



**Opening Remarks by GONG Ro-Myung
Chairman, East Asia Foundation / former Minister of Foreign Affairs**

First of all, I want to sincerely welcome and thank all of you for attending the 1st China-Japan-Korea Cooperation Dialogue hosted by the East Asia Foundation.

Earlier this year, I met with Zhang Yunling, Director of International Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and Kazumasa Kusaka, Chairman and CEO of the Japan Economic Foundation at a preparatory meeting in Seoul. We agreed to establish the 1st "China-Japan-Korea Cooperation Dialogue." The dialogue was set to be held in Seoul during the second half of 2014. Today, I am very pleased to see that the East Asia Foundation, with support from the National Research Council for Economics, Humanities, and Social Science, fulfilled this agreement by hosting the 1st CJK Cooperation Dialogue.

Our nations share a long and intertwined history. While it has at times been challenging to overcome our historical experiences, we must look towards the future and endeavor to work together to solve the problems of today. As global trade connects our countries in ways that only a few generations ago were unimaginable, it is important to consider the ramifications of free trade agreements. What kind of impact will such agreements have upon the various sectors of our nations? How will our governments respond? And what might this mean for the future of our economies and people? Our nations continue to look towards new opportunities for trade agreements, so I hope we can take a moment to ponder how such agreements might shape and strengthen our mutual cooperation in the years to come.

Of course, in any discussion of trade we must also remain vigilant to the cost it has upon the environment. Climate change is an ongoing challenge that we must face together. The ecological consequences of growth transcend borders and create issues for all of us. It is my hope that through our cooperation, we can work towards reducing the ecological impact of growth so that we all can continue to enjoy a better quality of life.

Today's dialogue serves as a valuable opportunity for all sides to address their concerns as we strive to build the relationships that will deepen our cooperation. It is my hope that this dialogue will contribute to an enhanced level of cooperation and understanding among our nations. Each of us has unique historical experiences to draw upon in the hopes of broadening our understanding of each other.

With a great support from Hyundai Motors, the East Asia Foundation is a public service foundation established in 2005 with a mission to promote peace and prosperity not only on the

Korean Peninsula, but throughout East Asia by building trust through human and knowledge networks.

We want to deeply thank all of the representatives that joined us today for this dialogue. We hope that through your active participation, this meeting will become a valuable opportunity to advance cooperation between our nations. Thank you.