

Joint Statement
of the China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference
on Maritime Transport and Logistics

Seoul, Korea
September 7, 2006

1. We, the Maritime Transport and Logistics Ministers of China, Japan and Korea, met in Seoul, Korea on September 7, 2006, and had a discussion on the current situation of international maritime transport and logistics of the three countries and the future cooperative measures.
2. The GDP of the three countries has gone up to 20% of the world economy. Furthermore, they have become more closely dependent on one another as the gross volume of the trade among the three countries is expanding. This volume recorded USD 400 billion in 2005, two times bigger than in 2000. The trade among the three countries is accomplished mainly by maritime transport. Thus, maritime transport and logistics plays a more significant role as the economic relationship deepens.
3. However, the disparity in socioeconomic systems and the level of development in the logistics sector among the three countries have brought different systems and procedures and this became a roadblock to the economic exchanges in logistics among the countries. In order to overcome this obstacle, it is essential for the three countries to share their views on the primary causes of impediments and bolster trilateral cooperative ties to tackle the problem.
4. Therefore, we, at the Ministerial Conference on Maritime Transport and Logistics (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Ministerial Conference’) which was held today, reaffirmed our commitment to actively strive to realize efficient and seamless international maritime transport and logistics system in Northeast Asia through mutual cooperation and exchanges, and decided on the following:

First, the Ministerial Conference is held approximately once a year and developed into an intergovernmental cooperative channel, to promote the creation of a secure, efficient, cost-effective and seamless logistics system in Northeast Asia (hereinafter referred to as the ‘seamless logistics system in Northeast Asia’)

Second, the existing trilateral intergovernmental conference on logistics among the three countries can be gradually interconnected into the Ministerial Conference. Furthermore, if necessary, the matters discussed at each conference can be reported to the Ministerial Conference.

Third, the outcomes agreed at the Ministerial Conference can be reported to the China-Japan-Korea Summit Meeting in an appropriate manner.

Fourth, the three countries would welcome the development of a logistics cooperation framework consisting of corporations and economic organizations from the three countries in addition to the Ministerial Conference. For example, private organizations would be welcomed to independently hold the forum together in conjunction with the Ministerial Conference.

Fifth, the agenda of the Ministerial Conference may cover overall logistics sectors while focusing on maritime transport.

Sixth, in order to help the logistics cooperation stabilized in Northeast Asia, the three countries would welcome the research organizations to carry out studies, particularly on the benefits of the seamless logistics system in Northeast Asia.

Seventh, the framework of the Ministerial Conference is attached in Annex 1.

Eighth, the detailed tasks, through which the three countries will jointly promote cooperation in maritime transport and logistics, will be implemented in accordance with a Plan of Action, which is attached in Annex 2.

5. The next Ministerial Conference will be held in Japan.

Annex 1: Framework of China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Maritime Transport and Logistics

Annex 2: Plan of Action for China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Maritime Transport and Logistics

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ANNEX 1

Framework of China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Maritime Transport and Logistics

1. The name of the Ministerial Conference is “China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Maritime Transport and Logistics” (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Ministerial Conference’).
2. The participating countries of the Ministerial Conference are China, Japan and Korea. Yet, other countries within Northeast Asia may join the Ministerial Conference under the agreement of the three countries.
3. The purpose, representatives, agenda and system of the Ministerial Conference are as follows:

The purpose of the Ministerial Conference is to exchange information on international maritime transport and logistics, address pending issues in the fields of maritime transport and logistics through mutual cooperation and exchange, and pursue realization of the seamless logistics system in Northeast Asia.

The Ministerial Conference is held approximately once a year and the three countries take turns holding the Ministerial Conference. The venue for the next Ministerial Conference is decided at the previous Ministerial Conference. If the three countries agree, the Ministerial Conference could be held in a third country.

The chief delegates of the Ministerial Conference are the Ministers in charge of maritime transport and logistics of the central governments in the three countries. The delegation consists of public officials from the government ministry in charge of maritime transport and logistics, public officials from other relevant government ministries, and experts from the industry if necessary.

The agenda of the Ministerial Conference may cover overall logistics sectors while focusing on maritime transport.

Under the Ministerial Conference, the meeting at the director-general level (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Director-Generals’ Meeting’) is established to deal with operation and management of the Ministerial Conference. If necessary, expert group meetings can be organized to discuss specific topics.

- a. The Director-Generals’ Meeting is composed of the director-generals in charge of the Ministerial Conference.
- b. At the Director-Generals’ Meeting, the schedule and the agenda of the Ministerial Conference will be considered and determined. A Plan of Action will also be discussed.
- c. The Director-Generals’ Meeting is held approximately once a year.

The relevant expenses for the Ministerial Conference and other meetings are covered by each country.

4. The outcomes agreed at the Ministerial Conference can be reported to the China-Japan-Korea Summit Meeting in an appropriate manner.

ANNEX 2

Plan of Action for the China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Maritime Transport and Logistics

In order to make the China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Maritime Transport and Logistics (hereinafter referred to as the 'Ministerial Conference'), rewarding and beneficial to seek coexistence of the three countries' enterprises by removing barriers of the logistics sector, China, Japan and Korea herein intended to implement the items to be collaboratively promoted as follows:

1. Improvement of inappropriate logistics related institutions and systems and solutions to the problems of making inroads into the foreign countries

The problems that impede the private enterprises' overseas operation of the three countries will be surveyed, and if necessary, each country can be called on to review and discuss the problems.

2. Creation of conditions to realize the seamless logistics system in Northeast Asia

The three countries will exchange their views on measures to create the foundation to realize the seamless logistics system in Northeast Asia, and conduct the research of mutual access of trailer chassis in Northeast Asia.

3. Efforts to establish an inter-connected logistics information network between the three countries

The three countries will make efforts to build an effective inter-connected logistics information network.

4. Exchange of information on maritime transport and logistics in Northeast Asia

The three countries will support an experts' study for establishing a database on maritime transport and logistics in Northeast Asia and review the outcome of the study on it. In addition, the three countries will examine possible solutions to exchange the statistical data in the maritime transport and logistics field.

5. Standardization of logistics equipment

The three countries can jointly study the issue of standardizing the domestic cargo containers which are being used in the three countries.

6. Promoting close cooperative relations among ports

The three countries can further strengthen close cooperative relations among ports in the three countries through Northeast Asia Port Director-General Meeting.

7. Measures to balance logistics security and efficiency

The three countries can share relevant information, exchange views on the establishment of secure and efficient logistics, and introduce the systems for logistics security and efficiency, which include the demonstration experiments utilizing the electronic tags in the maritime transport.

8. Promoting mutual exchanges, cooperation and joint researches

The three countries would welcome logistics related research institutions and universities to jointly promote logistics cooperation in Northeast Asia.

9. Sharing the outcomes of discussion in the field of logistics reported from Northeast Asia Port Director-General Meeting and other meetings

The three countries will report the outcomes to the 'Ministerial Conference', with respect to logistics discussed in the trilateral meetings, which include Northeast Asia Port Director-General Meeting.

10. Establishing environmentally less burdensome logistics policies

The three countries will exchange their views on the environmentally less burdensome logistics policies.

11. Creation of conditions to facilitate the 3PL Business

The three countries will introduce the status of promoting the advanced 3PL business in each country and exchange their views on creating conditions to facilitate the 3PL business.

12. Developing cooperation with ASEAN in the future

The three countries will explore the possibility of cooperation with ASEAN in the field of maritime transport and logistics in the future based on the Ministerial Conference.