



## **Reconciliation, Mutual Understanding, and Cooperation by History Education: Case of Korea, China, and Japan**

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Much like the neighboring countries in other regions, three countries in Northeast Asia- Korea, China and Japan- have historically suffered from each other through invading and being invaded. Especially in the age of imperialism, during the later nineteenth century, Japan took over territories in Korea and China. That left deep wounds to the two countries, and even now conflicts are going on between the three countries, particularly in terms of history education and territorial border. The European countries have gone through similar experiences in the last few centuries. They sought out for the reconciliation, mutual understanding, and cooperation by developing common history textbook and education programme after the Second World War. This in turn has been a great leap forward towards the European Union and created a synergy becoming the foundation for the European community. Furthermore, European countries have installed a joint higher education institution and other cooperation such as the Erasmus program, in order to heighten the sense of identity among the future generations. The situation in East Asia is left behind relatively. Joint history studies and education programme have been in progress, in part, but the scale and the outcome have been negligible. The Korea-Japan Research Committee was established in 2002 by the Korean and the Japanese governments. Teachers, researchers, and civic groups from each country have made a few kinds of common history text. Unfortunately key issues of history still remain unresolved and obtaining public attention and support has not been so successful. In order to achieve a progress like Europe, the three countries of Korea, China, and Japan need to share a wider common perspective to understand the past history. Efforts should be taken, not to judge but to promote mutual understanding towards future collaboration. And journalism is strongly requested to participate in such efforts