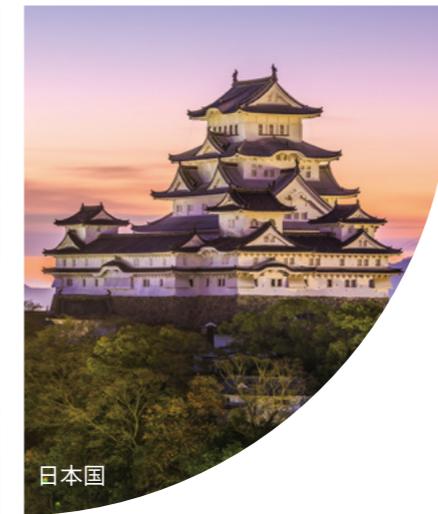


Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

Annual Report
FY2015



www.tcs-asia.org



Pursuant to *the Agreement on the Establishment of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS)* signed by the governments of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and Japan in December 2010, the TCS was established as an international organization in September 2011 in Seoul. The Annual Report FY2015 contains the TCS' activities and events for the 2015 fiscal year (September 2015 – August 2016).

Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat Annual Report FY2015

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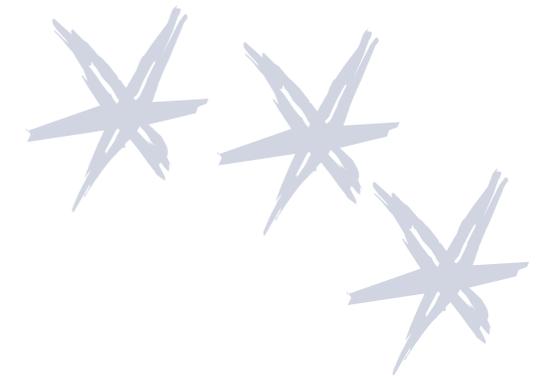
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2015.9 – 2016.8

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Foreword



YANG Houlan

Secretary-General of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

I am delighted to issue the TCS Annual Report for the 2015 fiscal year (September 2015–August 2016). This is the first report that contains the activities and events of the TCS under the leadership of the 3rd TCS Consultative Board. This report also summarizes the fifth anniversary year of the TCS' establishment, as the three governments finish the first round of rotations. Five years ago, the TCS was established as a result of an agreement between the three governments with the objective of producing the more efficient promotion and management of trilateral cooperation. The establishment of the TCS marks the institutionalization of trilateral cooperation and broader prospects for further developments. As the first Chinese Secretary-General, I am fully aware of the responsibility and obligation that have been placed on my humble shoulders.

First, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my wholehearted gratitude and appreciation to the previous two boards. The founding Board, led by Amb. SHIN Bong-kil from the ROK, created the TCS *ex nihilo*, established the fundamental systems and regulations of the organization, and launched a brand-new vehicle for trilateral cooperation. The second Board, led by Amb. IWATANI Shigeo from Japan, overcame initial difficulties to further buttress trilateral cooperation and initiated many of the current TCS' brand projects. Based on their efforts, the current Board members have worked on the development and expansion of existing cooperative projects, and on enhancing the participation and influence of the TCS in the gamut of avenues for trilateral cooperation.

In November 2015, the 6th Trilateral Summit was held in Seoul after a three-and-a-half-year suspension, bringing forth new opportunities for trilateral cooperation. During the last year, the TCS has participated in 12 Ministerial Meetings including the first Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting

and in more than 60 working level mechanisms, and has provided full support for the effective supplementation of the trilateral consultative mechanisms. We have made achievements in the expansion of existing cooperative projects, such as the International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) 2016 and the 1st Trilateral Forum on Public Diplomacy, and we have also put forward new projects in the areas of disaster management, logistics, environmental protection and local government exchange, for example, Workshop on "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction," Working Group Meeting of Joint Project "Trilateral Cooperation for Improvement of Supply Chain Connectivity (SCC)," Environmental Consultation Meeting on General Public Awareness Improvement and Ensemble Exchange Performed by the East Asian Cultural Cities. Meanwhile, the exchange and cooperation with other international organizations such as the Nordic Council of Ministers and the UN agencies has developed tremendously.

Over the last five years, we have shown how much we can accomplish through cooperation in diverse fields, namely finance, sustainable development, environment protection, tourism, cultural exchange, education, people-to-people exchange and disaster management. Nevertheless, we should never lose sight of how much further we can move forward, as much of the fertile ground for potential cooperation among the three countries has yet to be realized. Moving forward, the TCS should continuously provide all the necessary support to the governments of our three countries. I myself, the two Deputy Secretary-Generals, and our officials and staff at the TCS will spare no effort to strengthen cooperation and continue contributing to cordial, cooperative, and future-oriented trilateral relations. I look forward to leading the TCS toward its mandates and visions in the coming year, and as such need your attention and support now more than ever.

About the TCS

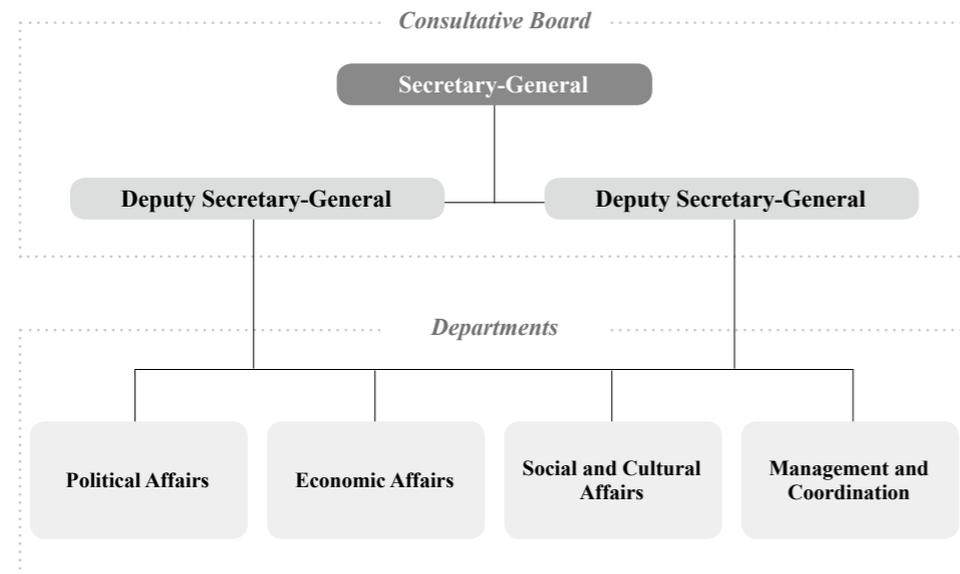
01. Overview

The Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) is an international organization established with a vision to promote peace and common prosperity among the People’s Republic of China (China), the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Japan. Upon the agreement signed and ratified by each of the three governments, the TCS was officially inaugurated in September 2011 in Seoul. On the basis of equal participation, each country shares 1/3 of total operational budget.

Key Functions

- Providing support for trilateral consultative mechanisms
- Exploring and facilitating cooperative projects
- Communicating and coordinating with other international organizations
- Compiling database and conducting research

02. Structure



Consultative Board

The Board, the executive decision-making body, is comprised of a Secretary-General (SG) and two Deputy Secretary-Generals (DSG), who are appointed by each country on a two-year rotational basis.

1st Board 2011.9 - 2013.8	SG	ROK	SHIN Bong-kil
	DSG	Japan	MATSUKAWA Rui
	DSG	China	MAO Ning
2nd Board 2013.9 - 2015.8	SG	Japan	IWATANI Shigeo
	DSG	China	CHEN Feng
	DSG	ROK	LEE Jong-heon
3rd Board 2015.9 - To the present	SG	China	YANG Houlan
	DSG	ROK	LEE Jong-heon
	DSG	Japan	UMEZAWA Akima

Departments

There are four Departments which are composed of the Professional Staff seconded by the three governments, and the General Services Staff recruited through open competition from the three countries.

Department of Political Affairs

- Foreign Affairs
- Security
- Regional Issues
- International Issues
- Disaster Prevention and Management
- Think-Tank Network

Department of Social and Cultural Affairs

- Culture
- Youth Exchanges
- Media
- Education
- Health and Welfare
- Tourism
- Local Government Exchange
- Personnel Administration

Department of Economic Affairs

- Trade and Investment
- Transport and Logistics
- Customs
- Intellectual Property Rights
- ICT
- Finance
- Science and Technology
- Standards Cooperation
- Energy
- Consumer Policy
- Environmental Protection
- Agriculture
- Water Resources
- Forestry Cooperation

Department of Management and Coordination

- Planning and Coordination
- Public Relations
- Human Resources
- Administrative and Legal Support
- Budget and Accounting
- Archive

03. Historical Background and Development

- 1999.11 ● **Inception of the Trilateral Cooperation**
1st Trilateral Summit on Occasion of the 3rd ASEAN Plus Three Summit
(Manila, Philippine)

- 2008.12 ● **Institutionalization of the Trilateral Cooperation**
1st Trilateral Summit independent from the ASEAN Plus Three framework
(Fukuoka, Japan)

- 2009.10 ● **Consensus on a Need for a Permanent Secretariat for the Trilateral Cooperation**
The three leaders agreed to establish a secretariat for the cooperation among the
three countries at the 2nd Trilateral Summit (Beijing, China)

- 2010.05 ● **Memorandum on the Establishment of the TCS**
The three leaders adopted *the Memorandum on the Establishment of the Trilateral
Cooperation Secretariat* at the 3rd Trilateral Summit (Jeju, ROK)

- 2010.12 ● **Agreement on the Establishment of the TCS**
The three governments signed on *the Agreement on the Establishment of the
Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat* (Seoul, ROK)

- 2011.09 ● **The Establishment of the TCS** (Seoul, ROK)

- 2012.05 ● **TCS' First Participation in the Trilateral Summit**
Secretary-General SHIN Bong-kil's attendance in the 5th Trilateral Summit
(Beijing, China)

- 2013.10 ● **TCS' First Participation in the ASEAN Plus Three Summit**
Secretary-General IWATANI Shigeo's attendance in the 16th ASEAN Plus Three
Summit (Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam)

- 2016.09 ● **5th Anniversary of the TCS**

I.

Providing Support for Trilateral Consultative Mechanisms





1) 6th Trilateral Summit

The 6th Trilateral Summit was convened in Seoul on November 1, 2015, completely restoring the trilateral cooperation after three and a half years of suspension. The Summit was chaired by the ROK President PARK Geun-hye, and attended by Japanese Prime Minister ABE Shinzo and Chinese Premier LI Keqiang. The delegation of the TCS, headed by Secretary-General YANG Houlan also participated in the Summit. During the Meeting, the leaders reviewed the progress and discussed future development of trilateral cooperation, and exchanged views on regional and international issues of common concern.

After the Summit, the three leaders adopted *the Joint Declaration for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia*. In the Declaration, the leaders expressed support for the capacity-building of the TCS by its participation in all ministerial-level consultative mechanisms within the framework of trilateral cooperation. The leaders also shared the view that the creation of Trilateral Cooperation Fund (TCF) will be instrumental for the development of trilateral cooperation projects.



2) 18th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit

TCS Secretary-General YANG Houlan attended the 18th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on November 21, 2015. During the Summit, the leaders from the Plus Three countries and the ASEAN member states reaffirmed the importance of APT cooperation in enhancing regional peace, stability and growth in East Asia and shared the view to promote regional connectivity in all areas of political, economic and socio-cultural aspects. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues. The TCS has attended the APT Summit as observer since 2013.

Political Affairs

4th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management

2015.10.28 *Tokyo, Japan*

Ministry of State for Disaster Management of the Cabinet Office of Japan
Ministry of Civil Affairs of China
Ministry of Public Safety and Security of the ROK

8th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting

2016.08.24 *Tokyo, Japan*

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK



Economic Affairs & Sustainable Development

2nd Trilateral Agricultural Ministers' Meeting

2015.09.13 *Tokyo, Japan*

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan
Ministry of Agriculture of China
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the ROK

10th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting

2015.10.30 *Seoul, ROK*

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the ROK
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan
Ministry of Commerce of China



15th Trilateral Policy Dialogue Meeting between SIPO, JPO and KIPO

2015.11.17 *Guangzhou, China*

State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO)
Japan Patent Office (JPO)
Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO)

18th Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting

2016.04.27 *Shizuoka, Japan*

Ministry of the Environment of Japan
Ministry of Environment of the ROK
Ministry of Environmental Protection of China



6th Trilateral Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics

2016.07.28 *Hangzhou, China*

Ministry of Transport of China
Ministry of Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the ROK
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan

Social and Cultural Affairs

7th Heads of Personnel Authorities Meeting

2015.09.01 *Seoul, ROK*

Ministry of Personnel Management of the ROK
Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of China
National Personnel Authority of Japan

8th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting

2015.11.29 *Kyoto, Japan*

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan
Ministry of Health and Welfare of the ROK
Ministry of National Health and Family Planning
Commission of China

7th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting

2015.12.20 *Qingdao, China*

Ministry of Culture of China
Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the ROK
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan

8th Trilateral Culture Ministers' Meeting

2016.08.28 *Jeju, ROK*

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the ROK
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan
Ministry of Culture of China



1st Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting

2016.01.30 *Seoul, ROK*

Ministry of Education of the ROK
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan
Ministry of Education of China



* The names of the attendees are listed according to the rotation order of the host country for each meeting.

II.

Exploring and Facilitating Cooperative Projects



01

International Conference: “The Future of Regional Integration and the Korean Peninsula”



On October 14, 2015, the TCS and the Korea Future Foundation (KFF) co-organized their first joint international conference under the title of “The Future of Regional Integration and the Korean Peninsula” in Seoul, ROK. The conference brought together distinguished scholars from China, the ROK and Japan to discuss the geopolitical and geo-economic challenges in Northeast Asia and the importance of restoring the momentum for trilateral cooperation in exploring the future paths toward the Northeast Asian Community. HYUN In-Taek, Professor of Korea University and former Unification Minister of the ROK, participated in the opening session and delivered a keynote speech on the ways forward for Northeast Asian Community Building. The TCS, as a co-host of the conference, organized the discussion session in collaboration with the KFF, and TCS Secretary-General YANG Houlan welcomed the participants by sending a video message.

02 Workshop on Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)

The TCS and the UNISDR's Office for Northeast Asia and Global Education Training Institute (UNISDR ONEA-GETI) co-organized the Workshop on Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) in Seoul on March 3-4, 2016. Officials from China, the ROK, Japan and Mongolia participated in the workshop. This workshop is a follow-up project of the 4th Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management held in October 2015, with a view to promoting the implementation of SFDRR and strengthening capacity building of government officials. During the workshop, experts from UNISDR ONEA-GETI gave lectures on SFDRR and conducted case studies on the implementation of SFDRR. All delegations did presentations on the implementation of SFDRR in their respective countries as well as lessons they learned from recent disasters. They also did preliminary review and analysis of their national plans for DRR using the draft "Sendai Monitor" and exchanged views on government's role in implementing SFDRR.



03 4th Trilateral Table Top Exercise (TTX) on Disaster Management



On June 22, 2016, the 4th Trilateral Table Top Exercise (TTX) on Disaster Management was held in Seoul, ROK. It was hosted by the Ministry of Public Safety and Security of the ROK, and organized by the TCS. Officials from disaster management authorities of the three countries participated in the TTX. During the TTX, the participants conducted a simulation exercise based on a scenario of a large scale typhoon hitting the Korean Peninsula. The three countries also shared their experience and lessons learned from the international rescue operation in Nepal Earthquake 2015. Highlighting that there is a greater need for disaster management cooperation in Northeast Asia, all participants attached importance to continuously developing the TTX. The three countries agreed to conduct the next TTX in 2017 in Japan.

01 1st Trilateral Economic Workshop

The TCS organized the first Trilateral Economic Workshop on the “Challenges and Opportunities for Co-Prosperty – Trilateral Economic Cooperation after the 6th Trilateral Summit” on January 19, 2016 in Seoul, ROK. Two sessions were carried out under the theme of ‘Retrospect and Prospect of the Economic Situation of China, Japan and the ROK’ and ‘Common Challenges and Possible Cooperation for China, Japan and the ROK.’ The TCS invited three authors of *the 2015 Trilateral Economic Report* as speakers and conducted fruitful panel discussion, as well as Q&A session. About 50 people participated in the event from governments, academia, business, media and universities of the three countries as well as international organizations and diplomatic missions in the ROK.



02 1st~4th Working Group Meeting of Joint Project “Trilateral Cooperation for Improvement of Supply Chain Connectivity (SCC)”

The TCS organized four Working Group Meetings of the Joint Project “Trilateral Cooperation for Improvement of Supply Chain Connectivity (SCC)” on January 21 in Seoul, March 31 in Tokyo, June 27-28 in Beijing and August 18-19, 2016 in Seoul, respectively. The joint project was agreed during the 10th Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers’ Meeting held on October 30, 2015 in Seoul to be carried out by the TCS. The working group meetings aimed for smooth implementation of the joint project. The TCS coordinated and moderated the discussion among the participating research institutes of the three countries.



The TCS hosted the 4th CJK FTA Seminar on April 7, 2016, in Seoul, ROK, in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the ROK; Ministry of Commerce of China; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan. The Seminar was held back-to-back with the 10th CJK FTA Negotiation (DDG/DG). More than 120 participants from various sectors such as government, business and academia of the three countries gathered together and exchanged views on the issues of the CJK FTA.

The chief negotiators of the CJK FTA from the three countries, namely YOO Myunghee, Director-General for FTA Negotiations and East Asia FTA, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the ROK; HONG Xiaodong, Deputy Director-General of Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce of China; and SATO Tatsuo, Deputy Director-General of Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, delivered opening remarks and all shared the view that the CJK FTA will be a great opportunity for the three countries to gain potential for invigorating their economies and enhance East Asian economic integration.



In the following two sessions, the moderators, speakers and panelists from various sectors made comments on the topics of the necessity and significance of the CJK FTA for the development of trilateral cooperation and in the context of economic integration in the Asian Pacific. Following each session, the speakers had in-depth discussion with the general audience.

Concluding the Seminar, CHOI Byung-il, Professor of Ewha Womans University, made a closing statement on the collective internal and external challenges of the three countries, and how the CJK FTA can help to address these challenges. In the closing remarks, the TCS Deputy Secretary-General LEE Jong-heon emphasized the significance of the CJK FTA for the East Asian economic integration and hoped that the CJK FTA negotiation would conclude with high mutual benefits for all the three countries.

The Seminar was followed by the Trilateral Business Networking Reception, where the representatives of major business organizations of the three countries, namely HAN Ruixiang, President of the China Chamber of Commerce in Korea; EOM Chi-Sung, Deputy Secretary General, Head of the International Affairs Division, Federation of Korean Industries (FKI); and TAKASUGI Nobuya, Honorary Advisor of the Seoul Japan Club, recognized the importance of building up networks for new business opportunities and sharing a future vision of trilateral industrial cooperation.



Tripartite Environmental Consultation Meeting on General Public Awareness Improvement



The TCS hosted the Tripartite Environmental Consultation Meeting on General Public Awareness Improvement on June 16, 2016 at the TCS, by inviting working-level government officials and relevant experts. The meeting aimed to follow up one of 9 priority areas of *the Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation 2015-2019*, “Public Awareness,” under the Tripartite Environment Ministers’ Meeting. The consultation meeting shared the national policies and the best practices for public awareness of environmental protection in each country and discussed how to jointly make efforts to raise public awareness on the importance of environmental protection in the three countries.



2nd CJK Journalist Joint Interview Program

The TCS co-organized the 2nd CJK Journalist Joint Interview Program with the Global Times of China from November 3 to 14, 2015. Following the 1st CJK Journalist Joint Interview Program which focused on environmental protection and sustainable development, this year’s program focused on cultural exchanges and interviews on the development of trilateral relations.

During the program, a delegation consisting of 9 journalists of representative media of the three countries visited institutions including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, the China Public Diplomacy Association, the National Diet of Japan, the Association of Japanese Animations, the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy and the CJ Entertainment (in the order of visiting countries), and also conducted joint interviews on prominent figures including former ROK Prime Minister HAN Seung-soo, former Japanese Deputy Prime Minister KONO Yohei and Director LU Chuan. The program aims to strengthen CJK journalists’ understanding of the development of trilateral cooperation and its prospects. It also strives to establish friendly media environment and increase press coverage of issues related to trilateral cooperation.



The TCS and the Korea-China Friendship Association (KCFA) co-hosted the 5th Trilateral Campus Harmony on November 10, 2015 at Yonsei University in Seoul, ROK. It is one of the symbolic trilateral youth events that promote positive trilateral relations through gathering interesting and brilliant ideas of the youths of the three countries reflected on short video clips. 9 teams composed of students from each of the three countries presented UCC videos on “Building Heartfelt Bonds among China, Japan and the ROK” and delivered presentations about the UCC making. The TCS served as the judges and awarded the TCS Secretary-General Award to the team ‘Three Goblins’ which made a UCC on “Influence and Future among the Three Countries Examined through Fairy Tales.”

The TCS held the China-Japan-ROK Youth Dialogue on November 14, 2015 with the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) as the co-host and the East Asia Foundation (EAF) as the sponsor. The event was held in collaboration with the youth organizations that consist of undergraduate and graduate students of the three countries, including the Japan-based Knowledge Investment Programs (KIP) and the ROK-based Global Asia Leadership Forum (GALF). 30 participants, divided into three mixed-nationality groups, shared understandings on the three countries’ situation and prospects of youth issues of early English education, job searching cultures, and the balance between family life and work, and discussed ideas of the trilateral cooperation in dealing with such matters.



04

3rd Trilateral Journalist Exchange Program (TJEP)

The TCS organized the 3rd Trilateral Journalist Exchange Program (TJEP) in China, the ROK and Japan from June 27 to July 6, 2016. TCS Deputy Secretary-General UMEZAWA Akima led the journalist delegation consisting of 12 journalists from the three countries. The program focused on the unique cultural background and the development of trilateral ancient capitals – Kyoto in Japan, Xi'an in China and Gyeongju in the ROK (in the order of visiting countries). As ancient political, economic, cultural and educational hubs, the three cities have developed rich traditional culture and historical heritages.

During the program, the journalist delegation visited governmental agencies, businesses, and cultural heritages of the three cities and was briefed on tourism policies, history and culture, as well as efforts to vitalize economy and increase international cooperation. The journalists also engaged in a series of in-depth dialogues and discussed the media environment of the three countries and the role of media in strengthening trilateral cooperation. Through open and frank discussions, participants were able to deepen mutual understanding and bridge the gap between perception and reality of media environment of the three countries.

05

5~6th TCS LOUPE



The TCS regularly holds its open lecture series, TCS LOUPE, which stands for “Lecture on Uncovering Panoramic East Asia.” The lecture series brings together experts of the three countries to explain compelling aspects of each country from a comparative perspective. The 5th TCS LOUPE on June 29, 2016 was held under the theme of ‘Tastes of China, Japan, and Korea: Similarities and Differences in Trilateral Food Cultures.’ The lecture was led by Professor JOO Young-ha of the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS), a renowned expert of the three countries’ food culture and history.

On August 4, 2016, the 6th TCS LOUPE, ‘Examining CJK Youth Cultures through Hankook Ilbo Youth Report’ was held as a sideline to the 4th Young Ambassador Program (YAP). KIM Kyeong-jun of Hankook Ilbo delivered this special lecture based on his coverage of a series of interviews with 38 youth of the three countries.





The TCS organized the 4th Young Ambassador Program (YAP) from August 1 to 12, 2016 in Seoul and Jeju, ROK. Initiated in 2013, the YAP is a two-week program that offers a range of opportunities for highly motivated and competent youth of China, the ROK and Japan to enhance understanding of trilateral cooperation and to foster a sense of community and friendship among the future leaders of the three countries. This year, the YAP was joined by 16 highly qualified undergraduate and graduate students of the three countries. The program consisted of lectures on the major fields of trilateral cooperation, visits to government agencies, think-tanks and international organizations, team projects and cultural activities.

The participants engaged in intensive discussions on various issues of trilateral relations and carried out team projects related to the following topics of their interest: “Overcoming Misperception in Security Cooperation of CJK,” “Comparison of Education System among CJK,” and “Overcoming Hyper-Nationalism towards Cooperation.” The participants conducted research and presented their finding to enhance their understanding of various aspects of trilateral cooperation. The TCS will continue to hold the YAP in the future to promote trilateral cooperation and strengthen the friendship among the youth of the three countries.



The TCS co-organized the Trilateral Ensemble Exchange Performed by the 2016 East Asian Cultural Cities (EACCs) from August 11 to 13 in Jeju, ROK, during the occasion of the 21st Jeju International Wind Ensemble Festival (JIWEF), one of the biggest music festivals in Asia staging concerts by wind orchestras all over the world.

Youth and professional bands representing the 2016 EACCs participated in the Trilateral Ensemble Exchange including ‘Daejung High School Band’ of Jeju, ‘Wind Ensemble of Ningbo Symphony Orchestra’ of Ningbo, and ‘Takamado High School Brass Ensemble’ of Nara. Throughout the event, the bands delivered inspiring music performances at the major spots of Jeju including Jeju Culture & Art Center and Cheonjiyeon Waterfall Outdoor Stage with bands from other countries. On August 13, special concert for the 2016 EACCs was held at Hamo Sports Park and the three bands presented colorful resonance of the trilateral winds including the joint performance featuring three countries’ popular folksongs.

01 International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) 2016 and the 1st Trilateral Forum on Public Diplomacy

The TCS co-organized the International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) 2016 and the 1st Trilateral Forum on Public Diplomacy on April 29, 2016 at Diaoyutai State House in Beijing, China, in collaboration with the China Public Diplomacy Association. Under the theme of “Deepening Dialogue and Communication, Pushing Trilateral Cooperation to a New Level,” this forum is a timely follow-up to the 6th Trilateral Summit, aiming to raise awareness of the importance of public diplomacy in enhancing understanding and friendship among the peoples of China, the ROK and Japan. An exhibition of “808 Commonly Used Chinese Characters among China, Japan and the ROK” was also held as a side event.



The forum was divided into three sessions. Session I under the theme of ‘Seeking Commonality: Trilateral Cooperation for Peace and Stability in Northeast Asia and Global Prosperity’ was moderated by Amb. IWATANI Shigeo, former Secretary-General of the TCS and promoted discussion on trilateral cooperation to cope with common political and security challenges in the region. It also addressed a range of issues including history reconciliation, new regional security regime, trilateral parliament exchange and Korean Peninsula issue.

In Session II ‘High Complementarities and Great Potential of the Three Economies: Essence of Trilateral Cooperation,’ prominent speakers from the three countries facilitated the discussion on trilateral economic issues, examining current economic situations of the three countries and sharing prospects as well as suggestions for future trilateral economic cooperation.

Session III, under the theme of ‘Promoting People-to-People and Media Exchange: Enhancing Mutual Understanding and Friendship,’ brought together prominent figures from the three countries, examined the significance of people-to-people exchange and promoted vigorous discussion on media’s responsibility and its role of deepening mutual understanding among the three countries. All speakers provided tangible and brilliant suggestions including popular culture exchange, women exchange, Trilateral Joint Newspaper, learning the experience from EU and exploring more common interests for mutual cooperation, etc.





The TCS hosted two sessions at the 11th Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity held in Jeju Island, ROK on May 25-27, 2016. Session I, entitled “Trilateral Views: Promoting Nuclear Safety in Northeast Asia,” gathered the officials from the nuclear regulatory authorities of China, the ROK and Japan. They introduced the status of nuclear energy development and legal system for regulation and nuclear safety culture in the respective countries and the progress of bilateral and trilateral cooperation in this field. Much emphasis was put on furthering trilateral cooperation on nuclear safety, particularly under the current framework of the Top Regulators’ Meeting (TRM) on Nuclear Safety, which has made significant achievements for the past 8 years.

Session II on trilateral tourism cooperation, entitled “New Horizon for Northeast Asian Tourism: Increasing Inbound Flows through Trilateral Cooperation,” convened experts from national tourism organizations and the academia from China, the ROK and Japan as session speakers. The speakers introduced trends in intraregional tourism cooperation and shared their recommendations for attracting tourists from outside Northeast Asia to make a multi-destination trip to the region. The session particularly focused on promoting the “Visit East Asia Campaign,” an initiative suggested at the 7th Trilateral Tourism Ministers’ Meeting to expand inbound tourism from Europe and North America to the three countries.

III.

Communicating and Coordinating with Other International Organizations



01 Visit to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

TCS Secretary-General YANG Houlan visited Laos and Indonesia on February 20-24, 2016. SG YANG paid a courtesy call on Alounkeo KITTIKHOUN, Vice Minister and ASEAN SOM Leader of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Laos, and reiterated the TCS' commitment to the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation. Also, SG YANG and Le Luong MINH, Secretary-General of the ASEAN discussed keeping close communication between the two Secretariats to explore and implement cooperative projects, such as co-organizing seminar or workshop on issues of interest for the ASEAN+3 countries. The TCS delegation met with the Heads of Missions of China, the ROK and Japan to ASEAN, and exchanged views on the progress of trilateral cooperation as well as sharing some ideas for the three countries' partnership with the ASEAN side.



02

7th Meeting among the Secretaries-General of the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) and the ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC)

On April 19, 2016, TCS Secretary-General YANG Houlan attended the 7th Meeting among the Secretaries-General of the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) and the ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC), held at the AJC in Tokyo, Japan. Based on the continued previous interactions between the TCS and the three Centres, SG YANG exchanged views with the Secretaries-General of the three Centres, namely Amb. YANG Xiuping of the ACC, Amb. KIM Young-sun of the AKC and Mr. FUJITA Masataka of the AJC, on the issues of possible future cooperation towards the vision of East Asia cooperation.

SG YANG expressed his gratitude to the three Centres for extending invitation to the TCS. After introducing TCS projects in the socio-cultural field as well as its past engagement with the ASEAN side, he presented the TCS' ideas for developing more concrete cooperation with the Centres in the areas of youth exchange and journalist exchange. In response to the proposal, the three Secretaries-General discussed how the TCS can constructively contribute to the tripartite cooperation among the three Centres. The TCS and the three Centres also designated their respective focal points of contact in order to continue smooth communication in the future.

Europe

01

Courtesy Visit to the Ambassador of the European Union (EU) Delegation to the ROK



On October 5, 2015, the TCS board members visited the EU Delegation in Seoul, ROK, and exchanged views on the trilateral cooperation with Amb. Gerhard SABATHIL. TCS Secretary-General YANG Houlan and Amb. SABATHIL underlined the importance of strengthening cooperative relations between the two regions, and agreed to further promote exchanges for their mutual development. The two sides also exchanged views on various issues pertaining to the trilateral cooperation including the Trilateral Summit, education exchange and trilateral FTA.



On May 30, 2016, Secretary-General of the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCMs) Dagfinn HØYBRÅTEN visited the TCS and had a meeting with the TCS board members. The meeting was arranged with the purpose of revitalizing cooperation between the two organizations, as their first meeting was held on the occasion of the NCMs' participation in the TCS International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) in 2012. The two sides exchanged information about their organizations and had in-depth discussions on ways to renew their relationship by bolstering mutually beneficial cooperation. Taking this opportunity, they also agreed to keep in contact and regularly update each other on important news and publications while exploring possibility to coordinate follow-up activities in the future.



The TCS participated in both 7th and 8th United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) China-Japan-Korea Roundtable Conference in Seoul, ROK on October 28-29, 2015 and in Beijing, China on August 21-22, 2016, respectively, as an official sponsor. The conference has been hosted by UNGC China Network, UNGC Japan Network and UNGC Korea Network on a rotation basis since 2009, with the attendance of business people, researchers and youth among the three countries, aiming to raise public awareness on sustainable development and increase understanding of corporations' role in global economic and social development. The TCS provided both financial support and substantial input to the contents of the conference.

02 Visit by the Director/Head of Office of the UNESCAP-ENEA

On March 9, 2016, Kilaparti RAMAKRISHNA, the Director/Head of Office of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (UNESCAP-ENEA) visited the TCS to discuss how to scale up and formulate the cooperation between the two organizations. The TCS and the UNESCAP-ENEA shared the opinion that the two organizations have high potential to cooperate in the area of regional economic integration and sustainable development.

03 Visit by the Director of the UNESCO-APCEIU

On March 15, 2016, CHUNG Utak, Director of Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (UNESCO-APCEIU), and KWON Oh-Woo, Education Supervisor at the Gangwon Province, visited the TCS to discuss areas of future cooperation. During the visit, Dr. CHUNG and Mr. KWON introduced APCEIU and Gangwon Province's plans to implement trilateral education cooperation projects and requested the TCS for support.



04 Visit by the Director of the UNISDR

On July 20, 2016, Kirsi MADI, Director of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) visited the TCS and had exchanges on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) with UMEZAWA Akima, Deputy Secretary-General of the TCS. The two sides introduced each other's recent activities, reviewed their cooperation projects in the past, and discussed about the international community's efforts in DRR and the program of implementation of *the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030*. Both sides agreed to strengthen exchange and cooperation, and continue to conduct joint projects to promote the implementation of the SFDRR.



IV.

Compiling Database and Conducting Research



01. 2015-2016 Progress Report of the Trilateral Cooperation

The Progress Report of the Trilateral Cooperation is published annually with an aim of providing an overview of activities and progress of trilateral cooperation in all relevant areas. The progress report is submitted to the Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting for approval as stipulated in *the Agreement on the Establishment of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS)*. To date, the TCS has compiled the progress report five times. The 5th report, published most recently, covers activities of trilateral cooperation from May 2015 to April 2016.



02. CJK Together

The CJK Together aims to show the significance of trilateral cooperation by providing updated data and key facts on the political, economic and socio-cultural developments in the three countries. This booklet bases on infographics to easily show the dynamic and close relations among the three countries to the general public.

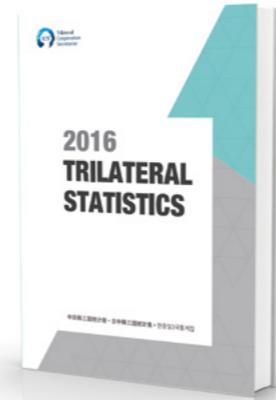


03. 2016 Trilateral Economic Report

The 2016 Trilateral Economic Report aims to continuously follow up on the economic development and integration among the three countries. The research is conducted by WEI Jigang, Researcher of Development Research Center (DRC) of the State Council from China, JUNG Kyu-Chul, Associate Fellow of Korea Development Institute (KDI), and ITOH Motoshige, Professor of Gakushuin University from Japan. The report contains the following: (1) economic profile, (2) trade in goods and services, (3) investment, (4) FTAs, (5) industrial cooperation and (6) policy proposals.

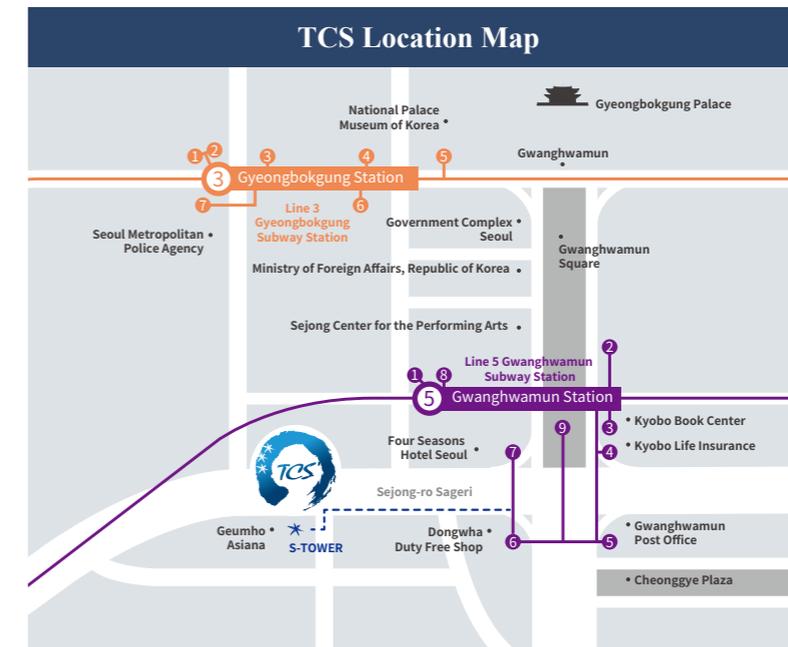
04. 2016 Trilateral Statistics

The *2016 Trilateral Statistics* contains data and figures from each country's current economic situation as well as economic relations among the three countries. Indicators on macro-economy, population, transport and resources paint a picture of the overall economic situation while indicators on intra-regional trade, investment and movement of people reveal the close connections among the three countries and the driving force for regional integration.



05. Outcome Report of International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (IFTC) 2016 and the 1st Trilateral Forum on Public Diplomacy

The *Outcome Report of IFTC 2016 and the 1st Trilateral Forum on Public Diplomacy* summarizes the achievements of the forum which has been annually held by the TCS since 2011. The forum is designed to promote the ideas and policy recommendations from various fields of governments, politicians, academia and media in order to utilize them as essential references in exploring possible roles of the TCS and in setting future agenda for the trilateral cooperation.



* The names of the countries are listed according to the protocol order of the TCS, which is based on the rotational appointment of the Secretary-General seconded by each government. In the 2015 fiscal year, the order is as follows: *the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and Japan.*