

Second Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting Joint Communiqué

We, the Ministers of Education of Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea, gathered in Tokyo, Japan on March 21, 2018, for the Second Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting.

The Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting was decided to be launched by the three Leaders at the Sixth Trilateral Summit Meeting among Korea, Japan, and China held on November 1, 2015 in Seoul, Korea, during which the three Leaders reaffirmed the important role of education for promoting mutual understanding and common development among the three countries.

The Minister of Education of the People's Republic of China and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of the Republic of Korea appreciated the efforts made by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, in hosting the meeting.

We welcome the participation of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) in the Second Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting and will reinforce our partnership with the TCS to further education cooperation among the three countries.

We reaffirmed the common recognition that an enhanced cooperation in the field of education among the three countries is imperative in fostering creative talent that will contribute to global peace and prosperity in the shared spirit of community as close neighbors.

1. Promoting Student and Youth Exchange to Foster an Ethos of Prosperity

1-1. We reaffirmed the importance of promoting mutual understanding among the youth of the three countries by providing them with opportunities to experience the different cultures and lifestyles of each country. With this in mind, we decided to continue to expand and encourage youth exchange among the three countries, in both the public and private sectors.

1-2. We reaffirmed the importance of fostering mutual understanding and friendship among children from the three countries by providing them with opportunities to join collaborative cultural activities, including the *Japan-China-Korea Children's Story Exchange Program*.

1-3. We welcomed the success of the first and second meetings for the trilateral university student exchange programs set up at the First Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting. The first meeting was held in Korea in August 2016; the second in Japan in September 2017. We also welcomed China's hosting of the third trilateral university student exchange program, to be held at the appropriate time.

2. Promoting the establishment of Asian Higher Education Community by expanding the CAMPUS Asia Program

2-1. We commended the start in September 2016 of full-fledged implementation of the CAMPUS Asia Program and expressed our intention to continue to promote this program, which was launched as a pilot in 2011 as a follow-up to the Trilateral Summit the previous year and had expanded exchanges of academics and students, double degree programs, and collaborative courses among the three countries.

2-2. We will continue to cooperate in laying the legal, institutional and procedural foundation for an exchange-friendly environment for university students of the three countries, with support from the TCS. We will also place more emphasis on and further strengthen cooperation for quality assurance in higher education in the three countries, while commending collaboration by quality assurance institutions and starting discussion on launching joint research on mutual recognition of degrees for which TCS will serve as the focal point.

2-3. In addition to the framework of the CAMPUS Asia Program, we welcomed the first Trilateral Rectors' Forum held in 2016 in Korea. The forum was set up as a networking opportunity and pivotal consultative mechanism to strengthen cooperation among universities in the three countries. We agreed to continuously promote its gathering under various themes through the autonomy of universities in the three countries and the support from the TCS.

2-4. Hoping to see expansion of the CAMPUS Asia Program all the way across Asia as a long-term objective, we will discuss further its feasibility while using the existing intergovernmental frameworks such as the *Working Group on Mobility and Quality Assurance of Higher Education among ASEAN Plus Three Countries*.

3. Improving Global Education Through Stronger Trilateral Cooperation

3-1. Reaffirming the importance of education for the sustainable development of humanity and the world, we agreed to continue working to develop people's competencies needed to achieve the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* through education on the SDGs, in particular Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED), based on the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit and the *Incheon Declaration* adopted at the UNESCO World Education Forum in May 2015.

3-2. Recognizing the essential role of the trilateral education cooperation in advancing the regional and global education, we reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening multilateral partnerships, especially through UNESCO, ASEAN+3, the East Asia Summit and ASEM, and welcomed the success of the ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting held in Seoul in November 2017 hosted by the Korean Ministry of Education.

We welcomed the Third Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting to be held in China in 2019.