

# **Seoul Declaration on the Role of Youth**

## **for Enhancing Mutual Cooperation of Korea- China- Japan**

We, the participants of the Korea, China, and Japan Youth Friendship Meeting 2009 held in Seoul, Korea during 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> of July are committed to enhancing mutual cooperation among the three countries.

Reaffirming what has been proposed and suggested in the previous two meetings held in Beijing and Tokyo, youth should be engaged in more activities and programs which will promote mutual cooperation among the three countries;

Considering many similarities and differences of the three countries as well as common challenges we face, and that youth of the three countries are urged to play a constructive role in creating a better future for the three countries;

Stressing the important role of the common Asian Culture which binds the three countries, and their youth's desire to know more about each other's culture and society;

Recognizing the necessity to overcome long-held prejudices and misconceptions from older generations that hinder future-oriented cooperative relationships;

Convinced that genuine understanding of each country's society and culture can be fulfilled if solutions are pursued in a cooperative and continuous manner;

### **1. We agree that the following issues should be regarded as priorities for the enhancement of mutual understanding and cooperation**

1.1 Recognizing the lack of awareness in social and cultural issues and the need for an increased access by the youth to necessary information regarding social activities with special emphasis on:

- Defining social participation as making direct or indirect actions voluntarily cooperating with other people in order to contribute to society by solving problems of common concern the three countries have been facing domestically and regionally.

1.2 Understanding that cultural exchange plays a vital role in enhancing mutual cooperation with special emphasis on:

- Providing the youth with more opportunities for cultural exchange which will help overcome prejudices made by old generations and lead to a future-oriented relationship.

1.3 Recognizing the need to build a secure cyber-world which is founded on internet users' mutual trust and respect with special emphasis on:

- Balancing the interests of copy-right and copy-left, in which copy-right aims to protect the right of the developer, and copy-left grants a system of cooperation and fair distribution of benefits.

**2. We agree that the implementation of above priorities should be based on the following approaches and methods:**

*As regards encouraging more active social participation*

2.1 Establishing a new website funded by the governments or relevant organizations of the three countries to classify and compile all types of youth-related NGOs.

2.2 Organizing more cultural exchange venues as a means to provoke social awareness, and developing a “uni-character” as a means to better communicate with each other.

2.3 Relying on existing youth organizations network in Korea, China and Japan to have better understanding of the responsibility of the youth in Northeast Asia.

2.4 Publishing a periodical newsletter funded by the governments, NGOs, and private enterprises to share important information on youth activities which will be distributed through the channel of youth network.

*As regards achieving more vibrant cultural exchange*

2.5 Increasing the level of understanding of other cultures, using cultural symbols of each country such as Japan's animation, Korea's K-pop and China's *Kungfu* in order to overcome the common-held prejudice that Western culture is superior to Asian culture.

2.6 Providing more opportunities to experience and learn about other cultures by urging the governments, schools, corporations and relevant organizations to offer joint scholarship, internship, leadership programs, cultural shows and exhibitions, and organizing joint pop concerts and TV shows, and engaging more youths in those programs.

2.7 Recommending the media to report news based on facts and identified information to prevent unfounded or distorted news from causing misunderstanding and prejudice on other countries and their people, and engaging celebrities to play an important role in building a sound perception of other countries.

*As regards building a sound cyber culture*

2.8 Introducing a set of social entrepreneurships dealing with cyber security, web integration, and intellectual property rights concerns that will be run by youth entrepreneurs, financially supported by interested individuals and organizations.

2.9 Encouraging the youth to participate in web-based broadcasting activities regarding news, history and tourism which will lead to a better understanding of each other's society and culture.

- 3. We, the representatives of the Korea, China and Japan Friendship Meeting 2009, sincerely propose this as a guideline for future-oriented partnerships among the three countries. We believe that the goal of this meeting, promotion of mutual cooperation, can better be achieved when suggestions and recommendations we reached are properly implemented.**
  
- 4. We urge pertinent personnel and organizations to take the present Declaration into consideration when formulating youth policies, and encourage young people and youth organizations to implement the recommendations set out in this declaration at the local, regional and global levels.**

*Submitted on July 26, 2009 in Seoul, Korea  
by the Participants of the Korea, China, Japan Youth Friendship Meeting 2009*