

The First Japan–China–ROK (Republic of Korea) Trilateral Summit Meeting was held on December 13 at the Kyushu National Museum in Dazaifu City, Fukuoka Prefecture, attended by Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso, Premier Wen Jiabao of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, and President Lee Myung-bak of the Republic of Korea. This was the first time for a Japan–China–ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting to be held independently of any other meeting. At the meeting, the leaders reached common recognition that the tripartite cooperation will be guided under the



FIRST JAPAN-CHINA-ROK TRILATERAL SUMMIT MEETING HELD

principle of openness, transparency, mutual trust, common interest, and respect for their diverse cultures. On international finance and economy, they agreed to reinforce regional cooperation in order to stabilize their financial markets and international financial markets. They agreed on the need to strengthen the Chiang Mai Initiative and to increase the capital of the Asian Development Bank. Their joint statement on international finance and economy stated, “Asian countries are expected to play a role as ‘the center of world economic

growth’ in order to reverse the downward trend of the world economy and return it to the path of sustainable growth.” Moreover, the three countries agreed to organize trilateral ministerial meetings starting next year to strength disaster management, and discussed regional situations including North Korea, as well as global challenges such as the environment, disarmament and non-proliferation.

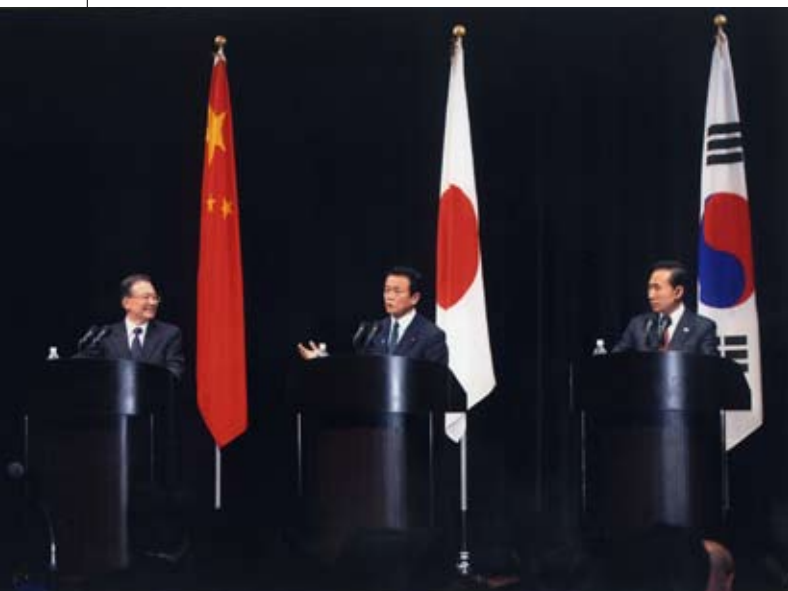
At a joint press conference after the meeting, Prime Minister Aso noted, “For the leaders of the three northeast Asian neighbors, all major

countries in the world, to come together periodically and to step up cooperation amongst them should be regarded as a dramatic development that will contribute significantly to the stability and prosperity of this region and the entire world. In fact, the combined GDP of the three countries will account for 16.7 percent of the global total, and in terms of trade, also 16.6 or 16.7 percent.”

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http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/asophoto/2008/12/13summit_e.html

<http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/asophoto/2008/12/14kankyoe.html>



FACING: Following the Japan-China-ROK Summit, (from the left) Republic of Korea President Lee Myung-bak, Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso and Premier Wen Jiabao of the People's Republic of China pose in front of a *kazari yamakasa* at the Kyushu National Museum in Dazaifu City, Fukuoka Prefecture. This *kazari yamakasa* is paraded around Fukuoka City during the Hakata Gion Yamakasa Matsuri festival each year.

ABOVE: The three leaders hold a joint press conference after the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting.

Aso Attends the International Seminar on Promoting the Eco-Model Cities for the Low Carbon Society 2008



ABOVE: Prime Minister Aso makes the opening address at the International Seminar on Promoting the Eco-Model Cities for the Low Carbon Society 2008.

On December 14, Prime Minister Taro Aso attended the International Seminar on Promoting the Eco-Model Cities for the Low Carbon Society 2008 which took place in Kitakyushu city. The event provided a forum for six cities, selected from around Japan by the government as Eco-Model Cities to exchange opinions with experts from foreign cities that are at the vanguard of environmental policy.

In his opening address, Prime Minister Aso said, “At stake is how we can reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases through the participation by all residents, like here in Kitakyushu, involving local companies, citizens, and non-political organizations (NPOs), and furthermore by the whole of Japan. Looking ahead, I have renewed my determination to exert Japan's leadership, aiming to create a framework participated in by all members including the United States, China, and India.”

The environmental initiatives of Japan's six eco-model cities, as well as those of Freiburg (Germany), Malmo (Sweden) and Portland, Oregon (United States) were debated at the seminar in a panel discussion.