

Republic of Korea and the steadfast Korea-U.S. alliance.

On the Korean Peninsula made free from the threat of war, I will ensure that the economy flourishes. An economic community encompassing South and North Korea will bring about the “Miracle on the Korean Peninsula” which will change the global economic map by expanding South Korea’s “Miracle on the Han River” into North Korea’s “Miracle on the Taedong River.” This will also play the role of establishing a lasting peace regime on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

I also take great interest in the session on the human rights situation in North Korea which is scheduled for the second day of the forum. As a human rights lawyer, I have long championed the human rights of the South Korean people. And as human rights are universal values of mankind, I will endeavor to enhance the human rights of the North Korean people without hesitation. In cooperation with the international community, I will urge the North Korean authorities to introduce changes to its policies and institutions.

A peaceful Korean Peninsula is no longer just a dream. Within my term in office, I will create a drastic turning point for peace on the peninsula. I will lead the Republic of Korea to spearhead efforts for peace and common prosperity in Asia. It is my hope that all of you will join me in this grand dream.

[Opening Remarks]

WON Heeryong Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Jeju Forum /
Governor of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province



Jeju, a Platform for “Peace Industry”

Peace and prosperity are long-standing tasks for humanity throughout history. Jeju Island went through the Cold War in the 20th century and is therefore well aware of the values of peace, human rights and co-existence. The Jeju Forum was initiated in 2001 to open a new era of peace and prosperity in East Asia based on mutual trust and cooperation. Every one of you here has committed to fulfilling your share of responsibility in addressing various global issues. Your experience and wisdom along with those of other global leaders and world intellectuals have served as a catalyst for the Jeju Forum to push its boundary beyond Asia and toward the whole world with five thousand participants from more than 70 countries. I hope this year’s forum will be a venue for future-oriented discussions, bringing the entire world together under the umbrella of peace where peaceful order in Asia can be further expanded.

This year marks the 12th event of the Jeju Forum with the theme of “Sharing a Common Vision for Asia’s Future.” Complicated and diverse issues and challenges, as characterized by “deglobalization,” have been posing a threat to humanity. Security threats have become more diverse and even more widespread, including not only nuclear but also energy, food and cyber issues. Transnational challenges such as terrorism continue to surface. These kinds of transnational challenges cannot be solved by one single country’s effort. It requires to have a shared vision locally and globally. The Jeju Forum is designed to share a common vision for Asia’s future for more universal hope and better future for humanity by seeking discourse for stronger cooperation among nations in more creative ways.

The world now faces global warming, which is a serious environmental crisis threatening the future of mankind. “An Inconvenient Truth,” as former U.S. Vice President Al Gore put it, has become better known across the world. Not only super powers but also developing countries have been working togeth-

er to solve the climate change. Local governments are also actively involved in the efforts. Jeju Special Self-Governing Province has been pushing ahead with a carbon-free island project using wind and solar power.

The so-called Green Revolution to respond to climate change has gained the most attention globally in the 21st century. The sustainability of the global environment has become a future vision for the world. Recently, the world has been facing “an inconvenient truth” which threatens peace of humanity as a new world order was created centering on strong powers, threatening dreams and futures of small and less powerful countries. Protectionism and hegemony on the part of superpowers have emerged, but no country dares to tell the inconvenient truth. The world seems to be heading back toward a new Cold War era. Peace is not the prerogative of the superpowers. A world with no interest and understanding in small and less powerful countries cannot be regarded as a peaceful one. That appears to be peaceful only on the surface, leading to a “fake peace,” which is another “inconvenient truth” the world faces.

Pursuing a true world peace requires a shared a vision of peace and prosperity for humanity. A “true peace” can be achieved by going toward co-existence and harmony beyond differences in power, race, ideology or religion. It can be accomplished through cooperation among nations and unity among regions, rather than competition and conflicts only for its own national interests. Peace and prosperity in Asia that the Jeju



Forum is pursuing cannot be made possible without cooperation among different countries. And that cooperation should come from sharing a common vision for Asia’s future and for world peace and prosperity. A peaceful world should mean not only the absence of war but also the absence of disorder, discrimination, conflicts and inequality. So communities can be united harmoniously in a vibrant and cooperative way. That is a true peace.

Jeju Special Self-Governing Province is a local government which has promoted peace for more than ten years since it was designated as an island of world peace by the Korean government in 2005. Recently Jeju Special Self-Governing Province has also promoted more actively a new concept of peace going beyond the conventional concept of peace. The new concept of peace in Jeju includes “healing peace” emanating from Jeju’s clean nature, “peace through tolerance” embracing different values and appreciations of each other, and “peace of energy” making peaceful production and consumption of energy. The new concept of peace in Jeju has been trying to put in place does not remain to be only a concept. Economic benefits can be generated through taking root and spreading out of peace, which in turn helps further expand peace. This is the peace industry. The project to turn Jeju Island into a carbon-free island is a good example of the peace industry.

Peace is not just about a topic for discussion or a rhetoric to showcase a desirable state. Peace should be a practical solution to resolve different kinds of issues humanity faces. Peace is a value and vision we run into on the path towards prosperity. Geographical tensions, back to protectionism, decline of liberalism, and spread of populism, all of these make the world all the more uncertain. We need a global platform for peace where future visions can be presented and shared to respond collectively to those issues make our future more insecure. That is the role the Jeju Forum wants to take on.

The Jeju Forum can and will serve as a venue for discussing the new concept of peace and gathering the will to achieve a true peace and as an entrepreneur for peace to boost the peace industry. We will renew our efforts to pave the way for the new concept of peace for our prosperity. I hope this forum will also offer an opportunity to share future visions to new values and build a stable order for peace and prosperity in Asia. I expect the world to hear out the message that Jeju Island has to send. I would like all of you to enjoy the charm of the nature in a peaceful and beautiful island of Jeju during your stay here.