1. Summary of the Symposium

The past 20 years’ development of East Asia in economic development and intra-regional exchanges has been remarkable. Although the region has experienced a temporary financial crisis, international trade, movement of people and cultural exchanges within the region have been more active than ever partly due to high economic growth and political stability in many countries. Particularly in East Asia, including China, Republic of Korea (hereafter simply called ‘Korea’) and ASEAN countries, many Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) have been signed between countries, and the discussions for strengthening regional cooperation, including talks on possible frameworks for East Asian Community, have been activated. However, there are still a number of dissonances and of discords between China, Korea and Japan – the countries that would be the core of the regional integration. These became apparent in the period between 2000 and 2005, when political tensions culminated between them over the interpretation of histories, territorial issues and others.

Convincing that this region would not have a bright future unless these three nations, which share a great deal of history and culture, constructed amicable future-oriented relations, Kyushu University Asia Center, the Chinese Academy of Social Science, and Dongguk University launched a China-Korea-Japan comprehensive joint research project in 2006. This project led them to host a total of three consecutive symposiums in Fukuoka, Seoul, and Qingdao. One of the key characteristics of these symposiums is that discussions have centered on topics that directly link to our daily lives, including popular culture, medical and bioethics, industrial collaboration, aging society and
cross-border environmental issues. This rested on their belief that the moves towards regional integration will not advance unless mutual understanding and empathy are developed among the general public of the three countries, although the issues of political framework and economic agreements are also undeniably important. It is also a reflection of simple perceptions and interests of the people in Kyushu who feel closely related to China and Korea, which are literally across a narrow strip of water. In other words, it has been conceptualized from local citizens’ perspectives.

Three points have been clarified throughout the previous discussions in the past symposiums. First, people in the three countries know surprisingly little about one another, in respect of the manner that people of their neighboring countries think, live, and behave, even though they are geographically so close. Second, there are many similarities in areas such as culture, but many differences also exist, and the obsession of being close each other often leads to misunderstandings and conflicts. Third, while having differences in political regimes and historical views, the three countries are awash in the tide of globalization which accelerates not only mutual economic reliance and infiltration of cultures but also common risks in the region, to which they have to respond.

For instance, while mutual entry of popular culture among the three countries advances, narrow-sighted and chauvinistic nationalism has emanated from widening social disparities and high-speed mobility are becoming a major impediment to the regional harmony and integration. As cross-border industrial supply chains have been expanding, they are also increasingly faced with common risks in terms of resources, environment and safety of the products. All three nations are now heading for aging societies with declining birthrates and a growing proportion of the elderly at a faster rate than any other countries in the world. Their social welfare systems are confronted with financial risks, as a result of a relative decline in the working-age population and a rapid increase in social costs for the elderly. The three nations also bear common risks of aggravating regional environment, including global warming, atmospheric pollutions and a worsening marine environment in the East China Sea area.

The 4th symposium was held with these points in mind. Its main subject, “Regional Cooperation in East Asia: Common Risks and Challenges in Our Daily Lives”, exemplifies a common belief of the participants. In order for the East Asian region, centered on China, Korea and Japan, to move towards the formation of a future regional community in terms of economy and culture, and to overcome differences in
historical/political positions, it is imperative that they correctly recognize common risks underlying in their daily lives, deepen understanding each other, examine possible options to avoid such risks, and build a foundation for coalition and joint actions.

Many views, findings, and recommendations were presented at the symposium. During her keynote lecture entitled “To love neighbors beyond knowledge”, Ms Nobuko TAKAGI, an Akutagawa Prize-winning novelist and a professor of Kyushu University Asia Center, mentioned that there was a limit to making each other understand through logics and materials, and stressed the important role of cultural media such as the novel. She stated that it can describe an individual’s inner feelings, and create empathy and intimacy among the peoples beyond national boundaries.

Another keynote lecturer, Dr Tamotsu AOKI, a professor of Aoyama Gakuin University and former Commissioner for Cultural Affairs of Japan, expressed his expectations during his lecture entitled “Potentiality for academic and cultural exchanges among Japan, China and Korea” that Kyushu University, based on various achievements made by its Asia Center, would become a hub of academic and cultural exchanges in East Asia, and promote mutual understandings in East Asia. He explained that in Europe and North America, there were universities and centers, which have acted as hubs of common culture for their region; however, there was no such hub in East Asia.

At the following each specialized session, research outcomes and proposals were actively presented. In the session of Culture, a series of interesting findings were reported regarding a connection between popular culture and mutual images – a Japanese animation & manga boom among the Chinese youth was not directly linked to significantly improving their Japan’s image due to its ‘stateless nature’, whereas a Hanlyu (Korean Wave) boom, including TV dramas, which carry nationality of Korea, significantly contributed to the improvement of Korean images among Japanese people.

In the session of Aging, it emerged that subtle differences exist among three countries in the use of concepts and terminologies on ‘aging’, due to differences in the social systems. In urban China there were autonomous local organizations known as the
‘community’ (社区), which take care of elderly persons in their own sites – a significantly different approach compared to the state-run nursing care system for the elderly in Japan.

Moreover, during the session of Food, it was pointed out that all three nations were rushing to improve the system of ensuring food safety and security, but no integrated system to cover the entire cross-border supply chains had been built yet.

The session of Industrial Cooperation discussed that a new model of business partnership centering on “Greater China” had appeared and that common values of corporate citizens were now being questioned. The discussion centered on how business human resources should be developed for strengthening partnerships in the region.

The session of Cross-border Environment found that mutual understandings on trans-boundary atmospheric environmental issues such as dust and sandstorm (DSS) and acid rain, have progressed as a result of international projects in these fields. However, it acknowledged the need for launching a decisive international project to address the issues of cross-border marine environment such as giant jellyfish and red tide. The presenters in the session confirmed the necessity of recommendations based on environmental economic studies focusing on the cost sharing methods, by which both generating and suffering countries could agree.

The outcome of discussions among the participants of the 4th symposium will be summarized by each session and published in coauthored books called “The East Asia Regional Integration Series”. It should be timely because the Hatoyama Administration of Japan has just been formed, and the framework for East Asian Community has been brought into the spotlight once again. The 4th symposium and its results are expected to contribute to the realization of the frameworks.

Due to time constraints, a declaration by all participants was not prepared at the 4th symposium. However, many useful recommendations and indications were made during the meetings. Abstracts of general messages, keynote lectures, and valuable recommendations presented in each session are provided below, though some of them may overlap to some extent.
2. Summary of Recommendations

① In order for China, Korea, and Japan to develop side by side and advance towards the formation of a peaceful and vibrant regional community, it is necessary to foster mutual understanding, empathy, and confidence among the general public. A network of cooperation and joint actions should be urgently constructed. Efforts for deepening discussions and mutual understanding should continue by addressing the issues that the general public of the three nations are facing in their ordinary life, identifying common risks, and looking into ways to reduce such risks.

② In Europe and America, there are distinctive institutes that act as a region’s core for cross-border cultural and academic activities. It is expected that similar hub institutes will be created in East Asia. The activities of Kyushu University Asia Center can become the foundation for such hub creation.

③ Logics and statistical materials alone have limits in promoting mutual understanding. The role of cultural media including novels, which can create empathy beyond national borders, should be given more attentions.

④ The influence of media on forming an image of a neighboring country is very significant. Discussions and comprehension of the role played by the media should be deepened among the parties involved in the three countries.

⑤ The influence of media varies with the type of medium. The spread of cross-border culture and internet information does not always lead to mutual understanding and a favorable image of others. Further analysis and discussion in this field are recommended.

⑥ Although being in different phases, China, Korea and Japan face serious risk of demographic change associated with aging and economic development. The three countries should work, in collaboration, to create such societies that healthy elderly persons with longer life spans can be appropriately involved as active members of the society (under the concept of ‘active aging’).

⑦ With the aim of developing human resources who can play a central role in policy making for an aging society and creating aging-related markets, an international hub for joint studies and policy research should be established in Fukuoka.

⑧ With regard to the regional environment in East Asia, natural scientists are
required to accumulate scientific evidences, continue studies and discussions, promote a common understanding of natural phenomena, and report the study results to the public. Social scientists are required to further study the feasible cost sharing mechanisms for tackling cross-border environmental issues that the general public accepts and the governments in three countries can implement based on the findings of natural science.

⑨ The further development of industrial sectors in East Asia including China, Korea, and Japan hinges on how best they can collaborate not only for ‘products’, but also for ‘soft aspects’ such as management thoughts. It is indispensable for the region to develop international human resources who can deal with wide-ranging Asian business, and to strengthen a partnership on Corporate Social Responsibility (CRS) through which business enterprises incorporate social responsibilities in their business operations.

⑩ As food supply chains are being established among China, Korea, and Japan, the three nations should urgently develop a regional structure to integrate policy making and inspection systems for food safety and security, while promoting the exchange of information and technology. Each country should also make efforts to provide economic and social incentives for safer food, and foster a sense of duty among producers and persons involved in food industry.

3. Abstracts of Five Sessions

The results of the five sessions are outlined below. The programs of each session are introduced after these abstracts.

1) Culture Session: Media Culture and the Formation of Mutual Images
The Hatoyama Administration is undertaking summit diplomacy under its Asia-centered foreign policy, including the realization of ‘East Asia Community’. On the political level, China, Korea and Japan have moved towards more amicable relations. However, the image that the public has of its neighboring countries does not show much sign of significant improvement. The current picture can be described as “enthusiasm within governments, apathy among the publics”. In this session, issues of media culture and the formation of mutual images were raised. The recognition of the other countries and their people, as well as public sentiment, can be significantly influenced by the media, including newspapers, televisions and the internet. Eight scholars from China, Korea and Japan actively debated, and made various recommendations to improve mutual recognition and relationships at the grass-roots level.

A scholar from China reported that recently, the image of Japan in China was improving. However, the image of China in Japan was not, and one of the reasons might be differences in the way the mass media reported in each country. Another Chinese scholar reported that the internet was becoming highly influential over opinion formation, and that the nationalism among young generations can not be free from such influence. A Korean scholar reported that along with the socio-economic development, the Korean view of its own culture was changing. The Korean presenter reported that in literature, a tendency towards “I novel” was strengthening. On the one hand, modern Japanese literature and Japanese film culture are becoming accepted. However, such a trend is not always linked to the improvement of Korean sentiments towards Japan.

A Japanese scholar reported that young people in China also widely accepted Japanese animations and manga. However, she pointed out that in their mind the acceptance of the above was separated from issues with Japan and/or nationalism. Another Japanese scholar analyzed mixed feelings of zainichi Koreans who have seen Japan’s Hanlyu and sentiments of Japanese females who hanker for a ‘bona fide Korea’. She pointed out that although the Hanlyu in Japan was unlikely to lead to a solution of political issues between Japan and Korea, it might lead to mutual understanding in the future.

2) Aging Session: Building a Platform for Aging Policy Research in East Asia

In Japan and South Korea, the society is aging at the fastest rate in the world. In China too, the aging is advancing as a result of its one-child policy. As mutual aid within a family and/or a community crumbles, the deterioration of social welfare, healthcare, and pensions, due to financial reasons, is becoming a cause for concern. The
countries continue to grope in the dark to find measures to cope with an aging society at all levels, involving administration and local residents. Is it possible to share experiences among China, Korea and Japan, despite differences in systems and culture? Under what circumstances will it become possible to share experiences? In the session six scholars from the three nations reported current situations, and debated with the aim of producing tangible recommendations on the issues of an aging society with which the three nations are confronted.

The situations of aging society in Korea and China are not well known in Japan. These were reported under the titles of “Current situation and challenges of health and care policies for the elderly in Korea”, and “Lifestyle of the elderly in current China”. In the former report, the presenter explained about the daily life and health of the elderly. Reference was mainly to the implementation and effects of Korea’s long-term medical treatment insurance system, which was introduced in Korea last July. In the latter report, the possible role that a local residents’ community in Chinese society (社区) could play in aging society was described.

As for Japan, a presenter delivered a report under the title, “Possibilities of applying Japanese models in East Asia on the measures to tackle the risks of an aging society”. This looked at how the cases in Japan, which entered into a super-aging society before any other country, could be utilized to deal with the issues of an aging society in other countries. Another report “The ideal and the reality of Japanese elderly care service insurance” pointed out that current Japanese social system, which must have been introduced to deal with the arrival of the super-aging society, still had many institutional and practical challenges, by highlighting the Japan’s elderly care service insurance program.

To show the current circumstances of aging societies, two additional reports were made under the titles of, “Threats to a stable retired life and possible counter measures”, and “Population growth and new social risks in China”. They were from the viewpoint of a rapid transformation of society that poses new risks in an aging society.

Although the three nations are in different phases, they are following the same path. If this trend persists, they will face new social risks on the aging of populations and
economic development. These include not only the problem of income distribution between generations to support the elderly, but also that of the shrinkage of populations that support the next generation (due to low birthrate, smaller number of children and shortage of labor in the care service sector).

It is contemplated that in the foreseeable future, the three nations may enter into a preparatory stage of adjusting institutional settings for elderly in an anticipation of possible future market integration in the region. In this regard, it is recommended that an international hub for conducting joint study and policy research should be established in Fukuoka, aimed at managing these common social risks. Through the exchange of personnel and experiences in this hub, China, Korea and Japan should jointly undertake the creation of a society in which the elderly are appropriately involved as active members of society (an ‘active aging’ society). This hub will also contribute to the formulation of common standard policies and the development of common market suitable for the unique aging situation in East Asia where.

3) Environment Session: Cross-border Environmental Problems in East Asia

In the East Asian region, cross-border environmental problems are worsening through atmospheric and oceanic circulations. Solving these problems is not easy because such issues as upstream and downstream of pollution and disparities in economic and technological conditions would emerge among concerned countries. A mechanism similar to one in Baltic nations may be introduced in the East Asian region so that researches and analysis are conducted by scientists and specialists of member nations, and appropriate measures are examined internationally. In this session, current situation and problems in each country were reported and discussed by 13 natural and social scientists from the three nations.

At the beginning of the session, the coordinator explained its theme: “Cross-border Environmental Problems in East Asia”. This was then followed by reports on specific
environmental problems, which had cross-border effects in the region via atmospheric and oceanic circulations. As clearly indicated by titles such as “Asian-Dust transport in the air into the Yellow Sea”, “Material transport in the marine atmosphere over the East China Sea”, “Transport of atmospheric persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in the East China Sea”, “The influence of the Changjiang on the Low-trophic ecosystem in the East China Sea”, and “Behavior of low salinity water mass from the Northern East China Sea to the Korea/Tsushima Strait”, the discussions produced firm scientific evidences on environmental degradation and led to a common recognition that closer collaboration among the three nations was essential.

What drifts across borders and seas is not limited to natural matters such as dust and sandstorm (DSS) and ecosystem alteration. Of serious concern in recent years is the issue of litter that rides ocean currents and is washed ashore from neighboring nations. Reports titled ‘East China Sea marine-litter prediction experiment conducted by citizens and researchers’, and ‘Modeling of marine litter drift and beaching in the Japan Sea’, took particular note of this unique subject.

At the same time, it is true that theories and slogans alone are insufficient to solve actual environmental problems. Theory should be put into action through the provision of funds, better understanding and cooperation of local people, and the establishment of ‘environment industries’. Reports entitled “An economic analysis of trans-boundary pollution issues in Northeast Asia”, “Regional cooperative approach solving trans-boundary pollution problems” and “China’s challenge for environmental protection industry”, strongly indicated that environmental issues were social issues that could not be solved by simply regarding them as natural phenomena. Additionally, as an attempt to introduce current research status in each country, “Outline of Dalian Fisheries University”, “Outline of research activities at Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute”, and “Outline of PEACE’s activities”, were presented.

The session was held as the third consecutive session, following the first session in Seoul (2007) and the second session in Qingdao (2008), and with each session, communication among researchers from the three nations improved. Steps that natural and social scientists in these nations should take for solving cross-border environmental problems became clearer. It was confirmed among natural scientists that in order to share scientific understanding (cause, process and result), they needed to continue to accumulate scientific evidence in the future, actively analyze and debate them, and disclose research results to the public in their own countries. Meanwhile, participated social scientists confirmed that they needed further studies on feasible cost sharing mechanisms for cross-border environmental problems that would convince the general
public of the three nations and offer governments feasible policy options.

4) **Industrial Cooperation Session: Business Collaboration and Value Sharing in East Asia**

Economic growth in China has spurred transnational division of labor and expanded the supply-chain network throughout East Asia. At the same time, it has also entwined the East Asian nations to share common risks in the aspects of environment, resources, food safety, etc. In the Industrial Cooperation Session, six presenters reported from their own positions on how the East Asian business circle, centered around China, Korea and Japan could enhance partnership not only for ‘products’, but also for the ‘soft aspect’ such as management spirit/disciplines. The session discussed “The successful cases of China-Japan industrial cooperation”, “The evaluation of corporate governance”, “The creation of new business models” and “The Development of appropriate business human resources for Asia”.

The Japanese perspective was presented regarding successful and unsuccessful industrial collaborations with China, historical retrospections of Japanese investment in China, and the lessons learnt from such retrospections. A successful attempt of enhanced cooperation was presented by quoting the case of by major Japanese automobile companies which formulated an industrial cluster in Guangzhou by sharing similar corporate culture while the world’s manufacturers were deploying industrial agglomerations in the gigantic Chinese market.

There was also a report that IT industries were embarking upon a new innovative business-model of ‘industrial cooperation’ which combines various business entities ’in Europe, America, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Japan, with Greater China as a core. The session intensively debated future challenges including the development of international human resources who have a capacity to take the lead in a wide range of Asian businesses and a need for injecting corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the center of business operations with an aim of joining social activities.
More specifically, following points were reported in the session:
- A cross-border supply chain was formed in Asia, and multinational companies that focused on their own resources and ‘vertically-integrated’ division were now shifting towards ‘horizontal’ international cooperation with the use of external resources - the key being the development of human resources that could take the lead in such business structures;
- In South Korea, Yeungjin Junior College succeeded in applying its highly-reputable ‘made-to-order’ education to international scenes and developed human resources for business-academy partnerships between Korea and Japan, as well as between Korea and China; As for China-Japan industrial cooperation, recruitment/development of personnel who understand national differences and corporate cultures’ as well as ‘effective use of senior personnel’ were recommended.

Topics such as ‘Will the era referred to as Pax Asiana actually arrive?’, ‘What CSR means to shareholders who seek maximum value in capital?’, or ‘Who are companies for?’ were also vigorously discussed.

5) Food Session: Building the System for Stable Supply of Reliable Food

The recent turmoil in the international food market and the emergence of food safety issues have made us realize the significance of the risks of food security in Japan, Korea and China. Their governments are in serious discussions about securing food safety. However, mutual confidence-building among the general public and farmers of the three nations has not yet materialized, and no system has been built for ensuring safety throughout the entire food supply chain, including distributors and processors. Based on these concerns, existing problems and realistic solutions for the safety of the entire food system in China, Korea and Japan were analyzed and, at the same time, coordinated measures by the three countries for food safety in the future were explored in this session.

Firstly, presenters from Japan, China and Korea reported the concept, the mechanism, and the actual application of the system that guaranteed food safety in their
own country. In Japan where consumers show particularly high interest in food safety, a
good progress was reported not only on a systematic response such as traceability, but
also joint responses of the state and private sector to increase the system’s effectiveness.
However, South Korea and China are currently at a stage of pouring their efforts into the
latter course. It revealed that there are differences in the level of confidence regarding
food safety among the consumers in each country. As a result, debates in the session
focused on how a food system in which consumers were able to place their confidence
could be constructed, how risk communication to consumers could be widely practiced,
and how a reliable system could be established for the entire food chain in East Asia.

Secondly, the session discussed topics such as the current status of risk
communication in each country, the method of spreading the system of securing
confidence at production stage, including good agricultural practice (GAP) and HACCP,
and China being behind in the implementation of a system for securing food safety.
During the session, deep concerns were expressed about the safety of products from
China. However, it was pointed out that in China, strict safety checks were now
conducted, and it was only the matter of information on such practices that was not
being widely transmitted.

Third, it was agreed that the tightening of regulations alone was not sufficient for a
stable supply of reliable food, and thus it was felt necessary to provide economic and
social incentives to encourage active engagement of stakeholders in supplying food of a
consistent safe standard. At the same time, farmers and food processors have to realize
their duties of meeting their responsibilities as providers of safe food. Consumers
should also foster an ability to select safe food by themselves without merely accepting
given information unquestioningly.

Lastly, concerns were raised about the fact that although a huge supply chain that
stretches across Japan, China and Korea is being developed, no common standard or
mechanism for safety has yet been developed. Therefore, it was recommended that the
three countries should reinforce the partnership, share information and technology, and
urgently develop an integrated international system for food safety and inspection
mechanism.