

# Keynote Speech for the Seminar on

## “The Role of Korea and Thailand in Regional Cooperation”\*

**H.E. Mr. Chung Tae-Dong**  
**The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea**

The Institute of East Asian Studies of a Thammasat University and Korea Association of South East Asia Studies. Two Institutes made this conference possible. I understand that we had the first seminar of this nature November last year. At which time, we had Thai-Korea relations in the 90<sup>th</sup>, the major topic of theme of seminar and seminar I heard was very successful. Someone of you might know that I have been in town in Bangkok for 5 month as Ambassador, of course I've visited this great kingdom many times in the past ever since my first visit in 1961 on my way back home from my study in the Netherlands. That time I stayed right in this hotel “Imperial Hotel” because before the hotel was fired and then since my first visit 61. I've been coming and going for number of reasons mostly to attend the conference of the nature of academic conference here. First time to stand like this in this hotel back in 61. I stay this hotel for 2 nights. I can remember exactly which quarter but I was told that this hotel was fired, anyway this second seminar which being held at this hotel of my appreciate 61 would the topic of Role of Thailand and Korea and Regional Cooperation was the great expectation of another success. As we all knows the cold war area has virtually ended and now,

we have new world order emerging on the bases of the short principle of a democracy and freedom and market economy and this new world order. We also see mutual and international community and Western and Eastern society. That's multi-polarization which can against be translated into what we call the concept of regionalism so under this multipolarization under this new area regionalism. We also see mutual land that is every country in the world more committed to economic development rather than ecological confrontation more to the trade liberalization rather than constructing barriers between countries for trading more secure natural and regional security more over democratization. Now this trend emerging new world order. We see vitalized international activity this South East Asia and also East Asia that is APEC and Asian. In fact, this regional cooperation has been intensified very short period in the past, the Asia Pacific region as I said development of APEC that is based on the open of regionalism again in the South East Asia, Asian is based on the open of regionalism so this trend of regionalism or you might call open regionalism is the wind that we have to live with under this trend and wind. The Korea and Thailand see a great prospect of cooperation. Korea which is

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\* บันทึกและเรียบเรียงโดย ประไพพิศ พุพงษ์

medium size and nearly indenturizing country in the Asia Pacific region can play a bridge role between two parts of the Pacific and between developed countries. Thailand is leading country in the Asian and in the South East Asia. Fastest growing economy can play a leading role in contribution to the establishment of more economically developed community more peaceful and secure and prosper the world in the part of the word. So the siminar we had last year, the seminar we are having this year have view of a great meaning in that we, Thailand and Korea can do more in cooperating each other for the benefit of both countries and both people. So that we can make more contribution to the proper and stable

and happy world of ours this we can handle during the seminar through various the academic and scholastic discussions on the bases of papers presented by distinguished professors and participating distinguished scholars in the discussions.

And I would like to comment before closing my brief remarks of welcome Korean Embassy here in Thailand is the most happy in honor to sponsor in someway such a program of a great meaning. We did support this program last year and we ask for this program this year and we hope we can continue to support such a program to flourish year to come.

**Thank you very much.**

