

Culture City of East Asia (CCEA)

A Large-Scale Cultural Exchange Project among Three Cities



The CCEA project was established in accordance with the agreements made at the 4th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting (held in Shanghai in May 2012). The three countries select one or two cities representing their country's traditional culture or a city aiming to develop cultural arts. The selected cities hold various cultural arts events, as well as exchange events between the three countries. The project aims not only to promote mutual understanding and a sense of solidarity within East Asia, but also to enhance global competitiveness of East Asian cultures. The European Capital of Culture program run by the European Union since 1985 and the ASEAN Capital City of Culture program run by the ASEAN since 2008 both are precedents of the CCEA.

The cities selected as the CCEA utilize their unique cultural characteristics to promote cultural arts, creative industry, and tourism so as to bring about continuous growth. From this perspective, cities selected as the CCEA continue their cultural and youth exchanges even after the year they were selected. Furthermore, the three countries are endeavoring domestically to enlarge exchanges between CCEA from different years and to



link CCEA with the ASEAN Capital Cities of Culture and the European Capital of Culture.

Trilateral exchanges among CJK cities will continue to increase by a set every year if the follow-up projects for CCEA continue. These sets of triangles are expected to become valuable assets for the promotion of mutual understanding among CJK.



◀ Logos of 2022 CCEA

Sources

Wenzhou City & Jinan City, China (top),
Gyeongju City, Korea (middle),
Oita Prefecture, Japan (bottom)

Past CCEA

Year	China	Japan	Korea
2014	Quanzhou	Yokohama*	Gwangju
2015	Qingdao*	Niigata	Cheongju
2016	Ningbo	Nara	Jeju*
2017	Changsha	Kyoto*	Daegu
2018	Harbin*	Kanazawa	Busan
2019	Xi'an	Toshima, Tokyo	Incheon*
2021	Shaoxing & Dunhuang	Kitakyushu*	Suncheon
2022	Yangzhou & Jinan	Oita	Gyeongju
2023	TBD	TBD	Jeonju*

* Host cities of the Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting [tentative]

The 12th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting

Source
TCS



CCEA Serve as Host Cities for Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting Since 2014

Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting is a meeting held annually on a rotational basis to discuss measures for cultural cooperation and exchange. The three countries, with a consensus on the importance of cultural cooperation, have been running joint programs through this meeting. Ever since the CCEA project began in 2014, the Culture Ministers' Meeting has always been held in the CCEA of that year's host country. Selection of CCEA for the following year coincides with the Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting as well. The 12th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting was held online hosted by Kitakyushu, a 2021 CCEA. The next meeting will be held in China in 2022.

Past Meetings Since 2014

No.	Date	Host City	Outcome Documents
6 th	November 29 2014	Yokohama	Yokohama Joint Declaration
7 th	December 19 – 20, 2015	Qingdao	Qingdao Action Plan
8 th	August 27 – 28, 2016	Jeju	Jeju Declaration
9 th	August 25 – 26, 2017	Kyoto	Kyoto Declaration
10 th	August 29 – 31, 2018	Harbin	Harbin Declaration
11 th	August 30, 2019	Incheon	Incheon Declaration
12 th	August 30, 2021	Kitakyushu *held online	Kitakyushu Declaration

Kitakyushu Declaration in the 12th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting

Source
Agency for Cultural Affairs,
Japan



December 2016: CCEA Round-Table Conference Held by Ningbo

On December 7, 2016, Ningbo held the CCEA Round-Table Conference as a part of the closing ceremony of the CCEA which wrapped up the activities throughout the year. The participants of the conference were Nara and Jeju (both CCEA 2016), Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism (then the Ministry of Culture), all CCEA 2017 and past CCEA including Quanzhou (2014), Qingdao (2015), Changsha (2017), Gwangju (2014), Cheongju (2015), and Daegu (2017).

The representatives of participant cities gave presentations on the theme “The Role of CCEA in Promoting Urban Development and the Measures to Strengthen Cooperation and Exchange among CCEA”, and also signed the *Ningbo Suggestion on CCEA*. At the conference, a ceremony unveiled the CCEA Friendship Memorial Stone, which has the names of all 12 CCEA from 2014 to 2017 engraved on it in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.



◀ CCEA Round-Table Conference

Source
Ningbo City



◀ The Unveiling Ceremony of CCEA Friendship Memorial Stone

Source
Ningbo City

August 2017: CCEA Summit Held in Kyoto

The CCEA Summit was held at the Kyoto International Conference Hall on August 26, 2017. The event was co-hosted by Kyoto (CCEA 2017) and supported by the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs, and a total of 19 representatives and related stakeholders of CCEA 2014 ~ 2018, and ASEAN Capital Cities of Culture gathered to share experiences and discuss measures to develop CCEA. *The Kyoto Declaration on CCEA Summit* was adopted at the summit. The declaration includes: (1) Create opportunities of wide cultural exchanges between companies and groups including the younger generations; (2) Strengthen CCEA network with cooperation from each government; (3) Hold CCEA Summit on a regular basis considering the link with ASEAN Capital Cities of Culture.

Country	Participant CCEA (the year designated as CCEA) / ASEAN
China	Quanzhou (2014), Qingdao (2015), Ningbo (2016), Changsha (2017), Harbin (2018)
Japan	Yokohama (2014), Niigata (2015), Nara (2016), Kyoto (2017, the host city), Kanazawa (2018)
Korea	Gwangju (2014), Cheongju (2015), Jeju (2016), Daegu (2017), Busan (2018)
ASEAN	The Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei

▶
The CCEA Summit

Source
Kyoto City



October 2019: Launching Ceremony of the Network of APT Culture Cities Held in Yangzhou, China

The launching ceremony of the Network of ASEAN Plus Three Culture Cities Network was held in Yangzhou, China, on the 25th of October, 2019. The Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism (the host), CJK CCEA, representatives of the ASEAN Capital Cities of Culture, and public officials from relevant departments in each country were present at the ceremony (total of around 200 participants). The representatives of each city declared the establishment of APT Culture Cities Network, and agreed to enhance mutual understanding and trust, promote cultural exchanges, strengthen cooperation in the area of tourism industry, and increase youth exchange.



Group Photo of the Launching Ceremony of the Network of APT Culture Cities

Source
TCS

2019: Efforts to Develop CCEA by Strengthening Unity among the CCEA within Each Country

China: CCEA Staff Training Program

From August 13 to 14 in 2019, the first CCEA Staff Training Program in China was hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Xi'an (2019 CCEA). Over 100 participants attended this program, including personnel from past CCEA (2014-2019) in China, Yangzhou (2020 CCEA), representatives from Toshima, Tokyo and Incheon (2019 CCEA), public officials and experts. The CCEA cities were able to share their experiences in operating the CCEA project as well as future plans. Experts provided lectures on Measures to Apply for, Examine, Select and Manage CCEA, Conditions and Criteria to Apply for CCEA, and Advice on Developing the CCEA Brand.



CCEA Staff Training Program in China

Source
Ministry of Culture and Tourism, China

Korea: 2019 CCEA Cooperation Workshop

The Asia Culture City Forum of Gwangju, the first Korean CCEA, hosted the 2019 CCEA Cooperation Workshop for two days during December 10-11, 2019. The objectives of the workshop, first held in 2019, are to discuss measures to increase the quality of exchange programs and to maintain solidarity in accordance with fluctuations in the conditions of the three countries by close cooperation and communication between the working groups of CCEA in Korea. 15 public officials from Gwangju and 4 other Korean CCEA (Cheongju, Jeju, Busan, and Suncheon), as well as relevant organizations including the TCS participated in the workshop.

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2019 CCEA Cooperation
Workshop

Source
TCS



2021: Expanding Efforts to Reinforce the Value of CCEA and Strengthen Exchanges between Cities despite the COVID-19

The Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan and Doshisha University Held a Joint Research Symposium “Goals and Future Tasks of CCEA”

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The Agency for Cultural
Affairs of Japan and Doshisha
University Joint Research
Symposium Poster

Source
Doshisha University



On February 22, 2021, the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan and Doshisha University held a joint research symposium on the theme of “Goals and Future Tasks of CCEA”. The purpose of this symposium was to reconfirm the significance and achievements of the CCEA project and discuss future development. The symposium was prepared as an event to conclude the joint research project “Research on the Achievements and Reflections of CCEA” by the Agency for Cultural Affairs and Doshisha University. The symposium lasted for about three hours, consisting of lectures by the organizers and alternative presentations of historical Japanese CCEA.

CCEA Construction City Forum Held in Harbin, China

On July 20, 2021, a city brand celebration event and the CCEA Construction City Forum were held in Harbin, China. About 60 delegations from China's historical cultural cities in East Asia, including Quanzhou, Ningbo, Changsha, Xi'an, Yangzhou, Shaoxing, Dunhuang, Jinan, and Wenzhou, participated in the event and discussed the future-oriented development of CCEA. The representatives of each city evaluated that this event will play an important role in promoting the systematic development of urban culture and the driving force for urban development and enhancing the image of the city. Also, each city shared success stories of protecting cultural heritage, enhancing public cultural services, and developing cultural and tourism industries.



City Brand Celebration and CCEA Construction City Forum

Source
Harbin City

The 2nd CCEA Summit Held in Kitakyushu, Japan

On October 25, 2021, the 2nd CCEA Summit was held in Kitakyushu, Japan. The summit, with the theme of “Creation of New Cultural Values through CCEA,” was attended by representatives of 28 cities including CCEA, European Capitals of Culture, and ASEAN Cities of Culture, participating in online and offline methods to promote technological innovation and development in the post-COVID-19 era. They exchanged opinions on promoting urban cultural exchange through digitalization and the role of culture and art in the sustainable development of cities. Representatives from the host city Kitakyushu, as well as Suncheon, Dunhuang, and Shaoxing (2021 CCEA), all gave presentations on the topic of city exchange and mutual learning through cultural exchange.



The 2nd CCEA Summit

Source
Agency for Cultural Affairs,
Japan