

**Joint Media Statement of the 12<sup>th</sup> China-Korea-Japan  
Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting**

(22<sup>nd</sup>, December 2019, Beijing, China)

We, the Economic and Trade Ministers of People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Japan, met in Beijing, China, on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2019, to hold the 12<sup>th</sup> China-Korea-Japan Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting.

As the three major economies in East Asia, we believed that trilateral cooperation plays an important role in maintaining economic growth, prosperity and stability of regional and global economy. Facing with the challenges of downsided risks of global economy and intensified trade and geopolitical tensions, we shared the view that we should fully utilize the three countries' industrial complementarity, and enhance trade and investment cooperative level, in the aim of contributing to regional economic integration and sustainable development. We reiterated that we are determined to build an open and inclusive global economy and reaffirm our support for the necessary WTO reform to maintain and strengthen the multilateral trade system that is open, free, fair, inclusive, transparent, non-discriminatory, predictable, and rule-based. We reaffirm our pledges against all forms of

protectionism. We also reconfirmed the importance of ensuring a level playing field to foster an enabling business environment. We will work with others toward a successful MC12 to be held in 2020 in various fields such as ongoing E-commerce negotiations and investment facilitations.

We reaffirm our commitment described in the Joint Leader's Statement on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership released in 2019. Building upon the RCEP negotiations, we will speed up the negotiations on the Trilateral Free Trade Agreement, aiming to realize a comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial Trilateral Free Trade Agreement with its own value. To implement the consensus reached by Joint Declaration of the 7th CJK Trilateral Summit in 2018, we task officials to take actions to accelerate the Trilateral Free Trade Agreement negotiations. We would continue to strengthen cooperation under the frameworks such as APEC, G20, WTO etc. We reiterated that we would continue to promote local-level cooperation, enhance mechanisms like *The Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technology Exchange Conference*, and support pragmatic cooperation of various forms at local level.

We recognized the importance of regional connectivity cooperation taking into considerations of the G20 principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, and respect for international laws. We had meaningful discussion on our CJK+ cooperation as well as cooperation in areas of energy and coping with aging society. As for the discussion on energy, we stress the need to successfully transform energy systems and cooperate in the process of energy transition, while, at a worldwide level, it is important to acknowledge that fossil fuels still play a major role.

We appreciated the completion of Joint Study Report “Trilateral Cooperation on E-Commerce” coordinated by Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat and agreed to take cooperative action based on the recommendation of the report.

We decided to hold the next Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers’ Meeting in the host country of the 9<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Leaders’ Summit.