

## **Remarks at a State Dinner for President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of the Federal Republic of Brazil**

Your Excellency President Lula da Silva, First Lady Marisa Leticia and distinguished guests,

I am very pleased to greet our very important guests from Brazil, which is now drawing the attention of the world as one of the BRICs. I wholeheartedly welcome Your Excellency Mr. President, the First Lady and the Brazilian delegation to Korea.

It is only six months since I last saw Your Excellency. Our two countries located on the opposite sides of the globe have become close friends.

The keynote speech Your Excellency delivered at the Global Forum on Reinventing Government was indeed moving. The tireless activities of Your Excellency in meeting with Korean business leaders four times in two days have made a deep impression on us.

I believe that similar endeavors by Your Excellency have served as the driving force lifting the Brazilian economy to the highest growth level in 10 years. Such growth is expected to continue.

The role Your Excellency plays in the international community is brilliant. Exchanges and cooperation have not been limited only to regional integration on the South American continent but have been expanding to cover Asia, the Middle East and Africa. A few days ago, Your Excellency successfully presided over the South America-Arab Summit.

I salute the leadership of Your Excellency and the potential of the Brazilian people.

Your Excellency Mr. President,

Our summit today was quite satisfactory. I was able to confirm the “comprehensive cooperative relations for common prosperity in the 21st century” as agreed on last year.

One by one, cooperative efforts have been reaping visible results, including progress on the Korea-Mercosur trade pact and collaboration in resources, energy, IT, construction and many other sectors. A bilateral resources cooperation committee has met for the first time, while a private-level cooperative channel has been established in the electricity and minerals sector.

Trade between our two countries surged 44 percent last year, and we are now poised to take

a new leap forward in substantive cooperation. In particular, your visit this time at the head of a large economic mission of as many as 180 persons will expedite such collaboration. Korea hopes that cooperation with Brazil, which is now leaping to the center of the world beyond South America, will be further expanded.

Distinguished guests,

President Lula emphasized that all things are carried out strictly on the basis of ethics. I believe that such a conviction by His Excellency will make a significant contribution to realizing such universal values as freedom and peace.

Please join me in a toast to the good health of His Excellency and the First Lady, to the development of Brazil and to eternal friendship between our two countries.

Geonbae! (To your health!)