

**The Eighth Economic & Trade Ministers' Meeting  
among Japan, the People's Republic of China  
and the Republic of Korea**

April 24, 2011, Tokyo, Japan

**JOINT STATEMENT**

We, the Economic and Trade Ministers of Japan, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea convened in Tokyo, Japan, on April 24, 2011, to hold the Eighth Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting among Japan, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea.

We would like to express our deep condolences toward the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011 and the aftermath.

The Minister of Japan is deeply grateful to the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea for their support to assist Japan in dealing with this unprecedented adversity, such as emergency rescue teams, water, food, non-food items and energy related supplies. Ministers of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea take careful note of the explanation by the Minister of Japan on the measures taken so far by the Government of

Japan to cope with the disastrous aftermaths of the aforementioned Earthquakes and Tsunami. They express their hope and conviction for Japan's quick recovery. Ministers of People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea express their willingness to continue their support upon request from Japan.

We have observed disruption of the sophisticated supply chains which have developed across the three countries and globally, involving the region and the people seriously affected by the Earthquake, Tsunami and the aftermath. Bearing this in mind, we share the view that the recovery of the stricken region as well as Japan as a whole is in the interests of all the three countries. We arrive at the common understanding that it is important to continue to secure the prompt and smooth flow of goods and persons in the Asian region.

We, the Economic and Trade Ministers of Japan, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea, are also reminded at this juncture that the maintenance and development of a free and open trade system will not only enormously support the recovery process of the stricken region of Japan but also effectively secure vigorous and sustainable growth of all three countries. Therefore, we hereby agree on the following.

We acknowledge the growing importance of a trilateral investment framework for further strengthening the

economic partnership among the three countries. In this respect, we share the view of the need to make further efforts to reach a substantive agreement in the Trilateral Investment Agreement negotiation as early as possible.

We welcome the progress to date reported by the Joint Study Committee (JSC) involving government officials, business and academic participants for an FTA among the three countries. Taking into consideration the recovery process of Japan from the disasters and recognizing the importance of cooperation for closer economic integration among the three countries, we share the view of the need for accelerating the work of the JSC and have decided to report this consensus to the coming Trilateral Summit Meeting.

Furthermore, we agree to solidify trilateral cooperation in major global and regional fora such as G20, the WTO, APEC, ASEAN Plus Three Summit and East Asian Summit (EAS). We reaffirm to support and strengthen a free, open and rule-based multilateral trading system as well as to resist protectionism in all forms. We are concerned that there has not been sufficient progress at this critical juncture of the Doha negotiations. We are resolved to make further efforts and agree that all WTO members should work together to find a way out of the current impasse, keeping in mind that 2011 is a critically important “window of opportunity” for concluding the

Doha Development Agenda, with ambitious, balanced, comprehensive and successful outcomes.

We take note with great pleasure trilateral cooperation is being actively undertaken on plenty of issues.

We welcome that trilateral economic cooperation mechanism is further reinforced by holding the Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting independently. In this context, we agree to hold the next independent Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting in the hosting country of the 2012 Trilateral Summit Meeting.

## LIST OF MINISTERS

1. H.E. Banri Kaieda,  
Minister, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry,  
Japan
2. H.E. Chen Deming,  
Minister, Ministry of Commerce, the People's Republic  
of China
3. H.E. Kim Jong-hoon,  
Minister for Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
Trade, the Republic of Korea