



[Congratulatory Remarks]

Bringing Asia Together in Mutual Cooperation

Gerhard Schröder Former Chancellor of Germany

Thank you very much for your invitation. It is not just a pleasure but also an honor for me to participate in the 10th Jeju Forum. As you know, this conference takes place during a difficult political and economic period. We have witnessed ever-faster, ever more dramatic changes in our world.

The current crises show that we have to reroute our course; it's time for us to have sustainable future. We must all work together to master the current global challenges. The key mission of the Jeju Forum is to promote peace and common prosperity in East Asia through multilateral cooperation. The tests we are facing require a strong and effective multilateral system.

I am absolutely certain that intense regional cooperation between neighboring states is an important precondition for peace, development and prosperity. I say this as a committed European because it is a lesson we have learned on our continent. The process of European integration, the common market and the joined currency helped us to overcome nationalism. Europe made up of a community of peaceful states was our people's answer to centuries of war and destruction.

The European experience of cooperation and integration is not necessarily an ideal formula for other regions around the world. But it clearly illustrates the importance of regional cooperation towards achieving peace and development. There is an increasing degree of regional integration in Asia too. I am convinced that these steps towards deeper regional cooperation can lay a solid foundation for peace and development in Asia towards a new Asia of trust and harmony.

Let me take this opportunity to underline that the Republic of Korea and Germany are strong political and economic partners. Korea is one of Germany's most important trading partners in Asia. And vice versa, Germany remains Korea's principle trading partner in Europe. In 2010, European Union and Korea decided to upgrade their relations to a Strategic Partnership. Today we are bound by common values such as human rights, the role of law, liberal democracy and free market economy.

In the years following the Second World War, Germany and Korea both have bitter experience of seeing the nation divided. Our countries can look back on great eco-



omic achievements in the last sixty years. But like our achievements we also share similar challenges in the 21st century: our aging and shrinking populations incorporating new powers in the existing architecture of old governance as well as prevention of climate changes. As partners, Germany and Korea can cooperate closely on these issues. Consequently, we have to focus on continuously enhancing our relation in politics, economy and culture.

Ladies and gentlemen, if conference like the 10th Jeju Forum can bring Asia closer together in mutual cooperation, it will contribute to mastering the challenges facing us. We need to come to an understanding on the reduction of greenhouse gases and the slowdown of climate change. We must extract the greatest possible benefit for all from the global integration of the world economy. We need greater investment in the future; more investment in childcare, schools, universities, researches, and innovation. We must prevent the further proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and we must promote understanding between different cultures. We want the world that democracy and human rights prevail everywhere.

The Republic of Korea and Germany have special responsibilities. Our response to these challenges will determine the direction which globalized world will take politically and economically. We should promote deeper regional cooperation to lay a foundation for peace, trust and harmony in Asia. I wish all participants in the 10th Jeju Forum a very fruitful conference and successful exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas.

Thank you very much for your attention.