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- Title:** KFF – TCS 2016 International Conference
- Date:** October 12, 2016
- Theme:** Trilateral Economic Cooperation – Towards the Establishment of the East Asian Economic Community
- Location:** International Conference Room, Press Center
- Speakers:**
1. Prof. Ou Minggang, China Foreign Affairs University
 2. Prof. NAKAGAWA Junji, University of Tokyo
 3. LEE JONG-WHA, Director of Asiatic Research Institute, Korea University
 4. TOSHIKI Takahashi, Chief Economist at the Institute for International Trade and Investment of Japan
 5. Prof. HE Min, China Foreign Affairs University
 6. UMEYAWA Akima, Deputy Secretary – General of Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

Summary:

The trilateral economic cooperation among China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) never stopped. Asia is the world's most dynamic region. China, Japan and ROK together have a population of 1.54 billion and three countries' total GDP reaches 16.9 trillion dollars. It is the world's biggest market. Currently, the rate of regional intra-trade is lower than that of the EU or that of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), but it seems it will emerge as the world's greatest economic region in the near future. So the three countries have a leading role in economic growth and in the region of Northeast Asia.

There are no doubts about the matter of economic integration and cooperation and their advantages. What is more important is that how this could be further developed, how problems that may occur (like Brexit) could be solved, and how the countries could concentrate power. They have to find other and new markets to be not dependent of EU or North America.

Northeast Asia can work together to promote peace, security and prosperity on the Korean peninsula, which would also serve the best interests of neighbouring countries and the international community. The sudden collapse of North Korea or a military conflict on the peninsula would threaten regional security and prosperity, not to mention burden its neighbouring countries with millions of refugees and hundreds of billions in reconstruction cost. If North Korea, with its potential for growth, adopts comprehensive market-oriented reform and opening, it will have an opportunity to display dynamism. However, the current situation on the Korean peninsula is a stalemate: Despite tougher sanctions pushed by the U.S. and the U.N. sanctions, North Korea continues its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. There is a need in the region and international community for deepening economic, political and security cooperation to make North Korea abandon nuclear programs and take reforms toward a more market-oriented and open economy. A Northeast Asian Economic Community may evolve by incorporating North Korea when it becomes a "normal country".

China, Japan and ROK have to cooperate and set up a shared vision alongside good strategies for the establishment of an economic community toward peace, stability and prosperity in the region.