

2013-2014 Progress Report of the Trilateral Cooperation

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



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2013–2014
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Progress Report of the Trilateral Cooperation

BACKGROUND

In pursuant to the *Agreement on the Establishment of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat* (hereinafter referred to as the TCS) signed by the three governments in December 2010, the TCS is mandated to draft and submit the trilateral cooperation progress report to the three Foreign Ministries for approval.

Under this mandate, the TCS drafted the first Progress Report of Trilateral Cooperation (2008-2012) and submitted to the Trilateral Foreign Ministers Meeting held in April 2012. The second progress report, covering the period from April 2012 to March 2013, was submitted and approved by the three Foreign Ministries in August 2013. This is the third report, covering the period from April 2013 to April 2014, and is to be submitted to the three Foreign Ministries for review and approval. With extensive and strong support from relevant ministries and organizations of the three countries, the TCS will continue to draft the report annually to provide a panoramic view of the trilateral cooperation among the three countries.

PART I

»» INTRODUCTION

From April 2013 to April 2014, the trilateral cooperation showed resilience and gained strong momentum, due to the strong will of the three governments to push forward trilateral cooperation by conducting a series of cooperative mechanisms and projects.

The 8th Trilateral Senior Foreign Affairs Officials' Consultation was convened in Seoul in November 2013. The three Deputy Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the three countries' commitment to trilateral cooperation and decided to continue making joint efforts towards creating a proper atmosphere for trilateral Summit and the Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

The three countries continued to strengthen cooperation in non-traditional security areas such as disaster management and nuclear safety, with the **3rd Trilateral Heads of Government Agency Meeting on Disaster Management** held in Seoul in October 2013, and the **6th Northeast Asian Top Regulators Meeting on Nuclear Safety** convened in China in November 2013.

The three countries also achieved remarkable progress in economic cooperation. The 2nd to 4th rounds of the **CJK FTA** negotiations were held during the period, and the notification for the entry into force of the **Trilateral Agreement for the Promotion, Facilitation and Protection of Investment** was made by the three countries during the period.

Environmental protection is also one of the important areas for the trilateral cooperation. The **15th and 16th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meetings** were respectively held in Japan in May 2013 and in the ROK in April 2014. This year also witnessed the successful holding of the 1st Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution.

Meanwhile, trilateral cooperation was explored in new areas such as forestry, with the tripartite consultative mechanism launched in January 2014. Cooperative projects such as trilateral cultural exchanges, sister cities cooperation, youth and media exchanges were in full swing. "East Asian Cultural Cities" project was initiated on the occasion of the **5th Trilateral Cultural Ministers Meeting** in ROK in September 2013, featuring future-oriented cultural exchanges and cooperation to preserve intangible cultural heritages of the three countries. The three countries also strengthened cooperative efforts in public health, with the **6th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting** held in Seoul in November 2013 to tackle infectious disease and aging problems.

In sum, the trilateral cooperation was advancing steadily in an all-dimensional, multi-tiered and wide-ranging framework. The achievements made over the period prove that the stronger and dynamic cooperation among the ROK, Japan and China serves the fundamental interests of the three countries and bring tangible benefits to their people, and continues to contribute to peace, stability and prosperity of the region.

PART II

» COOPERATION PROGRESS

1. Politics and Security
2. Economy
3. Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection
4. Social Issues and Cultural Exchange
5. Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

1. POLITICS AND SECURITY

» Trilateral Senior Foreign Affairs Officials' Consultation

The **8th Trilateral Senior Foreign Affairs Officials' Consultation** was convened on November 7, 2013 at the Shilla Hotel in Seoul, ROK. The meeting was participated by Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the three countries. During the meeting, the three Deputy Ministers reaffirmed the three countries' commitment to trilateral cooperation and decided to continue making joint efforts towards creating a proper atmosphere for trilateral Summit and the Foreign Ministers' Meeting. They reviewed the progress of trilateral cooperation and considered new cooperation initiatives aimed at promoting further exchanges among youth, parliaments local governments, academic communities and businessmen. They also discussed the future direction of trilateral cooperation.



The 8th Trilateral Senior Foreign Affairs Officials' Consultation (Seoul, ROK, November 7, 2013)

» Disaster Management

The **3rd Trilateral Heads of Government Agency Meeting on Disaster Management** was held in Seoul, ROK in October 2013. This biannual meeting was chaired by National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) of the

ROK and participated by the Cabinet Office of Government of Japan, and the Ministry of Civil Affairs of China. In the meeting, the three agencies adopted the *Trilateral Joint Statement on Disaster Management Cooperation* and reconfirmed the importance and significance of cooperation under the same influence of natural disasters such as earthquake and typhoon due to the geographical propinquity. They also reviewed the outcomes of the last two meetings and discussed the progress in disaster risk reduction among three countries based on national official reports such as Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) Progress Report and National Policy Report. Moreover, in order to strengthen practical cooperation in the field of disaster management, they decided to discuss and proceed with agendas such as technology and information sharing on disaster management, and education and training. The next meeting will take place in Japan in 2015.



The 3rd Trilateral Heads of Government Agency Meeting on Disaster Management (Seoul, ROK, October 30, 2013)

East-Asia Earthquake Seminar 2013 was held by the Institute of Earthquake Science under China Earthquake Administration (CEA) in Changbaishan, China in July 2013. More than 90 participants from 8 countries including Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) and Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) participated in the seminar. Under the title of *"International Collaboration and Regional Capacity Building for Forecast, Preparedness and Early Warning for the Volcano, Earthquake and Tsunami"* the participants discussed on earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanoes since Northeast Asia is a region where these natural disasters frequently occur.

The **Trilateral Expert Meeting on Disaster Loss Data and DRR Technology Sharing** was convened in Jeju, ROK in March 2014 with the aim to boost regional cooperation in the key areas of technology, information management and training programs in disaster risk reduction decided in the 3rd Trilateral Heads of Government Agency Meeting on Disaster Management. The meeting was organized by NEMA of the ROK, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the TCS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Affairs of China, and the Cabinet Office of Government of Japan. The meeting brought together more than 40 participants including a number of high level experts, scholars and policymakers from disaster management organizations, research institutes, and academia in ROK, China, Japan and other countries. The participants discussed the preliminary results of case studies, data acquisition, and further recommendations for harmonizing disaster data among Northeast Asia.



The **2nd Trilateral Table Top Exercise (TTX) on Disaster Management** was held in Tokyo, Japan in March 2014 with an aim to increase mutual understanding of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief mechanisms of the three countries in the context of trilateral (multinational) disaster relief operation. The exercise was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Cabinet Office of Government of Japan, and organized and facilitated by the TCS. Based on the scenario developed by the TCS with consultation with relevant ministries in Japan, representatives of the related ministries and agencies of the three countries and international organizations contributed to development of detailed operation and policies in response to an assumed earthquake and tsunami

in Japan. The exercise achieved the following outcomes: 1) identifying roles of relevant organizations in the context of multinational (trilateral) disaster relief operation; 2) increasing understanding of disaster management coordination mechanisms and process in each country; and 3) identifying gaps, issues, challenges for future development and improvement. The next exercise will take place in China in 2015.



The 2nd Trilateral Table Top Exercise (TTX) on Disaster Management (Tokyo, Japan, March 6-7, 2014)

>> Nuclear Safety

The 6th Northeast Asian Top Regulators Meeting (TRM) on Nuclear Safety took place in Hangzhou, China in November 2013. The meeting was chaired by the Ministry of Environmental Protection/National Nuclear Safety Administration (MEP/NNSA) of China and attended by the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) of Japan, and the Nuclear Safety and Security Commission (NSSC) of the ROK. In the meeting, the three organizations exchanged current status of regulatory activities in each country. They also shared the view on *Implementation of the Action Items* and decided to conduct cooperative activities mainly on: 1) establishing the Information Exchange Framework (IEF) to enhance exchanging information on nuclear regulatory issues of nuclear power plants; 2) holding the Table Top Exercise (TTX) for emergency conditions of nuclear facilities, the cross border exercise, by turns on an annual basis, assuming the nuclear accident or radiological emergency occurs in one of the three

countries. In addition, the three organizations decided to hold a TRM Plus Meeting back to back with the TRM on Nuclear Safety. Related experts from technical and scientific support organizations (TSOs) are to be invited to discuss the Fukushima-related topics during the event. The next meeting will be held in Tokyo in 2014.

2. ECONOMY

>> Trade and Investments

The 2nd to 4th rounds of the CJK FTA negotiations were held respectively in Shanghai, China in July to August 2013; in Tokyo, Japan in November 2013; and in Seoul, the ROK in March 2014. In addition, three rounds of working-level preparatory meetings and an inter-sessional meeting for the preparation of the negotiations were held respectively in Tokyo in June 2013; in Seoul in October 2013; and in Beijing in February 2014. The three Parties discussed on the scope and coverage of CJK FTA negotiations and started substantial discussion at 11 working groups in areas of trade in goods, rules of origin, customs procedures and trade facilitation, trade remedies, technical barriers to trade (TBT), sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), trade in services, investment,



The 4th round of CJK FTA negotiation was held in Seoul, ROK in March 2014

competition, legal provisions, and intellectual property, as well as 4 expert dialogues in areas of e-commerce, government procurement, environment, and food. The 5th round of the negotiations is planned to be held in China around September 2014.

Following the signature of **Trilateral Agreement for the Promotion, Facilitation and Protection of Investment** in May 2012, the notification for the entry into force of the Agreement was made by the ROK in August 2013, by Japan in December 2013, and by China in April 2014, respectively. Accordingly, the Agreement entered into force on May 17, 2014. The Agreement provides various kinds of rules, such as of Promotion and Protection of Investments, National Treatment, Most-Favored-Nation Treatment, Prohibition of Performance Requirements, Entry of Personnel, Intellectual Property Rights, Transparency, Expropriation and Compensation, Transfers, and Settlement of Investment Disputes between a Contracting Party and an Investor of Another Contracting Party.

The 12th **Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technological Conference** was held in Lianyungang, China in November 2013, under the auspices of Ministry of Commerce of China; Kyushu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan; and Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the ROK. The Conference consisted of the Plenary Meeting; the Business Forum; the Forum on Transportation, Ports and Logistics; and Trilateral Director-Generals' Meeting. At the Conference, the representatives of governments, business and academia of the three countries exchanged opinions on promoting trilateral exchange, strengthening cooperation in sea-land combined transportation, expanding people-to-people exchange, and facilitating development of circular economy. The 13th Conference will be held in Nagasaki of Japan in November 2014.

>> Transport and Logistics

The 14th **Northeast Asia Port Director-General Meeting** was held in Ulsan, the ROK in November 2013 with the participation of Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the ROK; Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan; and Ministry of Transport of China. At the Meeting, the three Parties exchanged information about recent port policies in each country, and reviewed the activities of the three working groups, which were established to study the subjects proposed by the three Parties: 1) "Promotion of Marina Network among Northeast Asia" by the ROK; 2) "Promotion of Sea-Land Inter-Modal Transport in Northeast Asia" by Japan; and 3) "Promotion of RFID application in the Northeast Asian maritime container transport" by China. The three Parties also decided to discuss the feasibility of joint study on "Promotion of Cruise Industry in Northeast Asia."

Back-to-back with the 14th Northeast Asia Port Director-General Meeting, the 14th **Northeast Asia Port Symposium** was held. Experts from governments, business and academia of the three countries exchanged opinions under the theme of "Promotion of Port-related Logistics and Information Network."

The 9th to 11th Technical Meetings of **Northeast Asia Logistics Information Service Network (NEAL-NET)** were held respectively in Seoul in August 2013, in Tokyo in November 2013, and in Dalian in March 2014. In order to prepare for the release of the container status information sharing service, technical experts from the three countries discussed, among others, unified user management, dynamic vessel status information sharing, publication of user manual, and sharing of logistics statistics.

>> Intellectual Property

The 13th **Trilateral Policy Dialogue Meeting among the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and the State Intellectual Property Office of P.R. China (SIPO)** was held in Sapporo, Japan in November 2013. At the Meeting, the three offices shared the view to jointly establish a Trilateral IP Cooperation Website named TRIPO (Trilateral IP Offices) that will be made available to the general public. As for patent examination, the three offices approved the Comparative Study Report on Requirements for Disclosure and Claims submitted by the Joint Expert Group for Patent Examination (JEGPE), and shared the view to further promote information sharing among them. As for design examination, the three offices decided to continuously hold the Trilateral Design Forum to deepen mutual understanding on each country's examination system. As for automation, the three offices compiled a summary report of the cooperative activities at the Joint Expert Group for Automation (JEGA) in the past 10 years, and publicized 10-Year Development Report of JEGA at therapy. As for appeal, the three offices shared the significance of the newly established Joint Expert Group for Appeal, and shared the view to further promote information and statistical data exchange and to conduct comparative study of each country's appeal system. In addition, the three offices decided to promote cooperation on trade secret protection.

Back-to-back with the 13th Trilateral Policy Dialogue Meeting, the Symposium on Intellectual Property Cooperation among the three offices was held with a view to publicizing the outcomes of trilateral intellectual property cooperation as well as to exchanging opinions with users of the three countries. The three offices decided to hold the Symposium on a regular basis concurrently with the Trilateral Policy Dialogue Meeting.

>> Finance

The 5th **Tripartite Governors' Meeting among the People's Bank of China (PBC), the Bank of Japan (BOJ) and the Bank of Korea (BOK)** was held in Basel, Switzerland in June 2013. The Governors exchanged views on recent economic and financial developments in the three countries.

» Science and Technology

China-Korea-Japan Green Technology Forum was held in Beijing, China in November 2013. More than 200 participants from government agencies, research institutes, universities, civil society and corporates of the three countries attended the Forum, and exchanged ideas and discussions on policy, development planning and governmental cooperation of green technology. Also, corporates from the three countries attended a business fair for technology and cooperative projects, which was an innovative attempt for the Forum.

The **11th Meeting of Heads of Research Councils of Asian Countries (A-HORCs)** was held in Chengdu, China in September 2013, which was attended by presidents and senior executives from National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). The meeting exchanged information on the recent trend of each country's science and technology policy with a focus on Talent Training this time. Back-to-back with it, the Northeast Asia Symposium under the theme of "Method and Modeling for High Performance Scientific Computing" was held.

» ICT Industry

The **12th Open Source Software (OSS) Meeting among IT Directors-General of the three countries**, and back-to-back with it, the **Northeast Asia OSS Promotion Forum** was held in Busan, the ROK in November 2013. The three countries shared the view to continuously strengthen cooperation in developing leading-edge technology of OSS, such as mobile internet, cloud computing, Internet of Things, and encourage prospective research on technologies related to Smart City and big data. They also decided to further promote cooperation in interoperability, open standard, technology application, maturity assessment model of OSS etc., and enhance cooperation in OSS promoting strategy, OSS ecosystem in East Asia, and the Northeast Asia OSS Promotion Forum, among others.

» Standardization

The **4th Standing Committee Meeting of the Trilateral Standards Cooperation** was held in Kitakyushu, Japan in July 2013 by Korea Agency of Technology and Standards, Japan Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Standardization Administration of China. The three countries reviewed and exchanged views on standardization best practice, ISO/IEC cooperation, standardization education, ISO president election as well as 2014 IEC General Meeting in Tokyo.

The **12th Northeast Asia Standards Cooperation Forum** was held concurrently with the Standing Committee

Meeting with the participation of private standards associations, government officials and experts of the three countries. Participants reviewed the development of the cooperative projects on freight container and printed circuit board, and shared the view to launch new cooperative projects regarding thermal barrier coating, photo catalysis, RTI and nano-structure.

3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

» Environment

The **15th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM15)** was held in Kitakyushu, Japan on May 5-6, 2013. The three Ministers welcomed the statements which introduced "updates on enhanced management of air pollution including PM2.5 as well as on climate change policies" by Japan, "New Environmental Policy for safer living environment, higher quality of environmental services and sustainability of the society" by Korea and "Enhance institutional and policy innovation as well as enforcement to promote practical implementation of ecological civilization and strengthen environmental management transformation for improving the environmental quality" by China. They shared the view to newly establish a policy dialogue on air pollution for exchanging information on related policies, technologies for monitoring, prevention and control technologies, research, capacity building and international cooperation, and for consideration of future cooperation.

The **16th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM16)** was held in Daegu, the ROK on April 28-29, 2014. The three Ministers exchanged the recent progress in each country regarding major environmental policies under the statements that are "Realizing sustainable environmental welfare and creating new value from the environment" by Korea, "Strengthening environmental legal system and promoting ecological civilization to make new achievements with emphasis on air pollution treatment" by China, and "Comprehensive measures on PM2.5 and development of climate change mitigation" by Japan. The Ministers exchanged the major policies of each country to address global and regional environmental issues such as trans-boundary air pollutants including PM2.5, dust and sandstorms (DSS), climate change, biodiversity and access and benefit sharing, trans-boundary movement of E-waste, green transition, marine litter, mercury, and low carbon sustainable development. They also reviewed the progress and outcome of the 10 priority areas (2010-2014) and adopted 9 new priority areas for tripartite environmental cooperation for the next 5 years (2015-2019). 9 priority areas are 1) Air Quality Improvement, 2)

Biodiversity, 3) Chemicals Management and Environmental Emergency Response, 4) Circulative Management of Resources/3R/Trans-boundary Movement of E-waste, 5) Climate Change Response, 6) Conservation of Water and Marine Environment, 7) Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Corporate Social Responsibility, 8) Rural Environmental Management, and 9) Transition to Green Economy.



The 16th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (Daegu, ROK, April 28-29, 2014)

1) Environmental Education, Environmental Awareness and Public Participation

The **TEMM15 Youth Forum** held as a side event of TEMM15 had an active discussion themed ‘Youth Aspiration for Sustainability: Be Creative and Initiative’. The 14th **Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN)** workshop was held in Beijing, China in October 2013 and a joint environmental training program was held in Tokyo, Japan in November 2013. The **Joint Reader of Environmental Education-Phase I** was developed to raise awareness of environmental community among the three countries.

2) Dust and Sandstorms (DSS)

Two Working Group meetings were held in Incheon, the ROK in November 2013 (Working Group I) and in Xi’an, China in October 2013 (Working Group II). The joint field survey was also conducted by WGII in Hulunbeier, China

in July 2013. The three countries noted the importance of researching the measures to control DSS generation from desertified areas and identifying the paths of DSS, and encouraged to exchange relevant data, including hourly PM2.5 monitoring data. They also shared the view to link each country’s DSS forecasting website to the TEMM website. They developed the Proceedings of WGI for Joint Research on Dust and Sandstorms, and adopted the Mid-term Strategy for WGII Joint Research on DSS as the guideline for the future joint research of WGII.

3) Pollution Control

(Air Pollution) The 1st **Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution** was held in Beijing, China in March 2014 upon an agreement of establishing a policy dialogue on air pollution at TEMM15. The **15th Inter-governmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Networking East Asia (EANET)** was held in Chonburi, Thailand in December 2013.



The 1st Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution

(Water Pollution) The Ministers appreciated the activities of the second phase of the **Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA)**, including the holding of the annual meeting and WEPA seminar, in Japan in January 2014. They recognized the importance to continue the activities of the third phase of WEPA from 2014 in anticipation of formulating Sustainable Development Goals for water from 2015.

(Marine Litter) The three countries confirmed the importance of continued promotion of the joint activities to protect the marine and coastal environment from marine litter.

4) Environment-Friendly Society/3R/Sound Resource Recycle Society

The **7th Seminar on Sound Material-Cycle Society, Circular Economy and 3R** was held in Beijing, China in April, 2013. The Seminar attracted the participation of officials, researchers and private business representatives of the three countries.

5) Trans-boundary Movement of E-Waste

The Ministers recognized the importance of exchanging relevant information and policies in each country to build up capacity for controlling trans-boundary movement of e-waste.

6) Sound Management of Chemicals

The **7th Policy Dialogue on Chemicals Management** was held in Kyoto, Japan in November 2013. The three parties shared the view to cooperate in the field of chemical management such as conducting joint research on ecotoxicity and sharing information on chemical risk assessment.

7) Environmental Industries and Green Technologies

The **13th Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on Environmental Industry** was held in Incheon, the ROK in October 2013 to further promote the cooperation on environmental industry and green technology to ensure sustainable development.

>> Agriculture

The **3rd Workshop on Prevention and Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in East Asia** was held in Lanzhou, China in November 2013 with the participation of veterinary officers and researchers from East Asian countries. The meeting decided to (i) carry out exchanges and cooperation activities in technology and management aspects by following the experience and mechanisms of South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign (SEACFMD), (ii) improve the direct dialogue mechanism among relevant veterinary authorities, (iii) conduct cooperation in laboratory technology, including research and training on diagnostic technology for FMD, and (iv) deepen multilateral and bilateral technical collaboration including joint surveillance and movement control in the border areas.

The **9th Forum for Agricultural Policy Research in Northeast Asia (FANEA)** was held in Miyagi Prefecture, Japan in June 2013 with the participation of Japan Policy Research Institute of Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries (PRIMAFF), Institute of Agricultural Economics and Development of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science (CAAS), and Korea Rural Economic Institute. Experts from the three institutes exchanged ideas on “Responses to Environmental Changes and Post-disaster Reconstruction in Agriculture Sector” and “Food Safety”.

The **6th Crop Science Seminar in East Asia** was held in Suwon, the ROK in October 2013 under the theme of “Breeding Technology in Cereal Crop”. The Seminar was attended by National Institute of Crop Science of Rural Development Administration of the ROK, Institute of Crop Science of National Agriculture and Food Research Organization of Japan and Institute of Crop Science of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). The participants from the three countries exchanged views on crop germplasm, conventionality breeding and molecular breeding.

>> Fishery

The **7th Presidents Meeting among the Fishery Research Institutes of the Three Countries** participated by Fisheries Research Agency (FRA) of Japan, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) of the ROK and Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences (CAFS), was held in Ise, Japan in November 2013. The heads of three institutes acknowledged significant progress of the joint research activities on giant jellyfish. The three institutes adopted the revised Appendix of MOU which included new cooperative issue such as the information exchange of pharmaceutical products for fishery organisms. The trilateral workshop for fish disease was held on the same occasion to share the information on present status of fish disease in each country.

Under the cooperation framework of the three research institutes, the **10th Trilateral International Workshop for Research on Giant Jellyfish** was held in Seoul, the ROK in December 2013. The experts exchanged information on yearly resource dynamics of giant jellyfish in each country.

The **24th Trilateral Symposium on Fishery Science and Technology** was hosted by Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF) in Japan in October 2013 under the theme of “Current Status and Future Development on Restoration and Management of Fishery Resources”.

>> Forestry

The **1st Director-General (DG) Level Meeting on Forestry Cooperation** among the State Forestry Administration of China, the Korea Forest Service of the ROK, and the Forestry Agency of Japan was held in Beijing, China in January 2014. The three authorities considered 10 cooperation priorities as follows: 1) strengthening information sharing on policy-making and implementation; 2) improving forest resources management system and information exchanging on sustainable forest management practices and information exchanging; 3) expanding exchanges on the development, application and policy measures on bio-energy; 4) combating illegal logging, promoting legitimate forest product trade and enhancing the common understanding on timber legality; 5) using forest to the

full extent as a methodology in addressing climate change including carbon sink and REDD+, etc.; 6) promoting communication and cooperation among the forestry research institutes; 7) exploring cooperation of forest therapy, recreation and education among the three countries; 8) improving forest ecosystems for biodiversity conservation; 9) combating desertification by means of forest related activities; and 10) encouraging the participation of NGOs and private sectors. The three authorities decided to establish a regular DG level Meeting mechanism on trilateral forestry cooperation in a rotation on a yearly basis, designate an official at director level in each forestry authority for daily communication, explore the establishment of expert groups for technical support, and develop a multi-year Action Plan based on the operation of the mechanism. The 2nd Meeting will be held in the ROK in 2015.



The 1st Director-General Level Meeting on Forestry Cooperation (Beijing, China, January 2014)

4. SOCIAL ISSUES AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

>> Health and Welfare

The 6th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting was held in Seoul, ROK in November 2013. At the Meeting, the three Ministers discussed the agenda of universal health coverage (UHC), non-communicable diseases prevention

and control, population aging as well as joint response to pandemic influenza and emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. They adopted the Joint Statement and signed the renewed *Memorandum of Cooperation on Joint Response against Pandemic Influenza and Emerging/Re-emerging Infectious Diseases of Common Concern and Joint Action Plan on Preparedness and Joint Response against Pandemic Influenza and Emerging/Re-emerging Infectious Diseases of Common Concern*. In the Joint Statement, the three Ministers shared the view to extend the existing cooperative mechanism for joint response to pandemic influenza into emerging/re-emerging infectious diseases such as the Middle East respiratory syndrome corona virus. They also decided to facilitate further information exchange and explore possible collaborative topics on UHC, prevention and control of non-communicable diseases as well as population aging. The 7th Meeting was decided to be held in China in 2014.



The 6th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting (Seoul, ROK, November 24, 2013)

The 7th Trilateral Forum on Communicable Disease Control and Prevention was held in Beijing, China in November 2013. Officials from Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC), Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) and Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CCDC) delivered the presentations and had in-depth discussions on Avian Influenza (H7N9), Tuberculosis and Rubella.

The 4th **Trilateral High-Level Meeting and Policy Seminar on Aging** was held in Shanghai, China in July 2013, with the participations of Ministry of Health and Welfare of ROK, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan and National Population and Family Planning Commission of China. The three parties exchanged the views on the development of health service for aging society as well as care-related policies, and decided to further promote cooperation among the three parties.

>> Culture

The 5th **Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting** was held in Gwangju, ROK in September, 2013, during which *Gwangju Communiqué of The Fifth Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting* was signed to establish future-oriented cultural exchanges and cooperation. The Communiqué covers concrete implementation agenda to further promote trilateral cooperation in preserving intangible cultural heritage, developing cultural industry, protecting copyrights, and strengthening culture, arts and youth exchanges. During the meeting, Gwangju of ROK, Yokohama of Japan and Quanzhou of China were designated as the "Culture city of East Asia 2014". Three Ministers and Mayors of three Cities also signed the *Joint Statement for East Asian Cultural Cities 2014*.



The 5th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting (Gwangju, ROK, September, 2013)

>> Tourism

The 8th **Symposium on Educational Travel** was convened in Kobe, Japan in September 2013, with more than 200 participants from local governments as well as education and tourism industries of the three countries. Apart from the three sessions with in-depth discussions, "Educational Travel Consultation" also held as the side event of the symposium, with an aim to foster successful negotiations on educational travel, school exchange programs, and promotion of the local area.

>> Education

In CAMPUS Asia, inter-university exchange has been implemented with quality assurance through cooperation among governments and universities in the three countries. 26 universities have formed 10 consortiums as pilot programs to promote student exchange among the three countries.

In response to the concept of CAMPUS Asia, the Quality Assurance Council among the three countries has been carrying out quality monitoring for CAMPUS Asia pilot programs since 2013. The monitoring focuses on identifying good practices of educational quality and promoting those practices throughout the higher education community. Through joint monitoring, the project also aims at drawing up joint guidelines for the quality assurance of transnational education for use by quality assurance agencies in the three countries.

The first monitoring on the pilot programs has been conducted in each country from 2013 to 2014. Since 2014, the Council has been comparing and analyzing each other's monitoring results to prepare joint guidelines. Based on the results of comparative analysis, the method of second monitoring will be designed towards the implementation in 2015.

>> Sports

The 21st **Trilateral Junior Sports Exchange Meeting** was held in Weifang of Shandong Province, China in August 2013. Youth athletes from the three countries participated in eleven sports: Weightlifting, Track & Field, Handball, Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Badminton, Tennis, Soft Tennis and Rugby.



The 21st Trilateral Junior Sports Exchange Meeting (Weifang, China, August 2013)

» Think-tanks

The **6th Trilateral Cooperation Forum** was held in Tokyo, Japan in November 2013 by foreign policy think-tanks of the three countries, namely Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security of Korea National Diplomatic Academy (IFANS/KNDA) and China Institute of International Studies (CIIS). Participants discussed various topics including the trilateral cooperation, Northeast Asian security and crisis management mechanism, prospects of economic integration in Asia-Pacific region, and history and prospects of the Six-Party Talks.

» Media

The **8th and 9th Northeast Asia Trilateral Forum** were held in Hokkaido, Japan in July 2013, and Yangzhou, China in April 2014. The Northeast Asia Trilateral Forum is co-sponsored by Xinhua News Agency of China, JoongAng Ilbo of ROK and The Nikkei of Japan. Headed by Mr. ZENG Peiyan, former Vice Premier of China, Mr. LEE Hong-koo, former Prime Minister of ROK; Mr. FUKUDA Yasuo, former Prime Minister of Japan, former high-ranking officials and prominent figures from political, academic and business fields participated in the forum. The participants discussed issues such as environment and energy, finance and trade, culture and education, and called for more active cooperative actions.

In particular, the **8th Forum** decided and publicized the initial draft of the **Commonly-used 800 Chinese**

Characters among the three countries, a joint project that has been conducted by three countries' researchers within the framework of the Forum. In October, 2013, a special expert meeting was convened in Suzhou, during which the initial draft was rectified to 808 commonly-used Chinese characters. Further, in the **9th Forum**, the **808 commonly-used Chinese characters** was decided by three countries' delegates, with an expectation that promotion of use of common Chinese characters could contribute to cultural exchanges in Northeast Asia.

In addition, the **9th Forum** also adopted a **joint proposal** that put forwards the expectations on early conclusion of CJK FTA negotiation and future deepening of economic cooperation in the region. The delegates of the Forum also jointly called for creating a favorable atmosphere for the restart of trilateral high level meetings.



The 8th Northeast Asia Trilateral Forum (Hokkaido, Japan, July 2013)



The 9th Northeast Asia Trilateral Forum (Yangzhou, China, April 2014)

5. TRILATERAL COOPERATION SECRETARIAT

» Overview of the progress in 2013-2014

During the period from April 2013 to April 2014, the TCS has taken an active role in promoting trilateral cooperation by participating in and providing administrative support to trilateral consultative mechanisms. The TCS has participated in the 5th Trilateral Cultural Ministers' Meeting (September 2013, ROK), 16th ASEAN Plus Three Summit (October 2013, Brunei), 3rd Trilateral Heads of Government Agency Meeting on Disaster Management (October 2013, ROK), 8th Trilateral Senior Foreign Officials' Consultation Meeting (November 2013, ROK), 6th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting (November 2013, ROK), 1st Meeting of Director-General for Trilateral Forestry Cooperation (January 2014, China), 1st Trilateral Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution (March 2014, China), 15th and 16th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (respectively in May 2013, Japan and April 2014, ROK) and provided summary records for the meetings.

The TCS has also taken initiative in organizing numerous trilateral cooperative events to push forward the relations among the three countries. The following outlines the key projects and activities the TCS has conducted during this period pursuant to its mandates enumerated in its establishment agreement.



» TCS participation in the ASEAN Plus Three Summit

The 16th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on October 10, 2013. The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Countries) Member States as well as the Republic of Korea, Japan, and the People's Republic of China attended the Meeting. The leaders shared the view to strengthen cooperation in various sectors such as finance, food security, education, tourism, regional connectivity, disaster management, environment, and climate change. With a view to further contributing to the APT cooperation, TCS Secretary-General Mr. Iwatani Shigeo attended the APT Summit as observer for the first time.



TCS participated in the 16th ASEAN Plus Three Summit (Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, October 10, 2013)

» International Forum for the Trilateral Cooperation

The TCS organized the 2014 International Forum for the Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) with the theme of "Unity in Diversity - Fostering East Asian Identity & Spirit of Community". The forum gathered top brains from governments, academia, media and diplomatic community and attracted more than 250 participants from the three countries.

Speakers at the forum shared wisdom on a variety of topics and contributed insightful proposals to the trilateral cooperation, building driving forces for future-oriented trilateral partnership.



2014 International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (Seoul, ROK, April 15, 2014)

» 2nd Trilateral Table Top Exercise on Disaster Management

To follow up the leaders' commitment reached in the 3rd Trilateral Heads of Government Agency Meeting on Disaster Management, the TCS organized the 2nd Trilateral Table Top Exercise (TTX) on Disaster Management in March 2014 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. (For detailed information, please refer to Page 9 of the report.)

» Trilateral Business Networking Events

The TCS hosted the Trilateral Business Networking Seminar and Reception in Dalian, China on January 17, 2014 to facilitate trilateral business partnership. Major business associations in the three countries, the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI), the Keidanren of Japan and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) held a working consultation on expanding exchanges and promoting cooperation.

More than 100 business professionals from the three countries participated in the seminar to discuss business opportunities and challenges by the CJK FTA and prospect of trilateral industry cooperation, and offered suggestions on trilateral local economic cooperation. The participants reached a consensus that trilateral economic bonds constitute the bedrock for trilateral cooperation, and called upon the establishment of institutionalized exchange platforms for functional cooperation in trade, finance and industry.

» Trilateral Statistics Workshop

TCS hosted the 1st Trilateral Statistics Workshop in Seoul, ROK on December 19, 2013. The Workshop aimed to improve the compilation of the TCS *Trilateral Statistics Booklet* and to facilitate future cooperation on trilateral statistics. Experts from universities, research institutes and international organizations introduced statistics for CJK FTA negotiations, indicators for regional economic integration, surveillance of regional financial stability, comparison of trilateral economic statistics and statistics publications by major international organizations. Specific suggestions provided by the experts were incorporated into *2013 Trilateral Statistics Booklet*.

» Trilateral Journalist Exchange Program

To facilitate mutual understanding and construct sound media environment among the three countries, the TCS organized the first-ever Trilateral Journalist Exchange Program in March 2014. During the week-long program, the journalist delegation visited governmental agencies and major institutions of the three countries covering the fields of politics, economy, environment, culture, and education and held joint-interviews on progress of trilateral cooperation. Three dialogues were also held to exchange opinions on the role of media as well as the role of TCS to enhance trilateral cooperation.

» TCS Monthly Lecture

To encourage balanced and thoughtful understanding of Japan, China and Korea, the TCS is holding monthly lecture series "Three Strands of Asia" from February 2014. This lecture series bring together renowned professionals from a wide range of disciplines to explain various aspects of the cultures and societies of the three countries from a comparative perspective. The topics of the lectures encompass diverse fields including written script (1st lecture by Professor Emanuel Pastreich of Kyung Hee University), housing culture (2nd lecture by Mr. Kim Kyung Eun of Kyunghyang Shinmun), Northeast Asian Regionalism (Special lecture by Professor Kent Calder of Johns Hopkins University), and court music (3rd lecture by Professor Song HyeJin of Sookmyung Women's University), etc. The

TCS will continue to hold the monthly lecture series in diversified manner in order to make it a brand activity that publicize and promote the splendid cultures of the countries.

>> Young Ambassador Program

TCS organized the 1st **Trilateral Young Ambassador Summer Internship Program (YAP)** in August, 2013. The YAP aims to offers opportunities for young people from the three countries to develop the understanding of the trilateral cooperation and foster the sense of friendship among them. As one of the new TCS trilateral cooperative projects, the 1st YAP drew substantial public attention and received more than 600 applications from Korea, China and Japan. 27 students from the three countries were selected to join the 6-week program, which consisted of on-job trainings and internship as well as on-site visits.

>> Outreaching

The TCS has been active in maintaining relationship and expanding network with other regional and international organizations during the past year. The TCS delegation paid a second outreaching visit to EU main organizations in November 2013, with an aim to understanding experience of the EU integration process and further strengthening cooperative relationship between the two organizations. The TCS delegation also visited the ASEAN countries in January 2014 to strengthen cooperative linkages between Trilateral Cooperation and ASEAN within the APT framework. In addition, the TCS has maintained close relationship with UNOCHA, UNISDR in disaster management cooperation as well as think tanks of the three countries.

>> Management

In Fiscal Year 2013, the TCS has recruited several additional General Services Staff. This was the first genuine increase in the number of staff since the inception of the TCS in 2011, which enabled a better distribution of staff among the departments of the TCS and is expected to contribute to increasing the capacity to provide the better support for the trilateral consultative mechanisms, and to conduct its own research and events. Meanwhile, the digital archive system launched in FY2012 has been developed to store all work-related documents produced by the TCS in FY2011 and FY2012 in database to enhance work efficiency and document security.

PART III

>> CONCLUSION

Looking back the past year, even in the absence of the Trilateral Summit and the Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the trilateral cooperation has maintained overall good momentum of multi-tiered and wide-ranging development, with numerous cooperative mechanisms and projects conducted and new areas of cooperation explored. On the political front, the 8th Trilateral Senior Foreign Affairs Officials' Consultation conveyed a strong signal of the three countries' commitment to adhere to mutually beneficial cooperation with future-oriented outlook. Trilateral cooperation has made steady progress in such areas as nuclear safety, disaster management and environmental protection, which are vital to the wellbeing of the people in the region. The trilateral cooperation has also witnessed remarkable progress on the economic front. The CJK FTA negotiation has undergone 4 rounds and the trilateral investment agreement has come into effect, which would accelerate the economic integration and bring tangible benefits to the three peoples. Meanwhile, the connection of the three countries has reached an unprecedented height with people's active involvement in the trilateral cooperation. Increasingly growing social-cultural connectivity and people-to-people exchange have developed into a strong driving force of the trilateral cooperation. Overall, the trilateral cooperation has become an important platform for the three countries to broaden common interests and consolidate good-neighborliness, and acts as an engine to fuel economic integration and cooperation in East Asia.

Along with the steady progress of trilateral cooperation, the TCS has been assuming an increasingly important role in advancing the trilateral cooperation that encompasses the broad spectrum of sectors and actors. The past year has witnessed painstaking effort and fruitful achievements of the TCS in promoting the trilateral cooperation amidst the political challenges in the region. The TCS' first-ever participation in the 16th ASEAN Plus Three Summit held in Brunei Darussalam in October 2013 and other efforts to reach ASEAN countries demonstrated its commitment to contribute to APT process and strengthen trilateral cooperation under the APT framework. The past year has been a productive year for the TCS as it takes initiatives to explore and organize innovative cooperative projects to facilitate trilateral cooperation in a wide range of fields. The 2nd Trilateral Table Top Exercise (TTX) on Disaster Management increased the mutual understanding of humanitarian assistance and strengthened the disaster coping capacity of the three countries. Trilateral Business Networking Events was a success to strengthen tripartite business partnership and pursue common interests of the three countries. Innovation has been also made in public diplomacy and youth exchange as the 1st Trilateral Journalists Exchange Program created a sound atmosphere for the trilateral journalists to exchange opinions in a candid manner, and the 1st Young Ambassador Program (YAP) fostered understanding and friendship among the future elites of the young generation in the region. Moreover, the successful holding of the International Forum of Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) has wielded wide influence by spreading the vision of trilateral cooperation and increasing TCS' visibility and reputation in the region.

Reflecting the ever expanding trilateral cooperation, effort should be called upon to steer the trilateral cooperation in a more systematic and integrated manner. The Trilateral Summit, as well as several important

ministerial-level meetings in such sectors as Foreign Affairs, Trade and Investment, Finance, Agriculture, etc. should be resumed as soon as possible to solidify the trilateral cooperation mechanism. It is expected that the three countries would advance the trilateral relations in the direction of good-neighborliness, mutual trust, comprehensive cooperation, reciprocity, mutual benefit and common development. Substantial work should be done to strengthen cultural and people-to-people exchanges, promote practical cooperation among local cities, enhance the exchange of parliaments, media, civil society and private sectors and push forward the establishment of trilateral think-tank network which would provide intellectual support to the trilateral cooperation.

Looking into the future, the trilateral cooperation, confronted with challenges while blessed with increasing opportunities, will continue to show strong resilience of robust growth and sustainable development. With the establishment of CJK FTA in a due course, the three countries will enjoy complementary advantages in economy and achieve mutual benefits and win-win-win results. The trilateral cooperation will create more opportunities to engage people of the three countries into dialogue and exchange, as it bridges the gap of communication and facilitates mutual understanding among the general public of the three countries. The three countries should continue to join hands to actively promote trilateral cooperation by seeking common ground while reserving differences and properly manage disaccord so as to bring tangible benefits to their people and guarantee the long-lasting peace, stability and prosperity of the East Asian region. Though it might take time to develop, the trilateral cooperation, in the long term, will ultimately pay dividend to the three countries and the world at large.

As an important hub for trilateral cooperation, the TCS will continue to focus on coordinating and facilitating cooperative efforts in a more systematic and integrated manner, by providing better service to various trilateral consultative mechanisms, implementing the existing projects in a more professional manner, at the same time exploring and expanding potential cooperative projects with a view to upgrading the level and raising wide awareness of the trilateral cooperation. Meanwhile, it will continue to assume the role of information hub of trilateral cooperation by compiling database, producing publications and conducting research on important issues pertaining to trilateral cooperation. It will also continue to maintain partnership and expand network with regional and international organizations in an open manner, as well as conducting exchanges and cooperation with regional and international organizations such as ASEAN, EU and APEC, etc. With a view to solidifying the cooperative ties among the three countries, the TCS will strive to make greater contribution to the dynamic and future-oriented trilateral cooperation in the coming days.

Note : The TCS follows the Parties' agreement on the country-order in documentation. The chair country of the year 2014 is ROK, followed by Japan and China