

**Statement by Mr. Joe Hyun-Gue**

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**“14<sup>th</sup> Round Table Meeting”**

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**Honorable Chair and Co-Chair,**

**Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

On behalf of Korea Development Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Korean government development wing, it gives me great honor to be here today at the ‘14<sup>th</sup> Round Table Meeting’ which is the highest forum for policy dialogue between Bhutan and its development partners.

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

Firstly, I would like to begin by extending my sincere gratitude to the Royal Government of Bhutan for its close cooperation with Korea. My heartiest congratulations for the remarkable development achievements it has made in recent years and this dialogue provides an opportunity for all development partners to discuss their development cooperation with Bhutan and identify areas of cooperation.

This year marks the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of the bilateral ties between Bhutan and Korea and the Korean government is proud to continue its long-standing relationship to advance the socio-economic development of the country. I believe that through dedication and hard work, the people of Bhutan will be able to touch the apex of development in every sector in line with its 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and national priorities.

"No development without peace, and no peace without development and human rights."

This message from the late Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations reminds us that peace and human rights are both the preconditions and the core values of development.

I would like to introduce about KOICA's core values in line with the four pillars of People, Peace, Prosperity and Planet.

This 4P constructs an important part of our government's foreign policy strategy and that of KOICA.

First, People at the center of the development of society;

Second, Peace as a precondition for a sustainable society, economy, and environment;

Third, Prosperity ensured by economic growth;

Fourth, Planet that should be protected for future generations,

The Korean government recognizes Bhutan as one of its vital partners in the region and endeavors to expand exchanges in diverse fields such as skill development, climate change, human resource development and international trade promotion.

KOICA has been supporting Bhutan to secure human resources for their development and sharing technical skills by building institutional capacities for Bhutan's sustainable socio-economic development.

Korea recognizes crucial roles that human resources can play in the process of national development through its experience. Till date, KOICA has dispatched about 500 Bhutanese government officials to Korea to receive hands-on training in diverse fields such as Education, Health, Agriculture, ICT, Governance to enhance their respective institutions for the enhancement of Bhutan's policy making.

Under this scheme, KOICA is pleased to support 'Industry Oriented TVET' capacity building program which will kick-off this year aiming to increase the number of youth and adults with relevant skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

aligned with SDG 4 of quality education. Also, KOICA has been supporting Bhutan's film industry for the last 5 years which is closely linked with the national identity as well as tourism promotion.

Furthermore, KOICA will broaden its collaboration with Bhutan by starting World Friends Korea volunteer program this year. The volunteers are known to have great roles in development exchanges as they render services in fields such as Skill training, Health, Sport, Agriculture, ICT, etc. We expect that the first group of KOICA volunteers will land in Bhutan in November. In addition, KOICA will open its liaison office in Thimphu by the end of this year based on its bilateral agreement.

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to mention that Korea wishes to expand its collaboration with Bhutan in the field of combating climate change. As Bhutan commits to remain carbon neutral and places highest priority to preserve its environment.

For your information, from this year Korea Green Technology Center will implement 'Thimphu City Low carbon Transportation project by using Bus Information System' with the support from World Bank and Green Climate Fund respectively.

**Ladies & gentlemen,**

Finally, I would like to conclude my speech by thanking the Co-Chair, H.E. Lyongpo Dr. Tandi Dorji, Minister of Foreign Affairs for hosting this exceedingly significant forum and giving us the opportunity to share our development experiences.

KOICA will be happy to support Bhutan towards transitioning from LDC to Middle Income Country. Once again, on behalf of Korean government, I would like to reaffirm that KOICA stands ready to serve as a development partner contributing to accomplishment of SDGs in achieving Bhutan's 12<sup>th</sup> FYP and development goals for the happiness of its people. Tashi Delek(Thank you).