



## [ Keynote Speech ]

# Towards a New Era of Asia

**HWANG Kyo-ahn** Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea

On this beautiful and peaceful island of Jeju, I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations on the opening of the 11<sup>th</sup> Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity.

I am pleased to warmly welcome so many distinguished visitors to this meeting, including Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon, former Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, former New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger, former Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, and former Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to Governor of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province Won Heeryong, and Chairman of Jeju Peace Institute Moon Tae-young, as well as the citizens of Jeju.

The theme of this year's forum is "Asia's New Order and Cooperative Leadership." Asia is growing its presence and role in the international arena with each passing day. Cooperation among Asian countries is no longer solely a regional issue, as now an increasing number of non-Asian countries are showing a keen interest in the region. The International Monetary Fund, IMF, predicts that by 2030, about 60 percent of the world's population will live in Asia and the region's share of the global gross domestic production, GDP, will rise to around 40 percent.

Asian countries are moving quickly towards regional economic integration, examples of which include the Trans-Pacific Partnership, TPP, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, RCEP, and the ASEAN Economic Community, AEC. The slowdown of the global economy, however, and the subsequent move by the global financial market to avoid risks are affecting Asian economies. Recently, the Asian Development Bank, ADB, forecasted that the Asian region's economic growth rate for this year will be the lowest it has been in fifteen years.

Additionally, it is true that Asia is facing challenges posed by aging populations, income inequality, and the infrastructure gap between countries in the region. There also exist disputes over history, territory, and maritime security in the region. Signs of conflicts of strategic interests, changes in regional security frameworks, and related moves driven by rivalry and containment can be seen.

Transnational threats such as terrorism, the refugee crisis, and infectious diseases, among other things, also still exist. North Korea's nuclear and missile development programs pose a serious threat not only to the Korean Peninsula and its neighboring Asian countries, but also to the broader international community. To address these issues and achieve mutual peace and prosperity, Asian countries must seek to turn their competition and selective cooperation, currently dependent on the region's geopolitical landscape and the political and economic interests of each country, into a collective effort to nurture positive energies for a better and more stable future.

To that end, it is essential for the Asian countries to overcome their conflicting national interests, respect universally recognized principles, and coexist in mutually beneficial relationships. I believe that the theme of this year's forum, "Cooperative Leadership," should be understood in this same context.

Through its Trustpolitik, the South Korean government is set to contribute to the development of cooperative relationships within the international community. History shows that sustainable cooperation always corresponds to the level of trust in the relationships between states. Our government will build sustainable peace and cooperation on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia, and South Korea will seek to have its diplomatic horizons expanded globally and play an active role in addressing the diverse global agenda.

Maintaining a strong commitment to "nuclear nonproliferation on the Korean Peninsula," Seoul is working closely with the international community to create an environment to promote change in North Korea. This is to bring about positive changes in the behavior and mindset of Pyongyang, which has turned a deaf ear to Seoul's calls for talks, and to initiate a sincere trust-building process on the Korean Peninsula.

As far as Northeast Asia is concerned, South Korea is deepening its strategic coop-



eration with its neighboring countries in the region. The security alliance between the United States and South Korea is developing into a strategic partnership on a global scale for the sake of space exploration and other New Frontier programs. South Korea, while strengthening its strategic and cooperative partnership with China, is working closely with China to apply pressure on North Korea. As for Japan, South Korea reached an agreement late last year to resolve the comfort women issue, the most inflexible dispute in past history, thus creating an opportunity to move towards a new era of cooperation.

South Korea is continuing a variety of collaborative efforts, including not only bilateral but also trilateral and multilateral dialogues, to enhance cooperation in the Asian region. South Korea set the long-stalled South Korea-China-Japan Trilateral Summit back on track last year, and is now seeking to broaden the restored trilateral cooperation this year into areas such as North Pole route development, education, and public diplomacy.

South Korea will continue to move forward with the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative, NAPCI, which aims to build mutual trust between countries through cooperation on soft security issues. We will also seek to broaden our contribution to the international community through greater global leadership. South Korea, which transformed itself from a country that received aid to a country that gives aid, will live up to the world's expectations.

In particular, South Korea intends to lend its strength within the education, health-care, rural development, and peacekeeping sectors. I think President Park Geun-hye's trip to Africa will be especially meaningful in that respect.

I was at the World Humanitarian Summit held a few days ago in Istanbul, Turkey. The South Korean government is also giving top priority to humanitarian diplomacy. As the chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, and the host country of the United Nations-backed Green Climate Fund, GCF, as well as the Global Green Growth Institute, GGGI, South Korea is ready to play an active role in global efforts to address climate change.

A clock can tell the correct time only when the second hand, the minute hand, and the hour hand move exactly the way they should. If each part does not fulfill its proper role, the clock will not be able to function. I hope all of us will join hands to open the era of a new Asia.

Once again, I offer my congratulations on the kickoff of the Jeju Forum. I hope this important forum will serve as momentum for promoting greater harmony beyond the Asian region, as well as cooperation and common prosperity around the world.

## [ Keynote Speech ]

# Global Progress Depends on Solidarity

**BAN Ki-moon** Secretary-General of the United Nations



Thank you for your very warm welcome. And I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to Governor Won Heeryong of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, and the citizens of Jeju for their warm welcome and hospitality.

I am happy to be back in Jeju for this important Forum today. I am pleased to see so many high-level government officials, business executives, activists, academics and especially young people participating in this very important meeting. When the Jeju Peace Institute was founded, I was serving as Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea. My focus at that time was constructive engagement across Asia and beyond. When I left to assume my duties as Secretary-General of the United Nations, I promised to the Korean people that I will bring Korea to the world and the world to Korea.

Every day, I proudly draw on my Korean and more broadly Asian heritage. I appreciate the warm support of the Asian leaders and people. And I look forward to Asia for global leadership.

This powerful continent is critical for prosperity and security around the world. Today I will examine four key themes. They are: global action, regional cooperation, stability on the Korean Peninsula, and human rights for all.

Tackling these interconnected issues will benefit all Asians and our world. First: global action for peace, people and planet.

I have just come from the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in Turkey. I had a very good bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Hwang of the Republic of Korea. The Summit made solid commitments to improve the global response to emergencies. The world's leaders forged a Grand Bargain to better protect people, close the funding gaps, and open new paths for humanitarian action. Many factors today drive crises, from governance failures to human rights violations.

Climate change remains a major concern. Asia is critical to climate action. Asia accounts for nearly a third of all global greenhouse gas emissions. It is also a source of solutions. China has the world's largest wind and solar power capacity. And now, China is a leader in addressing the climate change phenomenon.

Solar power is growing in India and Bangladesh. Companies across Asia are launch-