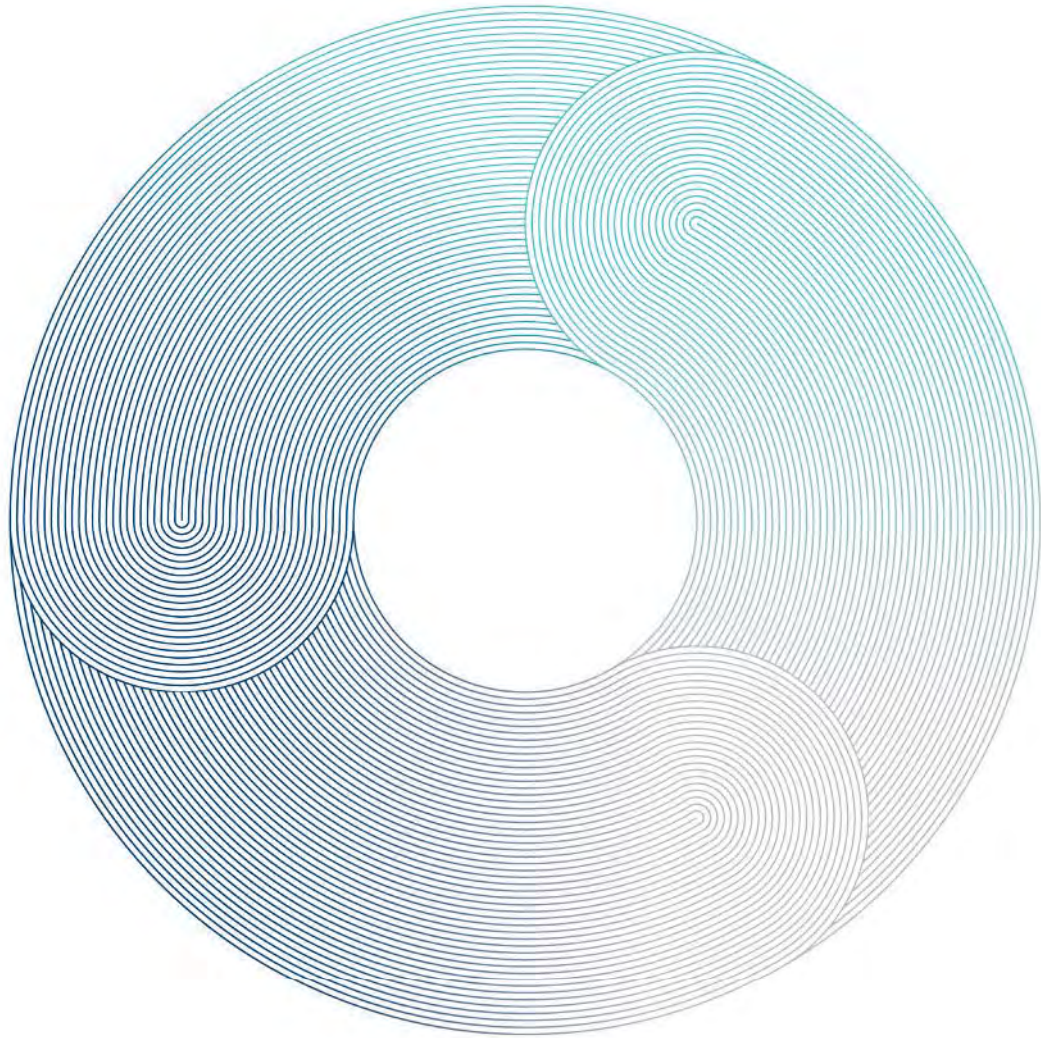




Trilateral  
Cooperation  
Secretariat



# 2020 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

In pursuant to the Agreement on the Establishment of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (hereinafter referred to as the 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 report of the Trilateral Cooperation to the three Foreign Ministries for approval. The TCS presents the report titled "2020 Progress Report of the Trilateral Cooperation," covering the period from January to December 2020.

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# INTRODUCTION

Having passed a significant milestone last year that was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Trilateral Cooperation among China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK), the year of 2020 called for another phase of cooperation against headwinds brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. With the continuous efforts of the three countries, Trilateral Cooperation saw a sustained momentum in various fields this year.

In March, Foreign Ministers of the three countries convened a video teleconference and discussed responses to the COVID-19 outbreak. The three Ministers reaffirmed the importance of Trilateral Cooperation in this respect.

The three countries also continued to enhance cooperation in terms of non-traditional security including disaster management, nuclear safety and cybersecurity through regular communication at the working level.

With regard to economic and trade cooperation, the three countries engaged in conversations to discuss strategies to lessen the impact of COVID-19 on global trade. In June there was the Special Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics, and the 20<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting took place in September. Later in the year, in December, the 20<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Intellectual Property Offices Heads' Meeting was held online.

In the area of socio-cultural cooperation, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trilateral Sports Ministers' Meeting were convened. Furthermore, social disruptions caused by the pandemic necessitated stronger cooperation in public health, resulting in two occasions of the Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting this year in May and December, respectively.

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## Part II

# COOPERATION PROGRESS

1. Politics and Security
2. Economy
3. Sustainable Development
4. Social and Cultural Exchanges
5. TCS



# 01

## Politics and Security

### Foreign Affairs



Foreign Ministers' Video Teleconference on COVID-19

**The Foreign Ministers' Video Teleconference on COVID-19** was held on March 20, 2020. Foreign Ministers of the three countries exchanged views on the COVID-19 outbreak. The three Ministers shared information on domestic situations and responses regarding COVID-19, and discussed the overall effects caused by the COVID-19 outbreak on exchanges and cooperation between countries and the global economy. The three Ministers agreed to continue close consultations among the diplomatic authorities of the three countries to communicate closely to respond more effectively to the spread of COVID-19, while reaffirming the importance of trilateral cooperation in this respect.

**The Telephone Conference among Director-Generals of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** of the three countries was held on March 17, 2020.

### Nuclear Safety

**The Trilateral Web-Based Information Exchange Meeting on Nuclear Safety** was held on November 26, 2020 among the Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan, the Nuclear Safety and Security Commission of the ROK, and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment/National Nuclear Safety Administration of China. This year, the TRM has been postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic, yet the three authorities decided to hold a meeting virtually for the continuous information exchanges. The participants updated on nuclear safety regulatory activities in each country. They committed to furthering Trilateral Cooperation on nuclear safety.

## Cyber Affairs



5<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Cyber Policy Consultation

The 5<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Cyber Policy Consultation was held online on December 9, 2020. Ambassador for International Security Affairs and Special Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK, Coordinator of Cyber Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, and Ambassador in charge of Cyber Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, as well as representatives from relevant ministries and agencies attended the consultation.

The three sides exchanged views on cyber issues of common concern as well as the policies of each country on cyber issues and the impact of COVID-19 on cybersecurity.

## Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tanks (NTCT)



5<sup>th</sup> NTCT National Focal Points Meeting & 2020 NTCT Conference

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**The 5<sup>th</sup> Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tanks (NTCT) National Focal Points Meeting** was held virtually on December 8, 2020. The Meeting was convened by Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) with attendance of the other two NTCT National Focal Points — China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) and Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR) — and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS).

The representatives from the three NTCT National Focal Points reviewed the progress of the NTCT since its establishment in 2015, stressed out the unique role of the NTCT among other trilateral research platforms in promoting Trilateral Cooperation, and agreed to further enhance its institutionalization so that policy recommendations could be yielded at the earliest to fulfill the mandate granted by the Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting. They had an in-depth discussion on the establishment of the NTCT Working Groups.

**The 2020 NTCT Conference** was held back-to-back in the afternoon. Scholars from the three countries exchanged views on the theme of Trilateral Cooperation in the Post COVID-19 Era. The Conference reviewed the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the three countries and Trilateral Cooperation. In addition to the successful signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the Conference highlighted new opportunities and prospects to the Trilateral Cooperation, especially the potential China-Japan-ROK Free Trade Agreement. Observations and recommendations were raised by the scholars at present, including those from KNDA, Chinese Preventive Medicine Association, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, JFIR and Kyorin University of Japan.

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## Transport and Logistics



Special Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> China–Japan–Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics

**The Special Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics** was held among the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism of Japan, Ministry of Transport of China, and Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries of Korea on June 29, 2020, via teleconference.

Three Ministers introduced the responses of each country against COVID-19 and discussed measures of strengthening Trilateral Cooperation on further fostering a seamless, efficient and secure logistics system. The Joint Statement of the Special Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics was adopted in which three parties agreed 1) to strengthen cooperation and coordination in international logistics policies, 2) to share good experiences and practices on domestic logistics policies responding to a pandemic, 3) to explore ways to facilitate the movement of essential logistics workers, and 4) to enhance cooperation and coordination within the existing international organizations.

**The Transport and Logistics Ad Hoc China-Japan-Korea Directorial Video Meeting** was held among the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism of Japan, Ministry of Transport of China, and Ministry of Ocean and



Transport and Logistics Ad Hoc China–Japan–Korea Directorial Video Meeting

Fisheries of Korea on June 5, 2020. Concerning the impact of COVID-19 on the supply chain, the three parties discussed the future steps to keep communications and strengthen cooperative actions for further development of logistics in Northeast Asia.

**The 26<sup>th</sup> Northeast Asia Logistics Information Service Network (NEAL-NET) Technical Meeting and the 27<sup>th</sup> NEAL-NET Technical Meeting** was held among the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism of Japan, Ministry of Transport of China, and Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries of Korea in Yokkaichi, Japan on January 14-15, 2020, and online on September 23-24, 2020, respectively.

## Intellectual Property Rights

**The 20<sup>th</sup> TRIPO Head's Meeting** was held virtually on December 1, 2020, celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the mechanism. It was hosted by the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), with China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO) participating.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> TRIPO User Symposium** was held virtually on the same day with TRIPO Heads Meeting, under the theme “Latest Change and Development in IP Regulation in TRIPO”. During the online symposium, the three offices promoted recently revised IP policies and regulations to raise awareness of the IP policy to the general public.

**The 11<sup>th</sup> Cooperation Meeting on Human Resources Development** among International Intellectual Property Training Institute of the ROK (IIPTI), China Intellectual Property Training Center (CIPTC) and the National Center for Industrial

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Property Information and Training of Japan (INPIT) was held via video conference in September 2020.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> TRIPO Trademark Experts Meeting** was held online in November 2020.

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Joint Expert Group for Trial and Appeal** among JPO, KIPO and CNIPA was held online in November 2020.

The three offices agreed to hold **the 11<sup>th</sup> Design Forum** in 2021 with the KIPO as the host.

## Finance

**The 20<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting** was held virtually on September 18, 2020. The Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from three countries exchanged views on the recent global and regional economic developments, and policy responses to deal with the impact of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the progress of ASEAN+3 financial cooperation. Marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) agreement coming into effect, the three countries acknowledged the significant progress made in the operational readiness of CMIM, and expected the CMIM to be further strengthened to assist the regional economies dealing with various crisis situations including pandemics. They also commended AMRO's continuous efforts in supporting ASEAN+3 members, particularly the timely analysis on impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, supported continuous progress of the Asian Bond Markets Initiative and the establishment of five Study Groups in line with "Strategic Directions of ASEAN+3 Finance Process", and committed to working continuously with the ASEAN members to deepen and broaden the regional financial cooperation.

## Science and Technology

**The 2020 Trilateral Science and Technology Policy Seminar** was held online on November 5-6, 2020, hosted by the Institute of Science and Development, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CASISD), with the participation of the Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED), the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy of Japan (NISTEP), Korea Institute of Science and Technology Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP) and Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI) of Korea. More than 50 participants attended the seminar and exchanged views on five topics, including 1) Innovation Development Policy and Management, 2) Green Stimulus Towards Inclusive Growth, 3) New Drivers of Economic Growth 4) New Trends of S&T Foresight and its Development, and 5) S&T Cooperation in the Post-COVID-19 Era.

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# 03

# Sustainable Development

## Environmental Protection

### 1) Air Quality Improvement

The 7<sup>th</sup> **Tripartite Dialogue on Air Pollution** was held online on July 31, 2020. Policy developments of each country were shared.

The 13<sup>th</sup> **Dust and Sandstorms Working Group I Meeting** was held online on October 13, 2020.

The 13<sup>th</sup> **Dust and Sandstorms Working Group II Meeting** was held online on December 21, 2020.

### 2) Biodiversity

The 7<sup>th</sup> **Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity** was held online on September 9, 2020. The three sides exchanged information regarding the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the management of invasive alien species.

The 17<sup>th</sup> **Tripartite Presidents' Meeting** among the National Institute for Environmental Studies of Japan, the National Institute of Environmental Research of the ROK, and the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Science was held online on December 16, 2020.

### 3) Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response

The 14<sup>th</sup> **Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemical Management** was held online on November 26, 2020. The 14<sup>th</sup> **Tripartite Expert Seminar on Chemical Management** was held back to back.

### 4) Circulative Management of Resources / 3R / Transboundary Movement of E-Waste

The 14<sup>th</sup> **Sound Material-Cycle Society/ Circular Economy/ 3R and Transboundary Movement of E-waste Seminar** was held online on December 10, 2020. The latest trends of 3R policies and measures to address plastic litter issues were introduced by the three sides.

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## **5) Conservation of Water and Marine Environment**

The 6<sup>th</sup> TEMM-NOWPAP Joint Workshop and the annual Marine Litter Focal Point Meeting were held online on December 2-3, 2020. The participants discussed ways to improve waste management to reduce waste leakage into the marine environment.

## **6) Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Corporate Social Responsibility**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Tripartite Environmental Education Network symposium and workshop were held online on October 15-16, 2020.

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## 04

# Social and Cultural Exchanges

## Culture

Dunhuang and Shaoxing of China, Kitakyushu of Japan, and Suncheon of the ROK were designated as the **2021 Culture Cities of East Asia (CCEA)** respectively by Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT) of China, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan, and Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST) of the ROK.



13<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum

**The 13<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum** was held online on November 5, 2020. The forum was hosted by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan, and participated by Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT) of China, and Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST) of the ROK, as well as the representatives from related industries and government agencies. The forum consisted of the trilateral intergovernmental meeting, online panel discussion and seminar, and was held jointly with the Content Market at the Tokyo International Film Festival. The intergovernmental meeting discussed 1) the impact of COVID-19 on each country's content industry, and 2) the role of digital content in the world "After COVID-19" and "With COVID-19." At the meeting, a Joint Statement was adopted for the future continuation of the cooperation among the cultural content industry of the three countries.

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## Education



3<sup>rd</sup> Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting was held in Beijing, China on January 10, 2020. The Ministers from the three countries discussed 1) promoting youth exchanges and mutual understanding, 2) promoting the establishment of the Asian Higher Education Community through the expansion of the Collective Action for Mobility Program of University Students in Asia (CAMPUS Asia Program), 3) expanding cooperation areas and lifting education to serve communities, and 4) enhancing trilateral education cooperation for promoting regional and global education. The three Ministers recognized TCS' contributions to the CAMPUS Asia Program development at the meeting. In the "Joint Statement of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting", the Ministers acknowledged TCS' efforts made through the CJK Joint Research Project and agreed to work with TCS to establish a CAMPUS Asia Alumni Network.

## Health



13<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting

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**The 13<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting** was held online on December 11, 2020. Delegations from National Health Commission of China, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan, Ministry of Health and Welfare of the ROK, World Health Organization West Pacific Regional Office and TCS participated in the meeting. The three Ministers shared experiences for responding to COVID-19, discussed the key role of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in combatting COVID-19, the cooperation in COVID-19 diagnosis, treatment and vaccination, combating cancer and healthy aging. The “Joint Statement of the Thirteenth Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting (Video Conference)” was adopted at the meeting.



The 14<sup>th</sup> Korea–China–Japan Forum for Communicable Disease Control and Prevention

**The 14<sup>th</sup> Korea-China-Japan Forum for Communicable Disease Control and Prevention** was held online on October 29-30, 2020. Participants from Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and National Institute of Infectious Diseases of Japan attended the two-day event, consisting of the main forum, a symposium and bilateral talks between the participants. In light of the ongoing pandemic, the forum centered on the current status and diagnostic testing strategy for influenza and COVID-19. The symposium discussed the COVID-19 response in the three countries.

**The Special Video Conference of Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting (THMM)**

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**on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Response** was held on May 15, 2020. Delegations from National Health Commission of China, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, Ministry of Health and Welfare of the ROK, World Health Organization West Pacific Regional Office and TCS participated in the meeting. The three Ministers introduced the responses of each country against COVID-19 and discussed measures of strengthening Trilateral Cooperation on further prevention and control. The “Joint Statement of the Special Video Conference of Tripartite Health Ministers’ Meeting (THMM) on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Response” was adopted at the meeting.

## Sports

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Trilateral Sports Ministers’ Meeting** was held online on December 24, 2020. The meeting was hosted by General Administration of Sport of China, and participated by Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST) of the ROK and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan. The Ministers from the three countries discussed efforts to promote exchanges and cooperation in sports among the three Northeast Asian countries. In addition, to further strengthen the cooperation on the preparation for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Ministers agreed to share relevant information, best practices and knowledge, and to encourage exchanges and cooperation among the host cities and sports associations, as well as to strengthen cooperation on youth cultural exchange in Olympic and Paralympic education and the legacy of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In accordance with the provisions of the “PyeongChang Declaration” and the “Tokyo Action Plan”, the meeting approved and adopted the “Joint Statement on Strengthening Sport Cooperation and Olympic and Paralympic Games Preparation among The People’s Republic of China, The Republic of Korea and Japan”, i.e. the “Beijing Joint Statement”.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Sports Ministers’ Meeting will be held in ROK in 2022.

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In the year 2020, the TCS spared no effort to facilitate cooperation mechanisms and exchanges among China, Japan, and the ROK in various areas even during a pandemic.

This year, the TCS was invited to and supported the Special Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics, 20<sup>th</sup> TRIPO Heads' Meeting, Special Video Conference of Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19, 13<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting and working-level inter-governmental consultations. Moreover, TCS Secretary-General MICHIGAMI Hisashi attended the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on COVID-19 and 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Summit online.

On July 2, 2020, the TCS hosted an online seminar titled **Managing COVID-19 Pandemic – Experiences & Best Practices of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea**, jointly with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) East and North-East Asia Office. Mr. KASAI Takeshi, regional director of WHO-Regional Office for the Western Pacific, also attended the meeting as a special guest. In the webinar leading experts on the frontlines of China, Japan, and the ROK's response to COVID-19 shared each country's approaches and countermeasures to the pandemic. By providing a meaningful learning opportunity, the webinar received over 2,000 registrations from more than 70 countries around the world and was successfully concluded.

The TCS organized the **Online Seminar on CJK Smart Cities** in coordination with the World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO) on August 5, 2020. As the first step towards facilitating Trilateral Cooperation in smart city technology, the webinar invited experts and specialists from the capitals of the three countries (Beijing, Tokyo, and Seoul), national smart city associations, and ICT companies to discuss diverse ways in which information technology can enhance the quality of life. The participants described current smart city initiatives in their front and shared ideas for further cooperation, such as joint projects and networking events. This webinar acquired over 400 participants from the three countries.

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**The East Asia Inter-regional Dialogue**, one of TCS' annual projects, was held online on October 28, under the theme of "COVID-19 Pandemic and Ways to Future-Oriented Trilateral Cooperation and Beyond." Together with eminent scholars from not only China, Japan, and the ROK but also Malaysia and Vietnam, the TCS assessed the direct and indirect effects of COVID-19 on the political, economic, and socio-cultural aspects of the trilateral and ASEAN Plus Three (APT) cooperation. The event served as a platform to explore constructive, feasible policy suggestions for reviving the global economy and enhancing further cooperation. Around 100 attendants joined the Dialogue.

In April 2020, the TCS published **the 2019 Trilateral Statistics** in paperback and eBook formats. The 2019 Trilateral Statistics included interactive graphs as well as summary tables and infographics based on the latest statistical data acquired from international organizations. Through effective data visualization, a reader could apprehend the development trends in the three countries and gain insights into the future potentials and the resultant significance of Trilateral Cooperation. This book was published in four languages: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and English.

In hopes of promoting mutual understanding among the people of the three countries, the TCS issued **Into the Three Countries: A Handbook about China, Japan and Korea** in August 2020. The handbook introduced basic information about each country, such as the geography, national flag and language, as well as cultural characteristics like food, clothing and housing. Published in four languages – Chinese, Japanese, Korean and English – its online version was also made available for download on the TCS website.

In August 2020, the TCS released a new research report titled **China-Japan-Korea Local City Exchange 2020** that introduced 20 sets of city exchange groups, 5 key mechanisms and 55 cities involved in the exchanges. Deemed a unique source of comprehensive information about trilateral local-level exchanges among the three countries, the report aimed to provide relevant stakeholders with up-to-date examples of ongoing exchange programs. While the report was published in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and English, the TCS also launched an online database based on the report, allowing users to look up participating cities and exchange programs by country, local government, and area of exchange.

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## Part III

# CONCLUSION

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic created a major impediment to in-person interactions and every facet of society readjusted to the new reality, to which the cooperation among China, Japan, and the ROK was not an exception.

At the same time, however, what took place even amid a pandemic manifests the three countries' genuine commitment and dedication to the Trilateral Cooperation. By quickly converting the format and method of communication to online, the governmental mechanisms in various areas were convened as per usual. Furthermore, the three countries were proactive in sharing their resources and experiences with one another under the collective understanding that they ought to overcome the pandemic era together as one. In a sense, COVID-19 has provided yet another front of cooperation in which China, Japan, and the ROK could accumulate invaluable experiences of cooperation. Therefore, although the three countries still faced regional and global challenges in 2020, it was clear that the efforts for promoting Trilateral Cooperation were strong.

The three countries will continue to enhance pragmatic cooperation and bring more benefits not only to the people of the three countries, but also to the peace and prosperity of the region and the world. The instabilities and uncertainties in the world call for the three countries' continuous cooperation and collective efforts.

Under the guidance of the three countries, the TCS also stands ready to facilitate multi-level inter-governmental and non-governmental mechanisms and empower its capacity to better promote the public's understanding of and support for cooperation among China, Japan, and the ROK.

# ANNEXES

1. Joint Statement of The Special Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics
2. Joint Message of the 20<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting
3. Joint Statement of the 13<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum
4. Joint Statement of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting Among The People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and Japan
5. Joint Statement of the Thirteenth Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting (Video Conference)
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7. List of Trilateral Ministerial Meetings in 2020



## Joint Statement of The Special Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics

29 June 2020

We, the Transport and Logistics Ministers of China, Japan and Korea, held the Special Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020, with a view to confirming and strengthening cooperation among the three countries in securing and maintaining a steady and smooth logistics system in the region against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We express our deepest condolences and sympathies for the loss of so many lives and for suffering of those affected by the pandemic. We also present our sincerest appreciation and respect to those who have been continuously making devoted efforts on the front-line of international and domestic logistics in the three countries to safeguard the supply chain of essential goods during the pandemic.

We recognize that the spread of the pandemic and its impacts have resulted in hindered international logistics, leaving international supply chain and world economy in severe risks.

We, acknowledging the joint decision adopted by the leaders of China, Japan and Korea on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to enhance regional connectivity and infrastructure cooperation including transport and logistics areas, reaffirm our commitment to fostering a seamless, efficient and secure logistics system since the launch of the mechanism of transport and logistics cooperation in 2006.

We share the view that our trilateral cooperation should be further strengthened to make the logistics in the three countries even more resilient, taking into account both the risk of the pandemic persistently occurring in the future and the role to be played by the logistics.

Accordingly, we hereby resolve to:

- 1 Strengthen the three countries' cooperation and coordination in international logistics policies based on the framework of Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics with active participation from each country's related industries, in order to exchange necessary information and to enhance resilience and sustainability of the international logistics to and from each of the countries against

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the pandemic of COVID-19 and other possible infectious diseases,

- 2 Be even more committed to sharing good experiences and practices with each other also in the context of domestic logistics policies to overcome the adverse effects brought about by the pandemic, and to jointly building logistics network in the region which is less vulnerable to the possible pandemics in the future,
- 3 Explore ways to facilitate the movement of essential logistics workers, such as seafarers and air crews, to the fullest and within the extent that does not hinder the quarantine measures of the three countries, in order to ensure unimpeded passages for cross-border movement of goods and make every endeavour to share information on the quarantine measures being implemented in each country for transport means, and
- 4 Spare no efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination in ongoing and future discussions within the existing international organizations to realize proportional infection prevention measures with which unnecessary traffic restrictions can be avoided in order to ensure the smooth operation of international logistics.

We remain unwavering in our cooperation and coordination towards more integrated, efficient and resilient logistics services and network by continuing working level discussion to materialize each of 1), 2), 3), and 4) above and by holding the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics in Kobe at the earliest opportunity to acknowledge our progress.

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## Joint Message of the 20<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting

(September 18, 2020, Virtual)

- 1 We, Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of China, Japan and Korea, held the 20<sup>th</sup> trilateral meeting, under the chairmanship of H.E. Hong Nam-Ki, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance, the Republic of Korea. The meeting was held in virtual format given the extraordinary circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2 We exchanged views on the recent global and regional economic developments, and policy responses to deal with the impact of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the progress of ASEAN+3 financial cooperation. The spread of COVID-19 not only caused massive casualties, but had substantial impacts on the regional economies, notably a contraction in economic activities, heightened volatilities in the financial markets and disruptions to the global value chains. Against this backdrop, we agree to continue all our policy efforts while remaining vigilant to the future uncertainties, and reaffirm the importance of maintaining an open and rules-based multilateral trade and investment system. China, Japan and Korea are committed to enhance our cooperation and communication with each other as well as ASEAN countries to work towards fast economic recovery in our region.
- 3 Marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original CMIM agreement coming into effect, we acknowledge the significant progress made in the operational readiness of CMIM. We welcome the entry-into-force of the amended CMIM Agreement and Operational Guidelines on 23 June 2020, reflecting the achievement of the first Periodic Review, as well as the successful completion of the 10<sup>th</sup> test run last year. We also support the Package Agreement reached by the ASEAN+3 deputies in Xiamen, China in December 2019. In this regard, we look forward to the conclusion of the ad-hoc review of the CMIM Agreement to reflect the Package Agreement. Building on these efforts, we expect the CMIM, as an essential part of the regional financial safety net, to be further strengthened to assist the regional economies dealing with various crisis situations including pandemics.
- 4 We commend AMRO's continuous efforts in enhancing regional macroeconomic surveillance, supporting the implementation of the CMIM and providing technical assistance to ASEAN+3 members. In particular, we highly regard AMRO's timely

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analysis on impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and macroeconomic policy space of each member economy. We welcome the endorsement of the Medium-term Implementation Plan (MTIP): 2020-2024 in Xiamen, China in December 2019 and reaffirm our strong support for AMRO to continuously enhance its surveillance and organizational capacity to strengthen its role as a “trusted family doctor” in the region.

- 5 We recognize and support continuous progress of the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) under the ABMI Medium-Term Road Map 2019-2022. We commend the sustained efforts by the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) to support infrastructure financing including the Infrastructure Investors Partnership (IIP) study. We acknowledge continuous work by the ASEAN+3 Bond Market Forum (ABMF) towards developing local currency bond markets, and welcome the commencement of new Technical Assistance (TA) to promote local currency green bonds and to improve AsianBondsOnline (ABO). We commend collaborative efforts being made among different ABMI Task Forces, notably the information sharing by ABO with the ABMF and the CGIF on the local currency bond markets, as well as joint efforts by the Cross-Border Settlement Infrastructure Forum (CSIF) and the Asia Prime Collateral Forum (APCF) to promote cross-border collateral usage in the region.
  - 6 We support the establishment of five Study Groups in line with “Strategic Directions of ASEAN+3 Finance Process” to extend the scope of regional financial cooperation, along with the reports prepared by each Study Group. We expect further discussions on new cooperative initiatives to be developed based upon the reports, and we are committed to work continuously with the ASEAN members to deepen and broaden our regional cooperation.
  - 7 We welcome the progress towards operationalizing the catastrophe risk insurance pool for Lao PDR and Myanmar as the first product of the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF) and the initiation of preparatory work to adopt Public Asset Financial Protection Program.
  - 8 We appreciate Japan and Vietnam’s leadership as the co-chairs of ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors’ Meeting in 2020. In addition, we agree to support Korea and Brunei Darussalam to chair the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors’ Meeting next year.
  - 9 We believe that the Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors’ Meeting will serve as an effective platform for enhanced policy dialogue and coordination, and agreed to meet again in Tbilisi, Georgia in 2021.
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### 1. Summary of the 13<sup>th</sup> Forum

- 1.1. The 13<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum was held virtually on November 5, 2020 by reason of the COVID-19 infection status. The forum, hosted and chaired by Japan, was attended by Ogasawara Yoichi, Deputy Director-General for IT Strategy, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, Ma Feng, Deputy Director-General of Department of Industries Development, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China, Kim Hyunhwan, Director General of Content Policy Bureau, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea, and other participants from the industries and related government agencies of the three countries.
- 1.2. The three countries discussed the effects of COVID-19 on their respective cultural content industries, their content promotion and utilization measures after the outbreak, exchange through international trade shows and other events related to their cultural content, and measures for international collaboration between their private companies. They agreed to keep discussing, among others, these subjects in the future editions of the Forum for the continued collaboration of the related government agencies and industries, and pursue the following cooperative measures for the co-development of their respective cultural content industries.
- 1.3. The three countries reconfirmed that the Forum is highly significant as a place for continuous exchange of information on cultural content industry policies and trends, involving not only the governments but also the industries, and for the creation of new inter-industry business opportunities for their respective industries. They agreed to continue organizing the Forum on a regular basis by hosting it alternately.

### 2. Promotion and use of the cultural content for mutual content distribution in the three countries post COVID-19

- 2.1. The three countries will identify the role of cultural content that supports society as a potential communication/entertainment tool for the new lifestyle

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of the post-COVID-19 pandemic period, and strive to enhance the social values of their cultural content industries by proactively disseminating information through events such as cultural content-related international trade shows that are held in the three countries.

- 2.2. The three countries will take various measures that aim for the sustainable development of their cultural content industries while exploring appropriate roles for cultural content in the post-COVID-19 pandemic period. Additionally, the three countries will share these initiatives among themselves to cooperatively develop their cultural content industries.
- 2.3. The three countries will share the information on the existing regulations concerning their respective cultural content industries to clarify the regulations' content and to apply them properly. Furthermore, they will keep in close contact for the promotion of co-production and other forms of mutual exchange through collaboration with related government agencies in the cultural content industries.

### **3. Promotion of support for international collaboration in the cultural content industries of the three countries**

- 3.1. The three countries will strengthen international collaboration between their private companies by organizing the Forum concurrently with content-related events that provide opportunities for continuous exchange, including business matching, pitching, and seminars.
- 3.2. The three countries will encourage their industries to participate in the cultural content-related international trade shows and other events held in each country to further expand the network of cultural content-related companies and promote international exchanges such as an international co-production.
- 3.3. The three countries will promote lasting mutual exchange between their private companies through online international trade shows and other events related to cultural content in the post-COVID-19.

### **4. The next Forum**

- 4.1. The three countries have agreed that the People's Republic of China will host the next 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 and the management of the Forum.
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4.2. The three countries have agreed to hold the 14<sup>th</sup> Forum in 2021.

This joint statement has been adopted at the 13<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Cultural Content Industry Forum held on November 5, 2020 in Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and English, each text being equally valid. In case of any divergence in interpretation, the English text will prevail.

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## THE THIRD TRILATERAL EDUCATION MINISTERS' MEETING AMONG THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND JAPAN JOINT STATEMENT

We, the Education Ministers of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and Japan, convoked the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting in Beijing on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

In retrospect, on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, the Sixth China-Japan-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting was held in Seoul, ROK. During this meeting, the three leaders attached the importance of education to mutual understanding and common development for the three countries, and jointly agreed to convene Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting. On Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019, during the 8<sup>th</sup> China-Japan-ROK Summit Meeting held in Chengdu, China, the three leaders reiterated the need to strengthen education cooperation and exchanges among the three countries.

The Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Korean Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education expressed their appreciation to the Chinese Minister of Education for his great efforts to host this Meeting.

We welcomed the continued involvement of Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) for the Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting, and would like to strengthen intercommunication with TCS to jointly promote education cooperation among the three countries.

We reiterated the following consensus: strengthening the education cooperation among the three countries conforms to the spirit of sharing and collaboration among neighboring countries; exerts significant influence on the cultivation of innovative talents; and promotes world peace and prosperity ultimately. To achieve these objectives, we agreed to continue the following:

### **To promote youth exchanges and mutual understanding**

We reaffirmed the importance of promoting mutual understanding among youth for the three countries, providing youth with opportunities to experience different cultures and lifestyles. In this respect, we agreed and decided to implement more youth exchange programmes among the three countries.

We made positive comments to the important role of the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> China- Japan-ROK College Students Exchange Programme and China-Japan-ROK Children's

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Story Exchange Programme, both have deepened the mutual understanding and established friendship among the youth of the three countries.

We welcomed China to host China-Japan-ROK students exchange activities in 2020.

### **To promote the establishment of Asian Higher Education Community through the expansion of the CAMPUS Asia Programme**

We highly commended the positive role of CAMPUS Asia which have developed dual-degree programmes and joint courses as well as scholar/student exchanges among the three countries, and expressed our intention to continue to promote this programme.

We welcomed the concept and a broader direction of the Expansion Scheme of CAMPUS Asia, while recognizing the importance of quality assurance.

We agreed to continue to support pragmatic trilateral consultations on the next step development of CAMPUS Asia, prospecting the project to be upgraded by reflecting the results of the monitoring as it enters its third phase.

We agreed to continue to strengthen China-Japan-ROK university exchanges by: laying legal, institutional and procedural foundation; encouraging high-level dual-degree programmes, joint courses and implementation of scholar/student exchange programmes. In this regard, we confirmed the progress of the China-Japan-ROK Joint Study on Mutual Recognition of Degrees conducted by TCS and will cooperate with TCS to develop the CAMPUS Asia Alumni Network.

### **To expand cooperation areas and lift education to serve communities**

Based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN Sustainable Development Summit, we reaffirmed the importance of education for the sustainable development to mankind and the world. We initiated to work together for an education system to serve lifelong learning for all.

We initiated trilateral education cooperation of talents cultivation to meet the challenges together of the aging society and the declining population of children.

We recognized the important role of trilateral education cooperation for promoting regional and global education, reaffirmed to maintain closer cooperation and enhance multilateral cooperation by means of combined efforts in ASEAN Plus 3, EAS and ASEM, etc.

Finally, we welcomed the 4<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting to be held in ROK in 2021.

## **Joint Statement of the Thirteenth Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting (Video Conference)**

**(December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020)**

WE, the Health Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, held the Thirteenth Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting (THMM) through video conferencing;

Recognizing the severe challenges posed by the global prevalence of COVID-19 to the well-being, livelihood and safety of our peoples and its adverse impact on the socio-economic development of our respective countries and the world at large;

Extending deepest condolences and sympathies to the loss of life and suffering caused by the pandemic, and giving respect to all medical professionals, healthcare workers and other frontline personnel;

Continuing to support the World Health Organization (WHO) in playing an important role in global health governance during the pandemic. We will align our activities and goals with that of the WHO and other international agencies, continue to implement COVID-19 control measures, and advance cooperation in the health sector.

Agreeing to share prevention, control, monitoring and response measures in a free, open, transparent and timely manner. We continue to work closely by taking advantage of opportunities such as Korea-China-Japan Forum for Communicable Disease and Prevention.

Committing to jointly improve, domestically and globally, the capacity of health systems, promote universal health coverage, the fullest attainment of health for all and push for the realization of the health-related goals in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Reviewing the achievements of the THMM since the first meeting and discussing measures to improve coordination in COVID-19 response and to strengthen future cooperation among the countries. Focusing on the international efforts to control of the virus, the agenda of the meeting includes Prevention and Control Measures of COVID-19, the Role of ICT in global pandemic, and COVID-19 Diagnosis and Treatment.

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## 1. Effective COVID-19 Prevention and Control Measures

Health Ministers on COVID-19, Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on COVID-19, Special Video Conference of the APT Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development and other related conferences as well as the important consensus reached at the conferences are of great significance for the three countries to work together to share effective measures and combat COVID-19 pandemic. We propose that the three countries enhance mutual learning, so as to implement effective measures that are in line with their national conditions to combat COVID-19. The three countries continue to promote exchanges and cooperation among their technical departments.

## 2. Role of ICT in COVID-19 Prevention and Control

We appreciate all parties for leveraging the unique advantages of the remote, efficient, intelligent and convenient internet technology and introducing new service models to ease the burden of frontline healthcare workers. These efforts also help to support the prevention and control of the pandemic by reducing the spread of infection and optimizing resource allocation. We propose that the three countries cooperate with each other to support the regular control of COVID-19 based on lessons learned through the application of ICT in each country. The and well-being by promoting international cooperation, sharing best practices and advancing the use of ICT. We will strengthen our cooperation in promoting universal health coverage.

## 3. Cooperation in COVID-19 Diagnosis, Treatment and Vaccination

We commend the three countries' efforts to innovate COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment protocols, with the aim of increasing the cure rate and reducing the fatality rate. We call on the three countries to continue to strengthen the sharing of experiences in the development of drugs and vaccines, and the application of testing reagents and medical equipment. The countries should increase their investment in health sector to improve the supply of medical products and services, and to protect frontline healthcare workers. We will continue to support COVID-19 vaccine as a global public good cooperating with international frameworks such as COVAX facility, and contribute to ensuring equitable access to effective, safe and affordable vaccine in lower- and middle-income countries.

## 4. Cooperation in Combating Cancer

We appreciate the Tripartite Cancer Workshop organized by the countries on a regular basis to promote cancer prevention and control in the Asia-Pacific region. We continue to deepen cooperation in the field of cancer prevention and control

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and discuss the cooperation and development under the new situation; expand international cooperation; continue to play the role of the three countries in the Asia-Pacific region, so as to promote and strengthen the global cancer prevention and control.

### **5. Cooperation in Healthy Aging**

We commend the policy dialogues, academic workshops and experience sharing on population aging organized by the countries through such platforms as the Tripartite Seminar on Population Policy. These programs have promoted substantive exchanges and cooperation among government departments and scientific research institutions. We propose to strengthen information sharing, experience exchange, personnel training and project cooperation in areas of common concern among the three countries, including creating age-friendly environments, protecting the legitimate rights and interests of older persons in the information age, health services for older persons and integrated medical and social care, and encourage and support scientific research institutions to develop joint scientific research, so as to meet the needs of older persons in the three countries and improve the well-being of the peoples.

### **6. Next Meeting**

We reaffirm the common recognition that the Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting will be held on a regular basis with involvement of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) and that all relevant activities will be conducted on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

The next Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting will be held in Japan in 2021.

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## Joint Statement of the Special Video Conference of Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting (THMM) on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Response

(15 May 2020)

**WE**, the Health Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, discussed on 15 May 2020 through a special video conference the ways forward in enhancing preparedness, prevention, detection and response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic;

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**DEEPLY CONCERNED** about the unprecedented and severe challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the well-being, livelihood and safety of our peoples and its adverse impact on the socio-economic development of our respective countries and the world at large;

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**EXPRESSING** deepest condolences and sympathies for the loss of life and suffering caused by the pandemic;

**EMPHASIZING** our gratitude and support to all medical professionals, healthcare workers and other frontline personnel who have been working with all their hearts and minds to fight the pandemic, saving people's lives;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance of people's participation in preventing and controlling COVID-19;

**SUPPORTING** the call by the United Nations Secretary-General for all nations to respond decisively, innovatively and collectively to suppress the spread of the virus and address the socio-economic impact of COVID-19;

**WELCOMING** the commitment expressed by the Special ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) statement of 14 April 2020 to present a united front against the common threat of COVID-19;

**NOTING** the efforts by three countries in responding to COVID-19 from its early outbreak.

**REAFFIRMING** our shared commitment to strengthen solidarity, enhance cooperation and mutual support among our three countries to control and contain the spread of the pandemic, addressing the adverse impact of the pandemic on our

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societies and economies.

**To this aim, we hereby resolve to**

- 1** support and commit to further strengthen the WHO ' s mandate, particularly in WPRO, in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines. We call for a global response and a sustainable solution to the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize that the COVID -19 pandemic response requires worldwide solidarity and urgent global effort. We encourage all countries and donors to contribute to all relevant global health security mechanisms.
  - 2** agree to enhance free, open, transparent and timely sharing of information, data and expertise on prevention, detection, control and response measures, epidemiologic surveillance updates, risk assessment results, epidemiological, clinical, virological, and laboratory characteristics on COVID-19, treatment experience, including diagnostics, pharmaceuticals, vaccine and technical guidelines.
  - 3** commit to continue to further the exchange and cooperation between our technical institutions to strengthen the preparedness, surveillance, prevention, detection and response mechanisms of our three countries on public health emergencies. We recognize the importance of sharing the information and experience in order to prevent and control the COVID-19.
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1 For more details of the trilateral ministerial meetings, please refer to TCS online database.

#### Trilateral Ministerial Meetings in 2020

	Date	Meeting	Venue
1	January 10	3 <sup>rd</sup> Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting	Beijing, China
2	March 20	The Foreign Ministers' Video Teleconference on COVID-19	online
3	May 15	Special Video Conference of Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting on Coronavirus Disease 2019(COVID-19) Response	online
4	June 29	Special Session of the 8 <sup>th</sup> China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics	online
5	September 18	20 <sup>th</sup> Trilateral Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting	online
6	December 1	20 <sup>th</sup> TRIPO Heads Meeting	online
7	December 11	13 <sup>th</sup> Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting	online
8	December 24	3 <sup>rd</sup> Trilateral Sports Ministers' Meeting	online

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.

2020

## PROGRESS REPORT OF THE TRILATERAL COOPERATION



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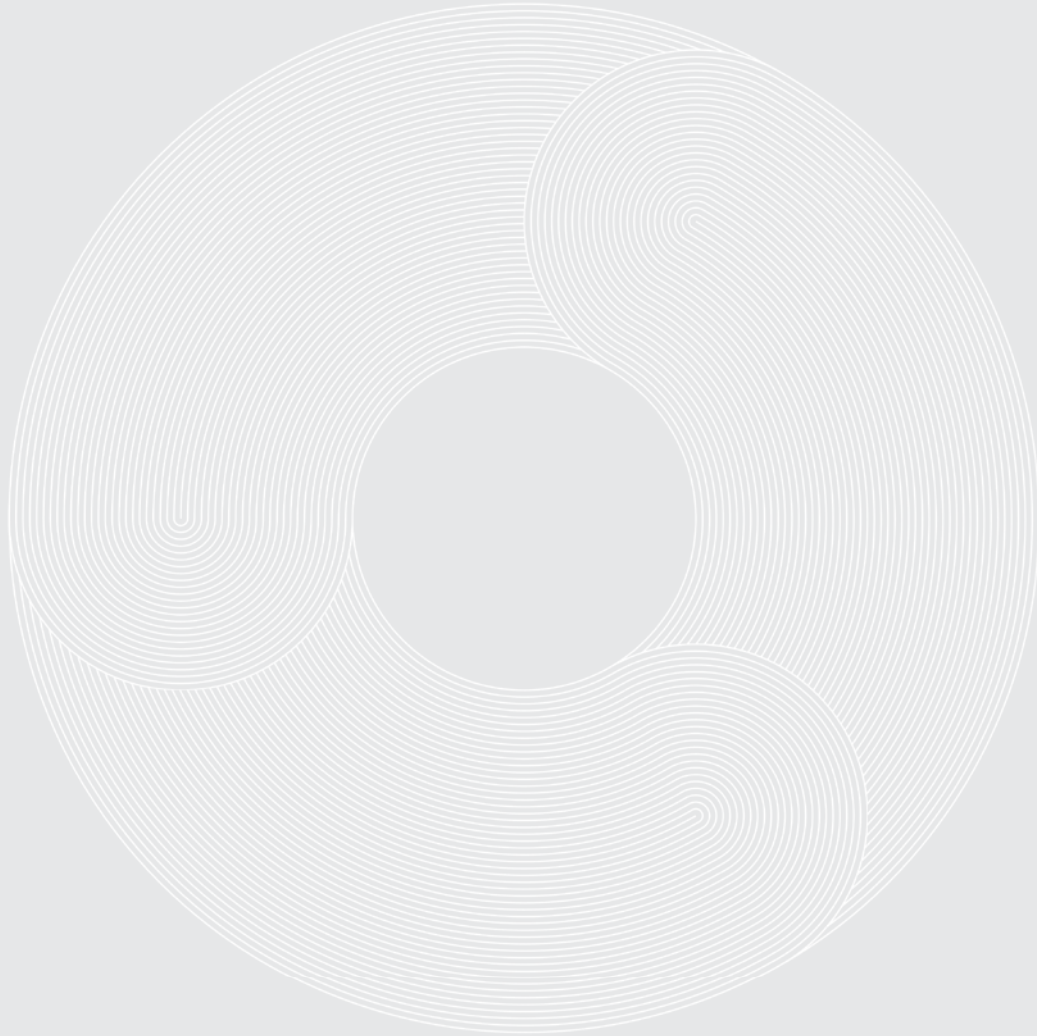
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