



Moon Jae-in
President of the
Republic of Korea

SELECTED SPEECHES

May 10, 2017

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President Moon Jae-in Assumes Office in Korea's 19th Presidential Inauguration (May 10, 2017)



19th Presidential Inauguration Ceremony (May 10, 2017)

President Moon Jae-in delivers his inaugural address at the presidential inauguration ceremony held at the Rotunda Hall of the National Assembly.



Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the June 10 Democratic Struggle (June 10, 2017)

President Moon Jae-in presents economic democracy as a new policy task at the ceremony to commemorate the June 10 Democratic Struggle held at Seoul Plaza in front of City Hall.



62nd Memorial Day Ceremony (June 6, 2017)

President Moon Jae-in, First Lady Kim Jung-sook and ruling and opposition party leaders pay silent tribute during the 62nd Memorial Day Ceremony held at Seoul National Cemetery.



Reception for Korean War Veterans on the 67th Anniversary of the Outbreak of the Korean War (June 23, 2017)

President Moon Jae-in delivers remarks at the reception for Korean War veterans held to commemorate the 67th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War.



G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany (July 7, 2017)

President Moon Jae-in poses for a commemorative photo together with other participating heads of state during the G20 Summit held in Hamburg.



Korea-India Bilateral Summit (July 8, 2017)

President Moon Jae-in and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shake hands before having a bilateral summit on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany.

Address for the Körber Foundation in Germany (July 6, 2017)

President Moon Jae-in delivers remarks focusing on peacebuilding on the Korean Peninsula, inter-Korean relations and unification at Bärensaal (Bear Hall) in Berlin's Old City Hall upon the invitation of the Körber Foundation.





Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia (September 6, 2017)

President Moon Jae-in and President Vladimir Putin attend a joint press conference after the Korea-Russia MOU signing ceremony at Far Eastern Federal University, host of the 3rd Eastern Economic Forum.



Address at the United Nations General Assembly (September 21, 2017)

President Moon Jae-in delivers remarks at the 72nd Session of the General Assembly at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York—the first time a South Korean president addresses the U.N. General Assembly during the first year in office since 1991 when the two Koreas jointly acceded to the international body.



Global Citizen Award Honoree (September 19, 2017)

President Moon Jae-in receives the Atlantic Council Global Citizen Award from IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York.



State Visit to Korea by President Donald Trump (November 7, 2017)

President Moon Jae-in and First Lady Kim Jung-sook pose for a commemorative photo with U.S. President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump after a conversation over tea and refreshments at Sangchunjae (Spring House), a traditional banquet hall on the Cheong Wa Dae grounds.

PyeongChang 2018 at the Met : Celebrating the Olympic
Winter Games for Peace (September 21, 2017)

President Moon Jae-in makes opening remarks at the evening
celebration for Korea's coming Olympic Games held at the
Sackler Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.





ASEAN Summit in Manila, the Philippines (November 13, 2017)

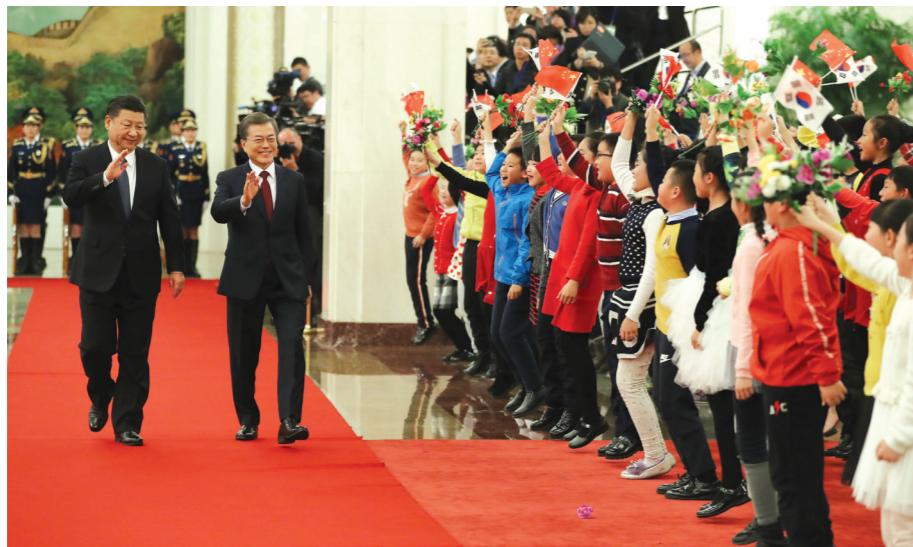
President Moon Jae-in and the leaders of ASEAN member countries pose for a commemorative photo during the 19th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit.



Korea-Japan Summit on the Opening Day of the PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games

(February 9, 2018)

President Moon Jae-in shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ahead of their bilateral summit in PyeongChang, Gangwon-do Province, during the Prime Minister's visit to attend the Opening Ceremony of the PyeongChang Olympics.



Official Welcoming Ceremony for President Moon Jae-in's State Visit to China (December 14, 2017)

President Moon Jae-in and Chinese President Xi Jin-ping wave at a group of children greeting the two Presidents during the official welcoming ceremony held at the Great Hall of the People of China in Beijing.



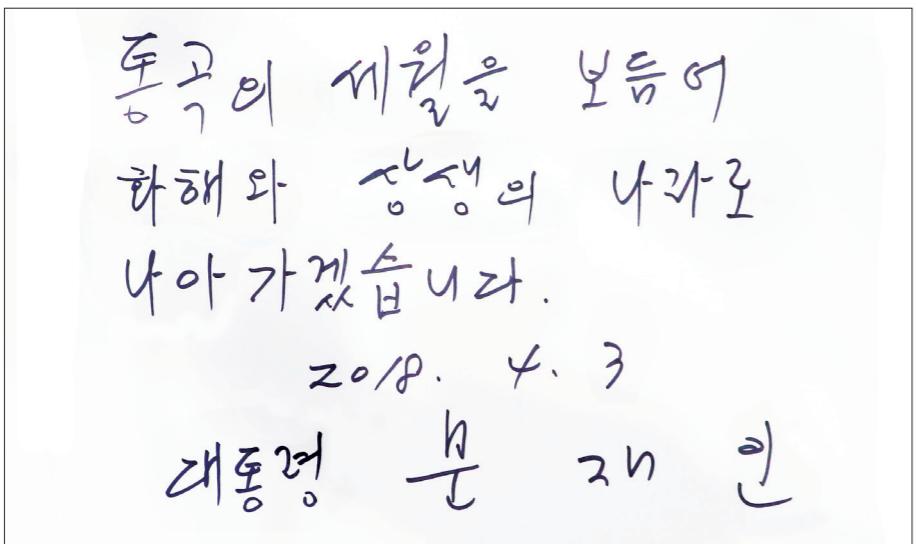
Encouraging Unified Korean Women's Ice Hockey Team at PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games (February 10, 2018)

President Moon Jae-in; First Lady Kim Jung-sook; Kim Yo Jong, First Vice Department Director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of North Korea; and Kim Yong Nam, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea pose for a commemorative photo with the unified Korean women's ice hockey team after its first match during the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games.



99th March First Independence Movement Day Ceremony (March 1, 2018)

President Moon Jae-in participates in the March First Independence Movement Day Ceremony held for the first time at Seoul's Seodaemun Prison History Hall. "The thick root will cultivate the strong tree of peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula. The Republic of Korea will be one of the greatest and most beautiful countries in the world," said the President.



President Moon Jae-in's Message at the 70th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony for the Jeju April 3 Incident (April 3, 2018)

"I will help the country move toward reconciliation and coexistence by seeking healing for the anguish of the past." President Moon Jae-in wrote this entry in the guestbook housed in the room containing the memorial tablets of victims enshrined at the Jeju April 3 Peace Park.



Commemorative Tree Planting Following First 2018 Inter-Korean Summit (April 27, 2018)

President Moon Jae-in and Chairman Kim Jong Un pose after shoveling soil from the highest Korean mountains (Hallasan in the South and Baekdusan in the North) and pouring water from the rivers (Hangang and Daedonggang) flowing through their capital cities during a symbolic tree planting ceremony.



One-on-one Talks on Footbridge during First 2018 Inter-Korean Summit (April 27, 2018)

President Moon Jae-in and Chairman Kim Jong Un speak one-on-one while sitting near the Military Demarcation Line after the commemorative tree planting.

Preface

Among the many facets noted since the launch of the Moon Jae-in Administration, presidential speeches have captured considerable public attention and won over hearts.

This compilation of selected speeches contains addresses and remarks made by President Moon at official events and major conferences that took place after he took office on May 10, 2017, up to May 10, 2018. During the year following his inauguration, President Moon has engaged in vibrant communication with the public on 286 occasions through speeches at major events and remarks at closed meetings as well as open messages.

Among these addresses and remarks, 33 of particular interest to international media and foreign nationals have been selected, translated into English and bound here. The book reflects the President's commitment to communicating and sharing even more messages with the foreign press and international opinion leaders more actively, beyond the language barrier.

The achievements of the Moon Jae-in Administration over the past year were made possible thanks to the people's unwavering support and encouragement, which was facilitated by President Moon's ceaseless efforts to communicate with them. Furthermore, the international community's endorsement and interest is also vital to ensure that the President's management of state affairs and diplomatic initiatives reap greater success.

I hope that this collection of speeches provides you with a clear understanding of the Moon Jae-in Administration's first year. I look forward to you grasping hands with the Administration so that its objectives won't get lost in the remaining four years.

Thank you very much.

July 2018

Im Jong-seok
Chief of Staff to the President

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SELECTED
SPEECHES

2017



01

Inaugural Address to the Nation

May 10, 2017

On May 9, 2017, the 19th presidential election was held in Korea in the wake of a national crisis triggered by the impeachment of President Park Geun-hye. At around 8:00 in the morning on May 10, the National Election Commission announced that candidate Moon Jae-in had won the election.

My fellow Koreans, I am grateful to you all. I bow my head in deep appreciation for the choice of you, the people. Today, serving as President in the 19th presidential term of the Republic of Korea, I take the first step toward a new Korea. My shoulders are now burdened with heavy mandates entrusted to me by the people, and my heart is burning with enthusiasm to create the kind of country that we have never been able to live in before. My head is now filled with blueprints for ushering in a new world characterized by unity and coexistence.

The new Republic of Korea we are trying to build is the nation that those who came before us have consistently aspired to in the face of countless frustrations and defeats. It is the nation that our young people have longed for so ardently, in spite of many sacrifices and dedicated efforts. To build such a Republic of Korea, I declare before history and the people with a fearful but humble mind that I will faithfully fulfill my responsibilities and missions as President.

I offer my gratitude and sympathy from deep in my heart to the other presidential contenders. There is no winner or loser in this election. We are all partners who are required to lead the new Republic of Korea together. Now is the time to leave behind the heat of competition and move forward together hand in hand.

My fellow Koreans, we have gone through unprecedented political upheavals over the past few months. Politics was in disarray but our people were great. Even with the impeachment and arrest of the sitting President, our people paved a way forward for the Republic of Korea. They never got discouraged but instead turned the crisis into an opportunity, eventually opening the way to a new world today. The greatness of the Republic of Korea is the greatness of the people. During this presidential election, our people made history again. A new President was elected through support from all across the country. Starting today, I will become a president for everyone. Even those who did not support me are my people, and I will serve them all alike. I dare to make a promise. This date—May 10, 2017—will go down in history as the beginning of the genuine unity of the people.

My fellow Koreans, over the past several troubling months, many people asked whether this country can indeed be called a country. From this very question, I will make a new start as President. From today, I will become a president dedicated to building a country worthy of being called a country. I will boldly break from the malpractices of old days. As President, I will take the lead in starting anew.

First and foremost, I will strive to get rid of authoritarian practices in the presidency. When preparations are completed, I am going to leave Cheong Wa Dae to usher in an era of the presidential office in Gwanghwamun Square. There, my aides and I will put our heads together and have discussions. I will frequently engage in communication with the people. On key issues, I myself will hold press briefings. On my way home, I will drop by markets to talk freely with citizens I encounter. Large public forums will be occasionally held at Gwanghwamun Square.

The President's imperial power will be shared as much as possible. I will make sure that agencies that have great authority remain completely independent from politics. There will be a system to keep these agencies in check so that none of them will be able to wield absolute power.

I will perform my duties with humility. I will become a president who is at eye level with the people.

I will endeavor to address the security crisis promptly. For the sake of peace on the Korean Peninsula, I will crisscross the globe. If needed, I will immediately fly to Washington. I will also visit Beijing and Tokyo and even Pyongyang under the right circumstances. I remain committed to doing all I can for the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula. The ROK-U.S. alliance will be further strengthened. In the meantime, I will have serious discussions with the United States and China for the resolution of issues related to THAAD. Strong security is made possible by strong defense capabilities. The Government will also strive to further enhance independent defense capabilities. It will also lay the foundation for the resolution of the North Korean nuclear problem. The Government will endeavor to establish peace in Northeast Asia, thus setting a milestone in alleviating tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

I will make efforts to change the landscape of politics characterized by division and conflicts. Confrontations between conservatives and progressives must come to an end. As President, I will take the lead in engaging in dialogues. Opposition parties are partners in the administration of state affairs. Discussions will be held on a regular basis, and I will take time to have meetings.

Officials will be appointed regardless of where they are from. Competence and the need to put the right person in the right place will become the overriding criteria. I am ready to appoint capable individuals regardless of whether or not they support me.

Both here and abroad, the economy is going through a difficult time. Ordinary people's livelihoods are under threat. As I promised during my campaign, I will tend to the employment issue first. At the same time, I will take the initiative in reforming conglomerates. Under the Moon Jae-in Administration, the cozy relationship between political and business circles will completely disappear. I will strive to resolve conflicts between regions, social classes and generations and seek ways to solve the problems faced by non-regular workers. I will help create a world without discrimination.

I repeat: The Administration led by Moon Jae-in and the Democratic Party of Korea will promote equal opportunities. The process will be fair, and the result will be just.

My fellow Koreans, this presidential election was held in the aftermath of the impeachment of the former President. The unfortunate history of the presidency still continues. On the occasion of this election, this unfortunate history must end. I will set a new example as the President of the Republic of Korea. I will make my utmost efforts to become a president who will be viewed as a success by the public and by history. By doing so, I will repay your support.

I will become a clean president. I take office empty-handed, and I will leave office the same way. Someday, I will return home and become an ordinary citizen and friendly neighbor. I will continue to be a person all of you can be proud of.

I will become an honest president who keeps promises. I will meticulously honor the pledges

I made during the campaign. Genuine political progress will be possible only when the president takes the initiative in engaging in trustworthy politics. I will not talk big about doing the impossible. I will admit to the wrong I did. I will not cover up unfavorable public opinion with lies.

I will be a fair president. I will explore ways to create a world without privileges and foul play. I will endeavor to create a world where those who follow common sense will benefit. I will not overlook the pain of our neighbors. I will always be vigilant with a great sense of caring so that there will be no one left behind. I will become a president who comforts people in sorrow.

I will be a president who communicates with others. I will exert my authority in a humble and modest manner; I will build a country stronger than it has ever been. I will not be a president who is domineering and authoritative but one who communicates and promotes dialogue. I will stay close to the people, working near Gwanghwamun. I will become a president who remains warmhearted and friendly to the people.

My fellow Koreans, the Republic of Korea starts anew today, on May 10, 2017. A great history of building a decent nation begins. I ask you all to join me on this journey. I will fully dedicate myself to it. Thank you very much.



02

Address on the 62nd Memorial Day

June 06, 2017

Memorial Day in Korea is observed on June 6 every year to remember and console the souls of Korea's fallen patriotic forefathers and soldiers who gave their lives for the country.

Fellow Koreans, decorated patriots and veterans and families of the fallen, marking the 62nd Memorial Day, I bow deeply before the noble souls of those who sacrificed themselves for the country. My sympathy and gratitude go out to the families of those who lost loved ones in the cause of protecting the homeland. I also pay my heartfelt tribute to those who served the country with distinction.

Today, I think of patriotism here at the National Cemetery. Had it not been for the patriotism of our people, we would not have the Republic of Korea of today. Our history has been interspersed with incessant ordeals ranging from colonization, division and war to poverty and struggles against dictatorships. It was patriotism that enabled us to overcome all these tribulations. The past century has been turned into our proud history.

Fellow Koreans, it was the conviction of our independence activists that made it possible to keep the name of our country, the Republic of Korea. From volunteer righteous armies to the Korean Liberation Army against imperialist Japan, the conviction about restoring national sovereignty and achieving self-reliant independence was embedded in the national flag, the Taegeukgi. Even though their bodies were slashed and nails pulled out, they never deserted their country, flying the Taegeukgi in their hearts. The people fostered independence fighters and supported the independence movement, unwaveringly living out sorrow over their lost country. This is patriotism.

It took long years even after liberation until our independence activists and their descendants were honored by the nation. The reality is, however, still contrary to what it should be—the children and grandchildren of independence fighters have lived in poverty while the children and grandchildren of pro-Japanese collaborators have thrived. Descendants of independence activists are suffering from the distress of impoverishment and the frustration of being uneducated. With this disgraceful and regretful reality left unattended, we cannot call our nation a properly functioning country. The honor bestowed for patriotism must not remain only lip service. We will work to identify even one more independence activist, even one more of their descendants and even one more story of the independence movement. We will remember and honor them. That is what is required of the nation.

There were many sons of this country who gave their lives while the 38th parallel was turned into the truce line. Our soldiers shed blood to retake even an inch of land in hundreds of hills along the front line. Their short lives made it possible to expand the territory of the country. Our troops were not the only ones who defended the front line. Young adults and students in the rear also joined forces after pledging allegiance and devotion to the Taegeukgi. Carrying A-frames on their backs, civilians hauled ammunition and food. This is patriotism.

Hills with no names where fierce battles took place—White Horse in Cheolwon and Heartbreak Ridge and Bloody Ridge in Yanggu—became the graves of brave soldiers. Those hills were given sad names steeped in the tragedy of war. They became hills of tears for those veterans who had to leave their comrades-in-arms behind and have lived with a lifetime of painful memories. We will do what it takes to find the remains of those still lying where they fell and have them buried here in the National Cemetery. The veterans who were wounded on battlefields and

those who have lived with indelible scars from the sacrifices of their fellow soldiers are the very fathers of this country. We will make sure to honor them. We will not let them be taken advantage of by ideological groups and will see to it that they are respected by all the sons and daughters of this land. That is what they deserve from their nation.

Thanks to the dedication and sacrifice of the Korean Vietnamese War veterans, the Korean economy was resuscitated. They unhesitatingly answered the call of the Republic of Korea. They carried out their missions silently, prevailing over hardships in sweltering heat waves and jungles. This is patriotism.

Diseases and disabilities resulting from the war on foreign soil are the debt the Government should also be held accountable for. Now it is the Government's turn to give an appropriate answer. We will repay their service with proper treatment and honor. That is what is required of the nation.

My fellow Koreans, today, I join you in remembering the fact that dedication to and sacrifice for the country did not take place only on battlefields. At a time when the country was desperately in need of foreign currency and even any single dollar it could get, there were Koreans who made important contributions to the country's modernization while working in Germany, a foreign land far away from their home. Korean miners sent to Germany, engulfed in coal dust and soaked in sweat in hot underground mines, worked to dig up coal. Korean nurses sent to Germany endured even all unpleasant work at hospitals. Their devotion and sacrifice laid a stepping stone for the country's economy. This is patriotism.

I am also grateful for the sacrifice and dedicated efforts of those female workers, who devoted the prime of their lives working in attic workshops that lined the Cheonggyecheon stream, the ceilings of which were so low they could not stand up straight. They worked at sewing machines with bleary eyes and had cracked fingertips removing stitches. They were called female factory workers instead of patriots, but they were the ones who helped achieve the Miracle on the Han River. This is patriotism.

Today, on behalf of the Government, I honor deep in my heart those who are now aged and recalling the times when they exerted all their efforts for their poor country.

Fellow citizens, decorated patriots and veterans and families of fallen heroes, the Korea of today was built on patriotism. Every single individual who dedicated themselves to the nation makes up the Republic of Korea. They themselves in their entirety are the Republic of Korea, a nation that is not and cannot be divided into liberals and conservatives. The flags independence fighters embraced were also fluttering on many ridges where battles were waged to capture hilltop positions. The flags flown when seeing off coal miners and nurses to Germany were also flown at the time of the May 18 Democratization Movement in 1980 and the June Struggle in 1987. The flags were etched deep in the minds of our brave sailors who risked their lives to defend our maritime territory in the West Sea and their bereaved families. They differed in how they showed love of country, but still, they were all patriots.

A new Republic of Korea has to start from here. Reconciliation has to be realized with our hearts, going beyond our institutions. There was neither left nor right in getting the country back and neither young nor old in safeguarding the country. As such, our people stood at the very center of the history of patriotism. My Administration and I will honor and keep the legacy of patriotism.

I earnestly ask all those who devoted themselves to the defense of the Republic of Korea to take the lead with that same patriotism in further promoting unity in Korea. You are the ones who could put an end to ideological conflicts in this country. It is you all who have loved the homeland throughout your whole life and who could now end hatred, confrontations and conflicts between generations in this country. More than anything else, my Administration will not repeat the unfortunate past practices of utilizing the history of patriotism for governance. I will end politics controlled along ideological lines that instigate an us-versus-them mindset, which regarded the war experience as a means for ruling, rather than focusing on treating the aftereffects of the war.

Fellow Koreans, decorated patriots and veterans and their families, I declare here today clearly that the welfare of veterans and patriots is a road toward the unity of the people and a robust nation.

The welfare policy for veterans and patriots in the country has steadily developed so far. It started from military support to include treatment provided with respect and compensation for veterans. Its scope has also expanded from persons of national merit who sacrificed themselves in the defense of the country to include those who fought for independence or democracy, or who were injured or killed on official duty. Though we were not able to serve some of the military and police or some public servants and righteous people whose worth needed to be honored as persons of national merit, we have come up with legislation to provide them with respectful treatment and support. All these, however, have been far short of matching the level of their contributions and failed to reach the standard asked for by the people in terms of common sense and their expectations.

Now I will take a step further. If the National Assembly agrees, I will lift the status of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs and upgrade it to a ministerial-level organization. I will make sure that persons of national merit, veteran welfare recipients and their families can live with pride.

There must be an unshakable belief that those who make contributions to the country will be compensated while traitors will be judged. That is a properly functioning country for which people can demonstrate their patriotism. Let's build a nation together, in which patriotism, justice, principle and honesty are rewarded. Let's build a fair country together where the success of individuals and businesses simultaneously constitutes the road toward patriotism.

Again, I commemorate the memory of patriotic martyrs and fallen heroes who sacrificed themselves in the defense of the country or fought for democracy. I pray for the repose of their souls. Thank you very much.



03

Address on the 30th Anniversary of the June 10 Democratic Struggle

June 10, 2017

The June Democracy Movement is a historic nation-wide uprising that took place in June 1987 against the military regime of Chun Doo-hwan, demanding the restoration of democracy and direct presidential election. It affirmed that sovereignty belongs to the people.

My fellow Koreans, as I stand in this plaza with many of our citizens today to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the June 10 Democratic Struggle, my heart is indeed filled with deep emotions. People, ranging from teenagers to elders in their 70s, from Jeju to Seoul and from the southeastern part of Korea to the southwestern part of the country, shouted with one voice for constitutional revision and the end of dictatorship. Their fervent chant is still ringing vividly in my ears.

In June, 30 years ago, we showed our greatness as a people. Young students stood firm even in a barrage of tear gas. A corps of office workers still wearing their neckties began to lead the democratic struggle instead of remaining quietly on the sidelines. Citizens blew their car horns, waved handkerchiefs, handed out loaves of bread and put flowers of peace on the chests of riot police. They were all protagonists of history.

In June, 30 years ago, we witnessed the victory of the people. It was a victory carved out of rage against injustice and aspirations for democracy in defiance of a harsh military dictatorship. Our people finally changed the current of history toward democracy from dictatorial rule. They regained their right to elect a president with their own votes and choose an administration. Resistance that seemed as hopeless as trying to crack a rock with an egg eventually snowballed, writing a truly great and moving chapter in history.

The direct presidential election system was not the only achievement. The June Struggle opened an era of "plaza democracy" in our society. Reporting guidelines to control news coverage were abolished, and journalists and citizens regained freedom of speech. Various organizations for civil society were created, and forums for democracy that had been repressed and closed down were expanded. Had it not been for democracy, there would not have been such remarkable economic development nor the flourishing of social diversity, culture and arts. All the developments and progress achieved over the past 30 years can be ascribed to the June Struggle.

The Moon Jae-in Administration was launched on the foundation of all these accomplishments made by our people. For this reason, I feel truly honored to join the people who led the June Struggle in commemorating this meaningful 30th Anniversary today.

The Moon Administration is founded on the spirit of the June Struggle. Throughout my term, I will take to heart that I am simply one of the Korean people, even though I hold the office of President. I will forever remember the two young individuals who changed history—a son of Busan, Park Jong-chul; and a son of Gwangju, Lee Han-yeol. I offer my gratitude and respect to the leadership of the Struggle and all the people who shed tears and cheered together in the passionate chants that reverberated through the streets in 1987.

My fellow citizens, above all else, I feel proud of the fact that the Korean people achieved democracy on their own, a democracy which now wins worldwide admiration. The seeds of democracy were first brought in from outside the country with liberation. But it was our people that nurtured them to full bloom today. Along the way, we experienced the April 19 Student Revolution, the Bu-Ma Democratic Protests, the May 18 Democratization Movement and the June Democratic Struggle, which all combined to pave the way for the candlelight rallies last winter.

The candles were triumphant flowers that the spirit of the June Struggle helped bring to full bloom after having matured over a generation.

Through the June Struggle, we have learned of the power of the people. In the process of putting our ideas into action through the candlelight rallies, we created a democratic republic. Citizens brought dictatorship to an end in June 1987, and those with candles last winter presented the direction and agenda for a democratic society. The candles represented the demand of the people to complete the unfinished June Struggle.

My fellow Koreans, our task ahead is to expand democracy. We have to make our democracy broader, deeper and stronger. We must make sure that democracy achieved through the June Struggle takes root in the everyday lives of all people. When democracy leads to concrete changes in our lives, the June Struggle can be a living present and future.

Democracy is not just a system but a living, breathing thing in itself and also a way of life. Now here I make a promise and some suggestions. Democracy as a system will no longer be shaken or rolled back. Under the Moon Administration, democracy will develop while human rights will be further promoted. All state authority resides in the people. This is also true in relation to the Constitution, the election system, Cheong Wa Dae, the prosecution, the National Intelligence Service, the media and any system that puts into action the authority entrusted by the people. I will make sure that agencies with great authority do not monitor, distort or suppress public opinion and the will of the people.

Now our new challenge is to achieve democracy within the economy. Democracy is food for everyone, and food for everyone means democracy. Extreme inequalities in income and wealth are threatening democracy in our country. The job crisis is the root cause. I am reiterating my intention to become a President focused on job creation since I believe that democracy would be nothing but a formality if extreme economic inequality persists. Job opportunity is not just a matter of the economy but of democracy. However, the Government's will alone will not suffice.

Working together, our society has to establish new standards for economic democracy. We have to move toward a democracy that upholds the spirit of compromise, concession, solidarity, consideration and the embracing of all members of society. Conglomerates, small and medium-sized enterprises, workers and civil society all need to join forces. I am certain that the future, which we are about to make a leap forward into using this 30th Anniversary of the June Struggle as a stepping stone, lies in a grand social compromise that consists of small concessions, burden sharing and the reduction of gaps.

It is something that will never be easy but is a task we must complete at all costs. My Administration and I, as President, will make utmost efforts. For a genuine grand compromise among labor, business and the Government, I ask for the participation of all economic entities. Anyone who works faithfully for eight hours a day should not have to worry about making ends meet. Even if someone fails, they should be given a second chance. Resolving socioeconomic inequality together like this is the way to fulfill democracy. I also ask politicians to work together with us.

My fellow Koreans, there is one thing that I dearly want us all to remember. The core of the June Struggle did not just involve certain classes or lie in certain regions. Priests, pastors, Buddhist monks, women, democratic politicians, workers, farmers, the less privileged living in urban areas, writers, educators, legal professionals, cultural figures, artists, journalists, publishers, young people and students all rallied behind the National Movement Headquarters for a Democratic Constitution. Protests held simultaneously in 22 locations nationwide on June 10 grew into a great national march of peace to accomplish a democratic constitution, which took place in 270 locations and 34 cities across the country on June 26. As seen here, the June Struggle transcended different classes and regions. Thus, we were able to triumph.

I also took part in the June Struggle demonstrations in Busan and learned that the power of democracy was strongest when it flowed like water. Like a young man who fought against dictatorship in 1987 and became a father and a frequent participant in the rallies in plazas in 2017, and a high school girl who gave protesters lunches in 1987 and became a mother of two and took part in the candlelight protests in 2017, the spirit of democracy that continues in the hearts of individuals is unshakable.

When politics and everyday life as well as workplaces and homes are linked to democracy, our lives will be unshakable. Let us make concerted efforts so that our lives and the democratic capacity of society become more mature. The Government will endeavor to change general practices, systems and culture. Let us all help each other in changing undemocratic elements that have become part of our everyday lives. Let us work together for each and every one of us to become conscientious democratic citizens. When democracy takes root in the political, social and economic systems and each and every one of us is trained with democracy in our everyday lives, democracy will never bend, no matter how hard a storm blows.

In the name of the June Struggle, democracy will last forever and the plaza will be always open to the public. Thank you very much.



04

Congratulatory Remarks at the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

June 16, 2017

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was established by China as a multilateral development bank with a mission to support the building of large-scale infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region. The 2nd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the AIIB was held in Jeju-do Province June 16-18, 2017.

Honorable President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Jin Liqun, representatives from member countries and other international organizations, distinguished guests from home and abroad, congratulations on the opening of the 2nd Annual Meeting of the AIIB Board of Governors. On behalf of the Korean people, I warmly welcome all the participants from around the world.

This annual meeting is the second since the establishment of AIIB last year. This is the first annual meeting to be held outside the region where the headquarters is situated. I am very gratified that Korea is hosting this significant event. It is also a personally meaningful gathering because it is the first international event that I have attended since I took office as President last month.

Jeju, an island with a unique nature, history and culture, is a source of pride for the Korean people. It is also an environmental treasure trove recognized by the world. UNESCO designated Jeju as a World Natural Heritage Site, a Biosphere Reserve and a Global Geopark. I hope you will enjoy the beautiful landscape of Jeju and experience Korean culture to the full during your stay here.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the world today is paying attention to the dynamism of Asia. Asia accounts for 60 percent of the total population of the world and more than one-third of global GDP. It is the largest market in the world and also a crucial manufacturing region. At the same time, Asia is the region with an immense growth potential that will lead the global economy in the future. The economy is not the only factor. Asia is extraordinarily crucial in terms of politics. The development of democracy and political stability in Asian countries constitute important elements in world peace and security.

Asia is the cradle of human civilization. Over a very long period of time, diverse aspects of human life and culture unfolded across the vast continent. Countless time-honored histories and stories of Asia are a treasure trove of inspiration for people living in the 21st century.

Though a late starter in the modernization process, Asia has its own strength. It is the power of culture and history as well as diversity. Today, humanity is being confronted with a variety of challenges stemming from politics, security, the economy and the environment. I believe that solidarity and cooperation among Asian countries will make it possible to tackle various challenges facing us today. With such a belief, I have communicated by phone with many Asian heads of state and government since my inauguration and sent special envoys to India, Australia and some ASEAN countries.

By bringing out the best of Asia's strengths, humanity will be able to overcome imminent challenges and make yet another leap forward. For this reason, I place high expectations on the AIIB. There is no doubt that it will play a great role in connecting people, linking regions and opening a better future beyond today's limits.

Distinguished guests, this annual meeting is being held under the theme "Sustainable Infrastructure." Investments in infrastructure have thus far driven Asia's high-flying economic

growth. Infrastructure investment itself helped create jobs, and such infrastructure as power and water supplies, communications and transportation has served as the foundation for advances in manufacturing and other relevant industries. The building of such infrastructure is still crucial in Asia. It is intended for eradicating poverty and further expanding economic development. It is all the more urgent for Asian developing countries, especially impoverished nations. What is also necessary in response to the coming era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution is the new ICT infrastructure construction, including more accessible wireless internet connection, networks for the Internet of Things and smart highways. Only when they are in place will it be possible for Asia to continue greater growth. It is known that the annual demand for infrastructure investment in Asia's developing nations over the next two decades will amount to US\$1.7 trillion. Given the high demand and available finances of each country that have deteriorated in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, the significance and role of the AIIB, which was founded to support infrastructure expansion in Asia, is all the more important.

Launched last year with 57 founding members, the AIIB has achieved a lot within a short period of one and a half years. The number of member countries has now increased to 77, including non-regional members. Today, I heard that three more countries would join the body. As such, it has become an international bank both in name and substance. The bank has so far provided US\$2.5 billion in loans for 16 projects in developing countries, thereby making significant contributions to the expansion of infrastructure in those countries. I look forward to the AIIB working together with other multilateral development banks to render more efficient support for the economic development of developing countries. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the Chinese Government for its leading role in launching the AIIB and to President Jin Liqun for his ceaseless endeavors and significant contributions to its stable launch.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the direction of infrastructure investment pursued by the AIIB is in line with the Korean Government's approach to economic growth. Now I am going to put forth directions for future infrastructure investment.

First, infrastructure investment has to contribute to sustainable growth. Up until now, infrastructure investment has made contributions to the economic growth of each country. In the process, however, it has also damaged the environment. Korea has also undergone such costly experiences, and it has done a lot of soul-searching on what went wrong. Development that damages the environment will undoubtedly turn out to incur even higher costs in the future. Environmental issues in one country affect neighboring countries as well. Therefore, eco-friendly development and cooperation among countries are crucial. It is fortunate that the international community has recently been building a consensus on the need to develop sustainable infrastructure that is environmentally friendly and can contribute to resolving environmental problems. Countries are also engaging in discussions on how to work together.

Korea welcomes this move by the international community and is coming up with a plan for active participation. By 2030, it plans to increase the ratio of power generation through new and renewable energy sources to 20 percent of the total. We are going to reduce coal-fired power generation and move towards a nuclear phase-out. The use of eco-friendly cars such as electric vehicles will also be expanded. We will actively share our experiences in building sustainable

infrastructure, including new and renewable energy power generation and eco-friendly energy towns, with AIIB member countries.

Second, infrastructure investment has to contribute to inclusive growth. In order to achieve sustainable development, all members of society should be able to carefully consider and support each other and grow together. Basic infrastructure for tap water, sanitation and electricity are fundamental and essential elements of a decent life. Transportation and communications infrastructure makes contributions to balanced growth and social cohesion through interregional exchanges. Infrastructure investment has to lead to well-balanced development and shared prosperity by reducing the disparities between regions and countries. In the process of making decisions on future investments, it will be important to take into consideration whether the facilities to be developed will be easy for everyone to access and be of help to neglected people, regions and countries. I believe this is the first step for inclusive growth.

Third, investment in infrastructure should be able to contribute to job creation. Countries around the world, including Korea, have been facing the crisis characterized by jobless growth and the shortage of jobs for young people. Placing a people-centered economy at the core of its economic policy, the new Administration in Korea is pursuing the creation of decent jobs as a top priority. Investment in infrastructure can create jobs. Architectural and civil engineering works themselves accompanied by the establishment of infrastructure can create jobs. Jobs can also be created in manufacturing and the service industries whose development is based on infrastructure. Building infrastructure for information and communications technology in the years to come is expected to contribute to the creation of new industries and jobs. In particular, it will provide new economic opportunities to the disadvantaged, including young adults, women and seniors, who have had fewer chances of getting decent jobs.

Distinguished guests, the Republic of Korea has accomplished rapid economic growth in a short period of time. The Miracle on the Han River was built upon an aggressive investment in infrastructure. The transportation of people and goods has become faster due to the construction of expressways and high-speed trains. In the process, a range of manufacturing industries, including the automotive and steel industries, have also developed together. Regional cities have advanced, and exchanges between different regions have expanded.

Many of you must have arrived here via the Incheon International Airport. The airport is a good symbol of the infrastructure powerhouse that is Korea. The airport won the world's best airport award for a record 12th consecutive year this year. Korea is sharing its accumulated experience and know-how with neighboring countries in Asia. The experience in building expressways led to the construction of the Hanoi-Hai Phong Expressway in Vietnam. The experience in building 31 bridges connecting the northern and southern sides of Han River was the basis for constructing the Pangil Bay Bridge in Mindanao, the Philippines. The know-how in building the Incheon International Airport will be used in constructing an airport in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, Korea has achieved both economic development and democracy in just half a century, rising above the ruins of war. It is the first country after

the Second World War to develop from an aid recipient to a donor nation. Recently, Korea has overcome unprecedented political upheavals through the power of the people. Our economic and social development experiences will provide developing countries in Asia with substantive help. Based on the experiences so far, Korea will become a partner that accompanies developing countries in Asia in their economic and social development from now on.

I promise that, as a bridge between developing and developed countries, Korea will fulfill its role and duties. In ancient times, when the Silk Road opened, the West and the East were connected, markets were created, and cultures were exchanged. The last stop on the Silk Road to the Far East of the Asian Continent is the Korean Peninsula. The severed railroad that connected Seoul and Sinuiju is a symbol of the still festering reality of the Korean Peninsula. When South and North Korea are connected with railroads, the new overland and maritime Silk Road will be completed. Most of all, I hope that peace on the Korean Peninsula will contribute to the stability and unity of Asia. I sincerely ask all of you to take an interest and join together with us.

I hope that this annual meeting will be a meaningful venue for in-depth discussions and will achieve practical results on the direction of future investments and policies of the AIIB. By expanding investment in infrastructure, I hope that all members will be able to contribute to economic growth in Asia. As a key member of the AIIB, Korea will also do its best to increase its contribution in material and human resources.

Finally, I express my gratitude to the AIIB, the Ministry of Strategy and Finance and Jeju Provincial Government officials for their hard work in preparing for the annual meeting. Thank you very much.



05

Remarks at a Reception for Korean War Veterans on the 67th Anniversary of the Outbreak of the Korean War

June 23, 2017

Marking the 67th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, a reception was held in Seoul on June 23, 2017 to honor the Korean War veterans.

The honorable Korean War veterans, distinguished guests from home and abroad, it is a pleasure to be with you here. I am very gratified to see you in good health. I wholeheartedly welcome those Korean War veterans, their families and diplomatic delegations, in particular, who have traveled long distances from overseas. This year marks the 67th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, an extensive period of time having passed. More than anything else, however, I would like to say that the Republic of Korea and its people never forget the sacrifices and dedication of the Korean War veterans from home and abroad. I will do everything in my power to ensure that your contributions will be remembered going forward as especially priceless in the history of Korea.

Honorable Korean War veterans, today's proud Republic of Korea stands on the brilliant, indomitable spirit of the members of the Korean Armed Forces and the United Nations Forces who fought in the War and are joining us here today. The Korean and U.N. troops risked their lives fighting to defend freedom and peace. Such grit and determination helped protect the Republic of Korea and produced a harvest of remarkable economic growth and democracy. The dedication of volunteer soldiers, volunteer student soldiers and underage conscripted soldiers who rose up resolutely in the face of the national crisis served as a great boost for the protection of the country. It has grown into the mature civic consciousness of the Republic of Korea today. Specially invited this year are female military service members, female volunteer soldiers, Korean expat veterans and members of the Civilian Transportation Corps and the Korean Service Corps as well as returned prisoners of war. The Government will take care of every single one of those who readily fought to save the country from the crisis.

All the Korean War veterans are the pride of the Republic of Korea, and every single one of you are part of Korean history. The task entrusted to me as President is to make all of you feel a sense of pride in this unquestionable fact. The Government will repay you all with due benefits with utmost sincerity. The increase in honor allowances, medical services, welfare and burial facilities for war veterans is the basic duty the country should be responsible for. The Government will work to raise war veteran honor allowances and expand medical welfare services to honor their sacrifices and contributions with appropriate treatment. It is also important to remember the names of war veterans. The Government will continue the efforts to identify unregistered war veterans to keep them on record. It will prove by practice that the best welfare policy for war veterans is the foundation of firm security as well as a path leading to national unity and a strong nation.

Korean War veterans and distinguished guests, we are here together with the Korean War veterans of the U.N. Forces and their families as well. As a well-known phrase reads, they willingly came "to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met" and made sacrifices with great devotion. On behalf of the Republic of Korea, I would like to express my utmost respect and appreciation to the member states of the United Nations that sent troops as well as the war veterans from those countries.

Today we are also joined by the heroes of the Battle of Jangjin (Chosin) Reservoir and the Hungnam Evacuation from North Korea. These two historic occasions became well known even to postwar generations in Korea who did not experience the war. Thanks to the successful rescue

operation, the son of a refugee from Hungnam could become the President of the Republic of Korea and join you all today. I hope this fact helps make the Korean War veterans of the U.N. Forces feel a sense of delight and reward. The Republic of Korea will never ever forget our friendship forged in blood and make efforts to cherish it. In this connection, I promise that the Republic of Korea will strive to make contributions to world peace and prosperity so that the faith in humanity all of you practiced with devotion will shine further.

Honorable Korean War veterans, the Korean War is a painful part of history. Most of the Korean Peninsula suffered the ravages of the war, and millions of people were killed or injured. The united efforts of the people made it possible to restore the ruined land, but the wounds in our hearts have yet to be healed completely. The wounds of the division and pains of separated families persist today. The guns pointed at each other still remain as a source of grudges. No matter how much time has passed, the pain of losing a family member, a comrade and even a hometown is not going to be easily washed away.

Nonetheless, we need to move forward. I believe that for the sake of ourselves, our children and grandchildren, it is this very moment that we need courage and determination again. Despite our own and international efforts for peace, North Korea is threatening the safety of the Korean Peninsula and repeating its provocations. It is something that deserves to be denounced. My Administration and I will not hesitate even a little in protecting the safety of the people and nation. I will safeguard national security with the unwavering ROK-U.S. alliance and the overwhelming national defense capability.

We all are well aware that peace is possible only when it is backed by strong and solid security. At the same time, my Administration and I will leave the door open for dialogue so that the North could give up its nuclear program on its own and choose the path toward peace and prosperity. There may well be many difficulties as well as twists and turns ahead, but only the peace created through dialogue and cooperation will be sound and sustainable. I hope veterans like you all will be able to join us together. If veterans like you all become an added force and reliable supporters of the President who champions the cause of national security and peace, peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula would be brought a little forward.

Honorable Korean War veterans and distinguished guests, I will visit the United States and have a summit next week. President Donald Trump and I will put our heads together to reinforce the Korea-U.S. alliance and solve the North Korean nuclear issue. I will further solidify cooperation with the international community. I believe that more strongly protecting and further developing freedom and democracy, achieving peace on the Korean Peninsula by eliminating the concern of war and, thus, contributing to world peace are ways to repay the sacrifice and dedication of the Korean War veterans.

Again, I would like to express my gratitude and respect to you all, and I hope all of you will have a pleasant and comfortable time. Thank you very much.



06

Congratulatory Remarks at the 23rd World Taekwondo Championships in Muju

June 24, 2017

The 2017 World Taekwondo Championships, a festival and a dream competition for 80 million taekwondoists around the world, was held at Taekwondowon in Muju June 24-30, 2017 with the attendance of 971 athletes representing 183 countries.

I extend my warmest welcome to Executive board member Mr. Yu Zaiqing and members of the IOC, President Choue Chung-won of the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) and the teams from 183 countries around the world.

And today, we have guests who are the closest in distance but perhaps had to travel the greatest lengths to get here. I would like to sincerely welcome IOC Member Mr. Chang Ung, President Ri Yong-son of the International Taekwondo Federation (ITF) and the ITF demo team.

Beloved Taekwondo family members! First and foremost, I would like to introduce the venue of Muju, a place that resembles the spirit of Taekwondo. The name of Muju itself embodies the spirit of unity and harmony. Two thousand years ago, Mu-Poong of the Silla Kingdom and Ju-Gye of the Baekje Kingdom merged to form Muju. Since ancient times, Muju has been a land of martial artists. Korea's most beautiful valley of Guchondong, located here, gets its name from nine thousand warriors who trained in the martial arts in this valley. As the Silla and Baekje Kingdoms became one here in Muju, I hope that the WTF and ITF can become one, South and North Korea can become one and the world can become one as well. I also hope you may all take back with you the spiritual force of the martial artists.

Members of the Taekwondo family! Over the past half century, Taekwondo has made remarkable advancements. It has grown from a martial art of Korea to a sporting martial art of the world practiced by 80 million. Now youngsters from 232 countries around the globe wear white uniforms and build physical strength and character. This is the achievement of the international Taekwondo family, numerous masters and trainees who have introduced Taekwondo to the world as civilian diplomats donning black belts. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the elders of Taekwondo and all members of the international Taekwondo family.

Courtesy is the alpha and omega of Taekwondo. We train to build a strong body, but we also learn to use that strength for good and justice with an indomitable spirit. Abiding by this spirit, members of the Taekwondo family contribute to peace, co-existence and prosperity of humanity. In particular, I thank the WTF for its efforts to promote world peace and harmony. The WTF established the Humanitarian Foundation to foster the dreams of youngsters in refugee camps, disaster-stricken areas and developing countries around the world. The WTF is recognized as the most exemplary international sporting organization as President Thomas Bach of the IOC has also pointed out. Furthermore, I have heard the WTF demo team is working to return the favor by participating in the ITF's competition to be held in Pyeongyang this September. I hope this return visit takes place and provides a significant turning point for peace on the Korean Peninsula. Moreover, I hope the WTF's friendship match between Israel and Palestine will also materialize so that Taekwondo may leave its name on the bedrock of world peace.

Beloved members of the Taekwondo family! Sports are the most powerful tools of peace that can eliminate all barriers and gaps. Sweating together is the catalyst for reconciliation and unity. The United States, China and Vietnam which were once at odds with each other made peace through ping pong diplomacy. It was thanks to the efforts of FIFA that the integrated football league in South Africa could be launched.

I believe in the power of sports that has been creating peace. It is a pleasure that the new administration's first inter-Korean sports exchange is taking place through this championship competition.

In particular, the demonstration by the ITF in a WTF competition held in Korea is a historic first. The harmony and amity between the two Federations will of course be of great assistance for the reconciliation and cooperation between the two Koreas and peace on the Korean Peninsula. I hope the achievements made here in the field of Taekwondo may be carried over to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics next year.

If the North Korean team were to participate in the PyeongChang Olympics, it would contribute greatly to realizing the Olympic values of harmony of mankind and world peace. It is my wish that we may relive the glory of the 1991 Table Tennis World Championships and International Youth Football Tournament. I would like to feel once again the moving emotions of the 2000 Sydney Olympics when the world applauded the athletes of South and North Korea marching together in the opening ceremony. I hope the North Korean cheering squad may also participate to create a turning point for reconciliation between the two Koreas. I ask Mr. Chang Ung and the IOC members here with us for your keen interest and cooperation.

You have my word that the Korean government will make all necessary efforts and provide active support.

Dear members of the Taekwondo Family! This is the seventh Championship event held in Korea. Yet the Organizing Committee and the Korea Taekwondo Association have made their most sincere preparations as if it were their first time. I hope you all may display the best of your abilities in your best condition without any inconvenience throughout the course of the event. Furthermore, I also hope you may fully enjoy the beautiful nature of Muju and the culture of Korea during your stay.

I express my deep appreciation to President Lee Yun-taek and the staff of the Organizing Committee who have given their all in making preparations, to Governor Song Ha-jin and the people of North Jeolla Province for their sincere support and the 551 volunteers who have made this event possible. I also wish all participating athletes the best of luck, health and success. Thank you.

Welcoming Remarks at a Luncheon for Participants in the 2nd Meeting of Speakers of the Parliaments of Eurasian Countries

June 27, 2017

The 2nd Meeting of Speakers of Parliaments of Eurasian Countries was held in Seoul June 26-28, 2017. This premier inter-parliamentary meeting of Eurasia brought together representatives from some 30 countries from Europe and Asia.

Honorable Speaker Chung Sye-kyun, Chairman of the Russian State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin and distinguished representatives from many countries, I wholeheartedly welcome you all who came from afar to Korea.

I was wondering how the meeting went this morning. The Prime Minister, my reliable partner, delivered greetings to you on my behalf. I am truly pleased to finally have a chance to meet you here at this luncheon.

I believe that another name for Eurasia is "diversity." It is true when considering our differences in appearance and language. However, we have one thing in common. That is the fact that the more exchanges and cooperation there are between neighboring countries, the more prosperous we can be together. Shared prosperity in the Eurasian region is the mandate entrusted to us by the peoples of our respective nations.

More than anything else, I ask you all to take interest in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue and provide support to this end. For its part, the Korean Government will also strive to bring about permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula by employing all possible means, including sanctions and dialogue, in cooperation with the international community.

Since taking office last May, I have made efforts to work together with the National Assembly, a crucial partner in steering state affairs. I believe this spirit of collaborative governance also

constitutes an indispensable element for shared growth and development in the Eurasian region.

There are numerous tasks that Eurasian nations need to tackle together, such as the establishment of logistics networks and the expansion of information and communications technology infrastructure. International cooperation and close partnerships will be the driving force for opening a new path. I hope on that path, the Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments will play a significant role. I believe it will be the cradle of peace and prosperity in Eurasia. The Korean Government will spare no effort in this endeavor.

I hope you will be able to accomplish as much as possible while you are staying in Seoul and to have an opportunity to become immersed in Korea's beauty and charm. Thank you very much.



08

Remarks at a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Jangjin (Chosin) Reservoir Battle Monument in the United States

June 28, 2017

In the winter of 1950 during the Korean War, 13,000 American soldiers fought fiercely for 17 days under a siege by 120,000 members of the Communist Chinese army at the Jangjin Reservoir on the Gaema Plateau in North Korea.

Honorable Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller, Gen. Steven Olmstead and other surviving veterans who fought in the Battle of Jangjin “Chosin” Reservoir, those who were involved in the Hungnam Evacuation and their bereaved families, and especially the relatives of Gen. Edward Almond and Dr. Hyun Bong-hak, whose roles were critical in evacuating refugees, I am very pleased to meet you all.

I am filled with great emotion to see you in front of the monument to the Battle of Jangjin Reservoir. At last, I am here at this place I so dearly wished to visit. It is all the more meaningful for me to start the first day of my first overseas trip as President of the Republic of Korea here.

In 1950, 67 years ago, the U.S. Marines made noble sacrifices to defend “a country they never knew and a people they never met.” The most heroic battle they fought during the Korean War was the Battle of Jangjin Reservoir. Thanks to the remarkable fighting spirit of those heroes of Jangjin Reservoir, the operation to evacuate some 100,000 refugees from Hungnam could be successful. My parents were also among the refugees aboard the SS Meredith Victory at that time.

The late Captain Leonard LaRue, who was ordered by Gen. Almond to rescue refugees, jettisoned weapons and supplies on the ship to board as many refugees as possible. Loaded with an incredible 14,000 refugees, the ship set sail toward freedom and human rights, navigating a sea of death teeming with naval mines. The voyage was a perfect success, without a single death. During the voyage that began on December 23, 1950, from the Port of Hungnam and ended on December 25 when the ship arrived on the Island of Geoje in the South Sea, five babies were born. It was a Christmas miracle! It was the greatest humanitarian operation in history.

Two years later, I was born on Geoje Island, where the SS Meredith Victory disembarked the refugees. Had it not been for the valiant warriors of the Battle of Jangjin Reservoir and the success of the Hungnam Evacuation, my life would not have started. I would not be here today. So, how can I fully express my gratitude for your sacrifice and devotion with any words in any language in this world? Words like respect and gratitude just seem to be far from enough. The story goes beyond my personal and family histories. I am also deeply touched by the love for humanity the U.S. service members showed when they evacuated not just their own soldiers but also so many refugees from the North at such an urgent moment. This is the reason why the Battle of Jangjin Reservoir and the Hungnam Evacuation are regarded the greatest victories in the history of war.

My mother told me that on December 24, U.S. sailors had handed out a piece of candy to each refugee as a Christmas gift while still sailing southward. This episode has not been made public yet. Even though it was just one piece of candy, I have always been grateful to warm-hearted U.S. service members who gave a Christmas present to so many refugees in the throes of a devastating war.

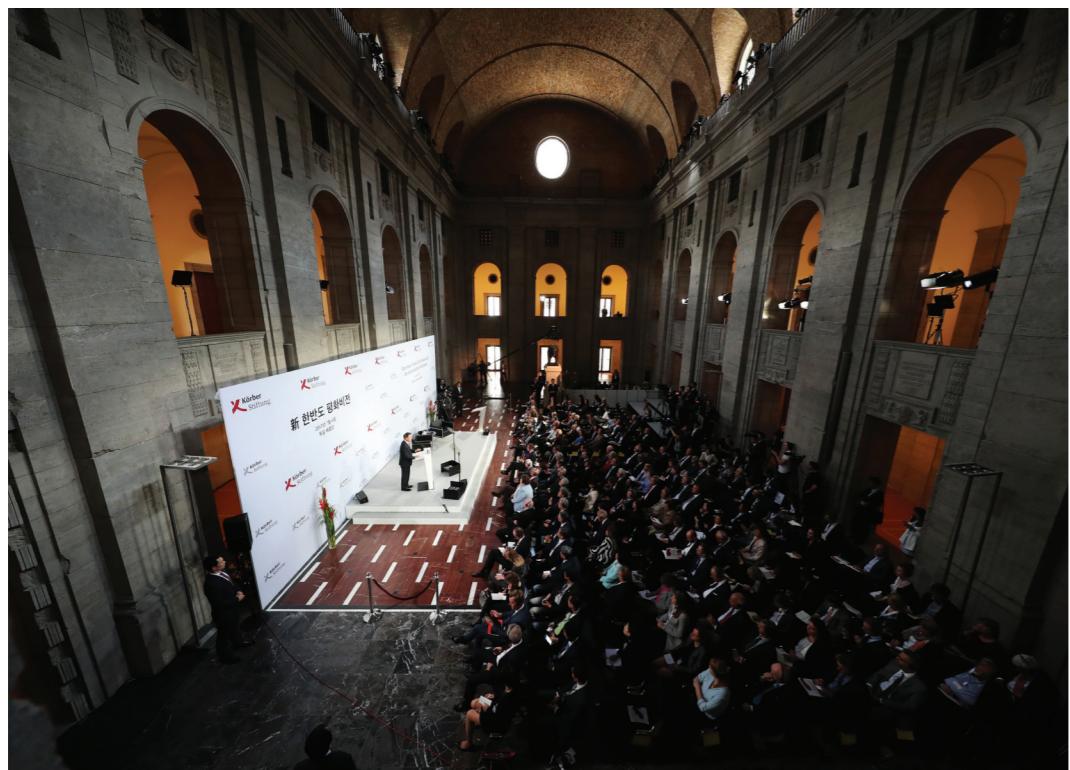
Honorable warriors of the Battle of Jangjin Reservoir and their descendants, the Republic of Korea remembers the sacrifice and dedication of you and your parents. The memory of gratitude and respect will continue forever. This is how the ROK-U.S. alliance came to be. Forged in blood in the fire of war, this alliance was not made simply by signing papers. As is the case with my life, this alliance is strongly linked to the lives of each and every person in both countries. This is why I

have no doubt about the future of the ROK-U.S. alliance. It will continue to grow into a greater and stronger alliance.

Honorable warriors of the Battle of Jangjin Reservoir and their descendants, the journey of the SS Meredith Victory toward freedom and human rights 67 years ago must continue even hereafter. I am willing to wholeheartedly join that journey. I will go hand in hand with President Donald Trump. Building upon the foundation of the great ROK-U.S. alliance, we will jointly bring about the dismantlement of North Korea’s nuclear program, peace on the Korean Peninsula and, moreover, peace in Northeast Asia. I read the interview with Robert Lunney, an attorney, who is here today and who was a sailor on the SS Meredith Victory. I was overwhelmed with emotion when he said he wanted to see a unified Korean Peninsula before his death. That is my dream, too.

I will be planting a Winter King Hawthorn here today. This is to forever remember the Battle of Jangjin Reservoir, during which your heroic fighting spirit shined through the intense cold of minus 40 degrees centigrade. Like the tree, the ROK-U.S. alliance will further flourish. It will bear the grand and meaningful fruit of a unified Korean Peninsula. I heard only 50 survivors of that battle remain today. I wish you a long life, good health and happiness.

Again, I would like to express my gratitude and respect to the warriors of the Battle of Jangjin Reservoir, those who were involved in the Hungnam Evacuation and their bereaved families. Thank you very much.



09

Address at the Körber Foundation, Germany

July 06, 2017

The Körber Foundation, headquartered in Hamburg, Germany, is a nonprofit organization established by German businessman Kurt Körber. President Moon Jae-in announced his vision for peace, his "Berlin Peace Initiative," at Berlin's Old City Hall at the invitation of the Körber Foundation on July 6, 2017.

Esteemed German citizens, my fellow Koreans, Dr. Thomas Paulsen, executive board member of the Körber Foundation, Mr. Hans Modrow, former Prime Minister of East Germany, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen!

First of all, I would like to express my endless respect for Germany and the German people for overcoming the Cold War and national division, accomplishing unification, and with this strength, leading the integration of Europe and international peace. I greatly appreciate the Federal Government of Germany and the Körber Foundation for arranging this event today. Moreover, I extend my deepest condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family and the German people on the passing of your former Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The Republic of Korea will remember Chancellor Kohl's legacy of leading the unification of Germany and European integration through active and bold diplomacy despite the challenging environment of the Cold War.

Distinguished guests from home and abroad, seventeen years ago, here in this city of Berlin, President Kim Dae-jung of the Republic of Korea made the "Berlin Declaration," which laid the foundation for reconciliation and cooperation between South and North Korea. Moreover, the Altes Stadthaus is a historic site where the German Unification Treaty was negotiated. Today, at the very place where the lessons of Berlin still linger, I would like to outline the peace initiative of the new Korean Administration.

Distinguished guests, to Korea, the last nation on earth divided by Cold War rivalries, the experience of Germany's unification gives hope for unification and, at the same time, shows us the path that we should follow. First and foremost, it shows us the importance of the process leading to unification. Germany's unification made us realize how important the process of peace and cooperation based on mutual respect really is. The German people made the decision to reunify by themselves based on the trust that was built during this process. The citizens of East and West Germany interacted and cooperated with each other in various areas, and the two Governments guaranteed this institutionally. Nonpolitical exchanges in the private sector unlatched the gate of political ideology and the people from East and West Germany started to open their hearts toward each other.

The fact that the Ostpolitik continued for around two decades is also an important point. The reason that a consistent policy was possible in spite of the change of administrations is that it was supported by the people and was built upon the cooperation of the international community. Germany understood that when a peaceful order was created in Europe, its unification would also be possible under that structure. By keeping pace with and at times persuading the international community, Germany was able to obtain strong security and was assured of support for inter-German relations. The German unification process, which was initiated by Chancellor Willy Brandt, was completed under Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who was from a different political party. Likewise, I believe that to achieve peace and common prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, there should be continued cooperation that transcends partisan lines.

Distinguished guests, for the Korean people who long for peace and unification of the Korean Peninsula, Berlin is remembered together with President Kim's Berlin Declaration. President Kim's Berlin Declaration led to the first inter-Korean Summit in 2000 and brought about a grand

transformation which enabled the South and the North, which had been in confrontation and conflict for more than six decades after division and the War, to enter onto a path of reconciliation and cooperation. Following this path, former President Roh Moo-hyun set a new milestone in the development of inter-Korean relations and peace and prosperity through the second inter-Korean Summit in 2007. President Kim Dae-jung and President Roh Moo-hyun also promoted international cooperation in order for peace to take root on the Korean Peninsula.

At the time, the Six-Party Talks adopted the September 19 Joint Statement in 2005 and the February 13 Agreement in 2007, both of which outlined the principles and direction for resolving the North Korean nuclear issue. There was also progress in North Korea-U.S. relations and North Korea-Japan relations. I will inherit these two former Administrations' efforts and, at the same time, will have my Administration take a leading role in embarking on the dauntless journey toward establishing a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.

Distinguished guests from home and abroad, the biggest challenge that the Korean Peninsula is facing is the North Korean nuclear issue. North Korea is continuing its nuclear and missile provocations and is threatening the peace on the Korean Peninsula, in Northeast Asia, and furthermore, the world. In particular, the missile provocation just two days ago was a very disappointing and terribly wrong decision. It is not only a clear violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions but is also an outright rejection of the repeated warnings by the international community. Above all, for my Administration, which had at long last arranged a path toward dialogue through the recent Korea-U.S. Summit, the level of regret is even deeper. This choice by the North was reckless. It will incur punishment by the international community. It is testing my Administration's commitment that if North Korea stopped its provocative actions and showed its determination to denuclearize, my Administration would lead the way in helping the North receive support and cooperation from the international community.

I hope that North Korea will not cross the bridge of no return. North Korea must give up its nuclear and missile programs and find a way to cooperate with the international community. The complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is the agreed demand of the international community and is the absolute condition for peace on the Korean Peninsula. This means that the decision for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is the only way that the security of North Korea will be guaranteed. Therefore, I would like to emphasize that now is the last chance for North Korea to make the right decision and also the best time to do so. This is because we have reached the tipping point of the vicious circle of military escalation, and thus, the need for dialogue is more pressing than ever before. It is also important to note that the basic conditions have been met for restarting the Korean Peninsula Peace Process, which had been halted.

Recently, Korea and the United States agreed on the overall direction that sanctions are a diplomatic tool and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula should be achieved in a peaceful manner. Our two countries also made clear that we do not have a hostile policy toward North Korea. We affirmed that, together with the international community, we can provide a brighter future to North Korea, depending on its decision. Korea and the United States also share the view that in order to create a breakthrough in the current crisis on the Korean Peninsula, improvement

in inter-Korean relations is vital. President Trump supports Korea taking the leading role in creating an environment conducive to the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula, as well as my initiative to reopen inter-Korean dialogue. Chinese President Xi Jinping and I also reached a consensus on this matter.

Now the only thing left is for North Korea to make its decision. Whether it will come out to the forum for dialogue, or whether it will kick away this opportunity for dialogue that has been made with difficulty, is a decision only North Korea can make. But if North Korea does not stop its nuclear provocations, there will be no other choice but to further strengthen sanctions and pressure. Peace on the Korean Peninsula and North Korea's security will not be guaranteed. I urge North Korea to accept this very significant and urgent signal of the determination of my Administration and the international community for peace on the Korean Peninsula, and I look forward to their doing so.

Distinguished guests, now I would like to outline my Administration's policy direction that will lead to the dismantlement of the Cold War structure and the establishment of a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

First, what we are pursuing is only peace. A peaceful Korean Peninsula is a peninsula free from the threat of nuclear weapons and war. It is a peninsula where the South and the North recognize and respect each other and live together in harmony. We already know the road that leads to a peaceful Korean Peninsula. It is a return to the June 15 South-North Joint Declaration of 2000 and the October 4 Declaration of 2007. Through these two declarations, the South and the North clearly stated that we are the masters of inter-Korean issues and are committed to closely cooperating in easing tensions and guaranteeing peace on the Korean Peninsula. The two Koreas also promised to walk the path of common prosperity through cooperative projects in every sector of society, including in the economic field. The spirit of these agreements that were achieved on the foundation of mutual respect between the South and the North is still valid. The matter is urgent. We must return to that spirit where the South and the North worked together toward realizing a peaceful Peninsula.

I clearly state the following: we do not wish for North Korea's collapse, and will not work toward any kind of unification through absorption. Neither will we pursue an artificial unification. Unification is a process where both sides seek coexistence, co-prosperity and a restored sense of national community. When peace is established, unification will be realized naturally someday through an agreement between the South and the North. What my Administration and I would like to realize is only peace.

Second, my Administration will pursue the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula that guarantees the security of the North Korean regime. Last April, rumors that we were on the brink of war swept over the Korean Peninsula and the entire world. Military tension surrounding the Korean Peninsula made the situation like a "powder keg." We urgently need to ease the military tension on the Korean Peninsula. We need to rebuild the trust that has collapsed between the South and the North. In this regard, we will seek exchanges and dialogue. North Korea also needs to suspend any further nuclear provocations. We need to establish a military management system

to prevent accidental clashes.

A more fundamental problem is to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue. The North Korean nuclear issue has become much more difficult to deal with compared to the past because of the advancement of North Korea's nuclear arsenal. A step-by-step and comprehensive approach is required. My Administration, in cooperation with the international community, will work toward a comprehensive solution to the current issues on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia, including the complete dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear program and the establishment of a peace regime, the easing of North Korea's security and economic concerns, and improvement in North Korea-U.S. and North Korea-Japan relations. However, it takes two to tango. This is only possible when North Korea fully stops its nuclear provocations and meets for bilateral and multilateral dialogue on denuclearization.

Third, my Administration will work toward establishing a permanent peace regime. The Korean Peninsula has been under an armistice for more than 60 years since 1953. Firm peace cannot be realized under an unstable armistice system. The invaluable agreements between the South and the North should not be shaken or broken every time there is a change of administrations. We need to institutionalize peace. My Administration will work toward enacting into law the inter-Korean agreements. We will make it clear that all agreements between the South and the North are basic assets of the Korean Peninsula that should be passed on when there is a change of administrations. In order to establish a permanent peace structure on the Korean Peninsula, we need to conclude a peace treaty with the participation of relevant countries and formally end the war. Through a comprehensive approach to the North Korean nuclear issue and the establishment of a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula, my Administration will pursue the conclusion of a peace treaty along with complete denuclearization.

Fourth, my Administration will work toward drawing a new economic map on the Korean Peninsula. Economic cooperation so that the South and the North can prosper together is an important foundation for establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula. I have planned a "new economic map for the Korean Peninsula." If there is progress in the North Korean nuclear issue and if appropriate conditions are met, my Administration will draw a new economic map on the Korean Peninsula. We will freshly connect the South and the North, which have been disconnected by the Military Demarcation Line, with an economic belt and establish an economic community where the two Koreas can prosper together. The severed inter-Korean railway will be connected again. A train departing from Busan and Mokpo will run through Pyeongyang and Beijing and head toward Russia and Europe. Cooperation projects in Northeast Asia, such as the gas pipeline project connecting the two Koreas and Russia, may also be implemented. South and North Korea will prosper together as a bridge connecting the Asian mainland and the Pacific. The South and the North need only to implement the October 4 Declaration together. Then the world will see a new economic model of an economy of peace and co-prosperity.

Fifth, my Administration will consistently pursue non-political exchanges and cooperation projects by separating them from the political and military situation. The exchanges and cooperation projects between South and North Korea constitute the process of healing the wounds and realizing reconciliation among all residents of the Korean Peninsula and are also efforts to

build peace from within. In both Koreas, there are separated families who can no longer visit their hometown due to the division and war. It is truly an embarrassment for both governments in the South and the North that we have not been able to heal these scars for more than six decades. Among the separated family members who have applied to the Korean Government to meet their families in the North, only around 60,000 are still alive and their average age is 81. The situation in North Korea will likely be the same. We need to let them meet their relatives while they are still alive. This is a pressing humanitarian issue that needs to be addressed before any political considerations.

Issues that the peoples of the South and the North suffer from due to the division need to be addressed by the authorities of the two Koreas. When the rivers in North Korea overflow, the people in South Korea suffer from floods. Infectious diseases, forest pests and forest fires do not abide by the boundaries between the South and the North. My Administration will work for the South and the North to cooperate in jointly addressing these problems. Exchanges in the private sector have contributed to easing tensions and fostering a sense of common identity between the two Koreas ahead of exchanges between the two Governments. Expanding exchanges in the private sector is a valuable asset that can help untie the tight knot between the South and the North. My Administration will widely support exchanges in the private sector in various areas. We will also actively support exchanges among different regions. Universal values and international norms of respecting human dignity must be observed throughout the Korean Peninsula. My Administration will join the international community in raising a clear voice against the poor human rights situation of the North Korean people. In addition, my Administration will expand its humanitarian cooperation in a way that will actually help the North Korean people.

Distinguished guests, my Administration and I will firmly hold to these policy directions and implement them. The South and the North need to work hand-in-hand and make a breakthrough in realizing peace on the Korean Peninsula. I suggest to North Korea that we first start with what is easy.

First, let us solve the pressing humanitarian issue. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the October 4 Declaration. Also, Chuseok, which is one of our nation's greatest traditional holidays, falls on October 4 this year. In the October 4 Declaration, the two Koreas agreed to expand family reunions between relatives separated in the North and the South. If family reunions can be held on this day when these two meaningful anniversaries overlap, it would be a meaningful start to respecting and observing the agreement already made between the South and the North. If North Korea is ready to take one step further, I suggest that we also include visiting ancestral graves for this year's family reunion event. The separated family members of the divided Germany were allowed not only exchanges of letters and phone calls but even exchanges of visits and migration. There is no reason why we cannot do the same. Before more members of separated families leave us, we must wipe their tears. If North Korea is not ready immediately, our side will allow North Korean separated family members to visit their hometowns and ancestral graves in the South. I look forward to North Korea's positive response and hope that South-North Korean Red Cross talks will be held to discuss the reunion of separated family members.

Second, let us make the PyeongChang Winter Olympics an "Olympics of Peace" with the

participation of the North. In February 2018, the Winter Olympics will be held in PyeongChang, Korea, which is only 100 km away from the Military Demarcation Line. Two years later in 2020, the Summer Olympics will be held in Tokyo, and in 2022, the Winter Olympics will be held in Beijing. My Administration would like to suggest to North Korea to utilize these series of precious events held in Asia as an opportunity to build peace on the Korean Peninsula, in Northeast Asia and the world. Sports have the power of connecting one heart to another. When athletes from South and North Korea, and from the rest of the world, sweat and compete against each other, offer a hand to fellow athletes who have fallen down and embrace each other, the world will witness peace through the Olympic games. I look forward to opening together a new era of peace on the Korean Peninsula while applauding together with the leaders of the world. As the IOC has promised its cooperation on the issue of the participation of North Korea in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, I look forward to North Korea's active and positive response.

Third, let us mutually halt acts of hostility around the Military Demarcation Line. Even at this moment, a war without gunfire continues along the MDL on the Korean Peninsula. The escalation of military tension between the two militaries remains unchanged. This situation increases the danger of armed conflict between the South and the North and threatens the safety of the people who live in the areas nearby on both sides. July 27 this year marks the 64th anniversary of the Armistice Agreement. If the two Koreas, starting on this day, stopped all acts of hostility that escalate military tension along the MDL, it would provide a meaningful opportunity to ease tensions between the two Koreas.

Fourth, inter-Korean dialogue is necessary for peace on the Korean Peninsula and South-North cooperation. Easing tension on the Korean Peninsula is the most urgent issue between the South and the North. The current situation, under which there is no contact between the relevant authorities of the South and the North, is very dangerous. We need to start with contacts to manage the situation and move on to meaningful dialogue. I am ready to meet with Chairman Kim Jong Un of North Korea at any time at any place, if the conditions are met and if it will provide an opportunity to ease the tension and confrontation on the Korean Peninsula. We can place on the dialogue table all issues of interest between the South and the North, including the nuclear issue and a peace treaty, and discuss peace on the Korean Peninsula and inter-Korean cooperation.

The situation will not be resolved with only one attempt. However, making a start is important. One can take a step forward only after rising up from one's seat. I look forward to North Korea's decision.

Distinguished guests, Germany overcame the Cold War and achieved unification before Korea, but it is now facing other threats to peace, such as regionalism, terrorism and the sudden influx of refugees. I believe that Germany, through the spirit of democracy and peaceful coexistence, which was witnessed in Berlin, will overcome these new challenges and complete the integration of German society and Europe.

The Republic of Korea will also surely realize a peaceful Korean Peninsula through the power of its mature democracy. We will complete in Seoul and Pyeongyang the dismantlement of the Cold War structure, which started in Berlin. Furthermore, we will spread a new vision of peace

in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world. Germany and Korea will not stop their march toward peace. Our two countries will always support and cheer each other in solidarity. Let us firmly walk together toward a better life for humankind and a brighter future for the world. Thank you very much.



10

Remarks at the First Session of the 12th G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany

July 07, 2017

The G20 is an international organization consisting of 20 member countries, including G7 member states, the rotating president of the European Union and 12 emerging economies. President Moon Jae-in attended the 12th G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany July 7-8, 2017.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. I would like to take this opportunity to brief you on the economic policy of the new Administration of Korea. Korea has achieved rapid economic growth thanks to successful industrialization. Behind this accomplishment, however, income polarization has grown severe. Now extreme economic inequality is hampering growth and impeding national unity.

For this reason, the Korean Government is seeking a grand shift in the economic paradigm to a people-centered economy. It is a shift in ways of thinking to promote creativity and entrepreneurship by ensuring fair opportunities for everyone and to carry out economic policies that place the people and households at the center. It embodies the G20's goal of strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth to match Korea's needs and conditions. The new economic policy can be summed up as: First, growth through job creation; second, a fair economy and third, innovative growth.

First is growth through job creation. It is intended to produce a virtuous cycle in which household income, increased by the creation of decent jobs, boosts domestic demand and economic growth, which in turn leads to more job creation. The new Korean Administration intends to take the initiative in creating public services jobs in public institutions first to emerge from jobless growth, thereby priming the pump for inducing the private sector to increase jobs.

Second is a fair economy that guarantees equal opportunities and fair competition for everyone. The Government will enhance market monitoring to root out unfair transaction practices and improve unreasonable corporate governance structures. It will promote a grand compromise among labor, management and the government for the shared progress of employees and employers. The Government will also provide assistance to help reasonable practices of labor-management cooperation take firm root in businesses.

Third is innovative growth, which revitalizes the economy on the strength of creativity and a challenging spirit. Creative minds will be nurtured through educational innovation. Investments in new technologies such as the Internet of Things, Big Data and artificial intelligence will be expanded. In addition, the Government will enhance support for startups and reform the regulatory system to ensure the growth of innovative startups and new industries.

Though the global economy has recently shown signs of recovery, risks still remain such as policy uncertainty stemming from monetary policy normalization and other political factors. I wholeheartedly welcome and support the resilience principles that have been adopted to overcome these challenges by the G20 countries under the leadership of Germany, the chair nation this year.

Instability in the international financial market limits economic policy measures and makes for uncertain outcomes. The G20 needs to come up with concrete results to strengthen the global financial safety net. Considering the fact that the rising degree of volatility in the flow of global capital can expose emerging economies to risks and the aftereffects can spread to developed countries, I propose related international rules be introduced and managed in a more flexible manner.

Korea opposes protectionism and fully supports the G20's endeavors to strengthen the multilateral trade system centered on the World Trade Organization and to expand the order of free trade. At the G20 Summit here in Hamburg, I hope that our joint commitment on these matters will be reaffirmed. I also hope that the G20 nations will work together for the success of the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference at the end of this year. As was pointed out in the communiqué of the G20 Summit last year, the benefits of free trade should be more equitably distributed. The Korean Government will actively provide support to minimize potential damage to small and medium-sized companies and the agricultural sector in the process of free trade. Thank you very much.

Remarks at the Fourth Session of the 12th G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany

July 08, 2017

The G20 Summit convened four plenary sessions in total bringing together all participating leaders of its member states. President Moon Jae-in made remarks at the first and fourth session.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. I greatly appreciate the chair country for hosting the first G20 Health Ministers' Meeting in May and for working hard to include public health issues on the agenda of the G20 Leaders' Summit.

International cooperation is necessary to cope with such global health crises as newly emerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance. At the same time, the World Health Organization should be entrusted with bigger roles. Korea will actively contribute to the WHO's Central Emergency Response Fund. It is also necessary to increase humanitarian assistance to countries with less developed medical services. Korea is planning on providing US\$100 million in total to 13 developing countries by 2020. Humanitarian support for healthcare should not be linked to political circumstances.

Korea is paying attention to North Korean children suffering from malnutrition. According to a United Nations report released in 2017, approximately 41 percent of the North Korean population, especially 28 percent of children below five years of age, is suffering from malnutrition. Korea intends to work together with international organizations and non-governmental entities to provide aid under systematic and strict monitoring within the framework of sanctions imposed on the North by the international community. I look forward to much interest from the G20 member states.

Because of the Korean War and the division of the country, Korea underwent a massive refugee crisis. As of now, many North Korean defectors are still coming to live in the South. Based on its own experiences and solidarity, Korea will actively join the efforts of the international community to address the global refugee issue. Africa is most affected by climate change, which

is increasingly impoverishing the region. Korea fully endorses the Africa Partnership Initiative, which was proposed by the chair country for the balanced development of the world as well as the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Climate change, however, is not an issue confined only to Africa. It is an issue that requires joint responses of the international community. Climate change responses are an investment in future generations and also an opportunity to create new jobs and growth engines. Korea will faithfully implement the Paris Agreement on climate change. It will achieve, without a glitch, the 2030 greenhouse gas reduction goal submitted to the United Nations. Korea has already started to change the paradigm of its energy policy by substituting eco-friendly and low carbon energy. It will prepare the foundation for sustainable growth in active response to a new climate regime.

Now I would like to talk about the special efforts to promote women's economic empowerment. By creating the basis on which women can achieve a work-family balance, the Korean Government will eliminate factors that interrupt women's careers and will, moreover, reduce the wage gap between men and women. More female leaders should be nurtured. I am making efforts to fill 30 percent of my Cabinet with women, and I intend to expand women's representation in various sectors during my tenure in office.

Korea took part in the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, called We-Fi, established at this G20 Summit to support female entrepreneurs in developing countries. I hope that the initiative will contribute to promoting women's economic participation, economic growth in developing nations and job creation. Thank you very much.



12

Address Commemorating the 72nd Anniversary of Liberation

August 15, 2017

Liberation Day is observed to commemorate Korea's liberation from Japan on August 15, 1945, and celebrate the establishment of the government of the Republic of Korea on August 15, 1948. The 72nd anniversary ceremony was held at the Sejong Center for the Performing Arts.

My fellow Koreans, decorated independence activists and their families, compatriots residing overseas, we celebrate the first Liberation Day since the era of popular sovereignty was ushered in by the candlelight rallies. Today, its meaning seems especially more profound.

Popular sovereignty is not a term our contemporaries used for the first time. One hundred years ago in July 1917, the Declaration of Great Unity and Solidarity announced in Shanghai by 14 independence activists made it clear that popular sovereignty was the ideology of the independence movement. It declared that the National Humiliation Day in 1910, when the Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty was signed, was not the day when our national sovereignty was lost, but the day when popular sovereignty was born. The Declaration first claimed that a provisional government should be founded predicated on popular sovereignty.

Eventually, the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea was established on the basis of the Declaration in the wake of the nationwide independence movement against imperialist Japan in March 1919, transcending ideology, class and region. Popular sovereignty became the founding ideology of the Republic of Korea through the establishment of the Provisional Government, and we are inheriting its spirit today. The aspiration of our forebears to build a nation where the people are the rightful owners continued for over a century, and it has finally been realized by the multitude of people holding aloft candles.

Liberation was not something that was just given to us. It was something that was regained by our 30 million forefathers who continued to stoke the flames of freedom and independence when deprived of everything, even their Korean names. Not only those who gave their lives for the nation's self-reliant independence, but the mothers who mended the clothes of their children who set out for the independence movement, the teachers who taught Korean secretly in night schools so as not to be noticed by Japanese imperialists, and those who carried on our traditions and made financial contributions no matter how small, all of these are the protagonists of liberation.

Liberation was the reward for the sacrifices, dedication, and blood of our patriotic forefathers, from the volunteer righteous armies to the Korean Liberation Army. All joined together, indiscriminate of profession, gender and age. There are so many independence activists to remember: Dr. Lee Tae-joon, who was a member of the Heroic Corps and eradicated a contagious disease in Mongolia; Dong-a Ilbo reporter Jang Deok-jun, who went missing while covering the Gando Massacre; the mother of the Independence Army Nam Ja-hyeon, who fought in an armed-independence organization in West Gando; scientist Kim Yong-gwan, who strove to promote science to strengthen national power; and film director Na Woon-gyu, who was a member of the Independence Army.

The stage for the independence movement was not limited to the Korean Peninsula alone. On March 1, 1919, chants for Korea's independence reverberated in one voice throughout many parts of the Russian Maritime Province, Manchuria, North America and Asia.

All of these splendid chapters in the history of the independence movement against Japan came back to life at the candlelight rallies last winter in every corner of the country and many parts of the world where our compatriots live. The candles held up high by the people carried

on the spirit of the independence movement. The great spirit of the independence movement resurged as democratization and economic development, helping create today's Republic of Korea. Every single individual who made sacrifices and worked hard in the process are contributors to building this nation.

Today, I want to offer my deepest respect and gratitude once again to the decorated independence fighters and their families, all those who triumphed over the period of darkness with their own ways of resisting the Japanese imperialists, and the people who made it possible to open a new era with the candlelight rallies. Moreover, I hope the day we celebrate today will become a day to contemplate the courage and wisdom needed to counter difficulties and crises facing our nation and people.

Distinguished decorated independence activists and their families, there is an old, historic residence called Imcheonggak in Andong, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province. It was the home of Seokju Lee Sang-ryong, who disposed of all of his family's assets when Korea was colonized and fled into exile in Manchuria. There, he established the Military School of the New Rising and laid the foundation for armed independence struggles. Imcheonggak was home to as many as nine independence fighters and is a symbolic space representing the noblesse oblige of the Republic of Korea.

In retaliation, the Japanese imperialists laid a railroad track right through the grounds of the residence. Imcheonggak used to be a huge residence with 99 rooms, but it still remains just half of what it was. Lee Sang-ryong's grandchildren even lived in an orphanage in Korea after liberation. Today's Imcheonggak is the reality of the Republic of Korea that we should revisit. We failed to properly wipe out the vestiges of Japanese imperialism and pro-Japanese collaborators. We failed to firmly uphold the national spirit.

Forgetting one's history is tantamount to losing one's roots. We should no longer leave our independent activists as forgotten heroes. Honoring them must not remain mere lip service. The saying that those who engaged in the independence movement would only leave poverty even to their third-generation descendants should be proven wrong. The reality that the situation of the pro-Japanese collaborators and the independence fighters never changed even after liberation created a distorted perception that justified compromises with injustice.

The attitude of the country toward honoring the independence activists will be completely made anew. Their great cause will be repaid with the utmost respect and decorum. The children and grandchildren of independence fighters will be held in esteem, and the Government will support all of them to ensure stable living conditions. By doing so, it will try and imbue the public with an awareness that dedication to the nation will result in even their children and grandchildren being honored.

The Government will establish a memorial hall of the Provisional Government so that generations to come will be able to remember the meritorious conduct of our independence activists. It will discover every single historic site like Imcheonggak that should be remembered as part of the independence movement. It will also identify every possible forgotten independence

activist and preserve overseas historic sites related to the independence movement.

The Government intends to take this opportunity and completely rebuild the framework for caring for our patriots and veterans. The Republic of Korea stands on the sacrifices and devotion of those who protected its name, regained the country and willingly answered the call of their country. Endeavors will be made to create a country that will properly reciprocate their sacrifices and dedication.

Honoring the decorated independence activists and war veterans, who devoted the prime of their lives to the country and have now became aged, will be further strengthened. The Government will take responsibility for the medical needs of those still living. It will also raise war veteran honor allowances. The Government will strive to make sure that the last decorated patriot could feel the warm embrace of the Republic of Korea and great pride living in this country. Assistance for the bereaved families of servicepersons, police officers and firefighters who were sacrificed on duty will be expanded.

I believe all this will become the source of our pride. My Administration will clearly establish the identity of the Republic of Korea with the welfare policy for veterans and patriots; it will ensure that the welfare of veterans and patriots serves as the starting point of patriotism.

My fellow Koreans, now is the time to face up to the pain people had to endure, which was caused by the nation's failure to protect its people. The pain from forced mobilization during the Japanese colonial rule still persists 70 years after liberation. Though some truths about forced mobilization have so far come to light, the whole picture of the damage has yet to be revealed. It is necessary to address what has been revealed first, and the Government and the civilian sector then have to join forces to deal with what has not been disclosed.

If inter-Korean relations improve, the Government will explore the possibility for a South-North joint fact-finding survey on the damage of forced mobilization. Many of our compatriots could not return to their mother country following liberation. Home visits by Koreans living in Japan will be normalized irrespective of their nationality from a humanitarian perspective. The wounds from compulsory mobilization and forced deportation still remain all over Siberia and Sakhalin. We will share fraternity with those living in those areas.

Fellow Koreans, decorated patriots who fought for the nation's independence and bereaved families, overseas Koreans, on the occasion of Liberation Day today, the continued escalation of military tensions surrounding the Korean Peninsula weighs heavily on our mind. The division of the nation is the unfortunate legacy of the colonial era that made it impossible for us to determine our destiny on our own in the midst of Cold War rivalries. However, our national power has now been enhanced to the extent that we can decide our fate on our own volition. We, with our own strength, have to achieve peace on the Korean Peninsula and overcome the division.

Needless to say, the call of the times on the Korean Peninsula is peace. The overcoming of the division through the settlement of peace on the Korean Peninsula is the path for truly completing national liberation. Peace is also an urgently needed strategy for our survival. Security, the

economy, growth and prosperity cannot guarantee a bright future in the absence of peace.

Peace is not an issue that simply concerns ourselves. If there is no peace on the Korean Peninsula, there will be no peace in Northeast Asia; if there is no peace in Northeast Asia, world peace will not be possible. As of now, the whole world is witnessing that apparent truth in fear. The path we have to take now is clear. That is to embark on a long and great journey to build a lasting peace regime on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia together with the entire international community.

The biggest challenge facing us now is the North Korean nuclear and missile issue. The Government takes the current security situation very seriously. On the basis of the robust ROK-U.S. alliance, it will work very closely together with the United States to resolve the security crisis.

Still, we cannot rely only on our ally for our security. When it comes to matters related to the Korean Peninsula, our country has to take the initiative in resolving them.

The principle of my Administration is unwavering. The national interest of the Republic of Korea is our top priority and is just. War must never break out again on the Korean Peninsula. Only the Republic of Korea can make the decision for military action on the Korean Peninsula. Without the consent of the Republic of Korea, no country can determine to take military action.

The Government will do all it can to prevent a war from breaking out. No matter what twists and turns we undergo, the North Korean nuclear problem must be addressed in a peaceful manner. In this regard, my Administration's position is not different from that of the U.S. Government.

The Government will redouble its diplomatic endeavors to make sure that the principle of peaceful resolution does not waver in the international community. To build a robust peace backed by defense capabilities, our country's armed forces will be innovated to become stronger and more reliable, thereby further enhancing our defense capabilities. However, the door for dialogue between military authorities will remain open in order not to further aggravate the military tensions between the South and the North.

Applying sanctions against the North and pursuing dialogue are not a matter of one thing having to be done before the other. The past history of the North Korean nuclear problem showed that a clue to resolving the problem was found when sanctions were combined with dialogue. We have to remember the fact that the North maintained a moratorium on the test firing of missiles and announced a plan to suspend a nuclear test when the two Koreas maintained good relations.

At that time, dialogue between the North and the United States as well as between the North and Japan were promoted, and multilateral diplomacy in Northeast Asia was active. This is the reason why I made clear at every chance that the Republic of Korea must be the country that takes the helm in addressing matters concerning the Korean Peninsula.

The resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue has to start with a nuclear freeze. When the

North at least stops additional nuclear testing and missile provocations, the conditions for dialogue can be created. The purpose of enhanced sanctions and pressure against the North is not to heighten military tensions but to bring it back to the negotiating table. In this regard, the position of the Korean Government is not different from that of the U.S. Government.

I urge North Korean authorities to realize the following: Without cooperation and harmonious coexistence with other nations, it is impossible to achieve economic growth. If things continue as they are, the North will end up facing international isolation and a dismal future. It will put the survival of many of its people and the whole Korean Peninsula in jeopardy.

The South cannot help but further enhance sanctions and pressure against the North. The North has to stop provocations immediately and come forward for dialogue, thus creating a situation in which it does not have to worry about its security even without nuclear weapons.

The South will strive to help create such a situation. The United States and neighboring countries will also render help. Let me make it clear: we do not want North Korea to collapse. We will neither pursue unification by absorbing the North nor seek artificial unification. Unification needs to be carried out in 'a peaceful and democratic manner' to which each and every Korean agrees.

If the North promises the mutual implementation of existing inter-Korean agreements, we will institutionalize the agreements through a vote at the National Assembly so that the policy toward North Korea will not differ despite the change of administrations. For a long time, I have talked about the idea of a new economic map for the Korean Peninsula. Economic cooperation between South and North Korea and in Northeast Asia will bring about the shared prosperity of the two Koreas and alleviate military tension. In the process, the North will naturally be able to realize that its security can be guaranteed without nuclear weapons.

I propose to the North again that we start with easy tasks first. We need to resume humanitarian cooperation as soon as possible, such as on the issue of families separated by the Korean War. There is only a short time left to attend to their sorrows. I urge the North to respond quickly to proposals to allow family reunions and visits to hometowns and ancestral graves.

The upcoming PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games is a good opportunity for the two Koreas to take a step forward on the road to peace. We need to make the PyeongChang Winter Games the Olympics of peace. We need to make it an opportunity for inter-Korean dialogue and the establishment of the foundation for peace. In Northeast Asia, the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics and the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics will be held one after another, and it is a golden opportunity to promote peace and economic cooperation on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

I suggest that all the leaders in Northeast Asia put their heads together to take advantage of this opportunity. In particular, Korea, China and Japan should make endeavors together to institutionalize regional security and economic cooperation and share joint responsibility. I also ask all of you to unite behind this cause.

Fellow Koreans, every year on Liberation Day, we cannot help but look back on Korea-Japan relations. Korea-Japan relations should now go beyond the bilateral relationship and grow into a cooperative relationship in which the two countries work together for the peace and prosperity of Northeast Asia. It is not desirable for past history and historical issues to continue to hold back the forward-looking development of Korea-Japan relations.

The Government will expand various exchanges, including shuttle diplomacy, for the renewal of Korea-Japan relations. We have no other choice than to reinforce bilateral cooperation in order to jointly respond to the present North Korean nuclear and missile threats.

While putting emphasis on the forward-looking Korea-Japan relations, however, we cannot overlook the historical issue. On the contrary, when we properly settle the historical issue, trust between the two countries will go even deeper.

Many Japanese politicians and intellectuals have made efforts so far to squarely face the past involving the two countries and Japan's responsibility. These efforts have contributed to the forward-looking development of Korea-Japan relations. Such historical recognition should not be changed according to Japan's domestic political circumstances. The obstacle to Korea-Japan relations is not the past history itself but the Japanese Government's inconsistent acknowledgment of that history.

Resolving the historical issues between Korea and Japan, including the wartime sexual slavery by the Japanese military and forced mobilization, should be based on international principles that consist of the restoration of the honor of the victims and compensation, the clarification of the truth and a promise to prevent any recurrence in line with the universal value of human life and a national consensus. The Government will stick to these principles under all circumstances. There needs to be a courageous attitude on the part of the Japanese leaders.

My fellow Koreans, decorated independence activists and bereaved families, and compatriots residing overseas, the year 2019, two years from now, is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Provisional Republic of Korea Government. Liberation Day next year on August 15, 2018, is the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Government. To us, genuine liberation is to take the path to unite the people that were divided by foreign powers. To us, genuinely repaying patriotic deeds is to build a proper nation, a nation of the people, by realizing popular sovereignty, which is an ideology set by the patriotic martyrs for the foundation of the nation.

Let us start preparing right away. In the process, even settling the issues of the history of the past century in pursuit of healing, reconciliation and unity will be possible. As the classification into conservative and progressive was meaningless in the face of the enormous flow of popular sovereignty, we should now move beyond the differentiation of the forces behind industrialization and the forces behind democratization in modern history.

All of us are living under the legacy of history. There is always light and shadow in all histories, and in that sense, dividing an era that has become part of individuals' lives into the time of industrialization and the time of democratization is not only impossible but also meaningless.

Moon Jae-in, who is serving in the 19th presidential term, is in the midst of the history of all the presidents of the Republic of Korea from Kim Dae-jung and Roh Moo-hyun to Syngman Rhee and Park Chung Hee.

I discussed the value of patriotism in the last Memorial Day speech in the hope for healing, reconciliation and unity in Korean society. We should now start settling the issues of the history of the past century, and we should start reestablishing the value of community again for another century.

The basis of the new policies of the Government is adjusted to this. Regardless of the views of the conservatives, the progressives and the political parties, I hope each and every one will participate together in the preparations for the new century.

Fellow Koreans, today, let us make an announcement together. There are many challenges coming toward us, but let us dare to shout out that we, the people of the Republic of Korea, are the best in adapting to and riding out new changes. Let us boldly meet the new challenges with confidence. In the name of the Republic of Korea, let us unite and win like we always have. Let us complete our task of building a nation of the people, a just Republic of Korea. Let us demonstrate our potential once again.

I would like to extend my deepest respect to the decorated independence activists who gave their all for the nation. I wish you all good health. Thank you.



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Remarks at the 2017 Atlantic Council Global Citizen Awards Dinner

September 19, 2017

The Atlantic Council, a global research institution in the field of international cooperation and dispute settlement, began to present the Global Citizen Awards in 2011 to those who contributed to resolving international issues and inspiring global civic awareness. President Moon Jae-in was honored with the 2017 Global Citizen Award in New York on September 19.

The Honorable President Frederick Kempe, His Excellencies Prime Minister Trudeau, President Keita and President Kaboré, Her Majesty Queen Rania, the officials of the Atlantic Council who have prepared this event and distinguished guests who are adding something special to this evening, it is my great privilege to stand here as an honoree of this meaningful award.

I had a chance to meet Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau at the last G20 Summit to discuss bilateral cooperation and peace on the Korean Peninsula. I was especially impressed by his initiative in addressing the issues of gender equality and Syrian refugees. I also congratulate Mr. Lang Lang, a world-renowned pianist and warm-hearted philanthropist supporting children, on receiving the honor. His music is truly a beautiful message of peace. I am all the more pleased to receive the award together with these two honorees.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I want to dedicate this award to the people of the Republic of Korea who held out their candles on the freezing streets throughout last winter. As you are well aware, the Korean people brought new hope to world democracy with their candlelight rallies. They rescued a democracy that was in jeopardy in the most peaceful and admirable manner and helped launch a new Administration.

I am the president born out of the “candlelight revolution.” Just like in many newly independent countries following the Second World War, the modern history of the Republic of Korea has been punctuated by one period of hardship after another. Koreans, however, have prevailed over the history of tribulations that continued from the colonial period to national division, war, poverty and dictatorships. Finally, the country has succeeded in achieving democracy along with economic growth. I believe that such globally acknowledged accomplishments of the Korean people are the reason I am receiving the Global Citizen Award today on their behalf.

I was born in the year the Korean War ended in a truce. It was when the vast majority of people suffered absolute poverty, and democracy felt like a distant dream. One foreign newspaper columnist wrote about the situation in Korea during that period, “expecting democracy to flower in Korea is like expecting a rose to bloom in a garbage can.” Surprisingly, however, it did not take that long before the world witnessed the great potential of the Korean people.

Koreans hoisted high the flag of the democratization movement through the April 19 Revolution in 1960 and never succumbed to military-initiated dictatorial regimes that continued for a long time after that. Many of them threw themselves into protecting human rights and democracy. Countless people also devoted themselves to achieving economic growth dubbed ‘the Miracle on the Han River.’ As such, the people of Korea moved forward little by little while tackling challenges of democracy and economic development head on.

In May 1980, a civil uprising occurred in the southern city of Gwangju in Korea. It was a watershed in the history of Korean democracy. Many lives were lost. Ordinary people risked everything to uphold most ordinary common sense. They acted nobly in the name of human dignity. Their mature citizenship was manifested in the courage and resolve they showed in the face of death. Citizens stood in lines to give blood for the wounded and prepared rice balls to share

with whoever needed them.

This civil uprising was a very significant chapter in Korea’s democracy. The efforts made in the aftermath went beyond commemorating those who had lost their lives. The Korean people strived to expose concealed truths and ensure that the courage and resolution of Gwangju citizens would be clearly recorded in the history of democracy.

Another breakthrough for Korean democracy came through the June Struggle of 1987. The Korean people’s deep-rooted will for democracy was given form and expression in the public square, which helped shift the course of history from dictatorial rule to democracy. The people took back their right to elect the president, and from there, democracy began to expand to all sectors of society.

Korea’s democracy, which progressed from the resistance of a few to the participation of a majority, proved to be a source of fortitude in the face of economic challenges.

In the same way the Korean people overturned a seemingly unassailable dictatorship, they exhibited an incredible drive for economic development. The united strength they displayed in working to realize democracy was the same strength that brought the country back from the brink of default in the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis and helped it weather the global economic crisis caused by the 2008 Financial Crisis.

Ladies and gentlemen, today, democratic progress in Korea is nearing the full realization of popular sovereignty. Through the candlelight revolution and in accordance with constitutional procedures, the Korean people unseated a president who had betrayed their trust. The will of the people was fulfilled in the most peaceful and admirable of ways.

On their own strength, the Korean people reclaimed from dictatorial rule their right to directly elect the president, and on their own strength, they exercised their right to hold such a president accountable for wrongdoing through impeachment. The National Assembly and the judiciary provided legal and institutional support to uphold the will of the people. The people of the Republic of Korea demonstrated to the citizens of the world the constitutional proposition that “all state authority shall emanate from the people.” They also made it clear to me—who became the President through their upholding that proposition—that a president is just one of the people.

There are no words to describe how proud I am of this fact. I also feel a sense of self-esteem and responsibility. The candlelight rallies were a mass civic action participated in by some 17 million people over several months, but we did not witness a single act of violence or arrest from the beginning to the end. The rallies went on like peaceful and civilized festivals.

They showed that the power of peace, not violence, could change the world. I believe that the very citizens of the Republic of Korea, who have demonstrated the power of peace to the whole world and offered a glimpse of hope amid the global crisis of democracy, deserve to even receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Distinguished guests, when I was a student, I took part in the pro-democracy movement and, later, I became a labor and human rights lawyer. I participated in the candlelight revolution and became the President, embracing the aspirations of the people that their President should uphold the spirit of the candlelight revolution.

As the President, I have shaken hands with numerous people. When they offer their hands first with much delight, I am overjoyed. But at the same time, my heart aches. When they hold my hands tight I feel their earnest desire for a fair and just nation and a peaceful Korean Peninsula.

I renew my commitment here at this honorable place today. Now the new Republic of Korea will move toward economic democracy and peace. The people of the Republic of Korea and I are in the process of making a new paradigm of economic democracy called 'the people-centered economy.' I am confident that the Republic of Korea, having contributed a new chapter in the history of world democracy, is also capable of presenting a solution for low-growth and economic polarization, which is a global concern.

The award I receive today may also represent encouragement and support from peoples around the world for me to accomplish peace on the Korean Peninsula for the sake of world peace. As I explained the history of democracy and economic growth in the Republic of Korea today, I am confident that after realizing peace on the Korean Peninsula, there will be a time when I can talk about the history of peace achieved by the Republic of Korea.

I ask all of you here to give unsparing support to the Republic of Korea on its path to economic democracy and peace. Come join us on the path.

I thank you again for your warm welcome and friendship. I wish the Atlantic Council tremendous success and good health and fortune to all of you here today. Thank you very much.

Remarks at the Dialogue with Finance and Business Leaders

September 20, 2017

President Moon Jae-in held a meeting in New York on September 20 with some 200 key global finance and business leaders and gave an overview of the Korean economy.

Chairman Dan Quayle, Chairman Stephen Schwarzman, Chairman David Rubenstein and other finance and business leaders gathered here, I am glad to meet you all. It is my great pleasure to have a chance to introduce the Korean economy to leaders in the finance and business sector here in New York, the hub of global finance and business. You are the determiners of trends in the world economy.

Distinguished finance and business leaders, there are some elements to consider when making decisions on investments in businesses. We closely observe whether they are healthy and have growth potential, whether there are any risk factors and, more than anything else, whether they are transparent and trustworthy.

I was born in 1953 when the Korean War ended in a truce. Korea, whose GDP at that time was a mere US\$1.3 billion and per-capita income a meager US\$67, was recovering from post-war ruins with the help of foreign aid. The country was too poor to aspire to democracy. Such was the situation of my homeland, the Republic of Korea, at the time.

However, the achievement of economic development and democracy that the Republic of Korea pulled off in just a half century is marvelous. The GDP has skyrocketed by a remarkable 1,000-fold to reach US\$1.4 trillion, ranking near the world's top ten. The per-capita income is approaching US\$30,000. Among newly independent countries following the end of the Second World War, Korea has become the first country in the world to transform itself from an aid recipient to a donor.

The world calls it the 'Miracle on the Han River.' I believe the strength of the Korean people

is the defining element of the miracle. That strength has served as a driving force to overcome economic crises. Korea has turned the global crises of capitalism into opportunities for another growth surge. After the Asian foreign exchange crisis in 1997 and the global financial crisis in 2008, the fundamentals of the Korean economy became healthier, and the country's financial and fiscal abilities became stronger. Korea has also restructured its economy, making it more efficient and sound by reforming the public sector, revamping industrial structures, opening markets, easing regulations and reinforcing financial supervision.

In the face of the unprecedented 1997 foreign exchange crisis, Koreans took out gold in their possession and weathered bone-crushing corporate restructuring. Foreign reserves that dwindled to US\$3.9 billion at that time now stand at US\$385 billion, the 9th largest in the world. The sovereign debt to GDP ratio is 38 percent, one of the soundest among the OECD member countries. Equipped with a world-class information and communications infrastructure, Korea is the manufacturer of 68 of the world's finest products. Korea's sovereign credit rating, which had plunged to B+ at that time, has now jumped 11 notches to AA, on par with major advanced countries.

The Korean people have also withstood the crisis in democracy in an exemplary manner. Korea experienced unprecedented political upheavals last year. The Korean people, however, took to the streets holding candles to express their determination to protect the noble democracy they had achieved. They succeeded in a most peaceful way and helped build a more mature democracy.

The new Korean Administration was launched at the call of the people who aspired to a just nation where the people are the rightful owners. A people who emerge stronger in the face of crises and a country that turns crises into opportunities—this is the Republic of Korea and its people.

Distinguished finance and business leaders, currently, the Korean economy is not without its own crisis. Since 2000, the trend of jobless growth and low growth has taken deep root in the Korean economy. The widening of the socio-economic divide that intensifies economic inequality has rapidly accelerated. Despite economic growth, the number of jobs has not increased accordingly and living conditions have not improved. Instead, economic inequality has escalated to the point where it hinders growth.

Other advanced countries and international organizations are also agonizing over similar circumstances. At the last G20 Summit, polarization and economic inequality were the most important topics among the heads of state and government. The IMF and OECD highlighted the importance of inclusive growth that would evenly distribute economic benefits while the ILO emphasized wage-led growth, a departure from the existing economic paradigm.

With conviction in the potential of the Korean people who have given impetus to the economy, I intend to create a fundamental economic paradigm shift to resolve structural problems. The starting point is yet again the “people.” In a shift in the way of thinking, the people and the household will be placed at the center of economic policies. I plan to promote job creation,

an increase in household income and an innovative economy to boost growth. It is an economy that will enable everyone to have equal opportunities and enjoy the benefits of growth together. It is dubbed the “people-centered economy.” The people-centered economy pursued by my Administration consists of the following three pillars:

The first pillar is ‘growth led by job creation and income. We aim to create a virtuous cycle where household incomes rise through increases in decent jobs and household income growth boosts consumption to drive economic growth, which in turn leads to job creation. To this end, my Administration is realigning all available policy measures concerning the budget, taxation and finance in a way that promotes job creation and household income growth.

My Administration will also push ahead with a more aggressive fiscal policy. We are now expanding investments in projects aimed at creating jobs and have already decided on a steep increase in the minimum wage next year. We will also alleviate the burden on household budgets related to housing, education, medical services and finances.

The second pillar is “innovative growth.” While income-driven growth is intended to promote greater demand, our strategy for innovative growth will focus on promoting economic growth on the supply side. On the foundation of our top-class information and communications infrastructure, Korea will spearhead efforts to usher in an intelligence- and information-based society, or the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

As part of these efforts, my Administration has established the Presidential Committee on the Fourth Industrial Revolution and created the Ministry of SMEs and Startups. We will foster creative minds through educational innovation and expand investments in the core technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including the Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data and artificial intelligence (AI).

My Administration will also strive to create an innovation ecosystem that encourages the creation of innovative startups and new industries by providing businesses with assistance tailored to each stage of their growth, reforming regulations on new industries and providing venture capital and start-up assistance.

We will also increase added value in the manufacturing industry, a traditionally strong sector, by enhancing it with artificial intelligence. Along with efforts to expand smart factories, smart cities and self-driving automobiles, we will pursue energy transition and promote new and renewable energies.

The third pillar of the people-centered economy is a “fair economy.” This is about ensuring equal opportunities and fair competition for everyone. It is also about making sure that all people are able to equally enjoy the fruits of economic growth.

My Administration will root out the practice of businesses unfairly awarding orders and contracts to affiliates and will eliminate unfair trade between SMEs and conglomerates. Corporate governance will be improved to enhance transparency in management.

On top of this, we will strive to make sure that mutually beneficial cooperation between SMEs and large businesses as well as reasonable practices of labor-management cooperation will take firm root. In this way, benefits will be shared and mutual progress promoted. By guaranteeing local governments as much autonomy as in the federal system of government, we will lay the foundation for balanced regional development. These endeavors by my Administration will serve as the basis for inclusive growth and, ultimately, an inclusive democracy.

Distinguished finance and business leaders, Korea has grown on the strength of export-led economic policies. And the United States is the most significant of our economic partners. In fact, the United States is Korea's second-largest trading partner and biggest investment destination, and Korea, in turn, is the sixth largest trading partner of the United States.

The KORUS FTA is essential for mutual economic growth at a time when global free trade continues to expand. Between 2011, when the KORUS FTA had yet to take effect, and 2016, trade between our two countries increased 12 percent. During the same period, global trade decreased by 12 percent. We have also seen a significant increase in the U.S. share of Korea's import market, from 8.5 percent to 10.6 percent. As a result, an increasing amount of American beef is now consumed in Korea. Imports of American automobiles have also increased more than three times, making American automakers the second largest presence in Korea's imported car market.

Exports of Korean-made cars and information and communications goods to the United States have also risen. In the trade of goods, Korea still maintains a surplus, but the United States is seeing a big trade surplus in services. Entry of Korean manufacturing businesses into the United States based on their strength and the advance of U.S. service firms into the Korean market based on their competitive edge are mutually beneficial, thus going a long way toward enhancing the competitiveness of related industries in our two nations.

In addition, the increase in investments in the United States by Korean businesses is making great contributions to job creation—a priority here, too. Hyundai Motor and Kia Motors made combined investments of US\$10 billion in plants in Alabama and Georgia and created about 30,000 jobs. Samsung Electronics invested a total of US\$17 billion in a semiconductor plant in Austin, Texas, and is now hiring around 3,000 employees. Needless to say, many U.S. businesses operating in Korea employ a lot of Koreans. It is crystal clear that the KORUS FTA is benefitting both countries in expanding trade, increasing market accessibility, boosting investments and creating job opportunities.

Recently, a special session of the KORUS FTA Joint Committee was held at the request of the United States to discuss an amendment of the KORUS FTA. Korea will engage in negotiations with sincerity. However, I hope the reciprocity of the FTA will be properly assessed. The United States' trade deficit with Korea has continued to decrease since 2015 and declined more than 30 percent in the first half of this year. This trend needs to be taken into account.

I am well aware of the United States' concern, but the negotiations should be conducted in a composed manner along with an objective analysis of the result and effect of the FTA. Both countries are experiencing the direct benefits of the FTA. Many business leaders in both countries

are showing strong support for the FTA. Korea has signed FTAs with countries and regions that account for 75 percent of the world's GDP. Maintaining the FTA will be a necessary condition for American companies to enter the Korean market.

We are going to have a dialogue with the United States with an open mind. However, I expect that the KORUS FTA, which is beneficial to both countries, will be firmly maintained and further developed in a mutually beneficial way.

Distinguished finance and business leaders, I believe the U.S. business community and financial sector are also concerned about the recent nuclear and missile provocations by North Korea. Recently, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed a sanctions resolution against North Korea's sixth nuclear test in an unprecedentedly swift manner. The Korean Government will urge the North to give up its nuclear and missile program through various diplomatic efforts in cooperation with the international community, building upon the rock-solid Korea-U.S. alliance.

At the same time, the Korean Government's firm stance remains unchanged that the North Korean issue must be resolved in a peaceful way through diplomatic endeavors under all circumstances. Just as firm as the determination of the Korean Government is the market's trust in the Korean economy, which has managed to steadily and consistently develop despite the confrontational situation with the North over the past 60 years.

Even after the recent nuclear test by the North, the Korean stock and foreign exchange markets have remained stable after temporary fluctuations. The Korean composite stock price index continued to rise throughout this year and, as of September 20, there was a 19-percent increase compared to the beginning of the year. Even after the nuclear test by the North on September 3, the index rose 2.3 percent. Major foreign financial institutions forecast that the index will continue to advance to reach the target of 2,600 by the end of this year.

The fundamentals of the Korean economy are as strong as before, and the country's financial soundness, including sufficient foreign exchange reserves, is stable. Despite the North Korean nuclear risk, the International Monetary Fund recently adjusted Korea's economic growth projection for the year upward from the previous 2.7 percent to 3.0 percent, based on the country's solid economic growth.

I speak with confidence that this is a moment to invest in the Korean economy, which is making another leap forward. The Korean Government also has a vision for economic cooperation between the two Koreas and in Northeast Asia for peace on the Korean Peninsula and the economic development in Northeast Asia. Economic cooperation itself will become a foundation for peace on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

In July, I announced the Berlin Initiative containing the determination to achieve denuclearization and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. At the Eastern Economic Forum in Russia in early September, I announced a vision for a new northern economy.

We have to instill an understanding in the North that the nuclear and missile program is not a path to the security of its regime or to its development. I believe that economic cooperation and development among the countries in Northeast Asia is one way to do so. If North Korea gives up its nuclear program, it will be able to easily join in the framework of economic cooperation. When the North abandons its nuclear and missile program and comes forward on the path to dialogue, a new economic map will be drawn on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia. Then, Korea will become an even more attractive destination for investment.

Distinguished finance and business leaders, last winter, the people of the Republic of Korea achieved a more mature democracy through the candlelight revolution. Building upon that, a new economic paradigm known as the people-centered economy has begun. I am confident that Korea can play a leading role in presenting a solution to the global concerns over low growth and economic polarization.

We will also overcome the North Korean nuclear crisis peacefully in cooperation with the international community. Many people are worried about the crisis, but we will ride it out again and make a leap forward as we always have. That is the hallmark of the Republic of Korea and the strength of its people.

I look forward to your renewed interest and participation in the Korean economy. Thank you.



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Remarks at PyeongChang 2018 at the Met: Celebrating the Olympic Winter Games for Peace

September 20, 2017

On the night of the last day of his visit to New York to attend the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, President Moon Jae-in stopped by the Metropolitan Museum of Art and expressed his wish for the success of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, autumn in Central Park is really beautiful. I am very pleased to meet you all at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on this lovely autumn night when the leaves are tinged with red and gold. I am here as President of the Republic of Korea, but it would suit me better tonight to be introduced as an honorary ambassador for the PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games.

Distinguished guests, how did you find the winter landscape of PyeongChang you just saw? What about those young people dancing and singing harmoniously in a blend of East and West as well as the traditional and modern? Weren't they beautiful and charming? If you agree with me, please send them a big round of applause.

Now we are 142 days away from the Olympics. Expectations are rising. In 142 days, we will meet the most passionate and creative minds. I invite you to PyeongChang in the Republic of Korea in February 2018. You can see how ideal PyeongChang is as host of the Winter Olympics when considering its name. PyeongChang is the combination of two syllables "Pyeong" meaning peace and "Chang" meaning prosperity. Don't you think its name truly dovetails with the Olympic spirit of harmony and peace?

More than anything else, I want to proudly tell you about the beautiful scenery and lovely people of PyeongChang. PyeongChang is the place where the sun rises first on the Asian continent. It resembles the snowfields of northern Europe and the verdant grasslands of Central Asia. It is also the place where you can take in the most magnificent landscape in Korea, the East Sea and Seorak Mountain, at the same time.

Moreover, there are open, friendly people who know how to enjoy festivals. The Gangneung Danoje Festival, a local traditional festival in Korea, has been registered by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity and lasts for as long as a month with people singing, dancing and competing together.

Ladies and gentlemen, don't you want to see and meet them? Why don't you begin your 2018 in PyeongChang, a land covered with snow on the easternmost point of the Eurasian continent? Don't you feel excited when you think about it?

Distinguished guests, the PyeongChang Winter Olympics is a significant Olympic event that will be held in Korea 30 years after the 1988 Summer Olympics hosted by Seoul. The Korean Government and people are making extraordinary efforts to prepare for the Olympics. Preparations are also underway in an impeccable manner. Last month, Chair of the IOC Coordination Commission Gunilla Lindberg checked the progress of the preparations and gave them high marks with a comment that PyeongChang was ready to welcome the world to the Olympic Winter Games.

There is no need to worry about safety during the Olympics. I suppose no one here has ever heard of people in Korea gripped with fear for terrorism due to disputes over race or religion. Indeed, Korea is one of the safest countries in the world. Moreover, Korea has a successful track record in hosting numerous large-scale international events safely from the 1988 Seoul

Summer Olympics during the Cold War and the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan to the 2003 Summer Universiade, the G20 Summit in 2010 and the 2011 World Championships in Athletics. The PyeongChang Winter Olympics will be exemplary in all respects, including in safety and management. With this much preparation, I am sure that the PyeongChang Olympics will be a success. I am confident you all agree with me.

We have yet another reason to be optimistic. And it is our surest reason: our people. All of you likely saw the enthusiastic cheering of the red-clad South Korean soccer fans, or "Red Devils" as they were called, who filled the streets during the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan. You likely saw the candlelight protests last winter as well. For half a year, some 17 million people took to the streets, but we saw not one injury or arrest. It was truly a festival of peace. The Korean people have an amazing capacity for cohesiveness and passion, not to mention mature democratic citizenship. They are the reason I am convinced that the PyeongChang Olympics is bound to be a success.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, PyeongChang is ready to present you with a very special Olympics. Wouldn't you be excited to see a high-tech robot carrying the Olympic torch? You would also have the chance to ride in various types of self-driving vehicles, including buses, passenger cars and SUVs, all operated by artificial intelligence. These cars will run between different competition venues as well as between PyeongChang and Gangneung.

Come to PyeongChang! Come and see a state-of-the-art information and communications technology-based Olympics like the world has never seen before. Come to experience the world's first 5G mobile communications test network. And come for an incredible experience of the world's first terrestrial ultra high-definition and ultra wide-vision broadcasts.

Preparations are being made to ensure that the upcoming Winter Olympics is the most accessible yet. From the main stadium in the center, all other venues can be reached within 30 minutes. PyeongChang will also be just a little more than an hour's travel from both the Incheon International Airport and Seoul.

As a best-in-class cultural Olympics featuring daily events and festivals, the PyeongChang Olympics will be a delight for your eyes and ears. You will be able to immerse yourself fully in Hallyu and K-pop, trends sweeping the world today.

I have a story I would like to share with all of you. It is a story about a 19-year-old teenager, Tsao Chih-i. Tsao Chih-i fell in love with figure skating after experiencing his first real winter at the age of 10 in PyeongChang. Today, he is a rising star, ranked 13th in the world. He says PyeongChang was a turning point in his life.

PyeongChang has invited young people from countries where it is difficult to experience winter sports as part of "the Dream Program." Stories like Tsao Chih-i's are a testament to the program's success.

Some 1,500 young people from 75 countries have shared friendship with each other on the snowy fields of PyeongChang. One hundred physically challenged youth have seen and touched

snow for the first time and enjoyed winter weather. I believe that this precious program should remain as a legacy of PyeongChang and continue as a tradition of the Winter Olympics. Do you all agree?

Distinguished guests from around the world, the Republic of Korea and PyeongChang are going to embark on a difficult but meaningful challenge. That is to achieve a “Peace Olympics” with North Korea participating in it. Tensions are high now but because of that, peace is all the more needed. If the two Koreas come together at this point in time, it will become a great opportunity to send a message of reconciliation and peace to the world.

I do not think it is impossible. So far, the two Koreas have had several experiences of coming together through sports. Even this year, North Korean athletes have taken part in two sporting events held in South Korea: women’s ice hockey and taekwondo competitions. The taekwondo event took place just three months ago. There have been various forms of sports exchanges between the two Koreas so far, including formation of inter-Korean teams, South and North Korean athletes marching together during opening ceremonies and North Korean cheering squads taking part in South Korean events.

We will make endeavors with patience till the end along with the International Olympic Committee. It is not an easy path but is one that the Republic of Korea must take. I look forward to keen interest and support from all peace-loving citizens around the world for our endeavors.

Distinguished guests, do you know PyeongChang and New York have a special relationship? In 2011, PyeongChang eagerly embarked on a challenge for its third bid to host the Winter Olympics. In May that year, a Grand Chorus Celebration was held and broadcast live connecting Seoul, PyeongChang and New York simultaneously, resonating around the world. Finally, PyeongChang won the bid for the Winter Olympics in its third attempt. It was the result of the joint passion from Seoul and New York.

Ladies and gentlemen, I expect our meeting today will bring more good luck to PyeongChang. Do you all agree? Please, show your strong support for PyeongChang. Your interest and support will make the PyeongChang Winter Olympics successful. I ask all of you here to personally visit PyeongChang and help make the PyeongChang Olympics the Peace Olympics.

Distinguished guests, I hope you will enjoy the following performance by Sumi Jo, a world-renowned soprano from Korea whom we love and are proud of. I hope you remember and cherish this wonderful evening.

Ladies and gentlemen, I invite you all to the 2018 PyeongChang Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. See you in PyeongChang on February 9, next year. Thank you.



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Address to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

September 21, 2017

The United Nations is an international organization devoted to promoting global cooperation and maintaining order for world peace. At the 72nd Session of the U.N. General Assembly on September 21, 2017, President Moon Jae-in once again emphasized that the PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games would become a peace Olympics.

First of all, on behalf of the people and government of the Republic of Korea, I would like to take this opportunity to convey my deepest sympathy to the victims of the earthquake that hit Mexico on September 19 and their families as well as the people and Government of Mexico.

I offer my respect and gratitude to all member states and the staff of the United Nations Secretariat for their contributions to world peace and security.

I congratulate Mr. Miroslav Lajčak on his election as the President of the 72nd Session of the General Assembly. I expect that this session will reap all the more meaningful results under his excellent leadership.

I also wish Secretary-General António Guterres great success. The Republic of Korea takes a strong stance in support of U.N. goals aimed at preventing conflicts and sustaining peace. I look forward to the rebirth of the United Nations as an even stronger organization fostering peace and prosperity for all peoples during his tenure as Secretary-General.

Mr. President, Secretary-General and distinguished delegates, as I prepared this address, I thought about the spirit of the United Nations and the joint mission of us all. The United Nations is perhaps one of the best institutional inventions created by human intelligence. It was born “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war” and has unremittingly met the challenges confronting humanity over the past 70 years. The roles and contributions of the United Nations in the international community will continue to grow over time.

Today, the number of transnational issues is ever increasing and no country can resolve them single-handedly. For this reason, we should truly fulfill the spirit of the United Nations to find solutions to all the problems facing us.

To this end, I hope everyone will pay attention to the Republic of Korea, located on the southern part of the Korean Peninsula at the east end of the Eurasian continent. I believe the candlelight rallies last winter in the Republic of Korea created a historic moment that is evidence of the brilliant achievement of the spirit of the United Nations. With the power of cooperation and solidarity in defiance of challenges, the rallies forged ahead toward a future aspired to by humanity.

Some of you may remember the scenes of the candlelight rallies shown by the media: streets packed with millions of lights, people expressing their opinions freely and joining in discussions on every street corner where there was singing, dancing and painting, the radiant faces of the parents who took their children by hand to join rallies and the pride of young people who picked up trash on the streets afterwards—all these scenes were very much a part of democracy and peace.

The candlelight revolution in Korea started in a public square where the yearning for restoration of democracy and the Constitution awakened the citizens’ collective intelligence. I too participated in the rallies myself just as a citizen. The people of the Republic of Korea achieved democracy in the most peaceful and beautiful manner. They proved the power of popular sovereignty, the quintessence of democracy. They also proved the fact that the power of peace

rather than violence can bring greater changes to the world.

The new Administration of the Republic of Korea is made possible by the candlelight revolution. Above and beyond the meaning of a democratic election, this means that the Administration was launched by the participation and aspirations of the people and their awareness that they are the rightful owners of the nation. I am now standing here on behalf of that Administration.

I am very gratified with and also proud of the fact that the Republic of Korea, though belatedly a democracy, showed the world a new hope for democracy. Now building on that strength, the Republic of Korea intends to play an active role in addressing pending issues facing the international community.

Mr. President, the Republic of Korea has always taken joint steps with the United Nations. Since the establishment of the Government in 1948, the Republic of Korea has received significant assistance from the United Nations both during the Korean War and in the process of post-war reconstruction. Even though it was not until 1991 that the Republic of Korea could become a member of the United Nations, the country has enhanced its roles and responsibilities as a member state faster than any other nation in the span of just one generation.

From 1993 onwards, Korea has continued to participate in peacekeeping operations. This year, as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, it is focusing on resolving the root causes of conflicts. Over the past five years, the Republic of Korea has increased financial assistance for refugees by 15 times, and last year, it joined the UNHCR’s “20-million-plus dollar donors’ club.” Now expediting the implementation of the Paris Agreement and a shift in energy policy, the Korean Government is also taking the lead in supporting the climate change responses of developing countries through the Global Green Growth Institute and the Green Climate Fund.

On top of this, my Administration has met the goal of filling 30 percent of the Cabinet with female ministers, thereby spearheading the efforts to realize gender equality, one of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the years to come, the Republic of Korea will significantly increase its contributions to the United Nations in all sectors.

Among other things, it is truly meaningful that the theme of this session of the U.N. General Assembly “Focusing on People” is in line with the philosophy of governance of the new Administration in the Republic of Korea. “People come first” is the slogan I have used for several years to express my political philosophy. And the “people” are at the center of all policies of my new Administration.

As of now, my Administration is pursuing bold measures to change the economic paradigm in order to deal with economic inequalities that stand in the way of growth and social cohesion. We are now pursuing economic policies focusing on the income growth of individuals and households, and promoting an economy where growth is led by job creation and all people can enjoy equal opportunities and the fruits of growth. This is what we call a “people-centered economy.”

My Administration's determined endeavors to realize inclusive growth will not be confined to our country. In accordance with this new paradigm, the Republic of Korea will render support for sustainable growth in developing countries.

Mr. President, I was born in a refugee town in the middle of the Korean War. This civil war, which evolved into an international war, devastated the lives of countless people. Over three million lost their lives, and many of the survivors were deprived of decent living. My father was also one of them. My father, who thought he was taking temporary refuge at that time, could never make it back to his hometown before he passed away. I come from one of the separated families, the victims whose human rights were violated by the War.

The War has yet to come to a complete end. The Korean War, a war that began as an offshoot of the larger Cold War conflict, continues to this day. Though the Cold War ended, and 64 years have passed since the conclusion of the Armistice Agreement, the War remains ongoing in the form of an uneasy ceasefire on the Peninsula, the last residual Cold War order in Northeast Asia. As tensions soar in Northeast Asia due to the North Korean nuclear and missile issue, the memory of war and wounds become more pronounced, and hearts aspiring to peace pound painfully; this is the Republic of Korea on the Korean Peninsula in September 2017.

For me, the President of the only remaining country divided by Cold War rivalries, peace is a calling and a historical duty. I am representing my fellow citizens who sent out a message of peace through the candlelight revolution to the global village where wars and conflicts know no end.

At the same time, I am entrusted with a responsibility to safeguard the people's rights to peace—to an undisturbed daily life—as a universal value. For these very reasons, I hope North Korea will be able to choose on its own a path leading to peace. I believe peace when chosen willingly becomes sound and sustainable.

More than anything else, I am grateful that my convictions are joined by the international community. Despite the international community's concerted demand and warnings, and to our great disappointment and indignation, North Korea recently carried out its sixth nuclear test and further missile provocations. In the wake of the nuclear test, the Korean Government has made enhanced efforts to convince countries in the region and beyond of the necessity for stronger sanctions and pressure to make North Korea stop its provocations and choose the path of dialogue.

I highly appreciate the U.N. Security Council's unanimous adoption of the North Korea sanctions resolution with unprecedented speed, and with tougher measures than previous resolutions. This clearly reflects that the international community is collectively outraged and is responding under one voice on the North Korean nuclear issue and on the problems occurring on the Korean Peninsula. Once again, as the party directly involved with issues concerning the Korean Peninsula, I would like to express my appreciation to the international community for its shared understanding and support towards the position of the Korean Government.

Despite North Korea's flagrant violation of its obligations and commitments under the U.N. Charter, the Korean Government and the international community are making every possible

effort with great determination to peacefully solve the North Korean nuclear issue. The U.N. Security Council sanctions resolutions against North Korea, which have articulated the principles of a peaceful, diplomatic and political resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue, are also part of these efforts.

Once again here at the U.N. General Assembly where nations pledge actions for world peace and the mutual prosperity of all peoples, I make the following points very clear to North Korea and the international community. We do not desire the collapse of North Korea. We will not seek unification by absorption or artificial means. If North Korea makes a decision even now to stand on the right side of history, we are ready to assist North Korea together with the international community.

North Korea should acknowledge all these immutable facts as soon as possible. It must immediately cease making reckless choices that could lead to its own isolation and downfall and choose the path of dialogue. I urge North Korea to abandon its hostile policies against other countries and give up its nuclear weapons program in a verifiable and irreversible way.

The efforts of the international community should also be further strengthened. It has to strongly and sternly respond until North Korea gives up its nuclear program of its own accord. All nations must thoroughly implement the U.N. Security Council sanctions resolutions and seek new measures in case of any further provocations by the North.

It is also important to manage the situation in a stable manner. All of our endeavors are to prevent war from breaking out and to maintain peace. In that respect, the situation surrounding the North Korean nuclear issue needs to be managed stably so that tensions will not become overly intensified or accidental military clashes will not destroy peace. We should all remind ourselves of what former U.S. President Ronald Reagan said: "Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means."

I would like to make a special request to the member states of the United Nations and in particular to the U.N. Security Council. In order to fundamentally solve the North Korean nuclear issue, the basic spirit of a security community enshrined in the U.N. Charter should be fulfilled on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia. The basic pillar of security in Northeast Asia and multilateralism should be wisely combined.

The spirit of the United Nations is to realize global peace through multilateral dialogue. The Korean Peninsula is where that spirit is most desperately needed. The realization of peace is the issue for which the United Nations was created, for which it is aiming and which it is in the process of achieving. We need the United Nations to play a more active role on the Korean Peninsula. The most important role the United Nations is asked to play today is to come up with fundamental measures to stop the vicious cycle of increased provocations and heightened sanctions.

On many occasions, I have announced a new economic map for the Korean Peninsula and a new vision for the northern economy. I believe that genuine peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia will begin when the foundation for a Northeast Asian economic community is solidified on

one side and multilateral security cooperation is materialized on the other.

Distinguished President, Secretary-General and delegates, the Olympics had not been held for as many as 1,500 years until it was reintroduced in 1896. The force behind the revival of the Olympics was the thirst for peace. The history of the modern Olympics started with the overwhelming emotion of the first Olympics held in Athens on the Balkan Peninsula, which was once the center of conflicts.

Five months from now, the Olympic Winter Games will be held in PyeongChang, the Republic of Korea. It is the first of a series of Olympics to be held in Northeast Asia: PyeongChang in 2018, Tokyo in 2020 and Beijing in 2022. I aspire for these three Olympics to become an opportunity for promoting peace and economic cooperation in Northeast Asia where the remnants of the Cold War and hope for the future as well as confrontation and cooperation coexist. The Republic of Korea is ready to make every possible effort for that.

Please imagine for a moment: People from all around the world who love peace and sports will be gathered in PyeongChang, which is only 100 kilometers away from the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the symbol of division and confrontation on the Korean Peninsula. Heads of states and governments from all corners of the world will exchange greetings of friendship and harmony.

My heart is filled with great joy when I imagine North Korean athletes marching into the stadium during the opening ceremony, a South-North Korean joint cheering squad enthusiastically welcoming them alongside the brightly smiling faces of people from all over the world. It is not an impossible dream. To turn this into a reality, I will make wholehearted endeavors until the end in cooperation with the IOC in order to welcome the North Koreans to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics.

I hope that PyeongChang will become another candle to be lit. Like the candles the Korean people held out in the face of the crisis of democracy, I believe that PyeongChang will become a candlelight that sheds light on peace when peace is threatened.

I hope that all of you and the United Nations will light your candles. I hope you will put your hearts and minds together to go hand in hand with peace.

Today, with that heartfelt-pledge, I invite the heads of state and government from around the world to come to PyeongChang. The steps you take, together, will become a march for peace.

I look forward to seeing you all in PyeongChang next year. Thank you very much.

Remarks at the Opening Ceremony of the 11th World Korean Day and the 2017 World Korean Community Leaders Convention

September 27, 2017

The World Korean Day was designated to promote harmony, cooperation and exchanges among 7.2 million overseas Koreans. On September 27, 2017, the event for the 11th World Korean Day and the 2017 World Korean Community Leaders Convention was held in Seoul.

Fellow Korean compatriots and distinguished guests, I congratulate you on the 11th World Korean Day, a festival for 7.4 million Korean compatriots overseas, and the 2017 World Korean Community Leaders Convention. Today, I am very pleased to meet you all, fellow Koreans from all over the world.

My special appreciation goes to the delegations from the overseas Korean communities. The Korean communities overseas have spearheaded the efforts to bring together the hearts and minds of compatriots across the globe, give them encouragement and carry out a variety of activities specific to their needs. I offer my congratulations to those who have been honored with medals and citations in recognition of their dedication.

My proud Korean compatriots, even though we live in different parts of the world, Korean compatriots abroad and Koreans at home have always been one in the history of the Republic of Korea. We crusaded for the nation's independence on the Korean Peninsula and in many parts of the world. We laughed together with joy on liberation and wept together for the suffering from war and national division. We have always come together throughout the vicissitudes of modern history toward democracy and economic development.

Our compatriots also made great contributions in restoring democracy in Korea. They held candles in rallies on winter plazas in the northern hemisphere and summer squares in the southern hemisphere. In the last presidential election, their voter turnout was 75.3 percent, which is amazingly high. The stature of our compatriots in countries around the world is growing constantly. They are putting down deep roots in their adopted countries and are demonstrating excellent performance in their respective fields.

Today, I want to add one more credit to them. The solidarity of overseas Korean communities that became further cemented when the country was in difficulty served as great encouragement and a beacon of hope to the Korean people. Many joined hands to tell the world about the comfort women issue and to honor the victims of sexual slavery. They wrote novels in an effort to bring together the hearts of the South and the North and sang for the cause. They took the lead in championing not only humanitarian assistance but also human rights campaigns. They visited Korean War veterans to thank them and promoted aspirations for peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Our compatriots shared in the suffering of their homeland. In foreign lands far away from home, they laid out a path for us to take together and took action. I feel very proud and reassured of these chapters in history we are writing together, in which the growth of the Republic of Korea leads to the growth of overseas Korean communities, and then again to the advancement of Korea.

Fellow Koreans abroad, our country is now striving to build a nation for the people by gathering all wisdom and strength. This is the fruit of the participation and aspirations you all showed in the last presidential election. More than anything else, I would like to emphasize that a just Republic of Korea is now in the making. The state agencies with great authority are in the process of soul-searching and self-reform. For its part, my Administration will also work with utmost commitment to completely root out unfair practices and injustice.

My Administration is also pushing for a fundamental economic paradigm shift. The goal is to make sure all citizens have fair opportunities and enjoy the benefits of growth. Changes are now taking place in our everyday lives concerning housing, healthcare and safety. We are also giving more concrete shape to the policies for Koreans overseas.

First, my Administration will work to protect your safety, rights and interests. Recent increases in terrorism, crime and natural disasters across the globe are adding to your anxieties and worries. A Korean was killed in an earthquake that hit Mexico last week. I would like to take this opportunity to express heartfelt condolences to the victim and the bereaved family.

By setting up centers dedicated to protecting overseas Koreans, which will be in operation round the clock 365 days, we will make our best efforts to prevent all preventable accidents. In order to deal with unpredictable events, we will enhance our capabilities for initial responses. In addition, we will ensure that you can receive sufficient consular assistance wherever you are. We will push for the innovation of consular services at diplomatic missions abroad to ease your inconvenience.

Second, we will make efforts to help your descendants keep their identity as Koreans. In addition to the systematic education on the Korean language, culture and history, we will also expand the invitation training programs, scholarships and youth exchanges. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the settlement of ethnic Koreans in Central Asia and Russia, and their successful settlement has helped raise the pride of Koreans. We will support their descendants' visits to their home country, which we hope will serve as an opportunity to reaffirm their Korean identity.

Third, my Administration will further enhance its efforts for the common progress of Korean communities overseas and the Republic of Korea. The focus of our endeavors will be placed on

strengthening economic capabilities of the Korean people through business exchanges between domestic SMEs and companies run by our people overseas. We will also provide strong support for the improvement of the standing of Koreans abroad in their respective countries and will help them maintain close ties with their homeland.

Fellow Koreans overseas, the heightening tensions surrounding the Korean Peninsula must be a huge concern. The Government and I are making every effort to fundamentally solve the North Korean nuclear issue. Leaders from around the world are answering the urgent appeals of the Republic of Korea. The path we must take is the one toward peace. This is a difficult path but is the one that the Republic of Korea must take. No matter how difficult it might become, we will wisely pull through.

The PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games this coming February will be a significant opportunity that you and I and all of us are going to welcome for the sake of peace on the Korean Peninsula.

You all may remember the summers of 1988 and 2002. Like the song, "Hand in Hand," which resonated in Seoul and around the world, the 1988 Seoul Olympics contributed to reconciliation between the East and West and the disintegration of the Cold War. In 2002, everyone in red T-shirts cheered for "Dae Han Minguk" (the Republic of Korea) together, and the chant also paved the way for the forward-looking cooperation in Korea-Japan relations. It was a miracle created by the people's strength and desire for peace.

The PyeongChang Olympics will also become an Olympics of peace and harmony. Beginning with the PyeongChang Olympics in 2018, a series of Olympics will be held in Northeast Asia: Tokyo in 2020 and Beijing in 2022.

The roles of 7.4 million Koreans overseas and leaders of the Korean communities in 194 countries around the world are vital to building peace in PyeongChang and on the Korean Peninsula, and moreover, in Northeast Asia. As you always have, I ask Koreans overseas to come together and inform the world of the Korean people's dearest wish for peace. Let the world dream of an Olympics of Peace in PyeongChang with unified passion. If you promote the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in every corner of the world, it will be of great help to draw interest and participation of peoples everywhere.

Let us all—Koreans overseas and those in the homeland—together make the success of the PyeongChang Olympics around the world. Let the Republic of Korea and overseas Koreans become united and start a great journey toward peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula.

I congratulate you again on the World Korean Day and the World Korean Community Leaders Convention. I hope you will be able to feel the warmth of your homeland and be comfortable while you are staying here. I also wish you good health and happiness until we meet again. Thank you very much.

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SPEECHES

2018

2018 New Year's Message

January 01, 2018

On January 1, 2018, President Moon Jae-in delivered a New Year's Message to the Nation.

Fellow Koreans, the New Year of 2018 has arrived. I hope each and every one of you and your family will enjoy better days filled with joy and laughter throughout the New Year.

We all have prevailed well over many difficulties in the past year. The whole nation came together with one single mind to create a properly functioning country and took a big first step forward.

We made progress in the economy as well. The country achieved the milestone of US\$1 trillion in trade once again and regained annual economic growth of over 3 percent. These accomplishments are all the more precious because they were made in the face of political turmoil and security challenges attributable to North Korea's repeated provocations. I am very proud of you all and, as President of the Republic of Korea, I would like to express my profound respect and appreciation to each and every one of you.

In the New Year, I will hold your hand tight and keep moving forward with greater vigor. I will continue to devote my best efforts to set right the flaws of the past and bring about real changes in the lives of the people. Putting top priority in state affairs to improve the quality of people's lives, I will strive to prompt tangible changes to everyday life.

I will make more determined efforts to uphold the will of the people for a fair and just Republic of Korea. I am convinced that building a properly functioning country will provide a greater driving force for social unity and economic growth.

In the New Year, I look forward to seeing various dialogues exchanged at different levels of society, including the tripartite talks among labor, management and the government. If we make a little concession and share the burdens, we will be able to move one step closer to the Republic of Korea where all of us prosper together.

Fellow Koreans, now the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games are only a month away. They are the first Olympics to be held in Korea in 30 years since the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul. Let us show more love and support for PyeongChang. Your strong interest and full support will make the Olympics a great success. I wish all of you good health and happiness in the New Year. Thank you.



Opening Remarks at the 2018 New Year Press Conference

January 10, 2018

President Moon Jae-in's New Year Press Conference was held in Yeongbin-gwan, the Cheong Wa Dae State Guest House, on January 10, 2018. During the press conference, President Moon had the first-ever spontaneous Q&A session with journalists at Chong Wa Dae. The press conference lasted for 75 minutes.

Fellow Koreans,

Every single day over the past year, it has hit home that the ordinary citizen is the greatest force in our society. On the plaza where the candlelight rallies took place, I could see each and every ordinary citizen rather than the crowd. It dawned on me that a legacy carried on from a mother to a son and from a father to a daughter is more important than any historic megatrend.

What made me optimistic about our future were ordinary families who held candles all through the winter and went back to their daily lives to the full. We were able to write a new chapter in the history of democracy because of those courageous ordinary individuals and families. I am truly proud of them. Thanks to them, we can speak of hope once again today.

My fellow Koreans readily gave their invaluable time for the country. You gave us the strength to set the nation on the right path. Now is the time for the country to answer the call of the people. I have to promise a more just and peaceful, safer and happier society. That is what we can call a properly functioning country.

In the New Year of 2018, the goal of my Administration is to protect ordinary people and make their lives even better. I will take the determination and demands of the people as a guiding principle. I will see to it that citizens can personally feel changes in their lives.

Fellow Koreans, the first thing I did as President was to install an employment situation board in my office. It was to practice the governing philosophy of the “people-centered economy.” Jobs are the mainstay of the economy and the foundation of individual lives. At the core of the people-centered economy are jobs.

Last year, my Administration overhauled government support systems and drew up a supplementary budget that would serve as a pump-primer for the creation of a greater number of decent jobs. Non-regular workers in the public sector began to be given regular employment status. A grand compromise reached after eight years made it possible to raise the statutory minimum wage by 16.4 percent this year. There are a growing number of businesses that are taking the initiative in helping resolve job issues. Labor and management also started meaningful efforts for mutually beneficial job opportunities. The Government will continue to expand such changes throughout this year.

More than anything else, the increase in minimum wage is a significant decision to transform economic fundamentals. It will serve as the bedrock for income-driven growth by guaranteeing the quality of life of low-wage workers and increasing household income. Support measures to mitigate the burdens of microbusiness owners and small and medium-sized businesses will be carried out as scheduled for mutual benefit and common prosperity.

It is projected that the population of young people in their late 20s who will enter the job market will increase by 390,000 between last year and 2021, but the number will rapidly decrease beginning in 2022. The issue of youth employment is affected by such changes in the demographic structure. For this reason, extraordinary approaches will be required over the next three to four

years. I will take up the employment of young people as a national agenda item and continue to check on the situation in person.

It is also crucial to close the employment gap and improve the quality of jobs. Fundamental job reform should be achieved through shifting non-regular workers to regular employment, narrowing the wage gap, reducing working hours and promoting job sharing. Importantly, reduction in working hours is an inevitable task for the sake of ensuring a life with dignity. It will only be possible when there is participation by and cooperation from all economic players.

I will work to achieve that goal, focusing on social dialogue and a grand compromise. I will hold meetings with anyone, whether they are labor or management, large conglomerates or small and medium-sized businesses, regular workers or non-regular workers. I will help restore a dialogue among labor, management and the Government. I hope the National Assembly will also take the lead in job reform by enacting laws to reduce working hours.

The Government, for its part, will continue its endeavors to achieve innovative growth and a fair economy. Efforts for innovative growth must succeed not only for identifying future growth engines but also for creating quality jobs. By the end of this year, K-City, a test site for self-driving cars, will be built in Hwaseong. Some 2,000 smart factories will be newly constructed. A new model for a smart city will be adopted in several locations. I hope the people will be able to see for themselves the results of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and innovative growth.

A fair economy is the groundwork for making a society free of foul play and unfair privileges and a nation in which all people prosper together. Corrupt employment practices, abuse of power and other deep-rooted evils closely knitted into our daily lives will be eradicated without fail. Endeavors will be made to ensure that all citizens will be guaranteed fair opportunities so that they will not feel unjustly treated.

Chaebol, or conglomerate, reform is important from the perspective of returning economic benefits to small and medium-sized businesses and the public in addition to making a transparent economy. The unfair business practices of family-owned firms awarding exclusive contracts to their subsidiaries will be rooted out by applying stringent law enforcement. Evasive tactics by chaebol owners and their families to expand their dominance will be reined in. To improve corporate governance, shareholders' voting rights will be increased and a stewardship code will be introduced. This is not intended to suppress or shrink business activities. On the contrary, it is believed that it will help sharpen the global competitive edge of large conglomerates.

Innovation should also be brought into the finance sector so that it can support the people and the development of industries. Such wrong practices as abuses of power and illegitimate lending by financial institutions will be eliminated and restrictions on new entry into the financial sector will be streamlined for the development of diverse financial business operations. The mis-selling of financial products will be prevented to protect consumers. In addition, financing for low-income households and small retail businesses will be greatly increased.

Fellow citizens, last year, there occurred several lamentable disasters and accidents. Every

time they took place, I felt heavyhearted as if the President and the Government were responsible for them. In the New Year, my Administration will do its utmost to build a safe Republic of Korea. Public safety will be one of the top priorities in running state affairs, and it will be managed in a systemic manner.

In order to deal with large-scale disasters and accidents, the Government will improve the system so that a rapid response will be possible at all times, instead of becoming a one-off countermeasure. With the goal to halve deaths in three areas by 2022, the Government will intensively carry out three projects to protect the lives of the people by preventing suicides and promoting traffic and industrial safety.

The implementation of safety measures concerning infectious diseases, foods and chemical products will be examined on a regular basis, and the results will be reported to the people. We have to root out child abuse, youth violence and gender-based violence, and to this end, the Government will focus on implementing pan-governmental projects. We will build a safe Republic of Korea without fail, a promise we made to the student victims of the Sewol ferry incident.

My fellow Koreans, last year, I met with many people; one who was forced to give up her own life to take care of a family member suffering from dementia; a young person who ran into a dead end through business failure, and a working mom who was concerned over her child left alone after school. Each and every one of them is a valued citizen of our country.

This year, Korea's per capita income will reach US\$30,000. The number itself is not important. What really matters is to ensure that the people actually enjoy a quality of life befitting a per capita income of US\$30,000. From now on, the country will strive to better protect the people. With relevant policies and budgets, the Government will take care of the people in a meticulous manner.

Starting this month, health insurance coverage will be enhanced, and a system by which the Government takes responsibility for dementia patients will be implemented in earnest. The Government will also strive to lower basic living expenses by enhancing state and public responsibilities for medical care, housing, education and childcare. Overworking must not persist in our society. It is impossible to lead a happy life when long hours and overexertion become routine. The Government will focus on reducing working hours and ensuring that people can leave work on time.

From February this year, the maximum legal lending interest rate will be lowered to 24 percent, which will also be applied to private money lenders. The Government will help reduce the debts of those who are incapable of repaying small, long-overdue debts. In July, credit card fees will be additionally lowered. This is expected to be of help to working class people and microbusiness owners. The fund of funds, which was created by the Government's contribution of 860 billion won last year, will be released for use.

On top of this, an innovative venture fund of 10 trillion won will be raised beginning in March. Through these funds, the Government will render financial support to young people

with creative ideas to help them take on the challenges of starting a business. Support for their technology development and pioneering of new markets will also be provided.

In March, the Government will abolish joint and several liability systems in the institutions that provide policy loans. The exclusive funds for the program to support the restarting of a business will be channeled in earnest to those who need them. As a result, it will be possible in our society to take on the challenge of starting a business without fear and pick up the challenge again even after a failure.

A new vacation support program for workers will be started in July. If businesses and workers put aside some portion of travel expenses, the Government will provide additional financial support. The voucher distributed to low-income families for cultural activities will be raised to 70,000 won per person from the current 60,000 won, and an income tax deduction on expenditures on culture, including on books and live performances, will be newly introduced. I hope that the people will be able to better enjoy culture and lead an enjoyable life.

Starting in September, the basic pension for senior citizens will be raised to 250,000 won from 200,000. The Government will take care of the health of senior citizens. Last year, the proportion of out-of-pocket expenses in obtaining dentures and treating severe dementia patients was lowered significantly. In the second half of this year, the ratio of out-of-pocket expenses in obtaining a dental implant will be reduced to 30 percent from 50 percent.

The Government will jointly shoulder the burden of childcare. Beginning in September, parents will be given a monthly allowance of 100,000 won for each child under the age of five. An additional 450 reliable national and public daycare centers will be newly created this year. The quality of childcare services will be improved as the government subsidy per child increases by 9.6 percent. A pilot project to expand extended daycare services to cities, counties and districts will begin in the first half of this year. The Government will ease the concern of working moms. It will strive to build a society where women can still lead their life pursuing their own values when they get married, give birth and raise children.

For the betterment of the lives of the people, the Government will innovate itself. This innovation will be geared toward the people. The Administration will be centered around the realization of social values. The Government will strive to carry out what it is supposed to do through the participation and cooperation of the people. By innovating outdated practices in the civil service, the Government will be reborn as a trustworthy organization. My Administration will come up with a comprehensive implementation plan for government innovation by the end of February.

My fellow Koreans, the candles the people held up high for democracy are now permeating the lives of the people as well as every nook and cranny of our society. At the end of last year, some good news was heard from Incheon International Airport Corporation, the first destination of my on-site visit following the inauguration. Management and labor came to an agreement to convert 10,000 non-regular workers into regular workers. Those who work for public safety and life as well as those who work on a continued basis have to be employed as regular workers. That is the

common sense and justice those who held candles longed for.

On October 22 last year, the Republic of Korea opened a new chapter of deliberative democracy. The issue surrounding the Shin Kori No. 5 and 6 nuclear reactors, a cause of long-standing conflicts, was settled in a mature manner through a public deliberation committee. A mature democratic society, in which people engage in dialogue, compromise and respect the outcome, is the direction toward which those who held candles wanted the Republic of Korea to move. The people of the Republic of Korea are holding up the candles of democracy higher. Now is high time to weave the spirit of the candlelight demonstrations into the fabric of our everyday lives, thereby institutionalizing it.

My fellow Koreans, the constitution can be likened to a vessel containing the rights and duties of the people. The people's capabilities and understanding of their rights as well as the responsibility and role of a nation have greatly changed compared to 30 years ago. With the old constitution that was written 30 years ago, it is impossible to represent the will of the people. In order to precisely reflect the will of the people in running state affairs, popular sovereignty has to be enhanced. It is also necessary to expand the basic rights of the people and strengthen decentralization and autonomy.

Holding local elections and a referendum on a constitutional revision on the same day is a pledge to the people. All major parties and their candidates promised that during the last presidential election. It is also a way to reduce social costs. Holding the referendum separately after missing this opportunity would cost at least an additional 120 billion won in tax money. A constitutional revision should be a source of hope for the people from the beginning of its discussion, not a political scheme. Neither should it be a black hole that impedes the implementation of numerous tasks related to state affairs.

There is not much time left if the local elections and the referendum on the constitutional revision are to be held together. I again ask the National Assembly to take the lead with a sense of responsibility. I urge the National Assembly to reach an agreement on revising the Constitution. The Government will also make preparations.

I have always stressed that the constitutional revision must be led by the people that it involves their participation and reflects their opinions in both its content and process. I, as the President, will do all I can to keep this promise to the people. I will do all I can as President to fulfill the promise. While waiting for the National Assembly to reach an agreement, if necessary, the Government will prepare a constitutional amendment bill that reflects the opinions of the people and consult the National Assembly.

Fellow Koreans, the lives of the people need to be stabilized through the settlement of peace on the Korean Peninsula. There should never be another war on the Korean Peninsula. The ultimate goal of our diplomacy and national defense is to prevent a war from recurring on the Peninsula. I do not want the immediate unification of the Korean Peninsula. My goal is to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue and solidify peace while I am in office.

The people who set the country right serve as a stepping stone or a milestone in diplomacy and national security. They are the source of power that will bring peace to the Korean Peninsula. Last year, relying on that power, I was able to consistently proclaim the principles of peace on the Korean Peninsula to the four major powers involved in issues related to the Peninsula and the rest of the international community. As a middle power standing tall in the international community, the Korean Government was able to announce the New Northern Policy and the New Southern Policy. I was also able to continue to stress the need for dialogue in inter-Korean relations.

A senior-level dialogue between the two Koreas was held yesterday. An inter-Korean communication that was once severed has been restored. North Korea agreed to participate in the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. U.S. President Donald Trump said he supported the inter-Korean dialogue and the fostering of a peaceful atmosphere through the PyeongChang Olympics. The postponement of the Korea-U.S. joint military drill was also agreed to.

It is only a beginning. We have to successfully host the PyeongChang Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. We need to strive until the end to make it an Olympics of peace. Furthermore, we have to solve the North Korean nuclear issue peacefully. We have to make it a turning point toward an improvement in inter-Korean relations and peace on the Korean Peninsula.

I will do my best to make this year a new start for peace on the Korean Peninsula. In the process, I will more closely cooperate with related countries, including our ally the United States, China and Japan, and the rest of the international community. If peace begins in PyeongChang, I will turn it into a stable system that takes root. To solve the North Korean nuclear issue and settle peace, I will pursue more dialogue and cooperative projects.

I stress once again; the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is a process toward peace and a goal at the same time. The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, which was declared by the two Koreas, is our fundamental position that can never be compromised. I will light a candle of peace on the Korean Peninsula. I will remove the anxiety and distrust that are deeply embedded in the individual lives of the people. I will take a step forward along with the people in an effort to help create an everyday life that is peaceful and safe, and with no worry over war.

Fellow Koreans, last week, I invited the victims of sexual slavery, known as comfort women, to Cheong Wa Dae. The country that could not even protect young girls in the flower of youth 80 years ago has left them with deep wounds again. It led me to think yet again about what the reason for the existence of a nation is. The fact that there was an official agreement between Korea and Japan cannot be denied. It is also important to deal with Korea's relationship with Japan carefully. However, a wrong knot has to be untied. A new road cannot be paved where truth is overlooked.

We will return to the principle of truth and justice. Setting history right is to teach human society a lesson and make concerted efforts so that such a horrible incident does not occur ever again. I believe this is a historical duty assigned to me as President. The Government will restore the honor and dignity of the victims. It will take actions to heal their emotional wounds. Throughout the process, we will listen to the voices of the victims again and again. I wholeheartedly hope that the victims will be able to live the remainder of their lives with peace of mind.

I also hope that Korea and Japan will be able to become true friends that understand each other. Korea and Japan share many aspects of their cultural background and history. The two countries should make concerted efforts to accomplish mutual prosperity and development. As I have made it clear so far, I will pursue the historical issue and forward-looking bilateral cooperation separately and make related efforts. When the relationship between Korea and Japan moves forward toward the future, I believe the two countries will be able to closely cooperate in various substantive areas, including the North Korean nuclear issue.

Fellow Koreans, next year will be the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea. It will also be the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic of Korea that inherits the legitimacy of the Provisional Government. The Republic of Korea has come this far with the strength of the people: from the time when the Provisional Government was founded to restore popular sovereignty to the time when the people held candlelight protests to realize popular sovereignty and launch a new administration. The path the Republic of Korea will take going forward should constitute the path of the people. Creating a condition and environment in which the people can enjoy happiness is a mission for all of us this year. It is the path the Republic of Korea should take looking toward another 100 years.

I will make efforts to achieve a year when ordinary lives foster democracy and ordinary lives get even better. Thank you very much.

Congratulatory Address at the Opening Ceremony of the 132nd Session of the International Olympic Committee

February 05, 2018

The 132nd Session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was held on February 5, 2018, at Gangneung Arts Center. The IOC Session, the premier decision-making apparatus of the IOC, is held annually. In a year when there is an Olympic Games, the IOC Session is held in the host country.

The Honorable President Thomas Bach and members of the International Olympic Committee, I welcome all of you to the Republic of Korea. I am grateful to you all for traveling long distances to join us today.

Some of you here might have participated in the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics as athletes or spectators. Since then, the Republic of Korea has achieved yet another miracle. The country has made remarkable breakthroughs not only in the economy but also in democracy. Today, I join the proud people of the Republic of Korea and the citizens of Gangwon Province in warmly welcoming everyone.

Gangneung, where we are gathered now, is located to the east of a mountain range that runs through most of the length of the Korean Peninsula, from Mount Baekdu in the north to Mount Jiri in the south. The Korean people feel the greatness of nature when hiking the mountain peaks along the endlessly meandering ridges. We relate ourselves to the untold stories steeped in every ridge. Gangneung is also known as a favorite spot for Koreans to see the first sunrise of the New Year. Watching the bright sun above the vast blue East Sea, Koreans renew their New Year's resolutions. Gangneung is the place to foster dreams. I hope your dreams, as well as the ideals and goals of the IOC, will further grow here in Gangneung.

We have built five ice-skating rinks here in Gangneung for the upcoming Winter Olympics. There are seven ski slopes in the neighboring towns of PyeongChang and Jeongseon. We have been looking forward with excitement to athletes coming to these venues and to their fine performances, fair competition and abundant new records. We know how long the Olympians have endured hard training for one competition that will sometimes come down to a mere split

second. We will cheer them on for their challenges and achievements. Together with the entire world, we will enjoy the moment as the athletes' beads of sweat turn into the applause and cheers of spectators. We will also help to infuse the young people around the world, our future generation, with hope, courage and new inspiration.

In four days, the Olympic flame that was ignited at the Temple of Hera in Greece and relayed by 7,500 torchbearers representing the combined population of South and North Korea of 75 million will light the Olympic cauldron. Ablaze with the Olympic spirit, it will mark the start of a winter festival for the entire world.

Distinguished IOC members, ladies and gentlemen, it is significant to me that the Winter Olympics, a global winter festival, is being held in the Republic of Korea. Winters in Korea are known for harsh cold winds and heavy snow. Sixty-eight years ago, the winter brought an unbearably great sorrow and pain for the Korean people. War had devastated everything. Many had to leave their homes and part with their relatives. Among them were my parents. Braving the extreme cold in life-or-death struggles, the winter that year is deeply etched as a painful chapter in the history of the Korean Peninsula.

However, you are now witnessing something astounding indeed taking place. From a divided nation, a land with gaping wounds left by war and a region lying just a stone's throw away from the truce line, a message of reconciliation and peace toward the entire world begins. I believe this fact will be a source of joy not only for Koreans but also for all peace-loving people around the world.

There is yet another reason why this winter festival has a special meaning for me. That is because this Winter Olympics began and has been prepared with an ardent wish of Koreans. The people of the Republic of Korea still vividly remember the 123rd IOC Session held in 2011 in Durban, South Africa. Many people were anxiously waiting in front of their TVs for the outcome of our country's third attempt. At the moment when then-IOC President Jacques Rogge finally shouted out "PyeongChang," the whole country was too overwhelmed with joy to fall asleep even though it was already past midnight. It was a truly moving and exhilarating moment. From the very moment when everyone was united as one shouting "Yes PyeongChang, Go Korea!" the dreams and promises of PyeongChang started taking concrete shape with the backing of the people.

Some devoted themselves to building stadiums while some others contributed their talent for cultural performances. Some people dreamed of working as volunteers and greeting athletes and spectators from all around the world. The PyeongChang 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games is, therefore, the culmination of many years of combining the passions of the Korean people together.

Esteemed members of the IOC and distinguished guests, now, the Republic of Korea is ready. As we promised in Durban, South Africa, seven years ago, PyeongChang will open a new horizon in Winter Olympic history. So far, we have made great endeavors and preparations to further uplift the Olympic spirit by mustering all available resources, including warm-hearted friendship

and state-of-the-art information and communication technologies (ICT).

The Dream Program we run offered new opportunities to many young people in the world. Young people from Southeast Asian countries, Kenya and South Africa, where it is not easy to experience winter sports, participated in the program, and some of them grew to become outstanding athletes and coaches.

In its name and substance, the PyeongChang Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games is centered around athletes. All competition venues can be reached within 30 minutes from the PyeongChang Olympic Stadium so that athletes will be able to focus solely on demonstrating their abilities in the optimal environment.

The upcoming Games will go down in history as a cutting-edge ICT Olympics that the world will experience for the first time. Athletes and spectators will be able to get a taste of a pilot network for 5G mobile communications that was established for the first time in the world and to enjoy terrestrial ultra high-definition and ultra wide-vision broadcast services.

We think highly of the fact that besides sports, culture constitutes yet another force conducive to connecting different countries. I hope all participants will be able to enjoy the unique attractions of Korean culture through various cultural performances to be held throughout the Olympics.

The Republic of Korea has so far made its best efforts to make the Olympics a success. Now, the time is approaching to share the fruit of those efforts with all participating athletes, spectators and the whole world. Behind the preparations for the moment were Korean people's capabilities as well as cooperation and assistance from the IOC. In order to help further spread the spirit of peace, friendship, tolerance and hope embedded in the Olympics, Korea will continue to work together with the IOC.

Distinguished members of the IOC and guests, at this meaningful gathering today, I cannot help expressing my special appreciation to President Thomas Bach and many other IOC members. My special thanks also go to the North Korean member of the IOC, Chang Ung.

Please, turn your clock back for a while to one or two months ago. Just one or two months ago, many countries were worried about the safety of the PyeongChang Olympics. Many considered it an impossible dream to have an Olympics of peace, in which North Korea would participate and the two Koreas would form a joint team. However, all the anxiety has evaporated now and the unimaginable has become a reality.

The highest number of athletes from the largest number of countries in Winter Olympic history will participate in the PyeongChang Games. The number of North Korean athletes participating is also the highest in Winter Olympic history. Athletes from the two Koreas will march together in the opening ceremony, and for the first time in Olympic history, a joint team formed by the two Koreas will take part in the Games. The members of the IOC and the Republic of Korea are now gathered here together ahead of the opening of the peaceful and safe Olympics, which all of us have striven to achieve. Is this not great?

I still remember the 131st IOC Session in Lima, Peru, in September 2017. IOC President Bach stressed that the Olympics is to go beyond all political conflicts and is the symbol of dialogue, hope and peace. He said the IOC would fully back North Korea's participation in the Olympics, proposing that he would support North Korean athletes in terms of their qualification for participating in the Games. Then, the Korean public and I were certain that the door to an Olympics of peace was opening. Under difficult circumstances even after that, the IOC reaffirmed that dialogue and peace coincided with the spirit of the Olympics.

The cooperation and remarkable activity of the IOC opened the wide door to an Olympics of peace in PyeongChang. Now, PyeongChang will show to people around the world the fact that sports can leap over the barrier of politics and ideology, that exchanges and communications through sports can lead to peace and that this is the great value of the Olympic spirit.

The PyeongChang Olympics is the first in a series of Olympics to be held in Northeast Asia, including the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics and the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. If the series of Olympics contributes to not only peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia but also peace and prosperity of people around the world, all of us will be able to create the most meaningful Olympic legacy in the Olympic history. For this overwhelming accomplishment, I promise here to continue to work together and make endeavors not only with the IOC but also with Japan, China and the rest of Asia.

Honorable IOC members and distinguished guests, another significant value represented here in PyeongChang is sustainability. Sustainability is a core value of the Olympics. The tangible and intangible Olympic legacy must continue to be preserved for the sustainability of the Olympics into the future. The Republic of Korea supports the goal of the international community to promote sustainable development in the future, building upon the enormous potential of sports. We will contribute to the Olympic Agenda 2020, working together with the United Nations and the IOC.

At the center of the new horizon to be opened by PyeongChang are the people of the Republic of Korea. During last winter, the people spread the new hope for democracy and peace around the world. The outstanding ability and mature civic awareness of the Korean people will lead all the positive changes during the PyeongChang Olympics and thereafter. I hope all of you here will share my belief.

I congratulate you again on the 132nd IOC Session and hope that friendship between the Republic of Korea and the IOC will become even deeper. The world is now about to experience the winter of Gangwon Province.

Let us take a step forward toward peace.

Let us meet in PyeongChang. Now, I declare the 132nd IOC Session open. Thank you very much.



21

Welcoming Remarks at a Reception for the PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games

February 09, 2018

Prior to the opening on February 9 of the PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games, a festival for world peace, a reception was held in Yongpyeong to welcome the many distinguished guests who visited Korea for the occasion as well as domestic guests.

Your Excellencies and distinguished guests from both home and abroad, I wholeheartedly welcome you to PyeongChang here in Gangwon Province, the Republic of Korea. The PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games will be opening in a short while. A festival of peace for people around the world is about to begin. On behalf of the Korean people, I am truly grateful to you all for having shown gracious support and friendship to the Republic of Korea and PyeongChang.

Gangwon Province has a plenty of things to boast about. From the scenic ocean and mountains, traditional festivals of local communities and healthy foods produced with natural ingredients, these are the pride of the region that I would love to enjoy together with you all. Among them, the cold of winter is a specialty of Gangwon that makes it just the right spot to host the Winter Olympic Games. Fortunately, the recent weather here is as cold as it gets. The ice is sleek and the snow is deep. An optimal environment awaits athletes who have trained hard in the cold weather. Thanks to cold weather, we are gathered here today. In a way, the cold of Gangwon Province is a warm invitation sent to you by the Republic of Korea. Your Excellencies and distinguished guests, are you ready to fully enjoy the winter in PyeongChang?

Shin Young-bok, an esteemed Korean thinker, once said that huddling together to brave the wintry chill with the body heat of the person next to you is “primordial friendship.” I am certain the friendship among all of us meeting today from every corner of the world will be further cemented in the cold of Gangwon Province.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the modern Olympic Games originated from the passion of one great individual. In the late nineteenth century, Pierre de Coubertin had a firm conviction that the fair competition through sports could enhance not only physical strength and moral fiber, but also reinforce the will toward peace. Now, about 120 years later, people around the world are paying attention to sports after revisiting the importance of a fair society. Sports can present a feast for body, mind and soul transcending differences in ideology, political systems, religion and culture. By means of sports based on fair competition, many have developed a challenging spirit and courage, respect for others and an awareness of a common community as well as the virtue of self-discipline.

I would like to share with you a scene from 30 years ago at the Seoul Summer Olympics in 1988. The sailing competition was underway in the waters off Busan where I was born and grew up. During the competition, Singaporean national team members fell into the sea because of a sudden gust of wind. Lawrence Lemieux of Canada, who was in second place at that time, did not hesitate to come to their rescue and pulled them from the water. He ended up finishing the race in 22nd place. Even though he could not win an Olympic medal, the world awarded him with an even greater medal, the True Spirit of Sportsmanship.

The Innsbruck 1964 Winter Olympics in Austria presented an invaluable example of fair competition. The captain of the Italian bobsled team Eugenio Monti lent a sled component to the British team, a formidable rival. The British team was able to fix their sled and won gold. When asked by the press following the competition how he felt about the victory of the British team, Monti said that they won not because he had given them the bolt but because they just had the fastest time. He became the first athlete ever to receive the ‘Pierre de Coubertin Fair Play Trophy’

conferred by the International Fair Play Committee.

Like many other countries, Korea now dreams of building a fair society. During last winter, the Korean people held candles high for a fair and just country. Preparing for the PyeongChang Olympics, we came to reflect on fairness again. We believe that, on the ice and snow in PyeongChang, we will see the next Lawrence Lemieux, who gave a helping hand to his competitors in peril, and the next Eugenio Monti, who helped his opponents play under the same conditions as his team.

Distinguished guests, our sons, daughters, grandsons or granddaughters are now holding their own mini Olympics in their playgrounds, school fields or gyms. If our children become familiar with the rules and the importance of fairness through sports, the world of friendship and peace as envisioned by Pierre de Coubertin will come much closer within our reach. To help future generations realize the joy of taking on challenges to achieve goals and see the vision of a fair world through sports is one way to ensure the sustainability of the Olympics. The Korean people and I will make our best efforts to turn the PyeongChang Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games into a festival that can live up to the hopes of our children. I hope we all will be able to pool our wisdom and strength to ensure that fair competition among athletes permeate and become the unwavering norm in our everyday lives as well.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have many heads of state and world leaders with us here today. This very moment brings home to me how meaningful and fortunate it is for us to have this kind of sports event in a world where conflicts and confrontations are ever-present. Had it not been for the Olympics, what would have made it possible for so many countries from around the world to blissfully come together like this? Even as we are here together, many countries around the world have thorny issues to sort out between them. Korea is no exception. Had it not been for the PyeongChang Olympics, some of us might not have had chance to be together in the same room. However, what is more important than anything else is that we are all here together now; we can cheer for athletes together and talk about our future. We are here together and that alone will be a precious starting point for a step forward toward world peace.

South and North Korea formed a joint team at the 1991 World Table Tennis Championships in Chiba, Japan, and won the women’s team competition. A small ball weighing 2.7 grams became a seed of peace. Here today in PyeongChang, the first joint South-North Korean team in Olympic history, in women’s ice hockey, is readying for the Games. The table tennis ball weighing only 2.7 grams has now been replaced, after 27 years, with a puck weighing 170 grams. The South and North will become one at the Kwandong Hockey Center tomorrow. Athletes from the two Koreas will work together for victory, and that will resonate with and be remembered in the hearts of people around the world as a sign of peace. The players in the joint team have already become friends as they lighted birthday candles for their teammate. There is no truce line in the hearts of these athletes who bring their sticks together and root for each other. I would like to invite you all to that special ice rink.

A poet once sang, “A snowman starts with a snowball.” The female ice hockey players from the two Koreas are now holding a small “snowball” in their hands. Together, we should start

rolling the small snowball carefully with our hands. Now, if we put our hearts and minds together, it will continue to grow larger and larger and turn into a snowman of peace.

Your Excellencies and distinguished guests, a few hours from now, the winter of PyeongChang will awaken to glory. Friendship and peace will be strengthened with the beautiful opening ceremony. All of you will witness fair and exciting contests here and will become the champions of peace on the Korean Peninsula.

I hope that our next generation will remember today and record it with a special footnote as the day of the Olympic Winter Games and beginning of peace. I and the Korean people will never forget the friendship the world has shown in PyeongChang. We will return all your kindness with peace on the Korean Peninsula. We are ready now. Thank you very much.



22

Congratulatory Remarks at the Graduation Ceremony of the Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology

February 12, 2018

The Ulsan National University of Science and Technology, which was the first incorporated national university in Korea, has changed its name to Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST). It is a government-funded research institution. On February 12, 2018, President Moon Jae-in attended the graduation ceremony of UNIST and wished students a bright future in his congratulatory remarks.

Congratulations everyone, more than anything else, I wholeheartedly congratulate all the graduates of the Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST) on the commencement of a new stage in your lives. My gratitude and congratulations also go to the parents of graduates and the UNIST president and faculty members who deserve to be honored today, as well. Likewise, the city of Ulsan and its citizens that have provided unstinting support should be honored at today's commencement ceremony.

Coming here to UNIST, I feel like I am stepping through the threshold into the future of science. I was told that the nine bridges on the campus will bear the name of future Nobel prize winners from UNIST. Looking at your eyes ablaze with enthusiasm about science, I believe we will need to add more bridges in the not-too-distant future. The Government is more than willing to shoulder the cost for building such bridges. Are you up to the challenge?

Proud graduates, UNIST was founded on the aspirations of Ulsan citizens and a vision for balanced national development. About 13 years ago, the citizens of Ulsan rolled up their sleeves in earnest to help establish a national university in the region and formed a committee for building a national university in Ulsan. Until then, Ulsan was the only major metropolitan area in Korea without any national or public university. The founding of a national university in the region was something the local residents had long desired. It was not easy to establish a new national university, because student quotas for universities across the nation were already over-filled at that time. The Roh Moo-hyun Administration, however, pushed to found UNIST in line with its governing philosophy of balanced national development, backed by the yearning of Ulsan citizens in defiance of much opposition. While I served as the chair of the Democratic Party of Korea, the status of the university was raised to that of Institutes of Science and Technology in the country.

Since then, UNIST has made a splendid leap forward, indeed. The citizens of Ulsan regard UNIST as their most proud achievement after the elevation of Ulsan into one of the major metropolitan areas. I, too, feel greatly rewarded for having joined in providing support for the establishment of UNIST and its growth surge. Your remarkable progress thus far has fully lived up to the expectations of the country and the citizens of Ulsan. I am truly proud of and gratified by your accomplishment.

My beloved graduates, the world is now moving into an era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution with the unprecedented explosion of knowledge in human history. You are now standing before a new era that we still have not fully grasped. You have been on a voyage of science and technology toward the future along with your 426 prominent professors. The library of UNIST, with its some 130,000 books, 430,000 e-books and 100 terminals for the virtual desktop infrastructure, has served as the reliable sails for the voyage. A transmission electron microscope, one of the only four in the world, Korea's only ultra-precision nano machine and an imaging mass spectrometer have served as excellent and accurate compasses to navigate. You have studied hard and conducted research in this finest, supportive environment.

However, the course you are about to set sail on will not always be smooth. You will suffer setbacks and frustration as well. I want you to remember and take to heart that failure sometimes can be a more valuable experience than success. I have also experienced numerous failures

myself. I had to run twice as presidential candidate before being elected. What discourages us is never the failure itself. If we do not lose hope in the face of failure, it could rather become the energy to further our growth.

In addition, please never forget the fact that we are not alone. I started my career as an attorney, and an incalculable number of people have given me a helping hand to this day. I have become who I am today, not by my own efforts alone. President Moon Jae-in today is another name for the countless "we," who have helped me with dedicated support along the way.

The same is true for all of you; what you are today is the combination of your own endeavors and considerable assistance from other people. UNIST and the local community have helped you all grow further. The toil of the many cleaners, janitors, cooks, nutritionists and facility management officials constitutes one integral part of your achievement. If you keep that in your mind and remember the many other people standing together with you, the Republic of Korea would be able to usher in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the most exemplary manner. When the going gets tough, please remind yourselves of the cheer and encouragement UNIST has given. When you feel lonely, please recall what I said today. You are not alone. Even if we fail, many of our friends will still be there for you.

Dear class of 2018, I see in you the path of science that cares about people. In 2012, I met the first UNIST students who started a business venture which made an audiobook for the visually impaired. Today, I have met them again to find that their business had grown a lot; it has now more than one million customers with new ideas on mobile advertisement application and flower delivery services, thereby receiving foreign investments. A UNIST student developed a smart pillow designed to help infants and weary parents stay healthy, and another student is employing the weak in society in his or her pet-item making company.

Many young Koreans from various disciplines are now taking on the challenge of competing in the global arena with the same passion as yours. If you put together all your passions and dreams, the path of people-centered science would become a brand the Republic of Korea can proudly present to humankind. Scientific achievements are now closely linked to our everyday life. They have also been applied to the PyeongChang Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, which are making the hearts of numerous people all around the world pound with excitement.

When I visited the Jincheon National Training Center in December last year, I witnessed the power of science and technology that helps the training of athletes. The force behind the making of the PyeongChang Olympics as an advanced ICT Olympics is also science and technology. We saw the beauty of brilliant science and technology showcased during the opening ceremony of the PyeongChang Olympics. The digital art created by the LED display devices; the augmented reality version of an ancient Korean astronomical chart, which was originally etched on a tombstone in 1395, and the Dove of Peace performance powered by the fifth generation wireless technology, which was showcased as a pilot project for the first time in the world, were an overwhelming feast of information and communication technologies. When 1,218 drones formed the Olympic rings in the night sky, the audience exclaimed, wondering whether it was just a graphic image or made up of real objects. Our traditional culture and the state-of-the-art science and technology were

merged to produce a fantastic opening ceremony, which won global admiration. All of you here are making the world advance like this. You must not forget that the science you are engaged in is transforming the lives of people around the world, improving society and rewriting history.

My beloved graduates and members of UNIST, Ulsan is the industrial capital of the Republic of Korea. It is a lifeline that accounts for 20 percent of Korea's total exports. Talented individuals have been fostered by UNIST here in Ulsan. They are becoming the driving force of Ulsan's economy being employed, doing research and starting businesses in the region. The world is your stage. On the other hand, you should also do your part to contribute to the region that has nurtured you. You should not forget that regional development powers the advancement of the Republic of Korea. UNIST has produced outstanding individuals from Ulsan as future scientists through a special admission program with a designated quota of local students. It has been encouraging young future entrepreneurs in Ulsan as well as its students by motivating them to cooperate and take on challenges as entrepreneurs through its startup camps. I heard that an increasing number of UNIST graduates are settling down, landing a job, doing research or starting a business in Ulsan. It is truly wonderful; I am very grateful.

My Administration will encourage universities specialized in science and technology like UNIST to continue to lead the fostering of talented individuals in the region and industry-academia cooperation in the years to come. We will not spare any support so that talented individuals can guide the industries of the Republic of Korea, without having to leave their region, through partnership among public institutions, universities and businesses in the region. I hope that UNIST will take the initiative in making Ulsan, the industrial capital, more competitive by applying the technology of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to the manufacturing industry in the city.

Dear graduates, parents and professors, our precious sons and daughters have studied here at UNIST and have become the hope of the Republic of Korea. Now, each of them will take a different path. An exciting world awaits them. I am looking forward to all of you taking your own path. I hope that, however, it will be a path not just for you but for everyone. I also hope that your scientific expertise will shine brightly in the lives of the community. When you often and even more often go hand in hand with your friends, your accomplishment will shine more brightly. By doing so, I hope you will become the future of the Republic of Korea where everyone can prosper together.

Let us all bless our young fellows who are taking on a new journey. Thank you very much.



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Address on the 99th March First Independence Movement Day

March 01, 2018

The March First Independence Movement Day commemorates the Korean people's protest against Japanese colonial rule and the manifestation of their intent for independence through the announcement of the Declaration of Korean Independence. President Moon Jae-in attended the ceremony to celebrate the 99th anniversary of the March First Independence Movement at Seodaemun Prison on March 1, 2018.

My fellow Koreans, overseas compatriots, today marks the 99th anniversary of the March First Independence Movement. It is still in our hearts at this moment as a vivid and living memory. Each and every brick of Seodaemun Prison is etched with noble stories of defiance in the face of hardship and death. I feel like I can hear the chants for Korea's independence now.

Today, we are gathered here to commemorate the living, breathing spirit of this significant day in a historic place of the independence movement; we are not holding just a perfunctory ceremony. During Japanese colonial rule, approximately 2,600 people were imprisoned in the Seodaemun Prison each year. Up until August 15, 1945, when the country was liberated, nearly 100,000 Koreans had been incarcerated here. Nine out of ten of them were independence activists and so-called "thought offenders." From those in their teens to the elderly, from Jeju Island in the south to Hamgyeong Province in the north, they acted for the cause of their country's independence. Sometimes, a mother and her son, a father and his daughter, and brothers and sisters were put behind bars together. Countless mothers and wives stayed in the alleys in front of this Prison and looked after their imprisoned children and husbands by working to provide sustenance, and sewing clothes for them. Not only the inmates themselves but also their family members were all independence activists.

Fellow Koreans, ninety-nine years ago today, hand-written statements were put up in villages and markets. Copies of the Declaration of Korean Independence were passed from hand to hand. When the Declaration was simultaneously read aloud in all corners of the country, including Seoul, Pyeongyang, Jinnampo, Anju, Uiju, Jeongju, Seoncheon and Wonsan, public protests calling for independence started. The independence movement instantly spread to local cities and even small towns and villages. The chants for independence also reverberated in the air in faraway lands, from Jiandao in China and the Maritime Province in Russia to Philadelphia and Hawaii in the United States. From March 1 until the end of May that year, as many as 1,542 pro-independence protests took place within the country alone. More than two million people, about one tenth of the then population, took part in them.

Since that time, the experience and memory of the March First Independence Movement became a spiritual foundation for fierce struggle for independence against imperialist Japan throughout the Japanese colonial period. After the March First Independence Movement, hundreds of thousands of independence fighters crossed the Amnok River and Duman River every day. They formed the Korean National Association, the Northern Military Administration Office Army, the Greater Korea Independence Army, the Commanding Headquarters of Military Affairs, the Western Military Administration Office Army, the Greater Korea Independence Corps and the Korean Liberation Corps. They engaged in bloody combat with the Japanese military and police. If one fell down, 10 others rose up. Following in the footsteps of patriotic martyr Ahn Jung-geun, an incalculable number of other patriotic martyrs continued their heroic struggles, including Kang Woo-gyu, Park Jae-hyeok, Choi Su-bong, Kim Ik-sang, Kim Sang-ok, Nah Seok-ju and Lee Bong-chang. Yun Bong-gil's patriotic deed in Shanghai on April 29, 1932 was the consummation of such struggles. In 1937 alone, as many as 3,600 large-and small-scale armed independence activities occurred within the country. In 1940, the Korean Provisional Government founded the Korean Liberation Army, the first regular military forces of the Republic of Korea. All of them are the founding fathers of the Republic of Korea.

Yu Gwan-sun, one of Korea's patriotic martyrs, led a pro-independence protest in Aunae marketplace in Cheonan and lost her life at 18 in a solitary underground cell due to torture and malnutrition. Another patriotic martyr Dong Pung-shin participated in an independence protest in Myeongcheon, Hamgyeongbuk-do Province and passed away here in Seodaemun Prison at the very young age of 17.

We had other founding mothers who devoted themselves to the establishment of the Republic of Korea with the spirit of the March First Independence Movement; students at Ilshin Girls' School in Busan, who stayed up all through the night to draw the Taegeukgi, the national flag of Korea; patriotic martyr Yoon Hee-soon, the first female head of a volunteer righteous army; upright mother Kwak Nack-won of Korean independence leader Kim Gu; anti-Japan activist Nam Ja-hyeon, the mother of independence fighters, who crossed the Amnok River on March 9 right after the March First Independence Movement at the age of 46 to join the Western Military Administration Office Army; patriotic martyr Park Cha-jeong, who led the female students' pro-independence protest by the Korean Women's League and sought asylum in China to engage in the activities of the Heroic Corps; independence activist Jeong Jeong-hwa, who crossed the border six times to supply the Korean Provisional Government in Shanghai with independence campaign funds.

The intensity of our forefathers' fight for independence was unparalleled in the world. National liberation was not given simply from the outside. It was the result accomplished by our forebears who risked their lives to fight together to the very last moment.

My fellow Koreans, the most significant achievement of the March First Independence Movement was the establishment of the Korean Provisional Government according to the Declaration of Korean Independence.

The Constitution of the Korean Provisional Government, which was founded through the March First Independence Movement, stipulated that the Republic of Korea was a democratic republic and that the sovereignty of the nation resided in the people. These became Article 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Korea. It was none other than the March First Independence Movement that enabled our forefathers to proceed toward a democratic republic, surmounting monarchy and the colonial rule of Imperialist Japan.

When the March First Independence Movement waned, the sovereign people rose up again. The independence movement was not only for patriotic activists. Merchants waged a movement to close markets. Our ordinary fathers and sisters—woodcutters, gisaeng (female entertainers), the visually impaired and miners—took the lead. The aspirations for the sovereignty of the people, freedom, equality and peace became a part of everyday life of each individual. They went beyond the barriers of class, region, gender and religion and stood tall as individual citizens. It was the March First Independence Movement that helped establish the Republic of Korea as a democratic republic where the public are the owners of the country.

The Korean Provisional Government bequeathed Article 1 of the Constitution and the name of our country as well as the national symbols of the Taegeukgi and the national anthem. This is

why our Constitution clearly states that the Republic of Korea upholds the cause of the Provisional Republic of Korea Government.

Last winter, we took a lesson from the events of one century ago. We managed to revive the history of popular sovereignty that had been initiated by the March First Independence Movement. In the most peaceful and magnificent manner, 17 million candles held up high made it possible for that history to unfold. Each light that brightened up the darkness declared once again that each individual was the sovereign owner of the Republic of Korea. The new history of popular sovereignty has begun to be written again as we approach the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Korea.

My Administration and I will remain firmly committed to safeguarding our country, which was able to start anew thanks to the candlelight rallies, as one of popular sovereignty. We will make efforts to incorporate the spirit of the March First Independence Movement and the lives of the independence activists into the mainstream of the history of the Republic of Korea.

The Korean Provisional Government memorial, which is scheduled to be opened in 2020, will house the countless stories of our forefathers who devoted themselves to the founding of the Republic of Korea. Woodcutters, miners and gisaeng, who participated in the March First Independence Movement, will be recorded as our proud independence fighters.

We will continue to identify the historic sites of the independence movement and the traces of the independence fighters that have yet to be found in Korea and elsewhere. The headquarters of the Liberation Army in Chongqing will be restored in time for the 100th anniversary of the Provisional Government.

Fellow citizens, we have a huge root in the form of the March First Independence Movement. It is the root of the nation that brought liberation and popular sovereignty. We have great ancestors who engaged in the independence movement and established a democratic republic as well as the second and third generations, born after the founding of the country, who escaped absolute poverty and achieved economic development and democracy. There are also numerous candles that illuminated the path we walk along together in this era.

We no longer need to undervalue ourselves. We have a proud history of achieving independence on our own. We are capable of accomplishing peace for ourselves. With the capability and confidence of the people, I will turn the March First Independence Movement and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Korea into a new starting line for the establishment of a permanent peace regime and prosperity based on peace.

To this end, we need to set past wrongs right by ourselves. Dokdo Island is our land that was appropriated first in the process of Japan's occupation of the Korean Peninsula. It is our indigenous territory. Japan's current denial of this fact is no different from rejecting self-reflection of the imperialistic invasion.

To resolve the comfort women issue, the Japanese Government, the perpetrator, should not

say the matter is closed. The issue of a crime against humanity committed in time of war cannot be closed with just a word. A genuine resolution of unfortunate history is to remember it and learn a lesson from it.

Japan must be able to squarely face the truth of history and justice with the universal conscience of humanity. I hope Japan will be able to genuinely reconcile with its neighbors on which it inflicted suffering and will walk the path of peaceful coexistence and prosperity together. I do not demand any special treatment from Japan. I just hope that as the geographically closest neighboring country, it will be able to move forward toward the future together based on sincere self-reflection and reconciliation.

Fellow Koreans, overseas compatriots, we have confirmed here today that by turning the March First Independence Movement into a vivid, living memory, the power of the people can make peace on the Korean Peninsula possible. As we approach the hundredth year of our independence movement, we need to achieve a peace community and an economic community on the Korean Peninsula for the years to come. We need to make sure that the division of the Korean Peninsula will no longer be an obstacle to peace and prosperity. I propose to the people today that we achieve this goal together. Let us create a country completely free from disparities based on wealth, gender, education and region, as well as the discrimination that has resulted from them. Let us move forward to build a cultural powerhouse that leads world peace—the land which independence leader Kim Gu once dreamed of.

The huge root of the March First Independence Movement will never wither. A fair and just country already started growing in the hearts of the people 99 years ago. The huge root will cultivate the strong tree of peace and prosperity on the Peninsula. The Republic of Korea will be one of the greatest and most beautiful countries in the world. Thank you very much.

Remarks on the Agreement to Hold the North Korea-U.S. Summit

March 09, 2018

In the run-up to the April 27 inter-Korean summit and the North Korea-U.S. summit convened to address the issue of denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, President Moon Jae-in said he wanted to express his heartfelt appreciation to the two leaders for their courage and wisdom to make a difficult decision. He also wished for the success of the North Korea-U.S. summit.

I have been informed that President Donald J. Trump will meet Chairman Kim Jong Un of the State Affairs Commission of North Korea by May.

The two leaders' meeting following the inter-Korean summit will put the complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula finally on track and will be remembered as a historic milestone which will contribute to achieving peace on the peninsula in the future.

I would like to express my profound gratitude to the two leaders who made a difficult decision reflecting their courage and wisdom. Especially, the leadership of President Trump, who willingly accepted Chairman Kim's invitation for a summit, will be praised not only by the people of the Republic of Korea and North Korea but all people who hope for peace all around the world.

The Korean government will cherish this miraculous opportunity and make progress in sincere, careful and steady manner. I would also like to thank global leaders who have been showing their interest in and concern for peace along the way.



Remarks at a Memorial Ceremony in Honor of Victims of the Jeju April 3 Incident

April 03, 2018

The indiscriminate firing by the police on demonstrators in the island province of Jeju-do on March 1, 1947 led to the beginning of an uprising on April 3, 1948. In the process of violent clashes and their suppression that continued till September 21, 1954, innumerable civilians were killed. The 70th Memorial Ceremony for the victims was held at the Jeju April 3 Peace Park.

The surviving victims and bereaved families of the Jeju April 3 Incident; citizens of Jeju Province, you have asked over the past 70 years whether there would be spring in this land of Jeju Island that harbors stone walls, fallen camellia flowers and a history of grief. Today, I want to herald a new spring on Jeju. Even though the tragedy was prolonged and the pain was so deep that a breeze only brought tears, the spring of Jeju will blossom. We are gathered here today emerging from years of silence because you have never forgotten what happened on Jeju 70 years ago, and because there have been people who have shared the pain with you.

As President, I offer my deepest sympathy and gratitude to the surviving victims, bereaved families and the citizens of Jeju Province who have revealed their sense of resentment and pain with their hearts and souls and told the truth of the Jeju April 3 Incident.

Residents of Jeju Province and fellow countrymen, innocent civilians were sacrificed here on Jeju in the name of ideology 70 years ago. Those innocents were massacred without knowing what was going on. Even without the knowledge of ideology, they had lived happily together with no thieves, beggars and no walls separating people. On November 17, 1948, martial law was declared on Jeju Island, and an operation of annihilation was launched focusing on mountainside villages. If any member of a family was unaccounted for, the whole family was killed for being the family of an escapee. More than 95 percent of mountainside villages were burned to the ground. In some villages every resident was massacred. Between 1947 and 1954, approximately 30,000 or one tenth of the then population of Jeju Island were presumed to be killed.

The border between life and death determined by ideology was not confined to the sites of massacres. Even after all their family members were lost, many islanders had to keep a low profile so as not to be stigmatized as the relatives of rioters. The pain was passed down from generation to generation in the form of guilt-by-association. The aspirations of children to become soldiers and civil servants working for the country were dampened by the parents of Jeju themselves. The April 3 Incident created pain on all parts of the Island, but that memory had to be suppressed for survival.

Nonetheless, the truth has not disappeared from the hearts of Jeju islanders during the years of silence. Their tearful efforts to set right the historic meaning of the Jeju April 3 Incident have continued unceasingly. On April 27, 1960, a group of young people of Jeju Island rose up in the square of Gwandeokjeong pavilion against the unjust power that compelled them to keep silent and forget. Some 1,500 middle and high school students cried out for the truth about the Jeju April 3 Incident and denounced the rigged presidential election of March 15, 1960. In a short few weeks, the spring of April that year was dashed by the May 16 military coup, but the courage to tell everyone the truth did not dissipate. Numerous organizations related to the Jeju April 3 Incident have constantly brought out what has been lost in memory. The Jeju 4/3 Research Institute, the Jeju 4/3 Solidarity of Provincial Residents, the Jeju People's Artist Federation and many other associations have taken care to remember the April 3 Incident.

At a time when any act of recalling the Jeju April 3 Incident was considered taboo and bringing it up itself was regarded as seditious, there were some artists who tried to keep the memory alive by engraving the pain of April 3 in their works. Starting in 1978 when the Yushin dictatorship of President Park Chung-hee was at its peak, a series of novels and poems were published, including

Sooni's Uncle by Hyun Ki-young and the Death of the Crow and Volcano Island by Kim Sok-pom as well as an epic entitled Hallasan by poet Lee San-ha. A series of 50 paintings on the Jeju April 3 Incident was completed over three years by Kang Yo-bae under the title "Camellia Flowers Falling." In addition, movie directors told stories about the April 3 Incident through their films: Red-Hunt by director Cho Sung-bong, the first documentary dealing with the issue; Jiseul by Oh Muel; Jeju Prayer by Im Heung-soon; Sad Song of Darangshi Cave by Kim Dong-man; and The Unfinished Years by the late director Kim Kyung-ryul. Singer Ahn Chi-hwan also sang a song about the Incident titled "Sleepless South Island." The efforts of those artists, who were sometimes arrested and imprisoned, have helped us understand that the Jeju April 3 Incident is not simply an unfortunate tragedy of the past but also a story of our own era.

Finally, we came to realize that the remembering and laying bare of the truth about the Jeju April 3 Incident is part of the process of opening a path toward democracy, peace and human rights. The Jeju April 3 Incident could be brought to light thanks to those who have long remembered and shared the pain of this tragic incident together with the citizens of Jeju Province. As President, I offer a profound apology for their suffering and appreciation for their endeavors once again.

The surviving victims and bereaved families, fellow Koreans, a path has been paved along which the triumph of democracy will lead to truth. In 2000, the Kim Dae-jung Administration legislated the Special Act on Discovering the Truth of the Jeju April 3 Incident and the Restoration of Honor of Victims and established the Committee on Discovering the Truth of the Jeju April 3 Incident and the Restoration of Honor of the Victims. President Roh Moo-hyun was the first president to acknowledge the responsibility of the nation for the Incident, and attended a memorial service, making an apology to the victims, bereaved families and residents of Jeju Province.

Building upon that foundation, today I make a pledge to move forward unwaveringly toward the complete resolution of the April 3 Incident. The ascertainment of the truth of the Jeju April 3 Incident and the restoration of the honor of the victims will no longer be suspended or deferred. In addition, I declare that the truth of the Jeju April 3 Incident has become established as a historic fact that cannot be denied by any group. The truth of acts of violence committed by the power of the state has to be disclosed properly so that the injustice against the victims can be resolved and their honor can be restored. To this end, the excavation of remains will be continued till the end so that the whole truth will be uncovered. I will make my utmost efforts to implement Government measures to heal the wounds and pain of the victims and their bereaved families. I will also actively consult the National Assembly on issues that require legislation, including the distribution of restitution and compensation and the establishment of a National Trauma Center. The complete resolution of the April 3 Incident will lay a solid foundation for reconciliation and unity, peace and human rights, which the residents of Jeju Province and all Korean people hope for.

Residents of Jeju Province and fellow countrymen, Jeju Island is now reviving as a land of peace and life after surmounting untold pain. Standing here before the spirits of the April 3 Incident, we confirm again today that peace and mutually beneficial prosperity can only be obtained with truth, not ideology.

Fierce confrontation between left and right resulted in this horrible tragedy of history, but

the victims of the April 3 Incident and residents of Jeju Island have prevailed over the distrust and hatred created by ideology. The late Oh Chang-gi was wounded by gunshots fired by the military and police at the time of the April 3 Incident, but he took part in the Battle of Incheon by volunteering to join the Marine Corps after the outbreak of the Korean War. The late Kim Tae-saeng who lost his wife, parents, mother-in-law and a sister-in-law during the April 3 Incident joined the military after writing a pledge of his devotion to the country in blood. Young people who were falsely accused of being communists during the April 3 Incident defended their country in the face of death.

Ideology was nothing more than a cause that justified the massacre. The residents of Jeju have overcome the tragedy created by ideology through reconciliation and forgiveness. In Hagui-ri village, Jeju Province, memorial stones for the fallen heroes who died protecting the homeland and other memorial stones for the victims of the April 3 Incident were erected to create a memorial altar. The monument was set up to convey a message that all were victims and are thus forgiven. In 2013, the Association for the Bereaved Families of April 3 Victims and the Jeju Police Veterans Association, which had had the most conflict with each other, announced their unconditional reconciliation. The olive branch extended by residents of Jeju now needs to develop into reconciliation among the entire public. At this place today, I want to appeal to the Korean people.

There are still people who turn away from the truth of the April 3 Incident. There are still people who look at the April 3 Incident through the distorted lens of outdated ideology. Hatred and a language of hostility created by antiquated ideology are still overflowing in the Republic of Korea. Now we need to be able to face up to our painful history. Squarely facing a painful history is not only necessary in the relationship between two nations. We ourselves should also be able to face up to the April 3 Incident. We should think outside the box of obsolete ideology.

Now the Republic of Korea should become a country where righteous conservatives compete with righteous progressives over justice. It has to be an era when fair-minded conservatives and fair-minded progressives are evaluated on the degree of their fairness. If neither righteous nor fair, conservatives, progressives, or any other camp cannot be in the interest of the people. The shadow of hostility cast by ideology in every corner of life should be removed and joint efforts need to be made so that the dignity of humanity can blossom. This is the message told to us by the volcanic cones on Jeju Island today.

Victims of the April 3 Incident, bereaved families and fellow countrymen, to ascertain the truth of the April 3 Incident is to reflect on an unfortunate past and reclaim the universal value of humanity, regardless of wherever we are. The restoration of honor of the victims of the April 3 Incident is a step toward a future of reconciliation and mutual prosperity, peace and human rights. Despite deep scars, Jeju Island championed peace and the value of human rights over the past 70 years. This will lead us to peace and coexistence on the Korean Peninsula and turn into a message of peace for the whole of humanity. The aspiration for permanent peace and human rights will never disappear. The ensuring of that is a historic duty imposed upon me as President.

I hope that the memorial ceremony today will give comfort to the souls of those who died during the April 3 Incident and other victims and serve as a historic milestone for the people.

Everyone, a new spring is on the way to Jeju Island. Thank you very much.



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Congratulatory Remarks at a Buddhist Gathering to Pray for Peace and Stability on the Korean Peninsula

April 17, 2018

The Association of Korean Buddhist Orders was founded to promote a bond of friendship and cooperation among Buddhist orders in Korea and jointly discuss pending issues related to the Korean Buddhism. On April 17, 2018, the Association held a Buddhist ceremony in Seoul to pray for the success of the inter-Korean summit.

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Congratulatory Remarks at a Buddhist Gathering to Pray for Peace and Stability on the Korean Peninsula

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Remarks at a Memorial Ceremony in Honor of Victims of the Jeju April 3 Incident

The Honorable Buddhist leaders, Buddhists and distinguished guests, I am pleased to meet you all today. I am extraordinarily grateful to the Most Venerable Seoljeong of the Association of Korean Buddhist Orders and heads of the headquarters of Korea's Buddhist orders for hosting this large-scale Buddhist gathering to pray for stability and peace on the Korean Peninsula ahead of the upcoming inter-Korean summit.

I was deeply impressed by the Most Venerable Seoljeong's address on the Buddha's teachings. I was greatly inspired by his words that all Buddhist temples across the country will join in chanting prayers every morning and evening for a week from this coming weekend in addition to today's gathering.

While preparing for the inter-Korean summit, I have been revisiting one of the invaluable legacies of Korean Buddhism—hwajaeng, or reconciliation of disputes. I understand that the philosophy of all-embracing reconciliation is about respecting and understanding each other to achieve harmony rising above differences and diversities. The complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is the most urgent task lying before us now, and it is the challenge that must be peacefully resolved. I hope you all pray with ardent aspiration for the spirit of reconciliation to be realized on the Korean Peninsula so that confrontation and division will dissipate. Reconciliation from within is also important. Only when there is public consent and support will the inter-Korean relations be improved. I look forward to the whole Buddhist community taking the initiative in efforts to bring together the minds of the people.

A North Korea-United States summit is also scheduled to take place following the inter-Korean Summit. A great transition in the world history that can create a new international order is about to begin. The wisdom of sustainable peace can be found in the Buddha's teaching. I believe it is the practice of empathy and compassion out of enlightenment about non-duality between oneself and others. It is about paving the way for mutual prosperity and coexistence by tearing down the wall between the South and the North. Separated families on both sides should be reunited, stay in touch with each other and travel back and forth without any restraint. Socio-economic and cultural exchanges have to follow, too. Religious exchanges for various projects, which the Buddhist community longs for, concerning Bohyeonsa Temple in Myohyangsan Mountain, Singyea Temple in Geumgangsan Mountain and Yeongtongsa Temple in Gaeseong will be of great help. I sincerely hope that the Korean Peninsula will emerge as a chief architect of world peace by dismantling the last remaining Cold War rivalry in the world. In order to realize the spirit of segyeihwa, which literally means that the whole world is a single flower, the role of Buddhism is more crucial than ever before. The expression binjaildeung conveys the Buddhist belief that a poor person's offering of a single lamp is more precious than the lavish offering of a rich person. I hope each of you will become a shining lamp lit up with great aspirations and utmost sincerity, illuminating the path for peace in the whole world, going beyond the Korean Peninsula. Ruminating on the aspirations of the Buddhist community, I will move forward in a more wise and daring manner.

Venerable Buddhist monks and nuns and distinguished followers, Buddhism has been a part of our nation for a long time. In the face of national crises, it shone more brightly. When Japan invaded Korea in 1592, the Venerable Seosan circulated a written appeal throughout the nation and raised a volunteer monastic army. The Venerable Samyeong, a disciple of the Venerable

Seosan, went over to Japan as an envoy in the wake of the war and brought some 3,000 prisoners of war back home. Buddhist leaders and followers took the initiative in demonstrating what it truly means to serve the nation and its people.

The teachings of Buddhism continue today. The spirit of Buddhism is deeply embedded in the minds of the people consciously or unconsciously no matter whether they practice Buddhism or not. Pasahyeonjeong, or to right the wrongs and elucidate right teachings, and jabihaeng, or to treasure life and people, have become the driving forces for making our society a more mature and developing democracy. Buddhists have gone all out to assist the less privileged around the world. They have reached out to Asia, Africa and Latin America and expanded the fields of their assistance to cover many areas such as supplying drinking water, providing education, supporting regional development and removing landmines. I am grateful and proud of them.

However, Korean Buddhism has suffered the painful ordeal of having their sacred places trampled on by the state power during the military dictatorship. It was the incident that occurred 38 years ago on October 27, 1980, when the military government raided Buddhist temples around the country and rounded up innocent monks and nuns. I take this opportunity to express my profound regret for the deep wounds still remaining in the Buddhist community. I also hope that the honor of the Buddhist orders will be properly restored and the Korean Buddhist community will grow in harmony and prosper.

The Buddha said if one person is pure, many people will become pure, and if many people become pure, the entire world will become pure. I hope that with the power of ardent aspiration, Buddhism will become the driving force that leads Korean society to become more righteous.

Honorable Buddhists, I am fond of Buddhist teachings. I feel that the Buddhist worldview, which I came to understand while reading the Blue Cliff Record, a book about Buddhism from the Song Dynasty, China, and the questions and answers on Seon (Jp. Zen) Buddhism by founders of Buddhist orders, has been firmly established as a pillar of my worldview.

After receiving your pure energy today, I feel like the inter-Korean summit and the summit between North Korea and the United States will turn out well. The warm spring has arrived on the Korean Peninsula. I hope you will continue to join with us in order to achieve genuine peace and harmony. Thank you very much.

Opening Remarks at a Luncheon with Chief Executives of Korean Media Organizations

April 19, 2018

President Moon Jae-in attended a luncheon meeting with chief executive officers of 47 domestic media organizations in the Chungmusil room of the main building of Cheong Wa Dae on April 19, 2018. This is the first luncheon meeting at Cheong Wa Dae with heads of media organizations in 18 years since President Kim Dae-jung hosted one in 2000.

The inter-Korean summit is just a week away. Following that, a summit between North Korea and the United States will be held. Even though media organizations keep abreast of international affairs more than anyone else, only a very few of you might have predicted what is now transpiring. It can surely be said to be a dramatic change.

By means of the inter-Korean summit, we must create a solid milestone that will make it possible to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, build a lasting peace regime and pave the way for the sustainable development of inter-Korean relations. It should also serve as a guide to steer the success of the North Korea-U.S. summit. It is imperative to end the 65-year-long armistice and move forward to the conclusion of a peace treaty through the declaration of the end of the Korean War. Ahead of this crucial national event to determine the future of the Korean Peninsula, I have invited the chief executives of the media organizations, the opinion leaders of the Republic of Korea, to Cheong Wa Dae to ask for your helpful advice.

Looking back, only a few months ago, military tension on the Korean Peninsula escalated to an extreme, casting the foreboding shadow of war. Most media outlets at home and abroad forecast that North Korea would never give up its nuclear weapons and intended to challenge the United States by being recognized as a nuclear weapons state. Even after inter-Korean talks resumed on the occasion of the North's participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, some voiced concern over a possible crisis in April following the close of the Olympics—that inter-Korean relations would go into a tailspin again if the ROK-U.S. joint military exercises began—thus stoking public anxiety. Things might have proceeded that way. Instead of letting the evolving developments dictate our fate, however, we have remained committed to setting an ideal stage on our own initiative and made necessary efforts, making it possible to turn things around.

When I unveiled a peace initiative in Berlin in July last year, many people said it was a pipe dream. However, the dream is now inching toward reality. Audacious imagination and strategies helped turn the tide, paving the way for the current situation.

Now, North Korea is expressing to the international community its willingness for complete denuclearization. It is also showing us a strong commitment to having a dialogue. With a shared firm determination to engage in dialogue, the United States and North Korea are preparing for their summit and are now showing their sincerity in creating a favorable atmosphere for its success.

Up until now, the Republic of Korea and the United States have shared related information, engaged in consultations and coordinated in an impeccable manner. As I have repeatedly mentioned before, President Trump's unconditional support and words of encouragement for dialogue premised on denuclearization played a decisive role in pulling off a dramatic turnaround. However, realistically speaking, we are now only crossing a threshold to a dialogue. It is too early to promise success. Moreover, we can only talk about success when not only the inter-Korean summit but also the first-ever summit between North Korea and the United States succeed. Bold imagination and creative solutions are needed to turn the two summits into a success rather than repeating past failures.

The Korean media have played many roles in improving inter-Korean relations so far. It was the media that started inter-Korean exchanges even before the Government. A series of visits to the North and inter-Korean exchanges by many media outlets and their pioneering efforts in the late 1990s, including the serial reports on field trips to cultural heritage sites in the North, led to the historic June 15 South-North Joint Declaration. In August 2000, after the Joint Declaration, a delegation of CEOs of 46 media outlets visited the North and announced a joint agreement with the North Korean side. However, it is today's reality that it was completely forgotten to the extent that we even question if it had actually happened. You, especially, must feel surprised by that. I believe when the media unify public opinion, as in the past, and become a guiding light for peace on the Korean Peninsula, it will hasten not only the success of the two summits but also the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the settlement of permanent peace.

Closing Remarks at a Luncheon with Chief Executives of Korean Media Organizations

April 19, 2018

I served as Chairman of the 2007 Inter-Korean Summit Preparation Committee. Even though I did not attend the October 4 Summit in person, I oversaw the whole process of the event, including the agenda, strategies, schedules and various programs, as well as follow-up talks. For this reason, I can say I have experience in holding an inter-Korean summit and making it a success.

Nonetheless, now is a far cry from then. At that time, two documents had already been agreed to—the Joint Statement of the Fourth Round of the Six-Party Talks on September 19, 2005, and the Initial Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement on February 13, 2007—that enunciated how to address the North Korean nuclear issue. What remained between the South and North back then was only to discuss how to advance inter-Korean relations. Our goal at that time was to maximize agreements on concrete projects to make good on the June 15 South-North Joint Declaration of 2000 and have the North accept them as much as possible. As there was no international sanction against the North then, the only task left with us was to persuade the North to accept agreements, and better-than-expected fruitful results were able to be harvested.

However, the North's nuclear weapons and missiles have now become incomparably more sophisticated than at that time. Under these circumstances, we are required to initiate an agreement on the North's nuclear and missile program, which should lead to the success of the North Korea-U.S. summit. With tough international and U.S. sanctions against the North in place now, there is not much that can be separately agreed to between the South and North within the boundaries of those sanctions.

We are facing a situation in which inter-Korean relations will be able to progress only in step with the lifting of international sanctions following the resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue. The success of inter-Korean dialogue alone will not guarantee an overall improvement in inter-Korean relations—the relationship between the two Koreas will only be able to take a step forward when North Korea-U.S. ties and North Korea-Japan relations improve together.

I believe we are on the same page when it comes to what denuclearization means. What many pundits expected in the past about the denuclearization of North Korea was that the North might agree to negotiate with the United States on prohibiting or freezing nuclear proliferation while claiming its status as a nuclear weapons state. Some people argued that the United States would only be able to reach an agreement with the North at a level that might differ from what South Korea wants. However, North Korea is now expressing its will to completely denuclearize without putting forth any preconditions unacceptable to the United States such as the withdrawal

of its troops from South Korea. What the North wants is an end to the U.S. hostile policy against it and an assurance of a security guarantee. I believe the two sides are now showing their willingness to hold a summit as there have been certain confirmations on these issues.

Given this, I do not think that it is a tall order to reach a framework agreement in principle on denuclearization through the inter-Korean summit or the North Korea-U.S. summit, the establishment of a peace regime when denuclearization is realized, the normalization of North Korea-U.S. relations and the provision of international aid for the North's economic growth if such a normalization occurs. Agreeing on these matters will not be that difficult as agreements have already been reached through the September 19 Joint Statement and the February 13 Agreement. However, as many people are concerned, it is not easy to put these goals into practice in a concrete manner. Past methods cannot be employed again, and thus, it is necessary to work out new measures, on which the United States and North Korea need to agree for the sake of the overall success of the summit. Ultimately, such an agreement has to be concluded between the United States and North Korea, not between the two Koreas.

To facilitate the process leading to an agreement between the two sides, the South will be able to make its own efforts to help narrow down differences in opinions and present practical measures acceptable to both sides. Who would have perfect solutions to all such issues? Now I am pondering what should be done, and the Government is also striving to seek solutions. I ask you all to share any good ideas in this connection at any time through a personal contact or news reports.

In any case, the ultimate purpose is the mutual prosperity of the two Koreas. No matter whether it is denuclearization or peace, what we intend to achieve is a Korean Peninsula where two Koreas prosper together. As I said, I believe this has to be accompanied by improvements in relations between North Korea and the United States and between North Korea and Japan. Maybe it would only be possible with China's support and participation as well. Even under these circumstances, helping North Korea achieve economic development and progress will not only be feasible when there is inter-Korean cooperation but when there is also participation by the international community.

I do not think it is an issue of being conservative or progressive. Of course, I will make endeavors to exchange views with the conservatives. However, the conservatives and progressives are not very different on this issue, and, in any case, not only the inter-Korean summit but also the summit between North Korea and the United States will be held one after the other. Any solution will only be complete on condition of the success of the summit between North Korea and the United States. I believe even those with conservative views will perhaps come to an understanding during the process. Anyway, the biggest challenge is to overcome "the devil in the details."

It will also be a new beginning. I do not believe the issue will be solved all at once. As I said earlier, there are now many limits, especially to the inter-Korean summit. South and North Korea cannot get ahead of themselves and reach agreements that would breach the international sanctions irrespective of the summit between North Korea and the United States. Above all, I believe the inter-Korean summit has to get off to a good start, and probably inter-Korean talks should continue to proceed in sync with the results of the summit between North Korea and the

United States. It would be best if an agreement is made on the big picture all at once through the inter-Korean summit or the summit between North Korea and the United States. Even if that does not happen, it is apparent that they should create a momentum that could drive continued dialogue. We will continue to make endeavors to this end.

I understand the need for a reunion of families separated by the Korean War. China needs to join in these efforts as well. I believe that even if an agreement is made between the two Koreas, and then between North Korea and the United States, the implementation of any agreement would be possible only when there is participation by all surrounding nations.

Again, thank you very much for taking time out of your busy schedule today and showing so much support. Thank you.

Opening Remarks at a Meeting with Senior Secretaries to the President at Cheong Wa Dae

April 23, 2018

President Moon Jae-in presided over a meeting with his senior secretaries at Cheong Wa Dae on April 23, 2018. In his opening remarks, the President stressed the importance of the inter-Korean summit.

On April 21, North Korea declared its suspension of nuclear tests and launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles. The North's declaration that it is to close the Punggye-ri nuclear test site is a practical measure that is highly valued as a sincere step ahead of the inter-Korean summit and the summit between North Korea and the United States. The entire world is welcoming its forward-looking approach. President Donald Trump said it was very good news and big progress. Neighboring countries such as China, Russia and Japan are also expressing positive assessment and support. In addition, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres viewed North Korea's decision as a positive step forward leading to peaceful denuclearization.

North Korea's announcement of a nuclear freeze constitutes a grave decision for the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. It is also a green light that increases the possibility of the inter-Korean summit and the summit between North Korea and the United States. If the North completely dismantles its nuclear program, it will guarantee the country a bright future. The North Korean measure taken ahead of the planned summits raises hopes for the acceleration of the dismantlement process.

Now, the inter-Korean summit is just four days away. We are now standing at a crossroads to denuclearization and permanent peace not by military measures but by peaceful means. The whole world is paying attention to the summit and hopes for its success. I urge politicians in the country to cease political strife at least during the summit. I wholeheartedly ask for bipartisan cooperation for a Korean Peninsula free of worries about nuclear weapons and war. If the ruling and the opposition parties cooperate, I will attend the summit with a correspondingly strong sense of responsibility.



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Panmunjeom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula

April 27, 2018

On April 27, 2018, President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea and Chairman Kim Jong Un of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea announced a joint declaration following their summit at Panmunjeom.

Fellow Koreans in South and North Korea and overseas compatriots, Chairman Kim Jong Un and I reached a crucial agreement after holding a historic meeting in accordance with the aspirations of the 80 million Korean people who wish for peace. We declared that there will be no more war on the Korean Peninsula and thus a new era of peace has begun. We could stand here because we have believed that we are able to prevail over the pain and sorrow of longstanding division.

Today, Chairman Kim and I confirmed the common goal of realizing, through complete denuclearization, a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. Steps taken first by the North to freeze its nuclear program have a very significant meaning. It will be an important beginning toward the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. I want to make it clear that the South and the North will more closely cooperate for complete denuclearization going forward.

We agreed to establish a permanent and solid peace regime by bringing an end to the currently insecure state of the Armistice on the Korean Peninsula through the declaration of an end to the Korean War and a peace accord. It is a very important agreement that could fundamentally transform the international order surrounding the Korean Peninsula. We agreed to completely cease all hostile acts against each other in every domain, including land, air and sea. We will work to devise fundamental measures to prevent accidental military clashes. The demilitarized zone, which cuts across the Korean Peninsula, will be transformed into a peace zone in the true sense. The areas around the Northern Limit Line in the West Sea will be turned into a maritime peace zone so as to prevent accidental military clashes and guarantee safe fishing activities for fishermen of both Koreas.

I respect the resolute decision by Chairman Kim Jong Un, who is bold enough to make today's significant occasion possible and concur on a substantial agreement. Though we affirm the principle of determining the destiny of the Korean nation on our own accord, we have decided to jointly seek the support and cooperation of the international community. With strong mutual trust, Chairman Kim Jong Un and I will have frequent discussions through regular meetings and direct phone conversations for the sake of peace, prosperity and unification. Now there is no turning back.

Fellow Koreans in South and North Korea and overseas compatriots, Chairman Kim Jong Un and I have begun our daring stride toward peace and common prosperity for both Koreas, and to achieve our people's desire for unification through our own efforts. South and North Korean authorities will engage in close dialogue and cooperation. South and North Korea will immediately conduct cooperation and exchanges at all levels in order to rejuvenate the sense of national reconciliation and unity. The reunion of separated families will proceed before it becomes too late, and they will be able to visit their hometowns and exchange letters. The agreement to establish an inter-Korean liaison office with resident representatives of both sides in the Gaeseong region is also very important. I hope that the liaison office will enable the two Koreas to put into practice the October 4 Declaration and carry out a joint feasibility study for the implementation of inter-Korean economic cooperation projects. If circumstances permit in the future, South and North Korea may be able to develop it into offices established in each other's territory.

Today, Chairman Kim and I set up an unwavering milestone toward the denuclearization and permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula, common prosperity of the nation, and unification of the two Koreas.

Thanks to Chairman Kim Jong Un's bold decisions, we are able to give good presents to the peoples of South and North Korea as well as to the world. The way of making the public announcement also makes today's summit even more special. As far as I know, this is the first time for a supreme leader of North Korea to stand in front of the world's media and make a joint statement. I applaud Chairman Kim Jong Un who has made bold and courageous decisions. Thank you.

Panmunjeom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula

During this momentous period of historical transformation on the Korean Peninsula, reflecting the enduring aspiration of the Korean people for peace, prosperity and unification, President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea and Chairman Kim Jong Un of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea held an Inter-Korean Summit Meeting at the 'Peace House' at Panmunjeom on April 27, 2018.

The two leaders solemnly declared before the 80 million Korean people and the whole world that there will be no more war on the Korean Peninsula and thus a new era of peace has begun.

The two leaders, sharing the firm commitment to bring a swift end to the Cold War relic of longstanding division and confrontation, to boldly approach a new era of national reconciliation, peace and prosperity, and to improve and cultivate inter-Korean relations in a more active manner, declared at this historic site of Panmunjeom as follows:

1. South and North Korea will reconnect the blood relations of the people and bring forward the future of co-prosperity and unification led by Koreans by facilitating comprehensive and groundbreaking advancement in inter-Korean relations. Improving and cultivating inter-Korean relations is the prevalent desire of the whole nation and the urgent calling of the times that cannot be held back any further.

① South and North Korea affirmed the principle of determining the destiny of the Korean nation on their own accord and agreed to bring forth the watershed moment for the improvement of inter-Korean relations by fully implementing all existing agreements and declarations adopted between the two sides thus far.

② South and North Korea agreed to hold dialogue and negotiations in various fields including at high levels, and to take active measures for the implementation of the agreements reached at the Summit.

③ South and North Korea agreed to establish a joint liaison office with resident representatives of both sides in the Gaeseong region in order to facilitate close consultation between the authorities as well as smooth exchanges and cooperation between the peoples.

④ South and North Korea agreed to encourage more active cooperation, exchanges, visits and contacts at all levels in order to rejuvenate the sense of national reconciliation and unity. Between South and North, the two sides will encourage the atmosphere of amity and cooperation by actively staging various joint events on the dates that hold special meaning for both South and North Korea, such as June 15, in which participants from all levels, including central and local governments, parliaments, political parties, and civil organizations, will be involved. On the international front, the two sides agreed to demonstrate their collective wisdom, talents, and solidarity by jointly participating in international sports events such as the 2018 Asian Games.

⑤ South and North Korea agreed to endeavor to swiftly resolve the humanitarian issues that resulted from the division of the nation, and to convene the Inter-Korean Red Cross Meeting to discuss and solve various issues including the reunion of separated families. In this vein, South and North Korea agreed to proceed with reunion programs for the separated families on the occasion of the National Liberation Day of August 15 this year.

⑥ South and North Korea agreed to actively implement the projects previously agreed in the 2007 October 4 Declaration, in order to promote balanced economic growth and co-prosperity of the nation. As a first step, the two sides agreed to adopt practical steps towards the connection and modernization of the railways and roads on the eastern transportation corridor as well as between Seoul and Sinuiju for their utilization.

2. South and North Korea will make joint efforts to alleviate the acute military tension and practically eliminate the danger of war on the Korean Peninsula. Alleviating the military tension and eliminating the danger of war is

a highly significant challenge directly linked to the fate of the Korean people and also a vital task in guaranteeing their peaceful and stable lives.

① South and North Korea agreed to completely cease all hostile acts against each other in every domain, including land, air and sea, that are the source of military tension and conflict. In this vein, the two sides agreed to transform the demilitarized zone into a peace zone in a genuine sense by ceasing as of May 1 this year all hostile acts and eliminating their means, including broadcasting through loudspeakers and distribution of leaflets, in the areas along the Military Demarcation Line.

② South and North Korea agreed to devise a practical scheme to turn the areas around the Northern Limit Line in the West Sea into a maritime peace zone in order to prevent accidental military clashes and guarantee safe fishing activities.

③ South and North Korea agreed to take various military measures to ensure active mutual cooperation, exchanges, visits and contacts. The two sides agreed to hold frequent meetings between military authorities, including the Defense Ministers Meeting, in order to immediately discuss and solve military issues that arise between them. In this regard, the two sides agreed to first convene military talks at the rank of general in May.

3. South and North Korea will actively cooperate to establish a permanent and solid peace regime on the Korean Peninsula. Bringing an end to the current unnatural state of armistice and establishing a robust peace regime on the Korean Peninsula is a historical mission that must not be delayed any further.

① South and North Korea reaffirmed the Non-Aggression Agreement that precludes the use of force in any form against each other, and agreed to strictly adhere to this Agreement.

② South and North Korea agreed to carry out disarmament in a phased manner, as military tension is alleviated and substantial progress is made in military confidence-building.

③ During this year that marks the 65th anniversary of the Armistice, South and North Korea agreed to actively pursue trilateral meetings involving the two Koreas and the United States, or quadrilateral meetings involving the two Koreas, the United States and China with a view to declaring an end to the War, turning the armistice into a peace treaty, and establishing a permanent and solid peace regime.

④ South and North Korea confirmed the common goal of realizing, through complete denuclearization, a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. South and North Korea shared the view that the measures being initiated by North Korea are very meaningful and crucial for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and agreed to carry out their respective roles and responsibilities in this regard. South and North Korea agreed to actively seek the support and cooperation of the international community for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The two leaders agreed, through regular meetings and direct telephone conversations, to hold frequent and candid discussions on issues vital to the nation, to strengthen mutual trust and to jointly endeavor to strengthen the positive momentum towards continuous advancement of inter-Korean relations as well as peace, prosperity and unification of the Korean Peninsula.

In this context, President Moon Jae-in agreed to visit Pyongyang this fall.

April 27, 2018
Done in Panmunjom

Moon Jae-in
President
Republic of Korea

Kim Jong Un
Chairman
State Affairs Commission
Democratic People's Republic of Korea



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Welcoming Remarks at Dinner for the First 2018 Inter-Korean Summit

April 27, 2018

In the evening of April 27, 2018, President Moon Jae-in, Chairman Kim Jong Un of the State Affairs Commission and accompanying officials from both Koreas attended a dinner on the third floor of Peace House in the southern side of Panmunjom.

Chairman of the State Affairs Commission Kim Jong Un, Lady Ri Sol Ju, distinguished guests, tonight the whole world is paying attention to us. Even though our shoulders were heavy with the sense of a historic mission, it was a very rewarding day, indeed.

There is a North Korean proverb that goes, "A person who eats a whole pot of rice can roar." Koreans are people who can only feel relieved when they're able to serve their guests a hot meal. I'm pleased that I can enjoy such a delicious dinner after having heart-to-heart conversations with esteemed guests and reaching a crucial agreement today. The Pyeongyang naengmyeon specially arranged by Chairman Kim added to the significance of today's dinner.

Until we could get together here like this, all our people managed to endure so much. There was a time when we wielded our fists at each other. There were times of sorrow when family members separated by the Korean War were not able to meet. However, we had a historic meeting today and reached a valuable agreement while the world was watching us. A new beginning has come for peace both on the Korean Peninsula and in the whole world.

I appreciate the hard work of the South and North Korean personnel who put forth such all-out efforts to ensure the success of today's Summit. I thank every one of the 80 million South and North Koreans who have been waiting for a new spring to be enjoyed together.

Watching Chairman Kim step across the Military Demarcation Line to the Southern side, I recalled President Roh Moo-hyun walking across the MDL to the North 11 years earlier. At that time, we thought that by going back and forth over the MDL like that, the barrier between the two Koreas would steadily become lower and more obscure so that we could become one again. Since then, however, we spent 10 years of great regret. The barrier subsequently rose to become an iron wall. I respect Chairman Kim's resolute decision, for today, Panmunjom, a symbol of division, has become the cradle of world peace.

Chairman Kim and I had a heart-felt talk. We were able to understand each other. Today we've paved the way for peace, prosperity and co-existence on the Korean Peninsula, ridding it of the dark clouds of war. We both recognize that South and North Korea should determine the destiny of the Korean nation on our own accord while seeking the support and cooperation of the international community. Furthermore, we share the belief that a historical responsibility to build a new world order rests with us. We have also restored the confidence that we can make it happen together.

Chairman Kim Jong Un, distinguished guests, today the South and the North have started to walk this uncharted road with bold imagination. Both North Korea's athletes and cheering squad whom we shook hands with at the PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games and the people of South Korea who fervently wished for peace welcomed them and have all been tremendously supportive. President Kim Yong Nam of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, 1st Vice Department Director Kim Yo Jong, and Vice Chairman Kim Yong Chol of the Central Committee came to South Korea as special envoys, and they have ignited the dialogue between the North and the South. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

From now on, the South and the North will sit down and face each other like today to find solutions when difficult problems arise. Through regular meetings and direct telephone conversations, Chairman Kim Jong Un and I will discuss matters and build trust. There will be no turning back from our strides toward peace and prosperity of the North and the South.

In the words of Oh Yeong-jae, the poet laureate of North Korea, "Now that we have met, let us not part again. Let us never again, never again repeat this history of pain and suffering, the history of tears. If we repeat it again, the hearts of our people will burst and die. If the past half century of bitterness in our hearts can melt after one encounter, that is what flesh and blood is all about. That is what defines a true people."

I sincerely hope our meeting today will help address the unresolved longing in the hearts of all Korean people. I also sincerely hope we will be able to prosper together, eating from the same pot.

Chairman Kim Jong Un, distinguished guests, there is a saying in North Korea, "Good company makes miles shorter." Chairman Kim and I have now become good traveling companions unparalleled in the world. Starting from Chairman Kim's New Year's address this year to our meeting today, we have moved forward at a pace that surprises the whole world, thereby making yesterday feel like a thing in the distant past. If we march forward together hand-in-hand, peace, prosperity and unification would become more achievable goals. Nobody on this land will suffer a misfortune due to a war going forward. Every spring azalea in the mountains of Yongbyeon in North Korea will come into full bloom, and camellia in the southern coastal areas in the South will burst into life.

I would like to propose a toast. I have a longstanding but unfulfilled dream—to trek in Mount Baekdu and the Gaema plateau. I firmly believe that Chairman Kim Jong Un will help me realize my dream. Will you send me a travel voucher for Mount Beakdu and the Gaema plateau when I retire from office? However, I don't want that to be a privilege allowed only for me. I hope any Korean will be able to enjoy such a pleasure someday.

I have no idea how North Koreans make a toast, but I will propose a toast by saying *wishayeo*—for a day when the peoples of South and North Korea can freely come and go between the South and the North.

Labor Day Message

May 01, 2018

May 1 is a legal holiday set to improve workers' poor working conditions, upgrade their status and promote a sense of solidarity among those around the world. President Moon Jae-in stressed the importance of a society where labor is respected.

The value and dignity of labor is our own value and dignity. Labor is noble. Black oil under the nails of the father sustains life. Dirt under the nails of the mother grows crops of hope. The Republic of Korea has come this far thanks to such hard-working people.

Every benefit of growth should also be for workers. One year ago today, I promised that the new Administration would uphold respect for labor as a key administrative priority. No growth is greater than the value and dignity of labor.

The history of Labor Day has been the history of the quest for the genuine value of labor. Overtime pay, the minimum wage and the 40-hour workweek that we now take for granted have been obtained through the struggle by many workers for their dignity.

Right after the inauguration, the new Administration started with the abolition of two controversial guidelines on general dismissals and rules of employment, which the labor sector had long waited for. It is taking steps to improve the quality of labor and reduce disparities by increasing the minimum wage and shifting non-regular workers in the public sector to regular workers. Limiting the maximum workweek to 52 hours will help give workers more leisure time.

I proposed a constitutional amendment bill that includes measures to strengthen basic labor rights with a view to institutionalizing the value of labor that should be respected in society. *Geunro* (勤勞; work diligently), a word adopted from the employers' perspective during the Japanese colonial period and under the military dictatorship, has been replaced by *nodong* (勞動; work). The guarantee of the three basic labor rights for public officials, the imposition of equal pay for equal work and the reinforcement of the right to collective action are all important. It is truly regrettable that a referendum on the constitutional amendment cannot be held simultaneously with local elections. However, the intent of the constitutional amendment will be upheld as much as possible by concrete policies and laws. The Government's efforts to create a society in which labor is respected will be continued.

At the center of all the obstacles we need to overcome such as a low fertility rate, an aging society, youth unemployment and economic polarization lies the issue of labor. It is not something that can be solved by the Government's determination alone. The only thing that will bring about fundamental changes is social dialogue that will empower everyone to make concessions and compromises.

The Trilateral Dialogue among Labor, Management and the Government was resumed after a long hiatus, and an agreement was made recently to reorganize the Economic and Social Development Commission into an economy, society and labor commission. I welcome the fact that the representativeness of the commission will be increased as its members are to be diversified to include young adults, women, non-regular workers and microbusiness owners.

Now, responsible members of labor, management and the Government should work to make significant achievements in a determination to lay a cornerstone for farsighted national policies. When labor and management come together, the Government will actively support them. When the labor sector is filled with energy and the value of labor is treated properly, the economy can continue to grow.

The value and dignity of labor is not an ideological issue. This is because we ourselves and our parents and children are the very workers. The value and dignity of labor is our own value and dignity.

In celebration of Labor Day, I dream of a world where labor is not neglected and insulted by institutions or by people in power.



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Remarks at the Joint Press Conference following the 7th Korea-Japan-China Summit

May 09, 2018

President Moon Jae-in visited Tokyo, Japan, on May 9, 2018 to attend the 7th Korea-Japan-China Summit. In the trilateral summit that was held for the first time in two years and six months, the three leaders supported the Panmunjeom Declaration by adopting a special statement.

I am deeply grateful to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the people of Japan for making their best efforts to arrange this summit and warmly welcoming both the Korean and Chinese delegations.

Our three countries are the closest neighbors historically, geographically and culturally. We are also the most important partners responsible for peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia. Today, Prime Minister Abe, Premier Li Keqiang and I reaffirmed the importance of trilateral ties and intensively discussed ways to enhance cooperation. More than anything else, we shared a common understanding that the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the settlement of permanent peace and the improvement of inter-Korean relations are crucial for peace and prosperity not only on the Korean Peninsula but also in Northeast Asia. I am especially grateful to the two leaders that they welcomed and supported the Panmunjom Declaration through the adoption of a special statement. We look forward to continued close communication and cooperation among our three countries in the process of settling permanent peace and promise to work together.

The ultimate goal of trilateral cooperation is to ensure that people in the three countries feel the actual impact of the achievements of cooperation and enjoy the benefits. To this end, we agreed to expand substantive cooperation and enhance collaboration to create future growth engines. While joining forces to tackle life-threatening factors such as fine dust, infectious diseases and chronic illnesses, we three leaders also agreed to continue identifying concrete and substantive projects for cooperation in energy as well as in information and communications technology.

Interaction and communication among people in the three countries have to be expanded further and reinvigorated for the enhancement of trilateral cooperation. The series of Olympics in Northeast Asia, which began with the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics and will be followed by the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics and the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. At today's summit, we confirmed the importance of people-to-people and cultural exchanges, including exchanges in sports, and agreed to work together to increase the number of people traveling back and forth among our three countries to exceed 30 million by 2020. Among other things, we will further promote youth exchange programs such as the CAMPUS Asia Program. I hope such programs will present new opportunities for young people in our three countries and become a source of hope.

Institutionalizing three-way cooperation is more important than anything else. The trilateral summit is a solid foundation for peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia. Today, we had a shared understanding and reaffirmed our determination to hold the summit regularly. In addition, we concurred on the need to expand the role of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) as the center that promotes three-way cooperation and to increase support for the TCS.

Our three nations are playing a significant role in leading the growth and development of the global economy, accounting for one-fifth of the world's population, one-fourth of the world's GDP and one-fifth of world trade. We also share the responsibility for settling peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. I am confident that if we join forces, we will be able to open a new era of peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

Now the three countries will become genuine partners that will create a great transformation in world history. I hope that today's summit has become a milestone that will further deepen and develop three-way cooperation. I am deeply grateful to the two leaders who willingly unified our voices. Thank you very much.

A Message Marking the First Anniversary of the Administration

May 10, 2018

President Moon Jae-in released a short message on “the past year together with the people” on March 10, 2018, marking the first anniversary of his inauguration.

“As always, I will go together with the people.”

Here comes May again. I recollect the past year of the Republic of Korea and the year as President. It was truly an event-filled year. It was the year we strived to rectify long-running evils and create a properly functioning country. It was the year we strived to firmly uphold historic justice, heal the wounds and pursue reconciliation. It was the year we strived to break free from fear of nuclear weapons and war and bring about sustainable peace. It was the year we strove to demonstrate to the world our potential by making the Olympics and Paralympics a success. More than anything else, it was the year we tried to give the people a sense of pride in being citizens of the Republic of Korea.

Yet we still have a long way to go. There seems to be little change in the everyday lives of the people. What I truly wish at this point is that the past one year was a time for the people to cherish a new hope that changes are undoubtedly taking place and that we are moving toward the right direction.

Being fearful of and resistant to the changes we resolve to make, a mighty force is pulling us back from behind. I believe, however, we can move forward if the people hold our hands tightly as they have done so far.

It is the people that are now transforming the world. It is also the people that are making a just Republic of Korea. I join the forces with them.

For the past one year, I received much more love than I deserved. I will never forget the fact that the people helped found the Moon Jae-in Administration. I will remember the chants in the plaza during the candlelight rallies. When I am about to complete my term, I certainly want to hear, “A lot of things have changed. My life has gotten better.” I hope that peace is a part of everyday life.

On the return flight from Japan, I am again renewing the commitment I had on this day a year ago.

Moon Jae-in
President of the
Republic of Korea

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