

# Speech for 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Canada-Korea Dialogue Series on the Hill (Final)

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*By H.E. Daeshik Jo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea/Presented by the CKS/Parliament Hill, Centre Block, Aboriginal Room #160S/Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

## *Opening Remarks*

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- Bon soir, mesdames et monsieurs
- Good evening members of the Canada-Korea Society (CKS), the Canada-Korea Interparliamentary Friendship Group (CKIFG), members of Parliament, ladies and gentlemen.
  - It is an honour to be here as a speaker on this special occasion
- Let me start by expressing my thanks to the members of the CKIFG, the Canada-Korea Society, and to President Lee for hosting this annual event.
- My special thanks go to The Honorable Yonah Martin for her commitment to deepening Canada-Korea bilateral relations;
  - And also to Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion for honouring us by his participation in this event.

## *Overview of Presentation*

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- Today, I would like to speak to you about two areas of cooperation between Korea and Canada, which I believe is important for our future:
  - One is security and the other is innovation.
- I believe these two are important because they are the key to unlocking the potential of our ideal partnership over the next few decades.

## *Part 1: Korea and Canada Relations: “An Ideal Friendship”*

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- I believe Korea and Canada are ideal friends because we have the most fundamental things in common: Shared values, shared goals, and shared history.

(Shared values)

- First, we share core values such as liberal democracy and respect for human rights
  - To defend the values we cherish, we need friends with the same values to stand by us.

(Shared goals)

- Second, Korea and Canada also share common goals and aspirations...
- The most important of which is to advance peace and prosperity at home and around the world.

(Shared history)

- Third, we share a long history dating back 120 years.
- These shared values, goals, and history are the fundamental reasons why I believe Korea and Canada are ideal friends.
- Looking back on our shared journey, we can find evidence of this ideal friendship in our recent achievements.
  - For example, Korea is the first Asian nation to have a free trade agreement with Canada.
  - Korea is also one of only six countries to share a Strategic Partnership with Canada.

## *Part 2: Security Cooperation in a Changing Global Environment*

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- Now, let me move on to the first topic: security cooperation.
- I believe that security is an important area because of the changing nature of today's world.
- Today's global environment is fraught with uncertainty and complexity.
  - It is also increasingly interconnected.

- Security issues that were once regional have now become global.
- In other words, countries can no longer afford to act independently and will need to work together to address the challenges of tomorrow
- In particular, one of the major challenges is the shifting geopolitical situation on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia
  - The rise of China; the Obama administration's 'Pivot to Asia', and North Korea's nuclear ambition, are all signs of a changing regional – hence global – environment.
- We are now faced with the *Asia Paradox*;
  - a mismatch between economic interdependence and security trust
- The North Korean issue, in and of itself, is rattling the region's security matrix and fundamentally reshaping our global environment
  - It has become the most serious threat to regional stability and to global security
- Despite South Korea's efforts to improve ties with North Korea and the international community's efforts, North Korea's provocations persist.
- With no multilateral security cooperation mechanism in place,
  - I believe it is time for countries to take on a crucial role
  - as international partners in the collective fight against nuclear weapons.
- For this reason, we are deeply grateful to Canada for standing alongside Korea in the fight against nuclear proliferation.

### *Part 3: Our Strategic Partnership in ST&I*

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- Ladies and gentlemen, let me move on to the second area of cooperation – Innovation.
- As countries are striving to achieve innovation-driven economies, Korea and Canada are ideally placed to create win-win situations in the global "innovation game".

- For instance, Canada is a global leader in research excellence, while Korea has vast expertise in introducing technologies to the global market.
- Last year, our countries concluded negotiations of an agreement on Science, Technology & Innovation (ST&I).
- We anticipate that the ST&I agreement will allow Canadian and Korean companies to capitalize on high-tech commercialization opportunities.
  - These could be found in a broad range of industries, including
    - Biotechnology, Aerospace, Creative Digital Media,
    - Ocean Technology, Health & Life sciences (including medical devices and pharmaceuticals),
    - Clean Energy, ICT, and automotive products.
- Canada is investing in a future that will be driven by Science, Technology, and Innovation – Korea is doing the same.
- Moreover, Canada-Korea cooperation in a key area to engage corporations, universities and institutes in promoting innovation collaboration.
- Cross-sector collaboration can also increase communication and the efficient use of the ST&I agreement as an invaluable tool among leading partners in science and technology.
  - At present, there are 3,000 members of the Association of Korean-Canadian scientists and engineers (AKCSE).
- We can also create new partnerships by enhancing business-to-business linkages.
- More so, our strategic partnership in innovation can play a pivotal role in shaping the Canadian economy by creating new products and services that for Canadians.
- In fact, South Korea is a priority market under the Global Markets Action Plan, Canada's recent strategy for creating jobs and opportunities for Canadians through trade.
  - Canada's merchandise exports to South Korea were nearly \$4.2 billion in 2014.

- Therefore, the ST&I agreement will provide a mechanism to directly support bilateral, industry-led R&D and advancements in innovation
  - between the Canadian and Korean government, universities, institutes, and business partners
  - Over the next decades.

### *Closing Remarks*

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- In closing, I believe that Security and ST&I are among the most promising strategic areas of cooperation between Korea and Canada in the years ahead.
  - The possibilities are truly without limit!
- I look forward to the great work we can accomplish together in 2016 and beyond. It has been a sincere pleasure to speak to you today.
- Thank you.