

**Remarks**  
**by Kim Dae-ki, Vice Minister of Culture,**  
**Sports and Tourism, of the Republic of Korea**  
**at the First Conference of ASEAN+3 Ministers Responsible for**  
**Information**  
**November 6, 2009**

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**1. Greetings**

Distinguished Ministers from ASEAN, China and Japan,

I am grateful to you all for inviting me to speak to you today at this meaningful meeting.

My appreciation also goes to Minister of Information and Culture Mounkeo Oraboun of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan, who have endeavored to make it possible for participants to engage in discussions in a comfortable ambience.

Since its first meeting in 1989, the Conference of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information has continued to play an active role in helping promote a positive image of the ASEAN Community around the world.

I expect today's first conference of ASEAN+3 information ministers to serve as a catalyst for further bolstering the international reputation of ASEAN.

**2. Reinforcement of East Asian Cooperation and Efforts of the Korean Government**

In the previous century, world history was primarily driven by Western civilization.

Advancements in science and technology brought material abundance and enriched the quality of life.

In the process, however, it is true that the values of Asian culture and what Asia can offer faded into the background.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century will become an era of Asia. It is high time for us to reemphasize Asian values and contribute to world progress.

The ASEAN Charter adopted in December 2008 has laid the groundwork for regional integration, illustrating for the world to see what ASEAN can do in the future.

Regional collaboration at the ASEAN+3 level has been further boosted. Marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN+3 cooperation, the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and action plans were adopted at the 2007 ASEAN summit, which provided for how the member countries would work together during the next decade.

Notably, the ASEAN+3 Cooperation Fund was launched last April for the first time in a bid to lay the institutional foundation for promoting qualitative collaboration in East Asia in the future.

The Korean Government hosted the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the dialogue partnership between Korea and ASEAN.

By 2015, the Korean Government will have significantly expanded assistance for the ASEAN member nations and people-to-people exchanges.

President Lee Myung-bak remarked in October this year that Korea would examine in a positive light the matter of upgrading the ROK-ASEAN relations from the current Comprehensive Cooperation Partnership to a Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

In addition, the Korean Government is carrying out various cultural projects in a bid to further solidify its relations with ASEAN. As part of these efforts, the Korea-ASEAN Traditional Music Orchestra was launched in May this year,

thereby setting the stage for Korea and 10 ASEAN member nations to be united based upon the common denominator of culture.

### ***3. Korean Government's Efforts to Promote Media Cooperation in the Region***

To bolster cooperation among media organizations in the region, the Korean Government is implementing various programs. They include invitations of journalists as well as joint production of broadcast content and exchange of programs.

On the occasion of the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit, the Republic invited journalists from 10 ASEAN member countries, thereby laying the groundwork for the expansion of bilateral exchanges.

In the telecommunications sector that could serve as a platform for expediting media cooperation, Korea is also making efforts to facilitate cooperation through ministerial meetings on telecommunications with ASEAN member countries.

Various collaborative projects are underway in the IT sector to narrow down the digital divide, which is designed to promote coprosperity in the East Asian region.

At today's conference, the Republic is planning to engage in discussions with ASEAN on how to diversify and intensify media cooperation in the region.

First, Korea will carry out exchange programs of journalists, including training and cultivation of specialists in the East Asian region.

Second, Korea plans to expand joint international production of broadcast content, including dramas and documentaries, while invigorating exchanges of media professionals and broadcast programs.

Third, Korea plans to pursue exchanges of publishers, host international book fairs and arrange joint translation and publication projects.

Fourth, Korea is also proposing comprehensive joint endeavors in the film industry, including conclusion of a bilateral agreement regarding joint production and exchanges. Cooperative programs will be prepared for training of producers, actors, actresses and directors as well as hosting of film festivals by member countries.

Cooperation encompassing diverse media will naturally pave the way for closer collaboration in music, arts, video games and other cultural sectors.

Culture industries will have to be encouraged to develop on the basis of traditional Asian values, as they will represent the identity of a viable Asian community. Diverse traditions in different member countries should be utilized to create unique cultural products.

In light of this, ASEAN+3 may well discuss the possibility of regularizing a conference on culture industry contents.

It is incumbent on the member nations to bolster exchanges and cooperation in the future in the field of the media and culture industry on a sustained basis.

#### **4. *Concluding Remarks***

The media and other culture industries constitute a very promising engine for green growth that is comparable to the new and renewable energy industry and other environment-friendly technologies.

At a time when the nations of the world are beginning to show keen interest in sustainable economic development and low-carbon green growth, East Asian nations, through coordinated efforts of their media, need to inform the world of their intention to lead the green movement.

East Asian media should take the initiative in sharing wisdom for green growth in the region, activating a virtuous cycle of making the Earth a better place to live.

I trust that this first conference will be a sturdy cornerstone in the endeavor to bring about prosperity to ASEAN and all the East Asian countries, including Korea.

Thank you very much.