

Presidential Communications Office

Presidential News Desk

**OPENING REMARKS OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA
PRESIDENT MOON JAE-IN DURING THE BILATERAL SUMMIT MEETING**

[Delivered at 2nd floor, Bilateral Room, Cheong Wa Dae, Seoul | 04 June 2018]

PRESIDENT MOON: I would like to warmly welcome President Rodrigo Duterte and his delegation to Korea. This visit of course is taking place in the run-up to the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the Philippines next year.

In the meeting I just had with the President, there were plenty of productive discussions on ways to elevate our long-standing friendly relations to an even higher level in a future-oriented way and to establish regional peace together.

I find it very meaningful that we were able to have such discussions and reaffirm the friendship and trust between the two of us.

The Republic of Korea and the Philippines laid the foundations for solid friendship through the Korean War. On this platform, we have been making remarkable progress for the past 70 years, in every field including politics, economy, culture, and people-to-people exchanges.

Korea is the fifth largest trade partner for the Philippines and our bilateral trade volume reached 14.3 billion dollars last year.

People-to-people exchanges continue to expand as well, so much so that nowadays Koreans are the most frequent visitors to the Philippines.

Nevertheless, I believe there is still enough potential to significantly develop our trade, investment, and people-to-people exchanges.

During my visit to the Philippines in November last year, I announced the ASEAN-Korea Future-Oriented Community initiative thereby declaring my commitment to elevate the relationship between Korea and ASEAN to an even higher level.

I hope that through your visit to Korea, we will be able to further solidify the foundations for developing Korea's partnership with the Philippines which is a key partner in implementing this initiative.

In addition, I hope your visit will provide the impetus for further developing not only the bilateral relations between Korea and the Philippines, but also the relations between Korea and ASEAN. Indeed, next year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of our dialogue relations.

In the meeting today, I look forward to reviewing the progress that our two countries and the peoples have made together in the past 70 years and to having in-depth discussions on substantive ways to develop our bilateral ties in a future-oriented manner for the next 70 years.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Your Excellency, I am truly humbled by your reception. I am eager to work closely with you in writing a new chapter of a shared history of cooperation. Friendship and partnership between the Philippines and the Republic of Korea.

Our restricted meeting has shown us that ours is a special relationship that can only grow stronger with political commitment.

With the advancement that we have achieved together, there is still room for healthy growth. I am pleased to discuss ways to move our relations further forward.

The Philippines welcomes the Republic of Korea's New Southern Policy. As I said before, the Philippines' destiny is in Asia. We need to work with friends and partners like South Korea to achieve shared aspirations for our people and regions.

A deeper engagement with South Korea, our long-standing partner and true friend is essential to further strengthen individual and collective efforts for greater peace, progress, and prosperity.

The Philippines' independent foreign policy recognizes the importance of friends like South Korea in building the environment needed for us to grow together.

We recognize long and deep ties between our two countries and people.

During the Korean War, we fought side by side in defense of freedom and democracy. That is a legacy that must be remembered and continuously reaffirm.

The Philippines appreciates the Republic of Korea's assistance program to our Korean War...

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