

**Toast by H.E. Mr. PRAK Sokhonn, Senior Minister,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
at the Reception on the Celebration of the National Day of the Republic of Korea  
and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Re-establishment of Diplomatic Relations between  
the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Korea  
11 October 2017 at 18:30, Hotel Intercontinental**

**His Excellency Kim Weon-jin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to the Kingdom of Cambodia, and Madam,  
Your Royal Highnesses, Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Members of Royal Government of Cambodia, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Distinguished Guests,**

Today is an auspicious event for the Republic of Korea as you celebrate the National Day, which marks the legendary formation of the first Korean state of Gojoseon. I have great pleasure to join you all here, representing my government, to extend my warmest congratulations and well-wishes to all the Korean people, including those who are residing in Cambodia.

The Republic of Korea is often cited as one of the earliest models of Asian Tigers, who underwent rapid industrialization, technological innovation and development. As one of the growth engines that drives economic landscape in the Asia Pacific coupled with her vibrant democracy, the Republic of Korea has constantly increased her strong presence in shaping many international agenda for peace, security and sustainable development.

This year celebration of the Korean National Day is very special as the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Korea jointly commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Re-establishment of Diplomatic Relations, which was originated from the visionary initiative of Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen. I noticed with satisfaction that after just two decades, a speedy increase of cooperation across a wide spectrum of sectors has brought us even closer together, providing many tangible benefits for the two peoples. The two countries have maintained frequent contacts and exchanges of visits between both legislative and executive institutions.

ROK has been assisting Cambodia in many key areas, such as education, ICT, health, rural development, agriculture, infrastructure, water resources, civil aviation and security market. ROK is also one of Cambodia's key trading partners, with bilateral trade volume recorded last year of more than 600 Million USD.

People-to-people contacts keep expanding day by day. We continue to witness a growing number of Korean tourists and volunteers to Cambodia as well as Cambodian workers in Korea. Last year, Cambodia received 360,000 Korean tourists, 90 volunteers and experts, who are currently supporting various institutions. In 2016, about 7,000 Cambodian workers were recruited to work in Korea. Since 2007, more than 50,000 Cambodian have embraced the opportunity to work in Korea through the Employment Permit System. Their remittances and skills acquired have contributed to our economy as well as human resource development.

Our two countries also have closely collaborated on multilateral platforms, including ASEAN, Mekong sub-regional frameworks and other multilateral fora. Cambodia is one of the strong supporters of ROK in the Mekong sub-region as the latter is prepared to take a larger and substantive role in its contribution to the region's economic development, and address regional challenges of common concern in a more coordinated and effective approach.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the government of the ROK and her people for the enormous support rendered to Cambodia's socio-economic development, especially their continued support to the well-being of Cambodian workers. My appreciation also goes to His Excellency Ambassador **Kim Weon-jin** and his colleagues for their close cooperation and endeavor to promote our bilateral ties and friendship. As we mark this commemorative year, I am strongly confident that, with our continued joint efforts, the good bilateral friendship and cooperation will be further advanced for the mutual interests of our two countries and peoples.

On this happy occasion, may I invite Your Royal Highnesses, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, to join me in a toast:

- To the good health and longevity of **His Excellency Mr. Moon Jae-in**, President of the Republic of Korea;
- To the good health and longevity of **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni**, King of Cambodia, and **Her Majesty Queen Mother Norodom Monineath Sihanouk**;
- To the long-lasting friendship and fruitful cooperation between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Korea;
- To the happiness and prosperity of our two peoples and
- To the good health and success of Your Royal Highnesses, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen here present.

**Thank you**