

**Opening Remarks by  
President Lee Myung-bak  
of the Republic of Korea  
at the 8<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting Summit**

October 4, 2010

Opening

First of all, I would like to thank Prime Minister Yves Leterme of the Kingdom of Belgium and President Herman Van Rompuy of the European Council for their dedicated effort in preparing this Summit.

It is all the more meaningful that the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit is being held in Brussels because the city is a symbol of European integration. I hope the Summit will serve as a catalyst for furthering Asia-Europe cooperation and exchanges.

About the Summit Theme: Quality of Life

Improving the quality of life is the ultimate goal that all peoples and countries around the world are pursuing. For this reason, the theme of this Summit, “Quality of Life: Achieving Greater Wellbeing and More Dignity for All Citizens” has much significance.

Europe is well known for having already realized a high level of welfare. Belgium, a member of the European Union and the host of this Summit, has put forth “Quality of Life” as the summit theme and especially highlighted the importance of “dignity for all citizens.”

Both Asia and Europe alike have the challenging task of simultaneously achieving economic growth along with greater wellbeing and dignity for all citizens. The Republic of Korea, too, considers enhancing the quality of life of its people as an important national agenda.

Asia-European Governance for the Improvement of Quality of Life

Asia and Europe take somewhat different approaches to the quality of life. Many European countries with high national income have for a long time placed emphasis on providing quality welfare services, in addition to increasing incomes. In the meantime, the focus of many developing Asian countries has been placed on pursuing economic growth and increase of the national income. Now, on the basis of economic progress, they are endeavoring to significantly improve the quality of life of their peoples.

Asia and Europe have many complementary elements. Europe has so far played a leading role not only in the economy but also in many other areas, including the environment, education, culture and human rights. Asian countries are taking their cue from the European examples in these areas.

In recent months, the economic dynamism in Asia has been noteworthy. Through rapid development, Asia is acting as a growth engine for the world economy. In this regard, close cooperation between Asia and Europe should serve as a source of the revitalization of the weak global economy. The rejuvenated economy, in turn, will act as a catalyst for helping improve the quality of life globally. This is why the ASEM Summit we open today has special importance.

#### Concluding Remarks

Asia and Europe will be able to achieve a win-win situation by working closely within the framework of ASEM. The two continents should try to consummate good governance by harmoniously dealing with common tasks as well as whatever differences they may have. Through this kind of effort, we will bring about a more dynamic and equitable global village.

I firmly believe these are the direction and values ASEM should pursue in the years to come. I trust that this Summit will yield viable measures conducive to the enhancement of the quality of life throughout the world.

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Thank you very much.