

## Memorandum of Cooperation Concluded between the JFIR and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat



JFIR President ITO Kenichi (left) and TCS Secretary General YANG Houlan

On December 15, 2015, Secretary General YANG Houlan (China) and Deputy Secretary Generals LEE Jong-heon (South Korea) and UMEZAWA Akima (Japan) of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS), the joint consultative body among the three governments of Japan, China, and South Korea, visited the Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR) and signed the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with the JFIR.

The JFIR has already represented Japan in various international frameworks in East Asia, including the Network of East Asian Think-tanks (NEAT) and the East Asian Forum (EAF). In addition to these frameworks, JFIR has newly joined the Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-tanks (NTCT) participated by Japan, China, and South Korea in August, 2015.

The NTCT was established at the Seventh Japan-China-South Korean Foreign Ministerial Meeting held in Seoul on March 21, 2015. The NTCT is jointly administered by the government appointed "National Focal Points (NFP)" of the three member states, i.e., China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) of China, Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) of Korea, and JFIR of Japan.

At the signing ceremony of the MOC, Secretary General YANG Houlan stated, “The Japanese people thankfully welcome the Chinese people visiting Japan for sightseeing. That is how the relationship between the two countries of Japan and China truly is.”