

# The 3rd CJK Cooperation Dialogue

**Public Symposium**  
**Friday, 21 October, 2016**

## **Opening Remarks**

**KUSAKA Kazumasa**  
**Chairman and CEO, Japan Economic Foundation**

Thank you for the introduction. I am Kazumasa Kusaka, Chairman of the Japan Economic Foundation. I would like to say a few words to represent the three co-hosting organizations of today's symposium.

First, I would like to extend my sincere welcome to Ambassador Chai Xi from China, to Mr. Gong Ro-Myung, former Foreign Minister of Korea, to the members of the Chinese and Korean Dialogue members, the Japanese members of the Dialogue, Mr. Takayuki Ueda, former Vice Minister for international affairs, METI, and to all of you here today for your participation to today's symposium.

The Japan Economic Foundation has been hosting policy dialogues between industry, government, and academia from the early 1980's, and since 2000, we have emphasized our efforts in the ASEAN+6 region. With the relationship between Japan and our neighboring nations becoming more complex, we aimed at holding a smaller dialogue within a smaller group, Japan, China and Korea, to discuss, amongst the wide network of experts as well as the next generation of intellectuals in our countries, on issues that each country faces, which are actually "common agendas" for the three countries. We approached Mr. Gong of the East Asia Foundation in Korea and Dr. Zhang Yunling of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in China for a possible dialogue, to which they both gave us their approvals, and after a preparatory conference, the China-Japan-Korea Cooperation Dialogue started in Seoul in 2014.

Economic issues that arise as each country aims for sustainable growth, as well as the political and social environment that surrounds economic issues are addressed, and discussions have taken place amongst the intellectual leaders on how to solve these issues as well as lessons learned from the successes and failures in each of the three countries.

Today marks the third dialogue following Seoul and Changchun. Issues that we have discussed so far include, sharing experiences of successes and failures on how the three

countries have overcome domestic economic, social and political obstacles in pursuing FTAs, how to build growth strategies by proceeding with structural reforms that are mostly met with opposition domestically, and experiences of measures addressing environmental problems.

These are domestic issues, but are also issues that all the three countries in this region face, and are moreover common agendas for the three countries.

We will soon be faced with the challenge of declining birthrate and ageing population, and I believe that with our concerted effort to tackle this “common agenda” with a sense of companionship, it will be possible to strengthen the wide network of experts in many areas and also involve the next generation of intellectuals.

I would like to end my remarks by hoping that the discussions today will enable us to achieve this goal, and also for the bond between China, Japan and Korea to become even stronger.

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