

The Launch of the Malaysian Scholars on Korea Network (MASK)
Opening Remarks by HE Dr Yu Hyun-Seok, Ambassador, Republic of Korea
Tuesday, December 5, 2017, The Westin Kuala Lumpur

Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa
Chairman and Chief Executive, ISIS Malaysia

Dato' Ganesan Sivaguruthan
Undersecretary of East Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dato' Steven Wong
Deputy Chief Executive, ISIS Malaysia

Dr Kim Hyung Jong
Professor of Yonsei University

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentleman,

First of all, let me extend my sincere thanks to Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa and staff of ISIS Malaysia for co-organising this significant event. I would like to recognise and appreciate ISIS's leading role in establishing the MASK Network. I would also like to appreciate Professor Kim Hyung Jong who came a long way from Korea for this seminar.

Today's launch of the Malaysian Scholars of the Korean Network is very meaningful. We all know that there are only small number of Korean specialists in Malaysia. That's the main reason that we need this kind of network. By establishing network among them we can create synergy on studies of Korea related subject. Through this network, I hope you to actively share your knowledge and experience about Korea among yourselves and also strengthen your network with Korean scholars, like Dr. Kim.

It is my sincere hope that the MASK Network will play an active role as the bridge of friendship and understanding between Malaysia and Korea. The Korean government and the Embassy are very pleased to support you in this regards and we will continue to look for opportunities to do so.

Distinguished participants,

Today, we will also have a seminar under the theme "Searching for a Malaysia-Korea Comprehensive Strategic Partnership". I should note that this seminar comes at a right time.

Recently, Korean President Moon Jae-in unveiled Korea's "New Southern Policy", in order to strengthen its relations with ASEAN countries envisaging a future Korea-ASEAN community characterised by "the three P's". This refers to a community of "People"; "Peace", contributing to ASEAN peace through security cooperation, and "Prosperity", in which all parties benefit from reciprocal economic cooperation. In this regards, the role of Korean experts in ASEAN become more critical and there will be more demands for experts like you for various joint projects.

In closing, I hope that all of you will exchange your creative and constructive ideas for a stronger bilateral ties between our two countries. I also hope that the MASK network will be expanded and strengthened in the future.

Thank you! Terima kasih.