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## KEYNOTE SPEECHES

**Omurbek BABANOV**

Prime Minister, Kyrgyz Republic

Dear Prime-Minister Mr. KIM Hwang Sik, dear organizers of the Forum, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to speak here today in front of you in this audience on this incredibly beautiful island. First of all, I would like to thank the organizers of the Forum for the invitation and excellent organization of this event.

Jeju Peace Forum, which started 11 years ago as a platform to discuss peace initiatives, the prospects for peaceful coexistence in the 21st century in North East Asia, is now turning into an international authoritative body.

The value of the Forum cannot be overestimated especially at these globalized times. In this regard, I would like to emphasize the critical importance of the peace initiatives of the Republic of Korea in the lead of its leadership for their tireless commitment to sustainable peaceful development and prosperity of the Asian region.

Taking the opportunity I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Prime Minister for the successful holding the Nuclear Summit and the Summit on the Global Green Growth.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sustainable development and prosperity is possible only when there is a peace. Peace in the family home, town, country, region, continent on earth, harmony with nature, with your soul. Unfortunately, no one on earth is safe from various cataclysms. In this age of high technology the world is fragile as never. Tensions erupt in different parts of the globe.

Kyrgyzstan at the end of the last century, been treacherously attacked by international terrorist gangs. Over the past seven years, people of my country tired of government of president's family corruption regimes, twice expelled them from the country. The last upspring of the people darkened with tragic victims among the civilian population.

But as the result in 2010 the people of Kyrgyzstan on the basis of the referendum has chosen the path of democratic development, and became the only parliamentary republic among the CIS countries. Currently, the country stands firmly and is very optimistic about the future.

It should be emphasized that in all the years of our independence, Kyrgyzstan has always sought for steady development and attainment its place in the international community. In this way, we had to overcome many hardships, both economic and political.

Today, Kyrgyzstan is firmly focused on real partnership not only with neighboring countries, but also to all members of world community who are engaged in a friendly policy toward my country. In this context, I would like to thank the leadership and people of the Republic of Korea for their sincere assistance and political support to Kyrgyzstan in all the years of our cooperation.

In this regard, I would like to emphasize that such mutual cordial relationship between our two peoples is not accidental. Indeed, historically, common roots of our people are the prerequisites for a successful cooperation. We are much closer to each other than we seem, we bring together a common history, similar culture and customs.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Kyrgyzstan, despite that it is a young republic, has big experience in peace-building. During the civil war in neighboring Tajikistan it is the Kyrgyz Republic in the result of the successful mediation of intervention and the allocation of its territory for negotiations between the warring parties, marked the beginning of the process of peaceful settlement. This successful experience was used by us and other CIS countries in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

It is Kyrgyzstan who brought forward the declaration of the Central Asia as a zone free of nuclear weapons, which was successfully supported, raised by the neighboring countries on the regular UN General Assembly, and ended up with a signing in 2006 the Treaty on the zone free of nuclear weapons.

We are concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, whose people for several generations do not see anything other than weapons and bitter bereavement. Since 2001, our country is the base of the international antiterrorist coalition to support the military operation "Enduring Freedom" and the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. Kyrgyzstan has provided for this purpose civilian airport to accommodate international forces.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the chosen topics for

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discussion as never clearly outline the ‘impact’ area for discussion during the Forum. Topics of diplomacy, economic integration, environmental protection and education have now become of particular relevance.

Expressing once again my sincere appreciations to the hospitable people of Republic of Korea and wish success to all participants of the Forum, and peace and prosperity to all nations!

Thank you for your attention.

Omurbek Toktogulovich BABANOV is a Kyrgyz politician who has served as Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan since 1 December 2011. Before his appointment as Prime Minister, he was Deputy Prime Minister in the Government of Almazbek Atambayev. He was also acting Prime Minister from 23 September 2011 until 14 November 2011, as the Prime Minister Atambayev was a candidate in the presidential election.[1] He again became acting Prime Minister on 1 December 2011 when Atambayev took office as President. He was confirmed by Parliament on 23 December 2011.