

## Concept Paper

### Young Professionals Exchange X Inter-Regional Dialogue

#### <20 Years of Trilateral Cooperation and Visions Beyond the Region>

- Multi-track Aspirations and Actions for ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation -

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#### **1. Relevance (Background & Significance of the Project)**

- In celebration of the 20 years of cooperation among China, Japan, and the ROK, since the first breakfast meeting among the three leaders in 1999, this project aims to reflect on the past 20 years of cooperation and how lessons learned from the decades’ experiences can be linked to the future vision for trilateral cooperation, particularly with respect to its vision for regional cooperation, in which ASEAN holds important meanings. As the trilateral cooperation inaugurated on the occasion of ASEAN+3 Summit, it seems all the more relevant for the TCS to create such opportunity to learn from the ASEAN’s 50 years of experiences of being a successful model of regional cooperation which led the integration and connectivity by both institutionalizing cooperation within the ASEAN community and with a number of partners beyond the region.
  
- The program also takes into account a question of how China, Japan, and the ROK (hereinafter referred to as “Plus Three”) can find more practical and sustainable agenda for promoting cooperation with the ASEAN, under the ASEAN+3 cooperation framework. The ASEAN and the Plus Three countries have been holding summit meetings without delay every year, and have also marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their cooperation in 2017. Moreover, both regions have permanent secretariats established for the institutionalization of cooperation – TCS and the ASEAN Secretariat. The TCS has entered its eighth year since its establishment in 2011, and the ASEAN Secretariat has systematically led regional cooperation in Southeast Asia over the past 40 years, which is currently pushing ahead on the goal of establishing the ASEAN Economic Community by 2025. Despite such historical

background and opportunity for potential cooperation, the two sides are still lacking in institutionalized platform for cooperation as well as a roadmap for implementing concrete cooperation projects utilizing these secretariats.

- The TCS has been attending the past 6 rounds of ASEAN+3 Summit as observer since its first participation in the 13<sup>th</sup> Summit in 2013. Meanwhile, the TCS has often carried out high-level exchanges with the ASEAN Secretariat, such as mutual visits between the Secretary-Generals, and organized meetings with ASEAN CPR delegation<sup>1</sup> on the occasion of their visit to the ROK. Despite such opportunities for exchanges, consultations on specific cooperation projects or on the direction of cooperation have not been made properly, nor have discussions for institutionalizing regional Secretariat-to-Secretariat (S2S) meetings or cooperation. Recently, however, the TCS-ASEAN cooperation has won the official support of the 10+3 leaders, as the Manila Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation and Work Plan 2018-2022<sup>2</sup> were adopted in 2017. Accordingly, the need for the TCS to work closely with ASEAN and produce more concrete results has increased, based on which the communication channel with ASEAN in multi-tracks can be revitalized as an important means to the institutionalization of their mutual partnership.

## 2. Objectives

- To review the development of cooperation in both Trilateral Cooperation process and ASEAN+3 cooperation framework in the past 20 years and share the lessons-learned for the future direction of inter-regional cooperation.
- To come up with concrete project ideas to facilitate multi-track cooperation including inter-agency cooperation, particularly, between the TCS and ASEAN Secretariat.
- To inter-connect networks among professionals in the two regions, particularly among young scholars, and to build sustainable partnership among the academic institutes and think-tanks doing researches on ASEAN+3 or Northeast Asia – Southeast Asia cooperation.

## 3. Expected Outputs

- The paper submitted by participants in the form of **project proposals, case-studies, work-in-progress initiatives or pilot descriptions** will be compiled into an outcome report and used as a reference for cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat in the preparation for, or after signing, an MoU with them.

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<sup>1</sup> ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) consists of 10 Permanent Representatives of the ASEAN Member States, with the rank of Ambassador

<sup>2</sup> On the occasion of the 20th ASEAN+3 Summit held on November 14, 2017, Manila Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation was adopted to commemorate the 20 years of cooperation between the ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. The 20th Summit also agreed on the 5-years-action plan titled ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022 encourages cooperation between the TCS and East Asia Business Council to ‘explore areas of mutual interest with a view to promoting deeper regional integration and further enhance the work and initiatives of APT cooperation.’

- The TCS can **build relations with the intellectual network within the ASEAN region** for deepening cooperation in the ASEAN+3 framework and **utilize broader pool of young professionals working on regional/international issues** both in Northeast and Southeast Asian regions.

#### **4. Tentative Modality of the Program**

##### **1) Overall Proceedings:**

- The program invites both young scholars/researchers and senior experts to conduct focused research and discussion on the future of ASEAN+3 Cooperation, particularly in the aspect of inter-agency cooperation. The TCS will cooperate with selected institutes in the three countries and a renowned academic network within the ASEAN region, namely, the **East Asian International Relations (EAIR) Caucus** which will ensure that the Program can successfully gather together relevant experts and promising young scholars from both Northeast and Southeast Asian regions to draw out meaningful results.
- The applications (proposals) will be accepted until June 21 (TBD), 2019, and the TCS will enlist support from the co-organizing think-tanks to send selected proposals (to be coordinated with the co-organizers later) for the TCS' review. The authors of selected proposals/papers will be invited to Inter-Regional Dialogue to be organized by the TCS in July 17-18, 2019 (TBD). The selected proposals/papers and outcome of the dialogue will be compiled into a report which will be edited also in cooperation with the co-organizers.

##### **2) Theme (Tentative):**

<20 Years of Trilateral Cooperation and Visions Beyond the Region>

- Multi-track Aspirations and Actions for ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation –

##### **3) Date & Time:**

###### **A. Concept Exchanges:** March – Early April 2019

- The TCS will select and communicate with focal-point institutes and think-tank networks (hereinafter referred to as “co-organizers”) to discuss the program concept. The theme and the modality of the program will be decided thereupon.

###### **B. Application (Call for Proposals/Papers):** April 17, 2019 – June 17, 2019

- The TCS will enlist support in releasing the ‘Call for Proposals’ from co-organizers in early April. The way of posting the Call (internally or publicly) will also be discussed with the co-organizers.

###### **C. Inter-Regional Dialogue:** July 17-18, 2019

The TCS will organize a dialogue composed of the following two sessions:

###### **a. Session 1: Experts’ Round-table**

- 2 senior scholars and experts from each of the 3 co-organizing institutes/think-tanks of CJK and 4 ASEAN experts (2 from maritime and 2 from mainland countries) will participate as panel for expert round-table to discuss the following matters:

- Prospect of ASEAN+3 or Northeast–Southeast Asia Cooperation in the next decade, reflecting on the past 20 years of cooperation in both CJK cooperation and ASEAN Plus Three framework.
  - Experiences and best practices of ‘ASEAN+’ mechanisms with other regions (ex. ASEAN+1, ASEAN-EU, ASEAN-U.S. etc.)
- Young professionals will be encouraged to participate in the discussions
- b. Session 2: Young Professionals Exchange
- 2 young professionals from C, J, K and 4 from the ASEAN (2 from maritime and 2 from mainland countries), respectively, whose proposals have been selected by the co-organizers will be invited to present their proposals at the TCS. The participants as well as the senior panel of Session 1 will be encouraged to give feedbacks to the proposed works during the Session.

*\* Invitation and selection of participants from the ASEAN side would be made by EAIR Caucus, which will serve as the ASEAN focal point for this year’s dialogue. Since limited number of participants (4 from each groups – senior experts/ young professionals) would be invited to the dialogue, balanced group formation would be critical for better representation of the ASEAN perspectives. For this reason, diverse choice of maritime and mainland or developed and less developed economies would be considered in the organization of the participant groups.*

**4) Venue: TCS Global Conference Hall (Seoul, ROK)**

**5) Host/ Organizer/Sponsor (TBD):**

- Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS)
- East Asian International Relations (EAIR) Caucus
- ASEAN Centers or Think-Tanks in CJK

**6) Participants:**

A. Experts’ Round-table

- Up to 2 scholars and experts from CJK and 4 from the ASEAN
- **Total of 10:** CJK and ASEAN

B. Young Professionals Exchange

- Graduate Students or Equivalent Researchers (postdocs are also accepted)
- **Total of 10:** CJK and ASEAN (2 from CJK, 4 from ASEAN)

C. ASEAN Secretariat

- Up to 2 officers (Director level or Assistant-Director) as observers and commentators

## 5. Financial Support<sup>3</sup>

The program will fund travel expenses for the selected panel and participants including round-trip airfare, and up to 2 nights of accommodation.

### + Attachment

- Call for Proposals

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<sup>3</sup> For partner organization, EAIR Caucus is exploring those with potential funding opportunities. The Japan Foundation has ad-hoc program funding opportunities (but they may be more willing to fund Japanese researchers only). Some German foundations can be considered, like Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, and Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung (each has different agenda in funding East Asia-related seminars or conference).