

2023 Seoul Joint Declaration

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.

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.