

Co-Chairs' Statement of the 2nd Mekong-ROK Foreign

Ministers' Meeting

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 10 July 2012

1. The Second Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia on 10 July 2012 back-to-back with the 45th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Dr. **Kim Sung-han**, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea and H.E. Mr. **Alounkeo KITTIKHOUN**, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and participated by H.E. Dr. **Kao Kim Hourn**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, H.E. Mr. **U Min Lwin**, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to ASEAN and Ambassador to Indonesia, H.E. Mr. **Sihesak Phuangketkeow**, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, and H.E. Mr. **Pham Quang Vinh**, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.
2. The Ministers reconfirmed the objectives, principles, and priority areas in the cooperation between the Mekong countries and the ROK as stated in the "Han-River Declaration of the Mekong-ROK Comprehensive Partnership for Mutual Prosperity", which was adopted at the First Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in October 2011. The Ministers reviewed the progress that had been made in the cooperation areas between the Mekong region and the ROK, and had in-depth discussions on a variety of issues including the Mekong-ROK cooperation mechanism and regional and global issues.

[Stocktaking and Future Direction of the Mekong-ROK Cooperation]

3. The Mekong countries expressed their appreciation for the ROK's contribution and its active engagement in the development of the Mekong region through its ODA, the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund, and the support of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI).

4. The Ministers reviewed the progress of cooperation in the six priority areas of cooperation between the Mekong countries and the ROK - infrastructure, IT technology, green growth, water resources development, agriculture and rural development, and human resources development. The Ministers agreed to conduct several pilot projects, where appropriate, taking note of the recommendations made at the Multi-stakeholders' Consultative Meeting on the Mekong-ROK Comprehensive Partnership for Mutual Prosperity held in Khon Kaen, Thailand in May 2012.
 - **(ASEAN Connectivity)** The Ministers appreciated the ROK's contribution to the construction of the GMS Northern and Southern Corridor Building Project as well as E-Government Building Project. The Ministers agreed to review as a pilot project the establishment of a transportation institute in order to enable systematic policy planning and to strengthen the capacity for transportation infrastructure in the Mekong region. In this connection, the Mekong Ministers look forward to more engagement of the ROK in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity.
 - **(Sustainable Development)** The Ministers agreed to actively utilize the AFoCO (Asia Forest Cooperation Organization), which will soon be launched so as to respond to climate change. The Ministers also agreed to the need to step up efforts on sustainable management and development of the Mekong River and agreed to enhance the cooperation between the ROK and the Mekong River Commission (MRC), including through possible collaborative projects in the future between the MRC and the K-

WATER (Korea Water Resources Corporation) on water resources development to promote efficient utilization of the water resources.

- **(People-oriented Development)** The Ministers welcomed and appreciated the ROK's contribution to the Mekong region through the establishment of education and training centers, and local communities building projects. The Ministers also agreed to consider “Trade Policies and Agricultural Value Chains in the context of ASEAN Integration”, and “GMS Capacity Building on Logistics” as possible pilot projects in collaboration with the Mekong Institute located in Khon Kaen, Thailand.

[Mekong-ROK Cooperation Mechanism]

5. In addition, the Ministers agreed to consider the establishment of the “Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund”, taking into account that financial resources separate to the existing bilateral ODA are necessary to implement mid-to-long-term projects in a stable manner.
6. The Ministers shared a common understanding for the need to establish a mid- to long-term cooperation plan, and in this context agreed to carry out first several pilot projects in the six priority areas and then to come up with the “Mekong-ROK Action Plan” to be announced at the Fourth Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting, hosted by the ROK in 2014.

[Strengthening Mekong-ROK Partnership and Encouraging Greater Exchange]

7. **(Strengthening Mekong-ROK Partnership)** In order to strengthen Mekong-ROK public-private partnership, the Ministers welcomed and agreed to hold the 1st Mekong-ROK Business Forum in Thailand in 2013.

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8. **(Mekong-ROK Exchange Year)** With a view to promoting mutual understanding and friendship between the Mekong countries and the ROK, the Ministers agreed to designate the year 2014 as the “Mekong-ROK Exchange Year” and to encourage greater people-to-people exchange and cultural exchange between the two regions.

[Strengthening Cooperation on Regional and Global Issues]

9. The Ministers exchanged views on regional and global issues of common interest such as natural disaster, food security, and maritime security and safety in the region. The Ministers agreed to cooperate more closely on major issues between the Mekong countries and the ROK.

[Mekong-ROK Meetings]

10. The Ministers agreed to hold the Third Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Brunei Darussalam to be co-chaired by Myanmar and the ROK.

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