

**Remarks by H.E. Ban Ki-moon,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
at the Annual Dinner
of the Korea-Britain Society**

- Seoul, 20 December, 2004 -

President of Korea-Britain Society and Mrs. Park Jin,
Ambassador and Mrs. Warwick Morris,
the Honorable and Mrs. Kang Young-hoon,
the Honorable Lee Hong-koo,
the Honorable and Mrs. Han Seung-soo,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to be invited together with such eminent dignitaries to the Annual Dinner hosted by the Korea-Britain Society.

I would like to begin by expressing my deep gratitude to the Korea-Britain Society for the various ways in which it has contributed to the nurturing of Korea-UK relations.

Since its foundation in 1961 the Korea-Britain society has indeed played a valuable role in bringing our two nations closer together.

This 'Annual Dinner' offers a good opportunity for us to reflect on where the relations between our two countries currently stand and to set the future direction to take them further forward as we step into a new year.

Looking back on developments in our relations this year, I am sure you will agree that the state visit by President Roh Moo-hyun to the United Kingdom stands out. In fact, this was a

real milestone in Korea-UK relations.

As Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II underlined, the state visit served to reaffirm what Korea and the UK have achieved in our long relationship. We were deeply touched when she referred to the ROK as a "true friend and ally".

The UK has demonstrated that they are masters of the art of diplomacy and all that is grace and beauty in the art form. It also showed a deep understanding of traditional diplomacy which combines substance and formality.

During the escorting in the golden carriage and the unforgettable stay at Buckingham Palace, our delegation members felt as if we had been dreaming or were in a fairy tale in a Wonderland palace of the 19th century.

I can tell you that we hate to awake from the dream of being Royal guests and to come back down to earth! Those of us who had the honour to take part in the visit will cherish our memories of the trip for a lifetime.

This visit really generated valuable momentum to take our close cooperation still further, nurturing a forward-looking partnership.

First above all, at the summit President Roh and Prime Minister Blair pledged to work together for such crucial tasks as the

peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue, as well as making a continued contribution in rising to the global agenda.

Moreover two leaders renewed their commitment to building a strategic partnership in business, high technology and science and identified various areas of great potential for future cooperation.

President Roh engaged in frank and practical discussions with CEOs of leading British companies. In fact, the meeting provided a valuable opportunity to generate deeper understanding among British businessmen of Korea's open and business-friendly economic policies.

During the visit, our two countries reaffirmed their commitment to promoting substantial cooperation by holding a Ministerial-level Joint Commission on Science and Technology and the Fifth UK-Korea High Technology Industry Forum.

The Forum was a particularly impressive event participated in by over 200 enterprises and research institutes. The discussions on the two countries' technology policies and potential cooperation led to subsequent consultations between businessmen.

Our two countries also agreed to forge a "Science, Technology and Innovation Partnership" to promote collaborative links. Of the several MOUs, the MOU signed between the University of Cambridge and the Electronics and Telecommunications Research

Institute of Korea will serve as an outstanding example for joint cooperation.

During this visit, British businessmen made investment commitments amounting to 624 million US dollars. I am also confident that various forms of cooperation will spur bilateral trade, which already totalled about 9 billion dollars this year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The strong and mature Korea-UK relations of today and the successful state visit could not have been realized without the valuable dedication of people such as yourselves.

I hope the Korea-Britain Society will continue to play active role in enriching our bilateral relations, looking forward to its greater contribution to ever-closer ties between Korea and the UK. I can assure you that the Korean government will do its own part to keep the momentum created by the outstanding state visit alive.

Before closing, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year full of success and joy. Thank you very much for your kind attention.