

**Remarks by President Roh Moo-hyun
at a State Dinner for President Ali Abdullah Saleh
of the Republic of Yemen**

Your Excellency President Ali Abdullah Saleh and distinguished guests from home and abroad,

I am pleased to have a very important guest here with us tonight, and I wholeheartedly welcome Your Excellency, who is the first Yemeni head of state to visit Korea, and the Yemeni delegation as well.

His Excellency led the Yemeni national unification in 1990 and has been building stepping stones to vibrant national development through democratization, and economic and social reform. Furthermore, he has been endeavoring hard to promote friendship with neighboring countries through an active peace policy.

I am confident that the leadership of Your Excellency and the potential of the Yemeni people will ensure Yemen great progress as a peaceful and prosperous country.

Your Excellency Mr. President,

I believe that the summit meeting we had today will serve as a good opportunity to expand substantive cooperation between our two countries.

If the abundant resources of Yemen are combined with Korean capital and technological expertise, it will be beneficial to both sides. In particular, both countries would gain mutual benefits by developing the energy sector.

Korea plans to import both crude oil and natural gas exceeding 1.3 million tons every year from 2008. Korea will also scale up its investment in energy development, including in the Marib oil field.

There are also great possibilities for cooperation in the information & communication and construction sectors. I hope that Korean businesses will make a contribution to Yemen's LNG project and high-speed communication network. The interest and support of Your Excellency

and the Yemeni Government would be appreciated.

Your Excellency Mr. President,

The lessons that Yemen's national unification provides Korea, the only country in the world divided by Cold War rivalries, are considerable. I am aware that the speech Your Excellency delivered at Seoul National University today elicited considerable response from students. I ask you to provide unwavering support for Korea's policy of peace and prosperity.

Distinguished guests,

Please join me in a toast to the good health of His Excellency, the everlasting progress of Yemen and friendship between our two countries.