

## CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

Chung Hong-won  
Prime Minister, Republic of Korea

Warmest congratulations to the honorable former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia and former Prime Minister Hatoyama Yukio of Japan, and to the distinguished guests from Korea and abroad, on the opening of the Jeju Forum on the Island of World Peace, Jeju. I extend a warm welcome to our guests, many of whom have come a long way to participate in the forum.

Since its establishment in 2001, the Jeju Forum has grown into an important forum that seeks peace and mutual prosperity in Asia. I anticipate lively discussions on Asia's role in the rapidly changing world and measures for international cooperation, under the theme "New Waves in Asia."

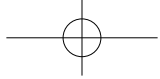
In the rapidly changing international order, Asia's role is more important now than ever in history. Some experts predict that Asia, which has led the growth of the world economy through the global financial crisis, will surpass North America and Europe by the year 2030.

Under these circumstances, the desire to form regional communities is growing by the day. Through these waves of change, Asian countries must combine forces and share wisdom to realize a peaceful and prospering Asian Century. Korea will continue to work toward peaceful, nuclear-free reunification of Korea, and to contribute to the prosperity of Asia.

The participants of this forum will examine the present and future of Asia through numerous discussions. I hope that these discussions will bring opportunities to diagnose and find solutions to the challenges facing Asia in today's turbulent world. Security cooperation and economic development, energy and gender equality issues, and finding a shared vision for the regional community are all major topics of interest to the people of Asia.

I believe that building trust among nations is essential to Asia's bright future. Cooperation on "soft issues," such as the environment, disaster relief, and nuclear safety, should be sought first to build mutual trust. Based on this trust, I believe that the scope of conversation and cooperation can expand into other fields.

New Waves in Asia



We must also concern ourselves with the issue of development gaps between the nations in the region. In order to contribute to the resolution of this issue, Korea will continue to increase its overseas development assistance, and share its development experience with other nations.

Increasing mutual understanding among nations through cultural exchanges is also important. The growing interest in other cultures among young Asians is a welcome development. Active cultural exchanges will help us overcome ethnic and language barriers and national borders.

I hope that cooperation among nations through cultural exchanges and other forms of public diplomacy will continue to expand.

Korea will continue to cooperate closely with other nations in Asia. I anticipate your full support of the Korean government's efforts to bring peace and prosperity to Asia.

I sincerely hope that this forum will bear fruitful results, and I wish good health and happiness to everyone. Thank you.