

The 1st Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting

Namtong Declaration

We, the Culture Ministers of the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China, and Japan held the 1st Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting in Namtong, China, on September 20, 2007, and had constructive discussions for cultural development and cooperation among the three countries.

The three countries of Korea, China and Japan are major countries in Asia. The cultural traditions created by the three countries based on their long histories are valuable intellectual properties and the spiritual foundations of the three countries, and greatly contributed to cultural development in Asia and around the world. Today, culture is an indispensable bridge that connects countries and people around the world and strengthens ties. Facing the promotion of cultural exchanges and cooperation by all peoples, we, the Culture Ministers of the three countries, have reached a joint recognition as follows in order to create a more harmonious world with new wisdom.

1. While deeply recognizing the value of the human spirit, and maintaining the principles of cultural diversity in the world, the three countries will make joint efforts to protect and develop their own cultural traditions.
2. We will pass on the spirit of dialogue and cooperation, enhance all-out cultural exchanges among the three countries and promote institutional cooperation to achieve this. We will also facilitate mutual understanding and trust among the people to strengthen a friendly atmosphere utilizing culture as a spiritual bridge; moreover, we will promote the peaceful coexistence, stability and prosperity of the three countries.
3. Understanding that friendship among us has existed throughout generations, we will strengthen cultural exchanges among young people of the three countries and enhance friendship among them.
4. We will work together for the protection and transmission of intangible cultural assets by developing cooperation in the field of humanities and academic exchanges.
5. The three countries will strengthen cooperation in the field of culture industries, and through the expression of cultural creativity and protection of intellectual property rights, we will strive to make the culture industries the continuous driving force of regional development in Asia.

Concluded in Namtong, China, September 2007