

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

International agreements in the regional scope such as ASEAN, the European Union, and East Asia show that each region has complex problems even though they differ in political systems and ideologies of countries. These problems often have an impact not only domestically, but also across regional borders, issues such as the development of food waste escalation, declining access to food and energy imports, and regional economic challenges are unique threats to regional stability.¹ East Asian countries such as China which still occupies the second strongest economy in the world, Japan with modern technology, automotive, and manufacturing industries, not only in terms of modern technology and infrastructure, South Korea is also successful in electronics and semiconductors, showing that East Asia has great economic potential.²

The development of the country's economic stability is very important in maintaining the domestic and regional and even international economy, one of the strategies to maintain an image in the eyes of the economic world. Every country must have a dark history, betrayal, murder, and strife between brothers.³ China's economic greatness, which used to be a country full of shortages, hunger, domestic conflicts, and a country that is still closed to the international world, but in the years (1978-1992) since the leadership of Deng Xiaoping, policies have been included in its constitution. During Mao Zedong's leadership in 1949-1976, which was very closed to the outside world, it gave rise to the opposition of the ranks against Mao Zedong, who applied hard-line communism and a closed economy to the intervention of other countries. China's⁴ industrial economic development in the past decade has not only been open to the global market, but has also been diplomatic in economic

¹ Bhattacharjee, Dhrubajyoti. "The 6th China-Japan-South Korea Trilateral Summit." Available at SSRN 2693675 (2015) (P.3– 4)

² Export Strategy to Bring Economic Progress to South Korea, accessed on July 28, 2025, <https://ugm.ac.id/id/berita/7760-strategi-ekspor-bawa-kemajuan-perekonomian-korea-selatan/>

³ Mary, J. Gloria Abigail. "HISTORY OF CHINA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH." *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* 1, no. 1 (2024): 14-18, (P.15 – 16)

⁴ Santoso, Bambang. "China's Economic Revival and Its Impact on Several Countries in the Asian Region." *Global Insight Journal* 2, no. 1 (2017): 227-249, (P..228 – 229)

and political terms with the Soviet Union, it has provided communist economic and political policy interventions against China to strategize and reduce domestic problems, long after China's economic and political decline. China's economy is far developing domestically and regionally and even expanding the market to the international level.⁵

National food supply and demand have very important implications for domestic food security in meeting domestic food access, food security is a complex issue and covers a wide range of issues, including agriculture, the economy, public health, and socio-political stability. Food availability, access, utilization, and food security have led to evaluations and foundations in identifying strategies to improve China's domestic food system.⁶ One of China's largest food supplies in 2015 was corn, soybeans, sugar and dairy products. Domestic food consumption is a priority for the state to meet the needs of local communities, in food imports in 2015 decreased from 94.5% to 91% in 2025,⁷ the decline in food imports makes it concerned that the Chinese government will have an impact on domestic food access which will result in less domestic food access in 2025 and beyond. Domestic food security does not only have a domestic impact, but can also affect neighboring countries, in the East Asian region, between China, Japan and South Korea, allowing China to increase import prices.

In the history of Japan, two centuries passed under the policy of isolationism under the leadership of the Takugawa Shogunate (1639-1853) as a closed country, no westernization, except for the Dutch who were allowed to trade, a ban on Japanese citizens traveling abroad and the purpose of this policy was to prevent foreign influences, especially Christians and political threats from outside. Since the arrival of the United States in 1853, war has been forced if Japan does not open up, with the Treaty of Kanagawa marking the end of Japan's closed state as the Sakoku Era.⁸ Japan's openness to the outside world is not a linear process, starting from

⁵ Dillon, Michael. China: a modern history. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2010, (P.285 – 286)

⁶ Du, Mingyuan, Jiaqiang Lei, and Shengyu Li. "Navigating the path to food security in China: challenges, policies, and future directions." *Foods* 14, no. 4 (2025): 644, <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods14040644>, (P.2–3)

⁷ Huang, Ji-kun, W. E. I. Wei, C. U. I. Qi, and X. I. E. Wei. "The prospects for China's food security and imports: Will China starve the world via imports?." *Journal of integrative agriculture* 16, no. 12 (2017): 2933-2944, (P.2938 – 2939)

⁸ Brownlee, John S. "A History of Japan: From Stone Age to Superpower." *Canadian Journal of History* 35, no. 2 (2000): 396, (P.73-74)

compulsion, then articulated into national strategy and strength, after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings made Japan weak in infrastructure and manufacturing, but over the years from a country of decline to an economic superpower that is respected and feared for its hard work and technological advancement, not only active from technology but also in international forums and Become a role model for other Asian countries.

Year after year, Japan has managed to prove to the world that Japan It has managed to get out of emerged from the slump to become a role model for other Asian countries. Regarding domestic food security, one of the main concerns of domestic people, the decline in domestic food supply is complex, raising concerns about the consumption and needs of the local community, Japan which has a technology and semiconductor industry making it an economically strong country in East Asia. Early 2022 EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EJEPA) After experiencing a pandemic, Japan experienced a decline in the import sector so that it faced threats to access to domestic imported food from EU countries, Japan's dependence on food and energy imports made the government worried about meeting domestic consumption.⁹

Regarding domestic food security, the decline in domestic food supply is complex. This raises concerns about the consumption and needs of the local community. However, Japan's¹⁰ advanced technology and semiconductor industry make it an economically strong country in East Asia. On the other hand, regarding food, it is not far from the problem of domestic food waste. The issue of food waste is the main issue that began before the domestic food security crisis, South Korea is one of the countries that produces the most food waste, estimated at 17,100 tons per day in 2005 because in South Korea there is a Bachan culture where the side dishes are served on small plates so that they produce a lot of food waste.¹¹ In 2005 South Korea was hit by the most food waste, but over the years South Korea has succeeded in reducing and sterilizing domestic food waste, but in 2023 to 2025 South Korea's

⁹ Romei, Sayuri, Beata Bochorodycz, Bart Gaens, Anthony B. Kim, Mirna Galic, and Akio Miyajima. "Japan as a New Strategic Partner in the Three Seas Initiative: Opportunities and Challenges Ahead.", (P.3-4)

¹⁰ Bhattacharjee, Dhrubajyoti. "The 6th China-Japan-South Korea Trilateral Summit." Available at SSRN 2693675 (2015), (P.3-4)

¹¹ Wulandari, Nadia, and Shannaz Mutiara Deniar. "South Korea's Efforts in Handling Food Waste." *Journal of Green Growth and Environmental Management* 12, no. 2 (2023): 112-124. (P 113-114)

food waste has risen again, from food waste that has increased to food losses concentrated at 10%, showing that most food suffers losses before consumption due to bachan culture and lack of education to the community cities and in the countryside.¹² Food waste that then results in food losses not only has implications for the country but also for regional problems in the East Asian region as well, but also to neighboring countries, such as for example the management of food waste that is geographically adjacent to the region can have consequences for neighboring countries regarding the quality of food, so that there is the potential for soil and water pollution across regional borders.

Countries in the East Asian region have faced various domestic challenges regarding environmental issues that have the potential to have cross-border impacts on their neighbors. China, issues related to the imbalance between domestic supply and demand and the decrease in the level of dependence on imports have consequences for regional trade stability. Meanwhile, Japan shows a high level of dependence on food and energy imports, particularly from EU countries, which makes it vulnerable to fluctuations in global prices and supplies. On the other hand, South Korea has faced a significant increase in the escalation of food waste and food losses since 2005, until it has increased in 2023-2025. These domestic problems not only have implications for the internal policies of each country, but also have the potential to affect the dynamics of cooperation and the resilience of the region as a whole, these three issues prove the need for cooperation between countries in the regional scope. This formal and non-formal organization can provide space for dialogue and policy intervention between countries.

Regions tend to face environmental issues that may negatively affect neighboring countries, such as ASEAN, the European Union, and Africa. Especially in East Asia, which is home to several economic superpowers, similar environmental challenges are also evident. Seeing the issue that has great potential for East Asia, regional cooperation is very necessary to overcome and prevent further deterioration, even though the countries in cooperation have different political systems and ideologies, but while one goal is to achieve common interests, countries in the regional scope must work together, to avoid conflicts of interest in the future. In the

¹² Kim, Sang-Oh. "Review of food upcycling in South Korea: regulation, limitation, and prospects." Food Science and Biotechnology 32, no. 1 (2023): 1-10. (P.3-5)

(TCS) there is no supreme leader or one country leading, decisions are made by consensus (mutual agreement) and are coordinated, both in terms of information exchange and communication between member countries.¹³ The Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) regularly holds annual meetings that are not only a forum for policy coordination, but also a means to strengthen solidarity, expand mutual understanding, and promote cultural exchange among its member countries.

1.2 Problem Formulation

In the previous background, the formulation of the problem can be seen as follows: How is the implementation of the trilateral cooperation secretariat (TCS) policy in handling food security issues in East Asia, China, Japan and South Korea, focusing on decreasing China's domestic food supply and demand, Japan's energy and food dependence and food waste in South Korea?.

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the above background, this study aims to analyze how the role of the trilateral cooperation secretariat (TCS) in handling issues in East Asia case study: China, Japan and South Korea. Through this research, the author wants to reveal how the trilateral cooperation secretariat's policy-making process in handling food safety issues among the three East Asian countries.

1.4 Research Uses

1.4.1 Academic Uses

The usefulness of the results of this research for academics is that this research is expected to contribute to the development of international relations studies, especially in the field of international agreements and the East Asian regional region. In addition, this research can also enrich the literature on formal and non-formal institutional approaches in dealing with issues at the regional level that are bound by international law through international treaty agreements.

1.4.2 Practitioner Uses

Practically, this research can provide strategic recommendations for

¹³ Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, Annual Report FY2023, September 2023-August 2024, Accessed on August 10, 2025. https://www.tcs-asia.org/data/etcData/PUB_1741591878.pdf

institutions such as the United Nations or at the regional level of the European Union, especially the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) in the policy-making process as a mediation of member countries or countries that are geographically adjacent to regional areas.

1.5 Literature Review

1.5.1 Previous Research

In this writing, there are previous research studies that the author can use as a reference:

For the first discussion of the article "The Prospects for China's Food Security and Imports: Will China Starve the World Via Imports?" by Huang ji-kun, WEI-wei, CUI, and Xie Wei explained that the decline in China's domestic food supply and demand has great implications for the influence of domestic food security, one of China's largest food supplies in 2015 is corn, soy, sugar and dairy products. Domestic food consumption is a priority for the country, in addition to domestic food supply which is a gradual part of population growth as well as increased income and urbanization which leads to a significant decrease in food demand. Food imports in 2015 decreased from 94.5% to 91% in 2025, the ¹⁴ decline in food imports makes the Chinese government worried that it will have an impact on domestic food access which will result in less domestic food access in 2025 and beyond.

The relevance of this research lies in the Chinese state, the other discusses China as a member of the trilateral cooperation secretariat (TCS), as well as the similarity of the country's context, what distinguishes this study is that the author focuses on the issue of domestic food imports in China regarding the decline in the supply and demand of China's domestic imports in 2025. However, this study specifically examines how the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) strategy, the coordination of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) is not only a non-formal organization on the issue of China's domestic food imports, but the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) remains dynamic and future-oriented.

¹⁴ Huang, Ji-kun, W. E. I. Wei, C. U. I. Qi, and X. I. E. Wei. "The prospects for China's food security and imports: Will China starve the world via imports?." *Journal of integrative agriculture* 16, no. 12 (2017): 2933-2944, (P.2938 – 2939)

The title of the previous research is *titled* "The EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement in Japanese print Media: A "cars-for-cheese-deal" or "the black ships of European cheese" by Tine Walravens explains that Japan has limited natural resources, especially in the domestic food and energy sectors. Since Japan ratified the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EJEP), Japan's dependence on food imports to EU countries has increased in 2022,¹⁵ food access and domestic consumption have become a major issue for Japan in meeting the needs of the domestic community.

The relevance of this study is that it discusses the state of Japan and the dependence of food and energy imports on the European Union, although the context and the same issues, what distinguishes it from this study is that it focuses on Japan's dependence on the European Union related to the energy and food sectors. Although the context focuses on Japan's domestic food and energy issues, it is about the trilateral cooperation secretariat (TCS) in the decision-making process and policy implementation of the Japanese state regarding Japan's dependence on the European Union from the energy and food sectors.

Discussion *The third* article written by Sang-Oh Kim entitled "Review of Food Upcycling in South Korea: Regulation, Limitation, and Prospects" in this article explains several examples, regulations, limitations and prospects of food recycling in South Korea. Analysis from 2015 to 2020 from food organizations and the Food Agricultural Organization (FAO) Most foods suffer losses of 10% before consumption.¹⁶ Food losses remain constant and do not differ significantly each year, and it is noteworthy that the rate of losses reaches up to 10% or even more in some cases, data based on the analysis of food groups, grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, tubers, and oil crops have higher rates of food loss. Food waste is a major issue in South Korea, a well-known culture in South Korea is *Bachan* which often leaves side dishes served on plates so that more and more becomes waste day by day.

¹⁵ Walravens, Tine, and Ivar Padrón-Hernández. "The EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement in Japanese Print Media: A." *Asia Europe Journal* (2024), (P.21-22)

¹⁶ Kim, Sang-Oh. "Review of food upcycling in South Korea: regulation, limitation, and prospects." *Food Science and Biotechnology* 32, no. 1 (2023): 1-10, (P.3-4)

The relevance of this study is that it both discusses the issue of food waste and food loss in South Korea, the previous research discussed the recycling of food waste, but this study focuses on the issue of food waste in South Korea which increases from 2022 to 2025. Although the context discusses the issue of food waste, this study specifically examines the role of the trilateral cooperation secretariat (TCS) in addressing the issue of food waste in South Korea

Furthermore, the *fourth* discussion of the book by Muhui Zhang entitled "China-Japan-South Korea Trilateral Cooperation Institution Building and Power Politics" explains how the dynamics of cooperation between the three major East Asian countries, namely China, Japan and South Korea, have built the institutions of regional cooperation in the East Asian region since the 1990s but were officially ratified in September 2011. Their trilateral cooperation is often hampered by political conflicts, Zhang emphasized that China, Japan and South Korea cooperation is more successful in "low politics" areas such as economic, cultural exchange, and environmental issues, but less successful in "high politics" such as regional security and foreign policy, due to bilateral tensions, especially China-Japan and Japan-South Korea. In addition, the influence of global competition, especially between China and the United States, as well as the closer relations between Japan and South Korea with the United State of America, make this cooperation increasingly difficult to develop.¹⁷

The relevance of this study is because it discusses the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) East Asian regional cooperation between China, Japan and South Korea, that low politics cooperation is more profitable than high politics cooperation. Although the context of East Asian regional cooperation is different, in this study the author focuses on the strategic role of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) as a mediator in policy decision-making on food security issues in East Asia, namely China, Japan and South Korea.

¹⁷ Zhang, Muhui. China–Japan–South Korea Trilateral Cooperation: Institution Building and Power Politics. Springer Nature, 2025, (P.51-52)

1.6 Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

The author will use general and specific concepts, from the general concept the author will explain the domestic issues of the three countries in East Asia, namely China, Japan and South Korea as members of the trilateral cooperation secretariat (TCS) which can have an impact on the three countries and the second concept explains how the policy making strategy of the trilateral cooperation secretariat (TCS) in dealing with the issue of the Chinese state, Japan and South Korea, although these three countries are different in terms of government system, but in the regional scope of the East Asian region have the same problems, so that the condition of the situation of regional issues is compelling.

1.6.1 Consep International Agreements

An international agreement is an official agreement between international and regional actors, between countries and countries and organizations that are legally binding, the country that agrees to the agreement must follow its laws and regulations. The 1969 Vienna Convention on international treaties in Mark E. Villiger's book "Commentary on the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties" in Chapter INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE explains that international agreements include 3, *first* international agreements concluded between state and other subjects of international law, *second* international agreements concluded between such other subjects of international law, and *third*, international agreements not in written form.¹⁸ The third argument of Mark E Villager is that countries that have entered into international agreements between states or non-states must submit to and obey international law and also that every international agreement must have an unwritten agreement only orally or spoken tacitly with a unilateral declaration accepted by the state or non-state. According to Muhammad bin Al-Hasan al-Shaibani who is usually called Al-Shaibani, is a great figure of the Hanafi School and the main disciple of Imam Abu Hanifah as the father of Islamic international law argues about the concept of al-Muahadah international agreements, according to Shaibani the concept of this agreement is regulated as a sacred contract (Sanctity of Treaties), emphasizing that

¹⁸ Villiger, Mark E. Commentary on the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Brill, 2008, (P.103 – 104)

every agreement must be respected.

This research uses the concept of international agreements to explain why countries after the declaration of treaties must submit to and comply with international law, both in the form of treaties, conventions, protocols, and pacts as long as there are two or more unilateral agreements that are bound by international law through international agreements. Case studies in East Asia such as food economic security which can anchor economic growth and East Asian food are a big issue for China, Japan and South Korea, in overcoming state issues in the regional scope of the region tend to have the same problems and have an impact on neighboring countries, the need for formal or non-formal organizations as mediation in the three countries, This concept explains how the policy-making process and strategy by the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) in overcoming the issues of China, Japan and South Korea.

1.6.2 The Concept of Regionalism (Joseph Samuel Nye)

The concept of regionalism developed by Joseph Samuel Nye is a derivative concept of regional integration theory in his book "Comparative Regional Integration: Concept and Measurement" states that cooperation between countries in the regional scope of the region is not only about war, and diplomacy, but more about socio-cultural, economic and environmental issues. This statement is in the context of regional issues that tend to create a mechanism for cooperation between regional regional countries,¹⁹ which is the need for a political process in policy-making of countries that are geographically close to each other and have the same level of interdependence, even though they have different government systems but have issues that can have an impact on neighboring countries.²⁰

Some regional cases are regions, such as the European Regional Integration (EU), NATO, and the formation of ASEAN (southeast asia). In the context of regional cases, we can relate to the process of forming ASEAN in 1967, the form

¹⁹ Weiss, B. M. (1999). The Economics of Integration, the Politics of Regionalism: Interdependence and Integration Theory Revisited. Graduate School of International Policy Economy, University of Tsukuba, Japan, Working Paper CIAO, 3, 99. <https://ciaotest.cc.columbia.edu/isa/wbm01/> accessed on August 10, 2025.

²⁰ Nye, Joseph S. "Comparative regional integration: Concept and measurement." International organization 22, no. 4 (1968): 855-880. (P.860 – 862)

of ASEAN consisting of Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Brunei, and the Philippines. Countries that have experienced a similar colonial history, as well as geographically close and also responding to the threat of communism in Southeast Asia and regional conflicts. This encourages 10 Asian countries to cooperate from various fields, both high politics and low politics, through the "ASEAN Way" policy²¹ of regional conflict prevention, economic and political cooperation through consultation forums and consensus. The context of ASEAN illustrates that geographically adjacent countries, both have the same historical experience (Colonialism) even though they have different political systems and ideologies, countries in the regional region must cooperate to achieve national interests.

Joseph Nye argues that differences in political systems between countries do not hinder functional cooperation if they have the same interests and threats, in the article "The Role of ASEAN through ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework in Achieving Indonesia's Food Security" written by Sri Wijayanti and his friends, explaining that (AIFS) ASEAN Integrated Food Security is designed as a dialogue space for regional discussion and coordination for ASEAN countries. In overcoming the threat of food crisis and limited access to food, by implementing the concept of regionalism, ASEAN countries work together to face food threats for the sake of mutual stability even though different government systems, such as the example of Indonesia using AIFS, give a real example that the concept is not just an argument, but applies in the field.²² Through this approach, the author analyzes not in terms of the country but as a non-originating organization of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) in making policies and handling the issues of the three member countries of China, Japan and South Korea.

This research positions countries in the scope of geographically adjacent regions tend to have the same problems so that their issues can have an impact on neighboring countries, from these problems it is required to cooperate with each other

²¹ Perseverance, Susy. "The Asean Way: the way to regional peace?." *Journal of International Relations* 3, no. 2 (2015): 142-147. (P.144-145)

²² Miryanti, Renny, Sri Wijayanti, Kholifatus Saadah, and Ayu Agustiningsih. "The Role of ASEAN through ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (AIFS) in Achieving Indonesia's Food Security." *Proceeding ICMA-SURE* (2023): 30-37. (P.34-35)

to achieve their respective national interests. Threats and challenges in the regional scope of the region make issues that can have an impact on the regional region, both from a small and large scope that can threaten agreements and peace between countries in the regional region, in the current era of regional cooperation dynamics one of the internal decision-making processes of issues between countries that are geographically adjacent and have the same problems.

1.7 Hypothesis

Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) as an international agreement that has an important role in handling the issues of China, Japan and South Korea member countries related to environmental issues and food security stability in the East Asian region, geographically adjacent countries tend to have the same problems so that they have an impact on neighboring countries, even though they have different political systems and ideologies and domestic concerns, as long as there is a threat and a common purpose. East Asian regional cooperation shows that the three countries are interdependent.

Through the trilateral cooperation secretariat (TCS) with various mechanisms of dialogue, information exchange, and policy intervention with fellow members of the organization, such as the issue of declining supply and demand of domestic food imports in China, Japan's dependence on food and energy imports to European countries 2022 EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EJEPA) and the issue that has been around since 2005 food waste has increased again from 2005. From 2023 to 2025 (,) In in South Korea, regarding the issues of the three countries, in within the regional scope of the region, it is actually very implicit for countries in the regional scope region. The role of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) actually has the opportunity to address issues in China, Japan and South Korea, each of which aims to create food security between regions, development, peace, and economic and political stability in East Asia.

1.8 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1.8.1 Research Design

This study uses a *descriptive qualitative* approach, which aims to understand and describe in depth how the role of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) strategy in handling food safety issues in East Asia is a case study of China, Japan and South Korea. This design allows for an in-depth exploration of the implementation of the policy-making process of international law through international agreements implemented against countries within the regional scope of the region.¹⁸ The Gospel of Jesus Christ

The qualitative research design allows researchers to explore in depth the process, motivation, and meaning behind the dynamics of the role of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) by providing a space for dialogue and policy intervention between countries, namely China, Japan and South Korea. Finally, this design also allows researchers to develop a theory or conceptual model that describes the trilateral cooperation secretariat (TCS) strategy as an international agreement of East Asian non-formal organizations.

1.8.2 Research Object

The object of research in this study is the role of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) strategy in handling issues in East Asia, a case study of China, Japan and South Korea. The research focuses on East Asian issues, the decline in the supply and demand of China's domestic food imports, the dependence of Japanese energy and food imports on the European Union, and food waste in South Korea. Regarding the three issues, they tend to have the same issues and have an impact on neighboring countries, through non-formal organizations as mediators in the issues of the third country. This object covers various aspects, ranging from official policies and guidelines issued, as well as direct statements from each leadership of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS).

1.8.3 Data Collection Techniques

The data collection technique in this study uses a qualitative approach with library research and documentation methods. The literature study was carried out by examining various relevant literature, such as scientific journals, books, official

government reports, news articles, and publications from international organizations related to the issues of China, Japan and South Korea as well as articles discussing regional organizations such as ASEAN, the European Union, especially official documents from the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) along with direct statements from TCS leaders. In the documentation method, it is carried out by collecting data from the official documents of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) which discusses the issue of member countries in the policy-making process towards China, Japan and South Korea. In addition, this technique is supported by literature reviews from scientific journals, books, and articles relevant to international law, international treaties and issues of China, Japan and South Korea.

1.8.4 Data Analysis Techniques

The data analysis technique in this study uses a descriptive qualitative analysis method. This approach aims to interpret and understand the data that has been collected in depth, with an emphasis on the meaning, context, and relationships between the phenomena being studied. The analysis is carried out systematically through the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. With this technique, researchers can formulate a valid and relevant interpretation of the implementation of the trilateral cooperation secretariat (TCS) policy towards China, Japan and South Korea, as well as the three issues of member countries, namely, the decline in the supply and demand of China's domestic imports in 2025, Japan's dependence on food and energy imports to EU countries in 2022 and food waste in 2023 in South Korea.

1.8.5 Writing Systematics

This article will be divided into four main parts, namely:

PART I (CHAPTER I): INTRODUCTION

Part one will explain the background of this research, then continue with the formulation of the problem and the purpose of the research, as well as the benefits of the research followed by the concepts that will be used to analyze the phenomenon in this research.

PART II (CHAPTER II): ISSUES IN EAST ASIA

In this section, it will be explained specifically each issue in China, Japan and South Korea within the regional scope of the region and also how the three issues of these countries can impact the countries that are geographically adjacent to the region, The analysis in this chapter covers all the concepts that have been used.

PART III (CHAPTER III): THE POLICY STRATEGY OF THE TRILATERAL COOPERATION SECRETARIAT (TCS) TOWARDS CHINA, JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA

In this section, it will be explained about the results of the findings in this study based on the concept of international agreements and the concept of regionalism according to Joseph Samuel Nye, the analysis uses the concepts that have been chosen as the analysis tool in this paper.

PART IV (CHAPTER IV): CONCLUSION

In the closing part of this article, the conclusion of this paper will be written, not forgetting to continue with the advice from the author, for the next researcher as input.

