confronting the world.

TCS launched **CJK Youth Day** in February commemorating the launch of the **Trilateral Youth Exchange Network (TYEN)** which is a cross-generational and cross-career community network. With the participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Chinese and Korean diplomatic missions in Japan, friendship associations, universities of three countries, and CAMPUS Asia alumni, an audience of around 100 people was onsite and a total of 300 people joined through live-streaming. **The 2nd Trilateral Youth Speech Contest** was held on the occasion of the CJK Youth Day, following the inauguration of TYEN with 12 finalists. Furthermore, **the Annual Meeting of TYEN Core Team** as well as **CAMPUS Asia Alumni Workshop** were launched during the event.

Moreover, **the Young Ambassador Program (YAP)** was held in February with the theme of “mutual public perceptions among the future generation of the three countries”. The program consisted of a variety of lectures, dialogues, site visits, cultural immersion, career talks, CJK youth talks, and team projects.

TCS launched **TCS Guest Scholar Program** in February and invited scholars and experts to share their insights, perspectives, and suggestions on a wide range of topics regarding trilateral cooperation. Since the launch of the program, a total of 5 well-known scholars, including Amb. SHIN Bongkil, Mr. ZHAO Jinping, Mr. Hwang Jaeho, Mr. RO Jaehun and Miss PARK Danbee, have published 6 opinion articles in the media.

TCS also co-organized **the 2nd Forum on Carbon Neutrality Goals of China, Japan, and the ROK** virtually in February with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Climate Action Team at the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (EOSG/CAT). This high-level forum created an effective platform to share policy practices and explore collaboration between the three countries on the carbon neutrality transition.

TCS implemented its first **Internship Program** in 2023 to provide university students from China, Japan, and the ROK with valuable work experience and insights into trilateral cooperation. With the support of MOU signed universities, TCS recruited CJK national students for two terms to get involved and support TCS projects.

In April, the 1st Trilateral Visionary Group (TVG) was held in a hybrid format bringing together 19 veteran governmental officials and prominent scholars from China, Japan, and the ROK to engage in in-depth discussions on progress, challenges, and opportunities of trilateral cooperation in the political, economic, and socio-cultural areas. TCS hosted the “TCS day” event on May 30th to jointly commemorate the 13th anniversary of the “Memorandum on the Establishment of the TCS” signed by the governments of China, Japan, and the ROK on May 30, 2010. During the event, the names of the TCS mascot, Crested Ibis, a bird symbolizing cooperation among CJK were revealed at the TCS day. It is an emblem of friendship to maintain the positive momentum of promoting trilateral cooperation. Also, various performances took place, including a calligraphy performance showcasing word of the year, ‘Harmony (和合)’ as well as Chinese, Japanese, Korean jazz and dance performances, and photo exhibitions which reflected on the journey of TCS in promoting cooperation between the three countries.

In May, TCS hosted the Trilateral Entrepreneurs Forum (TEF) 2023 under the theme of “Towards Green Growth: Clean Energy Transformation and Challenges in East Asia” as well as the inaugural Trilateral Women Startup Program (TWSP). The expertise shared at the forum provided a valuable context for strategic planning and business initiatives on energy transformation.

Recognizing the importance of the RCEP being the first free trade agreement linking the three countries, TCS continued to organize the 2nd Trilateral Expert Seminar on RCEP in June. The seminar proved to be a highly informative and insightful event, showcasing in-depth discussions by industry experts on RCEP implementation, maximizing its economic impact, and regional economic integration.

The Trilateral Young Scholars Forum was held in July, and 12 young scholars were mentored by senior scholars from the three countries to make presentations and engage in the discussion on the mutual perception among the people of China, Japan, and the ROK. The presentations were engaging and informative, and the discussions were lively and fruitful with participants sharing their perspectives and exchanging ideas on how to enhance mutual perception among the three countries in various fields.

In August, TCS empowered more people to recognize the importance of environmental protection, enhancing communication among the young generation in rural areas. TCS and the China Center for Environmental Education & Communication (CEECE, MEE) co-hosted the **3rd Trilateral Environmental Teachers' Exchange Program (TTEP)** in Beijing and Ordos, Inner Mongolia, the **1st Trilateral Young Rural Leader's Exchange Program (TREP)** was co-hosted in the same month in Huangshan, China. With support from the agricultural ministries of the three countries, the program served as a meaningful opportunity to deepen mutual understanding of rural revitalization and youth entrepreneurship.

In October, the 7th Consultative Board paid a courtesy visit to Beijing, China, and had meetings with 9 counterparts including the ministries, economic and cultural associations, universities, and. Also, in November, Board members visited Tokyo, Japan, and had meetings with 15 counterparts. The board utilized the visits to extend appreciation and further strengthen cooperation with stakeholders on key TCS agendas.

Furthermore, the TCS fortified its efforts to conduct research, developing the **Trilateral Statistics Hub** and publishing the **2023 Trilateral Economic Report** with the theme of 'Regional Economic Integration and the Outlook of Trilateral Cooperation in the Post-Pandemic Era'. Also, during the TCS Day event, **Trilateral Common Vocabulary Dictionary (TCVD)** and **Workbook (TCVW)** were introduced which feature 658 words selected for their frequent usage in daily life in the three countries with each word being accompanied by its meanings and examples of usage.

Part III

Conclusion

In 2023, in-person interaction was resumed, and we were able to overcome the COVID-19 Pandemic and further enhance exchanges between China, Japan, and the ROK.

Under the leadership of the governments of China, Japan, and the ROK, TCS has so far fulfilled its mandate of promoting trilateral cooperation and has been able to strengthen the framework with the unwavering support of the three governments. With the TCS's vision of promoting lasting peace, common prosperity, and shared culture among the three countries, TCS will continue to promote and accelerate trilateral cooperation.

Annexes



1. 2023 Seoul Joint Declaration: the 4th Sports Ministers' Meeting
2. Joint Communiqué: The 24th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Japan, Korea and China
3. Joint Statement of The 16th Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting (THMM) among the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea
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The Ministers of the Republic of Korea (ROK), Japan, and People's Republic of China (China) (hereinafter referred to as "the Sides") who attended the 4th Sports Ministers' Meeting on February 9, 2023, declared to strive to strengthen trilateral sports exchanges. In retrospect of the common goals of the 2016 PyeongChang Declaration, the 2018 Tokyo Action Plan, and the 2020 Beijing Joint Statement, the Sides will promote peaceful coexistence in East Asia through trilateral sports cooperation.

After the first Sports Ministers' meeting, the three countries successfully hosted the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, respectively. The games highlighted "peace and prosperity" in Pyeongchang, "sport has the power to change the world and our future" in Tokyo, and "together for a shared future" in Beijing.

The next step after the successful hosting of the Olympic and Paralympic Games is the promotion of the Olympic spirit among the future generation. Beyond the trilateral support for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, there is a pressing need to utilize the expertise accumulated from hosting the Games and spread the Olympic spirit. The Sides shared this vision at the ROK-Japan-China Sports Ministers' Meeting, the fourth of its kind this year, after hosting three Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Based on the experience of hosting a series of competitions, the Sides are committed to sustainable sports that create environmental and social values. The Sides will encourage eco-friendly sports in response to climate change and inclusive sports that expand the right to sports for socially disadvantaged people. Echoing the Olympic Agenda 2020 and 2020+5 of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Sides urged global sports cooperation to be aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

At this meeting, the Sides sought practical ways to promote sports exchanges confirmed during the last three Sports Ministers' Meetings. In particular, the Sides reaffirmed that sports exchanges contribute to increasing mutual understanding and securing solidarity among the three countries, and shared the view that the Sides will strive for their future development through sports.

Based on the shared importance of sports cooperation, the Sides will work to create a progressive future through solidarity and symbiotic relationships.

To this end, the Sides committed to the following sports cooperation actions:

1. Promotion of the Olympic and Paralympic Spirit for the future generation

- 1) The Sides will cooperate for the success of the 2024 Gangwon Winter Youth Olympic Games, which is significant in terms of passing down the spirit of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics to future generations.
- 2) The Sides will cooperate for the 25th Summer Deaflympics in Tokyo to pass down the spirit of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- 3) The Sides will cooperate for the success of the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022, to celebrate and promote the Olympic spirit.
- 4) The Sides will continue collective efforts through the exchange of expertise and establishment of networks for the progressive succession of the spirit of the three consecutive Olympic and Paralympic Games. Throughout these efforts, the Sides will spread the significance and values of sports to society, in order to promote deeper connection, mutual respect, and understanding.

2. Solidarity for sustainable sports development

- 1) The Sides will expand the right to sports of persons with disabilities by creating a culture in which they can freely enjoy sports, and cooperate in creating social value by promoting their participation in sports.
- 2) The Sides will cooperate to encourage the social participation of elderly populations and provide health promotion programs through the research and development of sports for seniors.
- 3) The Sides will utilize their competencies and expertise to help developing countries in sports development.
- 4) The Sides will strengthen cooperation and association to build an eco- friendly sports development mechanism, and provide support for various areas including research and expert exchanges.

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3. Increasing sports exchanges and cooperation

- 1) The Sides will expand personal exchanges in high-performance sports through exchanges of not only coaches and athletes but also administrative officials of sports organizations, and promote cooperation through sports events
- 2) The Sides will fully support and cooperate to strengthen the capabilities of Asian countries in the field of anti-doping and to solidify their presence within the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
- 3) The Sides will continue summer and winter youth sports exchange programs every year, and further promote exchanges in sports for all.
- 4) The Sides will encourage and support exchanges among cities in the three countries to boost the sports tourism industry and seek ways to encourage and support exchanges and cooperation to create new businesses and expand the market in the future sports industry.

The Sides decided to hold the 4th senior officials meeting in Korea in 2023 and the 5th senior officials meeting and 5th ROK-Japan-China Sports Ministers' Meeting in Japan in 2024.

This Declaration was signed as a non-legally binding document on February 9, 2023 in duplicate in the Korean, Japanese, Chinese and English languages, all texts having equal value. In case of any divergence in interpretation, the English text will prevail.

2. Joint Communiqué: The 24th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Japan, Korea and China

3–4 November 2023, Nagoya, Aichi, Japan

Preamble

1. Minister ITO Shintaro of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Minister HAN Wha-jin of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea and Minister HUANG Runqiu of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China met in Nagoya, Aichi, Japan on 3–4 November 2023, for the 24th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM24).

Recent Progress in Environmental Policies in Japan, Korea and China

2. The Ministers shared recent progress in environmental policies in each country since TEMM23. Minister ITO presented “Review and Outlook of Major Environmental Policies in Japan”, Minister HAN presented “Korea's Environmental Policies towards Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth”, and Minister HUANG presented “Strengthen Green as the Base Color of Development, Promote Harmonious Coexistence between Human and Nature”. They shared the view that such efforts of the three countries will contribute to achieving sustainable development in Northeast Asia as well as to solving national, regional, and global environmental problems.
3. Alongside TEMM24, the TEMM Youth Forum was held with the participation of youths from the three countries, and the results of the discussions of the forum were reported to the Ministers. They welcomed the outcomes of the TEMM Youth Forum which discussed “Towards the Harmonious Coexistence with Nature: Inspiring Education for the Future”.
4. The Ministers congratulated and commended Dr. SHIMIZU Atsushi from Japan, Dr. MUN Saeromi from Korea and Mr. LIU Zunwen from China, who won the TEMM Environment Awards for their contributions to the tripartite environmental cooperation.

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Recent Progress on Environmental Cooperation related to the Implementation of the Tripartite Joint Action Plan 2021-2025

5. The Ministers reviewed the progress in implementing the Tripartite Joint Action Plan 2021-2025 (TJAP 2021-2025) adopted at TEMM22 in December 2021. They expressed satisfaction with the progress of cooperation projects under the eight priority areas of the TJAP 2021-2025 and are committed to continuing efforts to promote trilateral cooperation.
6. The Ministers welcomed the continued sharing of policy and technology information on the prevention and control of atmospheric pollutants including PM2.5 and O₃ by policymakers and experts of the three countries at the 10th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution (TPDAP) hosted by China in September 2023. They appreciated the progress achieved in the TPDAP and other joint activities in line with the implementation of the Action Plan of the Second Phase of TPDAP among China, Japan and Korea (2021-2025). They also welcomed that the TPDAP discussed further promotion of sharing information and exchanging knowledge and experience on issues that are common to the three countries, such as photochemical oxidants. They shared the recognition that such joint efforts through the TPDAP have substantially contributed to the improvements in air quality trends in the three countries in recent years.
7. The Ministers welcomed the progress in the cooperation of the Dust and Sand Storms (DSS) Working Groups (WGs) in implementing the Mid-Term Action Plans of Working Group I & II for Joint Research on DSS (2020-2024), and noted the 16th meeting of DSS WG I to be hosted by China in December 2023, and the 16th meeting of DSS WG II to be hosted by Japan in November 2023.
8. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the 15th Tripartite 3R/Circular Economy/Zero Waste City Seminar hosted by Korea in December 2022, where the policies, practices, and progress on plastic waste management and the circular economy were shared and discussed. They noted the 16th seminar to be hosted by China in December 2023.
9. The Ministers noted the 18th Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) Annual Meeting held in February 2023, which discussed the current status and challenges of industrial wastewater management.
10. The Ministers welcomed the 8th Forum of Carbon Pricing Mechanism in China, Japan, and Korea hosted by the Greenhouse Gas Inventory & Research Center of Korea in Busan, in November 2023 and the Japan-Korea-China Carbon Neutral Cities Forum hosted by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Korea Environment Institute (KEI), and National Center for Climate Change Strategy International Cooperation (NCSC) in October 2023. They noted

the Seminar on Promoting the ASEAN Plus Three Low-carbon Cooperation Partnership held in China in July 2023. They expressed their willingness to promote cooperation in the field of climate change, including synergy between pollution control and carbon emissions reduction.

11. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the 9th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity (TPDBD) hosted by China in July 2023, which discussed the progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and its monitoring framework as well as planning, reporting and review mechanisms, digital sequence information of genetic resources; invasive alien species; and the 10th session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-10).
12. The Ministers noted the 17th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemical Management (TPDCM) and the Tripartite Expert Seminar on Chemical Management (TESCM) to be hosted by Korea in November 2023 with the expectation of progress of the joint research of the TESCM and an exchange of information on the latest regulations and best practices on chemicals management among the three countries.
13. The Ministers welcomed the results of the 7th Tripartite Roundtable on Environmental Businesses (TREB7) on the theme “Synergistic Treatment of Pollution Reduction and Carbon Reduction in Emissions Intensive Industries and Green Sustainable Recovery”, which was hosted by China in February 2023. They recognized that TREB7 discussed the situation and the initiatives in each country under the theme. They also welcomed the results of the Tripartite Working-level Meeting on Eco-Labeling hosted by Korea in September 2023. They recognized the progress made by the three countries in developing the common criteria of “wood plastic composites products”.
14. The Ministers noted the 24th Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN) Symposium to be hosted by Korea in November 2023, acknowledging the importance of environmental education, awareness raising and public participation including youth participation in promoting environmental protection. They welcomed the results of the TEEN joint project named “Case Study Report on Nature-based Environmental Education among China, Japan and Korea” which was completed in February 2023 and led by China. They noted the 21st Tripartite Joint Environmental Training Program to be hosted by China in December 2023.
15. The Ministers noted the fruitful discussions on strengthening multilateral cooperation for addressing climate change and achieving the Sustainable

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Development Goals (SDGs) at major regional and global environmental conferences that all the three countries actively participated in, including the UN SDG Summit 2023, the UN Climate Ambition Summit 2023 and G20 Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting.

16. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the 2nd Forum on Carbon Neutrality Goals of China, Japan, and Korea held by the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) in February 2023, and the Trilateral Environmental Teachers' Exchange Program of Public Awareness (TTEP) held by the TCS in August 2023 in collaboration with the ministries and TEEN, which promoted trilateral environmental cooperation and education for educators and the general public. They acknowledged the contribution of TCS under the framework of TEMM and welcomed continued collaboration with TCS under the TJAP 2021-2025.
17. The Ministers welcomed that the 20th Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM) among the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES) of China, the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) of Japan, and the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER) of Korea was held in Tokyo from October 31 to November 1, 2023 and encouraged further strengthening the tripartite research cooperation, which will provide a scientific reference for policy cooperation within the TEMM framework.

Promoting Cooperation in Major Regional and Global Environmental Issues

Response to the Environmental Crisis and Challenges

18. The Ministers recognized that our planet is facing unprecedented challenges including the global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
19. The Ministers also recognized that the world is jointly making efforts to recover from multiple challenges, including the economic slowdown, high and excessively volatile commodity prices such as those of food and energy, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, while trying to achieve the SDGs.
20. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitments to strengthen measures to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution in light of their respective national circumstances; accelerate the transformation towards green and low-carbon development / the net-zero economy and society / the carbon-free society; promote harmony between humanity and nature; and pursue efforts to improve global environmental governance, so as to facilitate green recovery and sustainable, inclusive development.

Biodiversity

21. The Ministers strongly welcomed the adoption of the historic KMGBF at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP15) in December 2022.
22. The Ministers committed to swiftly, fully and effectively implementing all of the goals and targets of the KMGBF and to taking urgent actions, in order to achieve its 2030 mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, and its 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature.
23. The Ministers also committed to revising, updating and submitting their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in alignment with the KMGBF and its goals and targets.
24. The Ministers welcomed the key findings of the summary for policymakers of the Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control of IPBES. They committed to strengthening collaboration to address the negative impacts of invasive alien species, including those listed as examples in the report, on nature, nature's contributions to people, and a good quality of life in line with the KMGBF.

Climate Change

25. The Ministers reaffirmed their steadfast commitments, in pursuit of the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to tackle climate change by strengthening the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and its temperature goal to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. They welcomed the contributions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).
26. The Ministers underscored the importance of international cooperation to accelerate action on both mitigation and adaptation and committed to enhancing cooperation to address climate change. The Ministers called for implementation actions, faithfully translating climate goals and visions into concrete policies, measures and actions, and engaging in relevant dialogues and exchanges.
27. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of providing and mobilizing financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity building support to accelerate global climate action.

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28. The Ministers expressed their full support to the upcoming UNFCCC-COP28 Presidency. They will contribute to a successful outcome at COP28 in Dubai, including the conclusion of the first global stocktake (GST) and adoption of the framework of the global goal on adaptation. They stressed the critical importance of the upcoming GST, to assess collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals and to drive enhanced climate action across mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation and support. The Ministers were encouraged to submit their next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2025 in accordance with relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement.

29. The Ministers committed to making the necessary preparations for the timely submission of their first biennial transparency report at the latest by 31 December 2024.

Plastic Pollution

30. The Ministers committed to playing a constructive role in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024. They expected successful completion of the work of the INC on plastic pollution at its fifth session which will be hosted by Korea in 2024.

31. They acknowledged the significance of strengthening the full lifecycle management of plastics and welcomed the existing measures to combat plastic pollution adopted by the three countries.

32. The Ministers also expressed willingness to strengthen these measures based on their respective national circumstances and strengthen exchanges and cooperation to promote regional and global actions to combat plastic pollution.

33. The Ministers encouraged continuation and strengthening of policy and information exchanges on marine litter among the three countries through seminars and other activities. They acknowledged the significance of strengthening scientific, technical and technological knowledge with regard to plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, inter alia, on methodologies for monitoring, and sharing available scientific and other relevant data and information.

Air Quality in the Region

34. The Ministers took note of the progress of the cooperative activities of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) and the North East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP) which are contributing to improving air quality in the region. They encouraged the three countries to strengthen cooperation with Mongolian agencies to address DSS.

Tripartite Cooperation

35. The Ministers noted the outcomes of “Trilateral+X” cooperation with appreciation. They were willing to continue to explore possible “Trilateral+X” cooperation in such areas as climate change and marine environmental protection to support accelerated implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism and were willing to encourage close cooperation among the three countries at upcoming major regional and global environmental conferences, including the UNFCCC COP28 and relevant G20 meetings in 2024.

TEMM25 and Future Event

36. The Ministers decided that TEMM25 will be held by Korea in 2024. The date and venue will be proposed by the host country and confirmed by China and Japan.

Closing

37. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful outcomes of TEMM24. Minister HAN Wha-jin and Minister HUANG Runqiu expressed their deep appreciation to Minister ITO Shintaro, the Government of Japan as well as Nagoya city and Aichi prefecture for hosting the meeting and extending great hospitality to all participants.

4 November 2023, Nagoya, Japan

Ministry of the
Environment
Japan

Minister

ITO Shintaro

Ministry of
Environment
Republic of Korea

Minister

HAN Wha-jin

Ministry of Ecology and
Environment
People's Republic of
China

Minister

HUANG Runqiu

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3 December, 2023

We, the Health Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, hereinafter referred to as "the three sides" gathered at the 16th Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, on December 3 2023.

REAFIRMING our trilateral partnership grounded on geographical proximity, shared culture, shared vision, and shared responsibility for creating a safe, healthy and prosperous future for the region and international community;

Based on the solid cooperative foundation built through the Tripartite Health Cooperation mechanism as well as regional health bodies such as the APEC Health Working Group and ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting;

We made the following discussion:

Securing Public Health in the Asian-Pacific through Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPR)

RECALLING with satisfaction that the Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Preparedness and Response against Infectious Diseases with Pandemic or High Consequence Potential of Common Concern (hereinafter referred to as "Joint Action Plan") has been successfully implemented with significant achievements in protecting public health in each country but also in contributing to improving global public health security, enhancing information sharing, and consolidating THMM as a well-functioning tripartite cooperation mechanism for addressing regional and global health challenges as well as for achieving sustainable development;

WELCOMING the UN High-level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response on September 2023. NOTING the progress made in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body for an international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, the working group on amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005), to strengthen national health emergency preparedness, response and resilience;

NOTING with appreciation the various activities carried out by the three sides under the common framework of the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED III) by the World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific and South-East Asia regions;

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of continuing and further strengthening THMM cooperation in the mechanisms to promote sustainable development for health in the region, hereby reached as the following:

1. Commit to further strengthening the cooperation in emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases prevention, preparedness and response, including timely information sharing of epidemiological and clinical information based on the Joint Action Plan;
2. Emphasize the need to invest in developing, training, recruiting and retaining a skilled health workforce, as fundamental to strong and resilient health systems to prevent, prepare and respond to pandemics, and improve working conditions and management of the health workforce to ensure their safety;
3. Welcome the upcoming 17th Korea-Japan-China Forum and Joint symposium for Communicable Disease Control and Prevention held in Seoul on 4-5 December 2023, as well as the 1st Japan-China-Korea Clinical Professionals Joint Symposium newly launched and held virtually on 28 November 2023;
4. Seek to expand collaboration among Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, and the institute for health security of Japan (to be established after 2025, and named tentatively) in order to continue and further strengthen cooperation among technical experts.

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Building Resilient and People-Centred Health Systems to Achieve Universal Health Coverage

WELCOMING the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage on “Universal Health Coverage: expanding our ambition for health and well-being in a post-COVID world” approved in September 2023, and reaffirm our commitment to accelerate the implementation of the 2019 political declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Universal Health Coverage, which reaffirms that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

EMPHASISING the fundamental role of primary health care in achieving universal health coverage and that people-centred integrated primary health care brings people into first contact with the health system and is the most inclusive, effective and efficient approach to enhance people’s physical and mental health, as well as social well-being;

ACKNOWLEDGING the role of digital health tools in promoting public health information and health literacy, as well as empowering patients by strengthening patient involvement in clinical decision-making with a focus on health professional-patient communication and by enabling them to access their electronic health data and facilitating continuity of care;

NOTING progress towards achieving universal health coverage requires expansion of equitable access to health services within and among countries;

Hereby reached as the following:

1. Strengthen the resilience of health systems by ensuring that primary health care, referral systems, and essential public health functions, including health promotion, prevention, early detection and control of diseases, are among the core components of prevention of and preparedness for health emergencies, in order to respond to such emergencies while maintaining the provision of and access to essential health services, as well as mental health support, or to quickly reinstate them after disruption and commit to strengthening public health systems.
2. Promote policies to build and strengthen an interoperable and effective digital health system, taking into account the WHO Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025, to accelerate progress towards universal health coverage, including the safe, accessible, equitable and affordable use of digital health technologies and information and communication technologies, including for people living in underserved, rural and remote areas or in areas difficult to access.
3. Encourage further sharing of best practices, experiences and lessons learnt through this tripartite cooperative mechanism.

Promoting Healthy Ageing

ACKNOWLEDGING the consensus, commitment, and accomplishments made in exchanges and cooperation regarding healthy ageing, and consensus made in the Joint Statements adopted by previous Tripartite Health Ministers' Meetings.

REAFFIRMING our efforts to implement global and regional commitments on healthy ageing, including active and healthy ageing related in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030), and the Regional Action Plan on Healthy Ageing for the Western Pacific.

WELCOMING the efforts to enhance cooperation in this area among three sides in the 11th Population Policy Forum held in July, 2023.

EMPHASIZING that China, Japan and Korea would actively respond to population ageing by implementing culture-tailored national strategies and taking concrete steps to strengthen regional cooperation.

Hereby reached as the following:

1. Further strengthen policy dialogue and exchange each other's experiences on promoting healthy ageing, including cooperative research on issues related to healthy ageing, and cooperating with other countries and regions across the world through, for example, providing best practices.
2. Scale up efforts to identify and respond to the growing needs of the rapidly ageing population, especially the need for people-centred and integrated health services for older persons via a seamless network of families, communities and health care institutions, including promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care as well as effective approaches for mental health, reaffirming the importance of extending universal health coverage to all older persons.

The next Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting will be held in Japan in 2024.

1. 2023 Seoul Joint Declaration:
the 4th Sports Ministers' Meeting
2. Joint Communique: The 24th Tripartite
Environment Ministers Meeting among
Japan, Korea and China
3. Joint Statement of The 16th Tripartite
Health Ministers Meeting (THMM)
among the People's Republic of China,
Japan, and the Republic of Korea
4. Joint Statement of the 16th Trilateral
Cultural Content Industry Forum

4. Joint Statement of the 16th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum

1. Summary of the 16th Forum

The 16th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum was held from December 7 to 8, 2023 in Tokyo. The Forum was hosted and chaired by Japan and attended by Yune Yangsoo, Director General of Content Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea, Ushiyama Tomohiro, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, and Miao Muyang, Director General of the Department of Industry Development of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China, as well as other related agencies of the Republic of Korea, China, and Japan. During the Forum, the three countries discussed exchanges and cooperation in the cultural content industries. With recent developments in digital technology, many new initiatives are being undertaken in the entertainment field to enhance the inherent power of content and IPs and to create more valuable customer experiences by combining entertainment with digital technology. In light of this, intensive discussions were held on the use of digital technology in the content field, including mutual exchanges and cooperation measures. The three countries reconfirmed the need for continuous growth and exchanges in the field of the cultural content industry and shared the thought that the Forum played an essential role in exchanging information on the cultural content industry and in generating opportunities for creative cooperation among the three countries. The three countries agreed to continue organizing the Forum on a regular basis and hosting it in turns.

2. Strengthening cooperation in content businesses opened up by digital technologies in the three countries

The three countries affirmed that the global content market will continue to expand in the future, and that digital content is one of the driving factors of business growth. They also shared support measures, the latest trends, and examples of collaboration related to the use of digital technology in each country, focusing on the music field. In addition, the three countries affirmed that they will continue to make efforts to create an environment in which companies, content creators, producers, and developers of digital technology can actively interact with each other and discuss the creation of creative ideas and content development. The three countries also agreed to pursue

cooperative measures for the co-development and co-prosperity of their respective cultural content industries through continued collaboration between not only the governments, but also between related agencies and industries.

3. The next Forum

The three countries have agreed that the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China will host the 17th Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum. The Republic of Korea and Japan will cooperate to have relevant government agencies and industries participate in the Forum. As the People's Republic of China will host the Forum, the Republic of Korea and Japan will positively support the People's Republic of China vis-à-vis the participation of related government agencies and industries in the Forum.

This joint statement has been adopted at the 16th Forum on December 7, 2023 in Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and English, each text being equally valid. In case of any divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Ministry of Culture,
Sports and Tourism,
Republic of Korea

Director General

Yune Yangsoo

Ministry of Economy,
Trade and Industry,
Japan

Deputy Director General

USHIYAMA, Tomohiro

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

Director General

Miao Muyang

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the 4th Sports Ministers' Meeting
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List of Trilateral Ministerial Meetings in 2023

	Date	Meeting	Venue
1	February 9	4 th Trilateral Sports Ministers Meeting (TSMM)	Online
2	February 22	9 th Heads' Meeting of Personnel Administration Network	Online
3	May 2	23 rd Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting	Incheon, ROK
4	September 8	14 th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting (TCMM)	Jeonju, ROK
5	November 4	24 th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM24)	Nagoya, Japan
6	November 26	10 th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting	Busan, ROK
7	December 3	16 th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting	Beijing, China

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.

2023 PROGRESS REPORT OF THE TRILATERAL COOPERATION

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



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