



Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah, Chairman of Institute of Strategic &
International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia,
Distinguished MASK Network members,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Selamat Pagi, Salam Sejahtera,

It is my great pleasure to open this year's MASK Network seminar. Let me first express my thanks to MASK Network members for being here with us today. Your active and constructive engagement in the Embassy's activities has always contributed to strengthening the ties between Korea and Malaysia.

I would also like to extend a sincere welcome to all esteemed speakers and panelists of today. Especially Dr. Lee Jae-hyun from Asan Institute and Dr. Kim Hyung-jong from Yonsei University came all the way from Korea to share their knowledge and insight with us.



We also have a special guest from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea, Deputy Director General for ASEAN and Southeast Asian Affairs, Mr Lee Dong-gy. He will deliver an online presentation on Korea's ASEAN policy as well as Korea-Malaysia relations for the upcoming years.

Ladies and gentleman,

Today, the world is facing complex and multi-layered security and economic crises, including regional conflicts, supply chain disruptions and climate disasters. These challenges cannot be addressed by any single country alone. Strong solidarity and close cooperation among countries are essential to navigate through these challenges and disruptions.

Under the circumstances, Korea and Malaysia have been working hard to make the best use of this year's 40th anniversary of the Look East Policy this year, to strengthen our bilateral ties. In this regard, I am proud and happy that we have



made remarkable headway this year. And let me share with you three most noteworthy points.

First is the reinvigorated high-level exchanges towards the upgrade of our bilateral relations.

In early September at the sidelines of ASEAN summit in Indonesia, President Yoon Suk-yeol and Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim held the first summit after the inauguration of new governments of both countries. This is also the first leaders' face-to-face meeting in five years. One week after, Speaker of the National Assembly of Korea, who is the second-highest person in our official protocol precedence, paid a visit to Malaysia and engaged in discussions with top Malaysian politicians. Korean Prime Minister also had a meeting with Speaker Tan Sri Johari in Hangzhou. In addition, a total of 7 ministers from both countries visited each other. It is the highest number of ministerial-level exchanges over the past several years.



Most recently in last month, our Foreign Ministers had a second meeting in San Francisco after the first one in May. Currently, we have already started to discuss possible high-level visits for next year. These active high-level engagements clearly demonstrates how deeply and closely Korea and Malaysia are working together to bolster our solidarity and cooperation.

Building upon these active exchanges and solid collaborations, the two countries now seek to elevate our bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership. With the Strategic Partnership, we are expected to have more communication and cooperation both at the bilateral level and on regional peace and security. Our defence and security cooperation will become even closer.

This September, we had the first joint Naval exercise in East Coast near Kuantan Port. We also organized the first Defence Industry Cooperation Seminar together with MINDEF. Our defence industry cooperation will continue in a mutually beneficial manner. The signing of the final contract of FA-50 – the Light Combat Aircraft – is a good start.



Second is enhanced public awareness of the Korea–Malaysia relationship.

This year, our Embassy has organized approximately 20 public events to foster people’s understanding of the evolving partnership between our two countries. Starting with the Opening Ceremony of the 40th Look East Policy anniversary with MITI in March, a series of commemorative events were held throughout the year, which include <Korean Wave exhibition>, <Video Contest>, <National Archive Exhibition>, <Korea Film Festival>, <K-Drama OST Concert>, <Korea Alumni dinner> and state-level cultural and economic events.

These various events enable many people to deepen their understanding of the vibrant and long-standing relationship that Korea and Malaysia are enjoying now. In addition, the opening of the Consulate Office in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah this September will further promote active people-to-people exchange along with more economic cooperation.



Third is the significant progress in our economic cooperation in both qualitative and quantitative dimensions.

Currently, Korea stands as Malaysia's 8th largest trading partner and 7th largest foreign investor. The number of Korean companies operating in Malaysia has jumped from 325 to 420 over the last two years. Future-oriented collaboration is also gaining traction for our shared benefits. Now, high-tech and eco-friendly sectors like hydrogen, CCS, green energy, batteries and semiconductors have become new areas of collaborations between the two countries.

At the government level, the first Korea-Malaysia Climate Change Dialogue was launched in October. It was Malaysia's first-ever high-level bilateral dialogue with a non-ASEAN country on climate issues. At the Embassy level, we have hosted more than 10 business events in KL and other states this year to facilitate business cooperation and help explore new investment opportunities.



I believe these activities toward our common objectives such as green energy transition, technological advancement and climate change responses will form the very foundation of our future-oriented partnership. Through such collaborations, Korea seeks to be a reliable partner for Malaysia in achieving its goal of becoming a TOP-30 global economy through MADANI Economy.

Lastly, on North Korea.

North Korea's nuclear and missile program continue to pose a serious threat not only to the Korean Peninsula, but also to the entire region including ASEAN. This year, North Korea has launched over 30 ballistic missiles and ICBMs. Needless to say, any kind of launch using ballistic missile technology is a violation of multiple UN Security Council Resolutions.

The recent military cooperation between North Korea and Russia has also raised concerns of the international community.



In September, the North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un visited Russia and had an extensive discussions on military cooperation with his Russian counterpart. Two months after, North Korea conducted the second attempt of its spy satellite launching.

Korea will always respond resolutely to any unlawful provocations by North Korea, maintaining strong defence and deterrence capability. In the meantime, we are still open to inter-Korean dialogue to discuss alleviation of tensions on the Korean Peninsula and ways to make the Korean Peninsula a denuclearized, peaceful and prosperous place.

Malaysia has always been a strong supporter for our efforts to achieve complete denuclearization of North Korea. When North Korea launched ICBMs in February and July, the government of Malaysia issued strong statements condemning North Korea, urging Pyongyang to cease its nuclear and missile programs. These messages are exactly what we have to send in order to



demonstrate our united will to denuclearize North Korea.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In fact, today's seminar is the very last one of a number of events that our Embassy has prepared this year. That is why I feel obligated to brief you all those developments and achievements this year. I hope this will help generate productive discussion today.

Last but not least, I am pleased that we have new onboarding members to MASK Network today. I welcome all those new members, and once again thank chairman of ISIS and all MASK members for your continued support for Korea.

Terima Kasih. /END/