

COOPERATION TOWARD THE ASIA-PACIFIC ERA OF THE 21ST  
CENTURY : PARTNERS FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY

*An Abstract of the Address by President Kim Young-Sam  
at a Joint Session of the U.S. Congress on July 26, 1995*

*From Liberation and Independence to  
Democratization and Industrialization*

The end of World War II in 1945 brought the blessings of liberation and independence to the Korean people. However, that was short-lived, since we soon were faced with the historic misfortune of national division, and five years later, the tragedy of fratricidal war.

Faced with the vestiges of colonial rule, the legacies of poverty, the ruins of war and the threat of Communism, the Korean people set out to build a country. We moved forward with great hope for the future and a determination to achieve prosperity. It is this hope and determination that have fueled us as we have striven tirelessly for the past 40 years. And it is this hope and determination that have created today's Republic of Korea, a country which started out as one of the poorest in the world, but which today is the world's 11th biggest economic power.

This is the story of the Republic of Korea, a country which began with nothing but bare hands and courage, but managed to achieve democratization and industrialization in a short period of time, a country now proudly marching out toward the world and into the future.

The Asia-Pacific region has already emerged as a new powerhouse of global development on the strength of its vigorous and sustained growth. This has been made

possible by the U.S.'s long-term maintenance of stability and peace within the region. For the Asia-Pacific era to fully blossom, the United States must continue to play this role. Above all, safeguarding peace on the Korean Peninsula, situated at the heart of Northeast Asia, has become the key to the stability of the entire region.

*South-North Economic Cooperation  
Expanding*

We are exerting our utmost efforts to make this year a historic year - one which sees the opening of a new chapter in South-North relations, as we mark the 50th anniversary of Korea's joyous liberation, as well as its tragic national division. The Republic's unification policy aims to ultimately make one nation and one state by gradually restoring a sense of national community through peaceful co-existence, reconciliation and cooperation with the North.

To that end, stability in North Korea is indispensable; therefore we are pursuing a joint national development plan designed to promote the mutual prosperity of the South and the North. It is for this reason that the Republic is planning to shoulder the brunt of the costs of providing North Korea with Korean-model light-water nuclear reactors and assume major responsibility in the overall project.

For the same reason, we are expanding

South-North economic cooperation. Purely out of compassion for our Northern brethren, we are also providing rice to North Korea to help alleviate their difficult food situation. No matter how long or rough the road leading to the unification of the Korean Peninsula may be, we will continue to travel the road patiently but without rest.

When the day comes that the Korean Peninsula finally becomes one nation again, genuine peace and prosperity will prevail in Northeast Asia. This unified Korea will make a major contribution to the progress of global civilization and the prosperity of all mankind.

### *Segyehwa Policy for the 21st Century*

To foster the prosperity of the entire Asia-Pacific region, we must make sure that the ideals of free trade and liberalization take root throughout the region. After World War II, the open markets of the Free World, under the leadership of the U.S., were a critical factor in reducing poverty and defeating Communism.

Korea has indeed benefitted greatly from free trade. I believe that all countries in the Asia-Pacific region should also benefit from free trade. It is precisely for this reason that we have been devoting particular effort to the development of the APEC forum. The Korean Government is also actively supporting multi-lateral cooperation under the new WTO system.

Through our *seggyehwa*, or globalization, policy, the Korean Government has been actively promoting openness and autonomy in the economy and every other sector of society. We will continue to pursue our policy of liberalization in earnest, and by joining the OECD, we will raise our degree of openness to the level of

the advanced countries. Among the developing countries, Korea has been liberalizing its markets at an extremely fast rate. As we continue to pursue autonomy and openness in the future, the Republic will become an even stronger partner of the United States in boosting the prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.

A new world is unfolding before us in the 21st century. The Republic of Korea will expand its role and responsibilities in the international community. We plan to expand our assistance to developing countries drawing upon our past development experiences and also actively participating in international efforts to solve global problems.

The Korean people are filled with the hope that the cooperation between the U.S. and Korea in preparation for the Asia-Pacific era of the 21st century will help turn the wheels of history swiftly forward. We are filled with the determination to build a unified Korea and work with the American people as partners in peace and prosperity and thereby make a greater contribution to the world and to humanity.