



## ASEAN MONTHLY MONITORING 2024



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## ASEAN-KOREA

### Secretary-General of ASEAN visit to SK Telecom T.um, an ICT Museum in Seoul:

Secretary-General of ASEAN Dr. Kao Kim Hourn this afternoon visited the Technology Utopia (T.um) Museum, which is an ICT museum that gives the wide array of technologies experience such as the 5G autonomous vehicles, drones, flying cars, artificial intelligence (AI), big data, virtual reality, augmented reality, robots, Internet of Things, and 3D printing. Dr. Kao was also briefed on the journey to a new future with infinite possibilities where industries such as the energy, urban agriculture and healthcare are transformed with the AI services.

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### Secretary-General of ASEAN meets with the Minister of Science and ICT of Republic of Korea:

Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, met with the Minister of Science and ICT of Republic of ROK, H.E. Mr. Lee Jong Ho. Both sides underscored the importance of advancing digital transformation to address the challenges encountered by the ASEAN Member States (AMS). They also discussed the ASEAN-ROK Digital Innovation Flagship (KADIF) Project to bolster the cooperation and collaboration in the digital sector between ASEAN and ROK. Both sides exchanged views on the possibility for ROK’s assistance on the capacity-building programmes to support the negotiation and implementation of the ASEAN DEFA. They also looked forward to strengthen ongoing collaborations between ASEAN-ROK, under the ASEAN Digital Senior Officials’ Meeting (ADGSOM) and the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI).

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### Secretary-General of ASEAN meets with Vice-Chairman and CEO of the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI):

Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, met with the Vice-Chairman and CEO of the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI), Mr. Kim Chang-beom, in Seoul, ROK, this morning. The two sides discussed and explored new ideas on how to advance ASEAN-Korea economic relations, particularly in bringing more tangible benefits for the peoples of ASEAN and the ROK. Dr. Kao also shared ASEAN’s economic outlook as well as encouraged more trade and investment from the Republic of Korea to ASEAN.

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## KOREA-ASEAN MEMBER STATES (AMS) S&T UPDATES

### Korea to continue its Contributions in ASEAN, Malaysia Security via KASI--Ambassador:

Korea remains committed to its role and contribution to the security of Southeast Asia and Malaysia through the Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI), said its ambassador to Malaysia Yeo Seung-Bae.

He said KASI and the broader Indo-Pacific Strategy would continue to be part of the republic’s foreign policy despite the political turmoil in Seoul after the ruling party, the People Power Party (PPP), only managed to secure 108 of the 300 seats in the National Assembly elections held on April 10.



“Even though the name, or rather the brand of this policy, changed after the government changed in Seoul. Still, we are to maintain the interest and focus on improving our relations with ASEAN in general, and individual countries such as Malaysia, in particular.

“Hence, our foreign policy will continue. We realised very well the strategic significance of this region, and in the case, Malaysia, as it is located at the very heart of the ASEAN region and that is why we are working very hard on our bilateral relations and strategic partnerships with Malaysia,” he said to *Bernama*

He said this to comment on the momentum of Korea’s foreign policy, especially the Indo-Pacific Strategy after the republic’s President Yoon Suk Yeol-led PPP election rout, when met on the side line of the Defence Services Asia (DSA) and National Security (NATSEC) Asia 2024, here, today.

KASI is a specifically tailored regional policy, within the framework of the Indo-Pacific Strategy, which builds on the existing solid partnership with ASEAN countries in trade, economy and social-cultural sectors towards fostering a more comprehensive partnership which also encompasses cooperation in security, both traditional and non-traditional, as well as future and emerging areas.

On another note, Yeo said that Korea is in the works to offer an industrial collaboration package, based on the basic agreement between Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) and Defence Ministry, which aims to enable Malaysia to enhance its national defence industry.

Without divulging further, he said a ‘big package’ which is deemed beneficial for both Korea and Malaysia’s military-industrial complex is to be expected soon.

“Both sides are now discussing an agreement which includes technology transfers and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) cooperation. Through this package, Korea hopes to facilitate Malaysia develop its own defence industry and the industry’s economy in general,” he said.

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#### [PM suggest Samsung to see Vietnam as Strategic Manufacturing, Export Base:](#)

Prime Minister Phạm Minh Chính received Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Samsung Electronics Park Hark-kyu in Hanoi on Thursday, calling on the firm from the Republic of Korea (RoK) to view Vietnam as a strategic manufacturing and export base.

The government leader applauded Samsung’s efforts and determination while doing business in Vietnam.

The host and guest noted with satisfaction that the Vietnam - RoK comprehensive strategic partnership is growing strongly, political trust between the two countries unceasingly enhanced, and co-operation in various areas flourishing, especially in politics, economy, culture, and people-to-people exchanges, which form an important foundation for Samsung to expand investment in Vietnam.

PM Chính affirmed that the Vietnamese Government always attaches importance to improving the investment climate and pledges to create favourable conditions for long-term operations of foreign enterprises.



It will continue providing optimal conditions for the projects of Samsung to operate fruitfully and develop sustainably in Vietnam in the spirit of harmonising interests and sharing risks, he stated.

For his part, Park noted Samsung has invested US\$22.4 billion in Vietnam so far and plans to add about \$1 billion to its investment in the Southeast Asian country annually.

Aside from research, development, manufacturing, and export of electronic and high-technology products, the group has also been investing in supporting industries and manpower training for Vietnamese companies, and helping local firms to engage in its production and supply chain, he said.

Samsung hopes to continue developing to contribute to Vietnam’s foreign trade and economic growth, the CFO added.

Appreciating Samsung’s building of an R&D centre and participation in manpower training in Vietnam, PM Chính asked the group to coordinate closely to effectively run the training centres based at the National Innovation Centre (NIC), step up cooperation to turn digital technology enterprises of Vietnam into partners in its ecosystem, increase investment in and expand the R&D centre, and boost assistance for start-up, innovation, and manpower training in the country.

He also welcomed Samsung’s production and business plan, calling on it to continue helping Vietnam further improve domestic companies’ capacity so that they can join in Samsung’s supply chain more effectively.

Samsung should continue seeing Vietnam as a strategic base for manufacturing and exporting its key products to international markets, particularly when the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), the EU - Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA), and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) already took effect, PM Chính suggested.

Agreeing with his host, Park spoke highly of Vietnam’s investment and business climate as well as the PM’s readiness to listen to and assist enterprises, adding Samsung will continue standing side by side with the country on the development path.

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[Deputy PM pledges Facilitation of RoK Corporation’s Operation in Vietnam:](#)

Deputy Prime Minister Le Minh Khai received in Hanoi on May 10 Lee Sang-Woon, Vice Chairman and COO of Hyosung Corporation – the third biggest investor from Republic of Korea (RoK) in Vietnam after Samsung and LG, pledging to facilitate the conglomerate’s operation in the country.

Appreciating the cooperative relationship between the two nations’ governments, Khai highlighted the crucial role of Korean investors in Vietnam, especially global-scale conglomerates like Hyosung.

The Deputy PM acknowledged the corporation’s effective investment and business activities in various sectors such as industry, construction, trade, IT, as well as its corporate social responsibility efforts. Since 2007, the group has channelled more than 4 billion USD into Vietnam.

For his part, Lee said nearly all of Hyosung’s factories in the RoK have been transferred to Vietnam. Most recently, the conglomerate has invested in a carbon fiber plant worth 730 million



USD in the southern province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau. The facility is currently the most modern of its kind in the world.

Hyosung wishes to build a made-in-Vietnam ATM manufacturing plant and a large data centre in Ho Chi Minh City's high-tech zone, he went on.

Welcoming Hyosung's expansion plans in industries involving raw materials, power systems, data centres, and biofuels, among others, the Deputy PM requested the company prioritise environmental protection, promote partnerships with Vietnamese enterprises, utilise materials that Vietnam can produce, and ensure the welfare of workers.

Taking into account Hyosung's interest in joining the modernisation of Vietnam's banking system, Khai suggested the conglomerate collaborate with the State Bank and the Ministry of Finance to discuss specific details.

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[Vietnamese Technology Enterprises are interested in Investing and doing Business in Korea:](#)

On the morning of May 10, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Information and Communications, Minister Nguyen Manh Hung had a meeting with Mr. Choi Youngsam, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Korea to Vietnam. Attending the meeting were also officials from the Korean Embassy in Vietnam and leaders of units under the Ministry of Information and Communications.

Minister of Information and Communications Nguyen Manh Hung received Korean Ambassador to Vietnam Choi Youngsam on the morning of May 10 in Hanoi. Photo: Le Anh Dung

At the reception, Minister Nguyen Manh Hung highly appreciated the development in the relationship between Vietnam and Korea in recent times, especially in the fields of information communication and digital technology. After 30 years of establishing diplomatic relations, in 2022, Vietnam and Korea were raised to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Currently, Korea is the largest direct investor in Vietnam.

In the field of information and communications, the management agencies of the two countries also carry out many cooperative activities and regularly share experiences in policy making, institution building, and organizing the annual Vietnam Digital Forum. Korea and Korea will coordinate to create conditions for businesses of the two countries to implement investment and trade cooperation.

Minister Nguyen Manh Hung informed that Vietnamese businesses are also interested in investing and doing business in Korea. On May 8, CMC Technology Group officially launched CMC Korea and opened an office in Seoul. Vietnamese digital technology businesses are making a strong transformation to bring Make in Vietnam products globally.

According to the Minister, Vietnam and Korea are entering a new level of cooperation. The two countries should promote deep cooperation in research, development, training and technology transfer, especially in fields such as digital technology, telecommunications, semiconductors, and artificial intelligence (AI).

The head of the Ministry of Information and Communications stated that although Ambassador Choi Youngsam has only been in charge for less than a year, the promotion of the ICT field between the two countries has been fruitful and has gone into depth. The Minister wants the Ambassador to act as a bridge between Korean semiconductor experts and the



Ministry of Information and Communications; training cooperation between businesses and universities; human resource training for the 4.0 industrial revolution; Promote Korean businesses to cooperate with Vietnamese technology businesses to develop 5G OpenRAN.

Minister of Information and Communications Nguyen Manh Hung hopes that during Ambassador Choi Youngsam's term, Vietnam and Korea can open up a higher level of cooperation, especially in the fields of information communication and digital technology. Photo: Le Anh Dung

Sharing the same opinion with the Minister of Information and Communications, Ambassador Choi Youngsam said that it is necessary to cooperate further and go beyond the traditional boundaries of cooperation in the field of information technology and communications to promote sustainable and balanced relations. between Vietnam and Korea. He believes that in the coming time, there will be much room to promote cooperation in this field.

The Ambassador also said that Korea will continue to seek cooperation options with Vietnam in new technologies such as OpenRAN, AI, and semiconductors. Three areas where the two countries can cooperate are technology transfer and semiconductor human resource training; Strengthen cooperation in new technologies such as 5G, 6G, radio access in coastal areas; Coordinate to support investment activities between information technology enterprises of the two countries.

"To promote cooperation between Vietnam and Korea in two sustainable and balanced directions, cooperation in the field of ICT is very important," the Ambassador emphasized.

Minister Nguyen Manh Hung assessed that in the field of ICT, the two countries have many exciting cooperation activities. The Minister believes that during the Ambassador's term, the fields of ICT and digital technology between Vietnam and Korea will have more cooperative relationships at a higher level.

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### [Naver Cloud of Korea teams up with Philippines' Converge ICT:](#)

*Naver* Cloud, the cloud computing arm of Korea's IT giant *Naver*, said Friday it has teamed up with Philippine fiber optic internet provider Converge ICT Solutions to speed up digital transformation in the Southeast Asian country.

Under the deal, the two sides agreed to collaborate to discuss ways to leverage *Naver's* expertise to deliver innovative cloud solutions for the specific needs of Filipino customers.

Converge is the fastest-growing broadband provider in the Philippines with a fiber footprint of more than 690,000 kilometers nationwide. It offers services to residential and enterprise customers.

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They plan to promote all-around cooperation for digital transformation projects in the Philippines by utilizing the Korean cloud computing firm's innovative technology capabilities related to smart cities and business capabilities such as large language model, sovereign cloud, and business-to-business communication tools.

"The Philippines is a high potential market for cloud and digital transformation business growth, and with the signing of the memorandum of understanding, we expect to contribute to the digital transformation of the Philippines," *Naver* Cloud CEO Kim Yu-won said.

#### *Smart city technologies, AI*

"We'll collaborate with Converge based on our capability in smart city technologies and localized sovereign AI, sovereign cloud implementation to secure data sovereignty," he added.

Converge will serve as *Naver's* major managed service provider partner in the Philippines. It will expand its cloud and digital transformation business for local customers by utilizing the Korean firm's cloud computing solutions.

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#### [Cambodian PM Hun Manet heading to Korea to boost Ties and expand Multi-sectoral Cooperation:](#)

Prime Minister Hun Manet and Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol are set to meet this week in Seoul, Korea. The two sides will be aiming to push bilateral relations to a new level and expand multi-sectoral cooperation.

Manet will lead a high-level Cambodian delegation on a four-day visit to Korea from Wednesday (May 15) to May 18, at the invitation of Yoon.

"During his stay, Manet will hold bilateral talks with Yoon to discuss deepening partnerships and expanding multifaceted cooperation to elevate bilateral relations to new heights," said a May 13 statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The statement noted that the two leaders will preside over the signing of a number of documents related to economic development and infrastructure.

Manet will also hold separate meetings with Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo and National Assembly speaker Kim Jin-pyo.

He will be accompanied on the trip by Deputy Prime Minister Sun Chanthol, first vice-chairman of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC), Deputy Prime Minister Sok Chenda Sophea, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, other key government officials and representatives of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, according to the press release.

Manet also plans to attend the Cambodia-Korea Business Forum and meet with representatives of several major Korean companies, as well as meet with a number of the Cambodian people residing in Korea, it said.

At present, about 50,000 Cambodians are living and working in Korea.

Manet's visit comes nearly nine months after he took office in August last year. He selected China for his first visit, about 20 days after being sworn in.





Thong Mengdavid, a lecturer at the Royal University of Phnom Penh's (RUPP) Institute for International Studies and Public Policy, noted that the bilateral relationship between Korea and Cambodia is strong, especially in terms of strategic interests, security and socio-economic progress.

He said that Korea, as a close friend and partner, has actively supported and helped Cambodia develop over the past 30 years, especially in the areas of infrastructure, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, education, health and social welfare, as well as the development of a skilled labour force.

"In addition to addressing regional issues and promoting peace, stability, and prosperity within the ASEAN framework of cooperation, the visit of Manet will strengthen bilateral ties and expand sectoral cooperation, specifically in investment and trade, social welfare, digitalisation, finance, information and communications technology (ICT)," Mengdavid told The Post on May 13.

"It will also promote vocational training, particularly for seasonal workers in Korea," he added.

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#### HCM City, Korean Province Eye Close Cooperation:

HCM City's leaders affirmed their commitment to always support and provide favourable conditions for foreign businesses, including Korean, to invest and do business in the city.

The city People's Committee and the Government of Chungcheongbuk-do Province organised the HCM City - Chungcheongbuk Trade and Investment Co-operation Forum in the Korean locality on May 13 to enhance investment and trade ties between the two sides.

Võ Văn Hoan, Deputy Chairman of the city People's Committee, told the forum that the city is prioritising digital and green transformation to achieve its sustainable development goals.

It is boosting sectors such as hi-tech, supporting industries, electronic circuit technology, semiconductor, banking, finance, information technology and logistics, he said.

Trần Phú Lữ, Director of the HCM City's Investment and Trade Promotion Centre, gave an overview of the city's environment and investment incentive policies and highlights of Resolution 98 on specific mechanisms and policies for the city's development.

Saying the city has great advantages compared to other localities, he assured the forum it is constantly reforming administrative procedures, creating an open investment environment and actively mitigating difficulties faced by investors.

Kim Myung Kyoo, Deputy Governor of Chungcheongbuk-do Province, said the city's economy has made great strides in all sectors, especially high-tech and green technology.

Chungcheongbuk-do has made great advances in four key industries – solar energy and new energy, semiconductors, biotechnology, and IT – he said.

It is ready to collaborate with HCM City to achieve their common development goals, he added.

Leaders of the two sides witnessed the signing of MoUs and contracts in airport development, logistics, trade promotion, food, healthcare, among others.



Hoan said Vietnam and Korea have had good relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1992 and subsequent upgrade of their relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2022.

The relationship between the city and Korea has recorded strong growth in recent years, especially in economics, investment, trade, and tourism. Korea ranked fourth among all countries and territories investing in the city, and their trade has enjoyed good growth, reaching US\$ 4.3 billion last year, he said.

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[MIC promotes Cooperation for AI, Semiconductor Development: Official:](#)

Seeing artificial intelligence (AI) as a key technology of the fourth Industrial Revolution and semiconductor as a spearhead industry of the nation in the next 30-50 years, the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC) has bolstered cooperation with powers to develop these domains, an official has said.

At a regular press conference of the ministry on May 13, Deputy Director of the MIC's Authority of ICT Industry and Communications Lê Nam Trung said that the ministry always accompanies and stands ready to back enterprises in the fields, ensuring that they have a sound environment to branch out their business.

The ministry will join hands with competent organisations and enterprises to train high-quality human resources, work with the US-based Nvidia Corporation, a world leader in AI computing, to build an AI establishment called Centre for Excellence, while organising international conferences to acquire experiences from leading specialists, he stressed.

Trung went on to say that Vietnam is penning a strategy to develop the semiconductor industry until 2030 with a vision to 2045, envisioning to become a centre for the semiconductor chip industry by 2030 with operation in design, packaging and testing.

The MIC was assigned to build mechanisms and supporting incentives to develop semiconductor human resources, he said, adding it will coordinate with the Ministry of Planning and Investment to carry out a project on semiconductor human resources development by 2030 with a vision to 2045, ensuring that it is in accordance with the strategy's targets.

The two ministries will study and recommend measures to encourage technology firms' engagement in human resources training, R&D activities and technology transfer, he stressed.

Regarding the semiconductor industry development strategy being built and implemented in 2024 by the MIC, Trung said the ministry charted a vision that Vietnam, with a developed semiconductor industry by 2045, will be a key link in the global supply chain.

The industry will boast harmonised infrastructure in terms of human resources, technologies, R&D, among others, making contributions to the sustainable development of the digital industry that creates a foundation for the country's digital transformation as well as the building of digital economy and digital government, he added.



## SJ Tech: Leading the Way in Battery Pack Technologies:

*How can SMEs better diversify their client base and reduce their dependence on Korean MNCs?*

It's akin to navigating a double-edged sword, often dubbed a nutcracker scenario, where smaller entities find themselves sandwiched between industry giants. Undoubtedly, the presence of these colossal players has exerted pressure on smaller enterprises. However, it has also served as a catalyst for the global expansion of Korean MNCs. I believe the symbiotic growth of both small and large corporations is intrinsic to the Korean economy.

Our journey began as a supplier to Samsung's semiconductor division. When the 1997 Asian financial crisis struck, we transitioned into a corporation and ventured into the domestic market under our indigenous brand. In Korea, SMEs can be categorized into two groups: those heavily reliant on MNCs and those, like us, who have weathered multiple crises, such as the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the 2008 global financial crisis, to establish our presence independently. While it may appear that MNCs monopolize the Korean economy in terms of volume, many SMEs have consciously chosen to distance themselves from dependency on conglomerates, thereby striking a delicate balance between these giants and our own brands.

*What opportunities does the global realignment create for Korean companies? How well positioned is Korea to benefit from these strategies?*

Last year, at the behest of the US Embassy in Korea, we conducted a market survey in the US and established an e-mobility hub in California. This serves as a pertinent case study. What struck me during my visit to the US was the presence of Chinese businessmen, despite US officials openly stating that the realignment of supply chains aimed to reduce reliance on China. Korean companies find themselves in a quandary as many have invested in the Chinese market, particularly in the battery and semiconductor sectors. However, the US IRA prohibits Korean businesses from operating in China. The overarching global trend indicates a shift in China's role from being a hub for outsourcing to a nation promoting value-added products, thereby enhancing indigenous competitiveness. Consequently, numerous companies are relocating production facilities from China to Vietnam or Mexico. While the US frames the IRA as a reshoring initiative, it's Mexico and Vietnam that reap the benefits of production relocation. Like many Korean firms, we have shifted our production to these regions and are preparing for further relocation to Mexico to facilitate smoother business operations with the US.

Korea's R&D spending accounts for 5% of its GDP, positioning the country at the forefront among the largest manufacturing nations, surpassing Japan and Germany. From your vantage point, how does the Korean ecosystem foster opportunities for manufacturing SMEs and SJ Tech to enhance their competitiveness?

Our company operates as an R&D-focused entity under the auspices of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy. We boast exceptional infrastructure, including state-of-the-art laboratories, alongside collaboration with over 1000 professors. This synergy between industry and academia is pivotal. Notably, 40% of our workforce comprises undergraduate or graduate students, showcasing our commitment to providing educational opportunities. R&D serves as a cornerstone for our company's growth. We cultivate a talent pool through dedicated training programs, supported by an internal venture team consisting of 20 personnel. Moreover, senior employees are encouraged to assume roles as professors at universities, contributing to society by imparting knowledge to start-ups and fostering skilled manpower within the industry. This



commitment underscores our dedication to societal advancement and knowledge dissemination.

*Could you elaborate on your expertise in applying new technologies, such as IoT, for smart factories and within your battery business? How do you envision these advancements shaping your portfolio?*

Our business model stands out due to its uniqueness. While proprietary technologies are typically developed by national research institutes, we take these innovations and apply them directly in practical settings. Essentially, we serve as a testbed for such original technologies, mass-producing and commercializing them into our products. Think of our company as an R&D-focused entity geared towards production. When we manufacture prototypes, we either offer them to start-ups or incorporate them into our local brand.

Our survival strategy extends beyond traditional manufacturing processes; we aim to integrate cutting-edge technologies, such as AI developed by university researchers, and commercialize them for market rollout. Personally, I'm part of the Korea Strong Small Business Association, comprising 2,000 Korean SMEs. We're engaged in a collaborative project called Hidden Champion, inspired by the industry 4.0 concept originating from Germany. Our objective is to propel these enterprises towards smart factories tailored to the Korean context, yielding tangible results.

At our Hoengseong plant in Gangwon province, our team leader is also a university professor, showcasing our collaboration with academia and industry.

I believe Korea's new model for innovation lies in its ability to go global by swiftly responding to changing mega-trends with newfound competitiveness and strategies. This adaptability positions us favorably on the international stage.

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[Vietnamese Digital Technology Businesses encouraged to penetrate Foreign Markets:](#)

There are currently over 1,500 Vietnamese digital technology enterprises which are providing services and products to foreign markets, bringing in a revenue of US\$7.5 billion.

The details were given at the regular press conference organised by the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC) on Monday.

Amidst difficulties faced by the local information technology market, businesses have sought to operate in foreign markets, which helps increasing revenues and affirming the reputation of the Make-in-Vietnam digital product brands, said Lê Nam Trung, deputy director of the MIC's Authority of ICT Industry and Communications.

"It is estimated that revenue from foreign markets contributes about 80 per cent of the total revenue of Vietnamese digital technology enterprises," said Trung.

The MIC is accelerating the progress of drafting the Law on Digital Technology Industry and policies to encourage domestic digital technology firms to do business abroad is an important part of the law, creating favourable conditions for them, he added.

The department has initiated many measures to support the digital technology businesses, such as establishing a consulting group to support local digital technology businesses penetrating foreign markets, promoting Vietnamese digital technology products abroad in general and promoting software exports in particular.



The ministry has organised six delegations to support businesses overseas and last year went to countries including Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, the UK, the US, Japan and Spain to connect up fifty Vietnamese businesses to more than 3,000 international ones.

The ministry has organised more than a hundred business to business meetings between Vietnamese information technology companies and foreign businesses.

There was good revenue growth in the sector last year. According to one survey, the export market for software and information technology services grew by about 4-8 per cent in 2023, in spite of global uncertainties. Software production revenues are estimated to reach about \$4.3 billion in 2023, with export revenues forecast to reach about \$4 billion.

### *Centre for Excellence*

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The MIC was assigned to build mechanisms and supporting incentives to develop semiconductor human resources, he said, adding it will coordinate with the Ministry of Planning and Investment to carry out a project on semiconductor human resources development by 2030 with a vision to 2045, ensuring that it is in accordance with the strategy's targets.

The two ministries will study and recommend measures to encourage technology firms' engagement in human resources training, R&D activities and technology transfer, he stressed.

Regarding the semiconductor industry development strategy being built and implemented in 2024 by the MIC, Trung said the ministry charted a vision that Vietnam, with a developed semiconductor industry by 2045, will be a key link in the global supply chain.

The industry will boast harmonised infrastructure in terms of human resources, technologies, R&D, among others, making contributions to the sustainable development of the digital industry that creates a foundation for the country's digital transformation as well as the building of digital economy and digital government, he added.

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### Korea-Vietnam's Future of Mutual Growth:

"Owing to the medical training in Korea, I've grown into a more qualified doctor, and now I have been making the most of the advanced medical technologies I learned in Korea to cure Vietnamese patients."

Dr. Nguyen Van Hung, 33, a visiting professor of radiology at the Hanoi Medical University Hospital in Hanoi, Vietnam, told Yonhap News Agency on May 12 (local time) about his medical training experience at Ajou Medical University Hospital in Suwon, Korea.

Dr. Hung was selected as one of trainees to join the medical training project for Vietnamese medical workers co-organised by the Daewoo Foundation and Ajou Medical University Hospital, and has had medical training in Korea for half a year since April last year.

Launched in 2009, the programme selects doctors, nurses and other medical professionals, and provides them with medical training in Korea for six months to one year to eventually contribute to the medical developments in Vietnam. Selected trainees receive the whole financial support for their training, including accommodation, meals and living expenses in Korea.

Dr. Hung is a cancer treatment expert who has been working as a visiting professor at Hanoi Medical University Hospital since 2020. Though he was already a creditable medical specialist, medical training in Korea was an invaluable opportunity to learn new medical knowledge he needed and enhance his skills, he said.

During his training, Dr. Hung took apprenticeship training in the Department of Radiation Oncology, following professors all day long, observing all processes, such as treatments and attending meetings.

The first benefit was that he was able to see and learn about radiation therapy equipment, and related technologies that had not been introduced in Vietnam, such as the latest linear accelerator (LINAC) and hyper-arc.

"HyperArc, a state-of-the-art device, can be applied to cases that cannot be treated by Gamma Knife, a radiation therapy device widely used in Vietnam," said Dr. Hong. "It was very great to see these new technologies already in use at Ajou Medical University Hospital." He was also deeply impressed by enthusiastic senior professors at Ajou who had devoted themselves to teaching foreign trainees, such as Professor Emeritus of Radiation Oncology Dr. Jeon Mi-Sun (68).

"I felt that I still had a lot to learn from them, and their way of communication and interaction with patients was very impressive, which I am now applying to my work," Dr. Hong added.

He also emphasised that "there were cases where professors had different views on the same patient case, but instead of sticking to their own views stubbornly, they listened to others' opinions with a humble attitude and tried different things to find the best way. All these processes taught me how to work scientifically."

Dr. Hong said that, while living in an unfamiliar foreign country, he was able to commit himself to his studies in a stable environment, thanks to the provision of accommodations and meals, living expenses, and the kindness of Korean people, including hospital staff members.

"My training in Korea has been an invaluable experience for me," Dr. Hung said. "And I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to the Daewoo Foundation, professors of Ajou Medical



University Hospital, and hospital officials for giving such a great opportunity to me and many other Vietnamese doctors."

Vietnamese medical trainees and officials of Aju Medical University Hospital pose for photos on May 12, 2024. [provided by the Aju Medical University Hospital]

Like Dr. Hung, a total of 93 Vietnamese medical workers including 67 doctors, 24 nurses and 2 medical technicians have benefited from this training programme over the past 15 years.

The programme was initiated by the proposal of the late Chairman Kim Woo-joong, founder of the Daewoo Foundation. Chairman Kim, who had a deep relationship with Vietnam, entered upon this program, recognising the importance of fostering talents for the development of the country's medical system, which was still less advanced at the time.

Under the medical training program, Vietnamese doctors have had training in various departments, including internal medicine, surgery, neurosurgery, and cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, and learned advanced techniques, such as cancer surgery, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, vascular interventional procedures, reconstructive operation and so on.

They also got the chance to participate in various activities, like medical volunteer programs in Korea organised by the medical services club of Aju Medical University Hospital.

Daewoo Foundation and Aju Medical University Hospital estimated that Vietnamese trainees have applied medical skills they learned in Korea to enhance patient care and played a meaningful role in the Vietnamese medical community.

"As the programme has continued for 15 years, not a one-time event, it has received a good response among hospitals in Vietnam, and more and more capable medical staff have applied for the program," Choi Yoon-kwon, Secretary General of the Daewoo Foundation, said.

"In the past, Korean doctors have learned advanced medical technologies from global medical powerhouses, and now our nation has also grown into a world-class medical powerhouse," he said, adding, "We hope that Vietnamese doctors will contribute significantly to the development of their nation's medical services through this project."

In addition, Daewoo Foundation and Aju Medical University Hospital have also engaged in a variety of other activities, including medical volunteer services in Vietnam, and medical services and medical expense support for foreign workers in Korea.

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### [Korean Firm plans to Invest in Kingdom's Clean Energy Sector:](#)

A delegation from Hyuckjin Energy Plant Engineering, a company that deals with environmentally specialized businesses with high-tech and ecotechnology is keen on converting Cambodia's waste into clean energy, using about 100 tonnes of waste to create 25 megawatts of electricity per day.

The proposal was extended yesterday when Sun Chanthol, Deputy Prime Minister and First Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) met with a Korean delegation from Hyuckjin Energy Plant Engineering company led by Dr Kol Pheng, President and Founder of Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia (PUC) in Phnom Penh.

During the meeting, the delegation informed Chanthol about the preliminary information of the company's investment proposal for waste-to-energy generation through recycling processes.



The delegation also took the opportunity to request additional guidelines from the Deputy Prime Minister for the effective investment project.

During the presentation, the Korean company showed that technology will be used to generate at least 25 megawatts of electricity per day by burning about 100 tonnes of waste.

In response, the Deputy Prime Minister welcomed the proposal and encouraged other companies and investors also to invest in the power projects of the Kingdom through the recycling of waste.

He also requested the company to send the full details of the project to the CDC to enable the relevant government institutions to facilitate the procedures for the investment.

It may be noted that the Kingdom has devised a four-point strategy to achieve its green energy goals. First, it is increasing domestic deployment of renewable energy, energy efficiency and electrification across buildings, transport and industry.

Secondly, the country is building a resilient grid that can adapt to changing conditions and demands. It is also working with neighbouring countries to make cross-border electricity trading a reality.

The fourth strategy is formulated around capacity building of local workers to meet the demands of the green transition.

Cambodia welcomes strategic partnerships and investments across the world to achieve its targets of 70 percent installed renewable energy capacity and a 19 percent decrease in Total Final Energy Consumption (TFEC).

The Kingdom also aims to achieve Carbon neutrality by 2050.

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#### [Korean, Cambodian Biz Communities discuss Cooperation in Fintech, Urban Development:](#)

The business communities of Korea and Cambodia on Thursday discussed bilateral cooperation in areas of cutting-edge technologies, including fintech and urban development, according to a Seoul business lobby.

The Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce co-hosted a bilateral business forum in Seoul to discuss ways to promote shared economic growth, the lobby group said.

The event was held on the occasion of a summit between leaders of the two countries held earlier in the day. At the summit, President Yoon Suk Yeol and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet agreed to establish a strategic partnership between their countries and expand cooperation across various sectors.

The forum spotlighted Cambodia's economic situation, investment environment, promising industries for investment and policy of attracting foreign capital.

Additionally, six memorandums of understanding were signed, including an agreement between the business chambers pledging to extend their cooperative ties

The National Bank of Cambodia and three Korean financial institutions, KB Kookmin Bank, Woori Bank and JB Financial Group, also signed agreements related to overseas payments.

In a congratulatory speech for the forum, Korean Industry Minister Ahn Duk-geun emphasized the need to "upgrade economic cooperation between the two countries to the next level" and





stressed cooperation should be expanded in areas such as advanced industrial technology and greenhouse gas reduction.

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#### [Pertamina, KNOC and ExxonMobil collaborate to develop CCS:](#)

State oil and gas company *Pertamina* has established strategic cooperation with Korea National Oil Corporation (KNOC) and ExxonMobil for the development of cross-border Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) between Indonesia and Korea.

Cooperation between the three parties was marked by the signing of a Framework Agreement held at the 48<sup>th</sup> Indonesia Petroleum Association (IPA) Convention & Exhibition on Wednesday May 15, 2024.

The agreement was signed by *Pertamina's* President Director, Nicke Widyawati, President & CEO, Korea National Oil Corporation (KNOC) Dong Sub Kim, and President, ExxonMobil Low Carbon Solutions, Asia Pacific, Irtiza Sayyed.

The milestone was witnessed by Acting Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy, Jason Rebholz, Representative of the Embassy of Korea Director Energy Technologies Division, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, Hong Sukyong and Deputy for Coordination of Maritime Sovereignty and Energy at the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment, Jodi Mahardi.

Through this cooperation, the three parties will implement a cooperative framework to expand CCS trans-boundary value chain collaboration and map potential collaboration, technology transfer, transport, and CO<sub>2</sub> storage locations. This is expected to support the development of CCS projects both in Indonesia and Korea.

*Pertamina* President Director, Nicke Widyawati, said that this strategic cooperation is evidence of *Pertamina's* seriousness to encourage CCS and carbon reduction program initiatives in Indonesia, including to develop the potential to store domestic and international CO<sub>2</sub> in *Pertamina's* working areas.

“The collaboration with KNOC and ExxonMobil is proof of *Pertamina's* seriousness to accelerate the energy transition and carbon reduction program in Indonesia by collaborating with international partners. The goal is to develop carbon storage in Indonesia because it has enormous carbon storage potential in the Southeast Asia region,” Nicke said.

President of ExxonMobil Low Carbon Solutions, Asia Pacific, Irtiza Sayyed said that this collaboration was carried out to accelerate the emission reduction program, “Together with *Pertamina*, KNOC and the support of the Indonesian Government, we continue to encourage emission reduction programs as well as to encourage economic growth in Indonesia and throughout the region.”

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#### [Leaders of Korea, Cambodia establish Bilateral Strategic Partnership:](#)

Leaders of Korea and Cambodia adopted a joint statement on establishing a bilateral strategic partnership during their summit in Seoul.

During the meeting on Thursday, President Yoon Suk Yeol expressed his anticipation that the strategic partnership will help to expand bilateral cooperation on trade and investment, and in future-oriented areas such as the digital environment.



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet said his country's economic growth and development cannot be separated from Korea's contributions, thanking the country for its contributions to the economy, infrastructure, healthcare and education, among many other areas.

The decision to form the strategic partnership marks the first time that the two sides have given a title to their diplomatic relations.

Under the strategic partnership, Seoul and Phnom Penh have agreed to expand cooperation in politics, security, defence, intellectual property, economy, finance, culture, and the environment.

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[Joint Statement on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Cambodia:](#)

At the invitation of His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as the ROK), Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, paid an official visit to the ROK from 15 to 18 May 2024.

During the summit meeting, the two leaders expressed satisfaction with the significant development in the relations between the ROK and Cambodia across all fields, including political, economic, social and cultural areas and people-to-people exchanges, since the re-establishment of diplomatic relations in 1997 which was initiated by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, then Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

With full confidence in the future of the bilateral partnership, both sides agreed to elevate bilateral relations between the ROK and Cambodia to a Strategic Partnership and decided to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the following areas.

#### POLITICAL, SECURITY AND DEFENSE COOPERATION

1. Both sides expressed satisfaction with frequent high-level exchanges and communications between the executive and legislative branches of the two countries. Both sides agreed to sustain and increase this positive momentum by continuing to facilitate high-level visits in various sectors, and emphasized the importance of parliamentary diplomacy for mutual support in the region and the world.
2. Both sides welcomed the successful outcomes of the Fifth Meeting of the Cambodia-Korea Joint Commission in Phnom Penh on 31 October 2023, and agreed to hold the Joint Commission on a regular basis to deepen dialogue on bilateral cooperation as well as regional and international issues of common interest.
3. Both sides highly valued close cooperation in the defense area between the ROK and Cambodia and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral defense cooperation through various activities, including but not limited to, formulating and implementing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), exchanging visits by senior officials, engaging in education and training, enhancing counter-terrorism cooperation, and conducting exercises. The Cambodian side welcomed the ROK Navy's plan to conduct its first port call in Cambodia this year. Both sides expressed hope to utilize this visit as an opportunity to strengthen cooperation between the navies of the two countries.
4. Both sides noted with satisfaction robust cooperation in the field of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) through the UN-ROK-Cambodia Triangular Partnership



Program. Both sides agreed to continue enhancing and expanding cooperation in this field to promote international peace and security. The ROK side expressed its willingness to continue working closely with the Cambodian side to strengthen Cambodia's PKO capabilities and provide assistance to the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, including training, technical support and equipment.

5. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation among relevant authorities to achieve a more comprehensive and coordinated response to the growing transnational crimes, including drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, cybercrimes and scam operations, in accordance with the relevant MoUs and documents between the two countries, as applicable. Both sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation on maritime safety and security to promote peace and stability in the region.

## ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION

6. Both sides expressed satisfaction with strong economic cooperation between the ROK and Cambodia, particularly the upward trend in Korean investment in Cambodia and the post-pandemic recovery in bilateral trade. Both sides agreed to leverage bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation mechanisms, including the Korea-Cambodia Free Trade Agreement (KCFTA), the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA), and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Both sides welcomed the successful convening of the first meeting of the KCFTA Joint Committee, co-chaired by the Minister of Commerce of Cambodia and the Minister for Trade of the ROK, on 13 May 2024 in the ROK, and agreed to continue discussions to initiate negotiations on trade in services and investment, aiming to further enhance bilateral trade and investment. Both sides also agreed to enhance cooperation in digital trade and intellectual property for innovation-driven sustainable development.

7. Recognizing the importance of economic security and supply chain resilience for the sustainable development of both countries, both sides agreed to seek ways to deepen economic cooperation and strengthen supply chains.

8. Both sides agreed to jointly promote Korean investment in Cambodia, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises and export-oriented high-tech industries, such as automobile assembly, electronics, electrical equipment and machinery. In an effort to promote bilateral investment, both sides agreed to establish a regular consultation channel between the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) and the ROK Embassy to Cambodia to create a more favorable investment environment for Korean businesses. In this connection, both sides concurred to foster a close collaboration between the CDC and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the ROK, the ROK Embassy to Cambodia and the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency to explore the possibility of setting up the Cambodia-ROK Special Economic Zone to further facilitate and attract investment projects from the ROK to Cambodia.

9. Both sides expressed satisfaction with robust financial cooperation between the ROK and Cambodia including Korean investments in 15 financial institutions in Cambodia and agreed to pursue additional cooperation in this sector focusing on the application of digital finance.

10. Both sides took note of the significant progress of the securities market in Cambodia whereas the Cambodia Securities Exchange is a joint venture between the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Cambodia and the Korea Exchange. Both sides agreed to enhance the cooperation between the securities regulators of the two countries, especially in the area of digital securities, fintech and sustainable bonds.



11. Both sides highly appreciated strong cooperation in the agricultural sector with numerous projects ongoing in Cambodia. Both sides agreed to continue the cooperative partnership in this field, to foster agri-trade as well as to enhance the transfer of farming techniques and technology, improvement of agricultural infrastructure and fostering the food processing industry. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress of the establishment of the TASK Center for Food Processing Sector.

12. Both sides commended the successful operation of the Employment Permit System and Seasonal Worker Program and agreed to further strengthen labor cooperation. The Cambodian side conveyed deep appreciation to the ROK government for recruiting and providing support for Cambodian workers in the ROK, as well as the technical support for the establishment of Occupational Safety and Health Training (OSH) Centre in Cambodia. The Cambodian side also looked forward to the continued support from the ROK, including the increase in quota and job opportunities for Cambodian workers. The ROK side expressed gratitude for the valuable contributions of Cambodian workers to the Korean economy.

13. Both sides expressed their commitment to cooperating and collaborating for the mutual development of the digital sector in both countries, particularly in the fields of advanced and emerging technologies, through various means. In this regard, both sides welcomed the establishment of the National Incubation Center of Cambodia (NICC) in March 2024, funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), which will contribute to the acceleration of Cambodia's digital economy and digital transformation.

14. Both sides emphasized the importance of cultivating the development of future generation equipped with industrial and digital skills to drive industrial transformation and innovation. Against this backdrop, both sides welcomed the launch of KOICA's new grant program that aims to empower young people with industrial and ICT skills through technical and vocational training, quality STEM education and fellowship programs.

15. Recognizing science, technology, and innovation (STI) as a critical and evolving sector pivotal for socio-economic advancement, both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in this sector. In particular, the Cambodian side emphasized the importance of research infrastructure development, STI parks, scholarships for graduate study in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, collaborative research and development, and technology transfer. Both sides welcomed KOICA's ongoing project in Cambodia, entitled "Building Capacity and Establishing Enabling Environment in ICT Majors of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)."

## SOCIO-CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

16. Both sides noted with great satisfaction the steady recovery in the level of people-to-people exchanges between the two countries in the post-pandemic period. Both sides agreed to step up efforts to further enhance bilateral cooperation and partnerships in the tourism sector through various mechanisms.

17. Both sides emphasized the importance of robust cooperation in education between the two countries, which predates the resumption of diplomatic relations in 1997. The Cambodian side expressed appreciation to the ROK side for reaffirming its commitment to the continued support for human capital development in Cambodia, which is in line with Cambodia's Pentagonal Strategy-Phase I.



18. Both sides highly valued the sister-city relations between the cities and provinces of the two countries, and encouraged other cities and provinces to consider establishing similar sister-city relationships to promote economic development and people-to-people ties.

19. Both sides recognized the importance of smart cities which ensure greener, and more inclusive, livable and sustainable urban environments. To enhance people's life quality, both sides agreed to share experiences, best practices and innovative solutions in building smart, sustainable and resilient cities.

20. The Cambodian side expressed sincere appreciation to the ROK side for actively supporting cultural heritage conservation and restoration efforts in Cambodia, including the Chorm Temple in the Preah Pithu Temple Group and the Terrace of the Elephants at Angkor Thom. Both sides looked forward to engaging in joint efforts to preserve Angkor Wat under the MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Cultural Heritage, signed by the APSARA National Authority and the ROK Cultural Heritage Administration in February 2024. Both sides recognized the importance of capacity building in cultural development and expressed their commitment to the continued cooperation in the field of cultural education and development projects, including the project for establishing arts education platform in Cambodia and the PEACE Education project.

21. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the protection of each other's nationals in their respective countries according to their applicable laws. Both sides encouraged the early conclusion of the Treaty on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons between the two countries and the effective implementation of the MoU on Mutual Cooperation between the Ministries of Justice of the two countries, signed on 12 December 2018.

22. Both sides expressed their willingness to further enhance cooperation in addressing environmental degradation and climate change, emphasizing collaborative efforts such as the Clean Air for Sustainable ASEAN (CASA) project. Recognizing the urgency of mitigating climate change, both sides agreed to expedite the conclusion of negotiations on an MoU between the ROK's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy and Cambodia's Ministry of Environment to implement Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Both sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation through regional and global partnerships, including the Carbon Free Energy (CFE) Initiative led by the ROK.

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

23. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the current state of development cooperation between the two countries. The Cambodian side expressed appreciation to the people and government of the ROK for contributing to Cambodia's socio-economic development through the continuous provision of development assistance in close cooperation and consultation with the government of Cambodia.

24. The ROK side acknowledged Cambodia as an important strategic partner in development cooperation and reiterated the commitment to continuing its support by implementing the ROK's Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Cambodia 2021-2025. The strategy focuses on four key areas - transport, water management and health/hygiene, education and rural development - in line with Cambodia's National Strategic Development Plan and priorities in promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Both sides agreed to formulate the next phase of the CPS when deemed appropriate.



25. Both sides welcomed the renewal of the Framework Arrangement Concerning Loans from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund for the years 2022 through 2030, for KRW loans not exceeding the equivalent of USD 3 billion, and agreed to continue working closely together to develop Cambodia's economic and social infrastructure. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the ongoing Cambodia-Korea Friendship Bridge Project, a symbol of the two countries' ever-growing friendship, and agreed to expedite the implementation of the project.

26. Both sides noted with satisfaction active cooperation in the healthcare sector and looked forward to the continued mutual support to successfully implement the projects, as stated in the Agreed Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Cambodia-Korea Joint Commission, held in Phnom Penh on 31 October 2023 and other projects as agreed by both sides.

27. Both sides agreed to continue to enhance cooperation in supporting Cambodia's civil service sector management and development as well as public administration reform, under the MoU on Human Resource Management in the Civil Service signed by the Ministry of Civil Service of Cambodia and the Ministry of Personnel Management of the ROK in October 2021. Additionally, both sides agreed to enhance cooperation under ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matter Plus Three (ACCSM+3) framework. The ROK side expressed its support for the Cambodia Royal School of Administration Capacity Building Project 2025-2029, which KOICA has already studied and approved.

#### REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

28. Reaffirming the importance of international peace and security, free trade, rule of law, democracy, human rights and freedom of navigation and overflight, both sides agreed to continue and to expand cooperation in international fora on global and regional issues. Both sides also reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate in the United Nations and other international and multilateral organizations.

29. Both sides called on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to abide by all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and stressed the importance of peaceful dialogue in order to realize lasting peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula. To this end, the Cambodian side welcomed the ROK's Audacious Initiative, which aims to achieve a denuclearized, peaceful and prosperous Korean Peninsula that contributes to peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

30. The Cambodian side expressed support for the ROK's proposal to establish the ASEAN-ROK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2024, celebrating the 35th anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations. In addition, the Cambodian side welcomed the Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI), and looked forward to the implementation of its eight core lines for mutual benefits, while upholding ASEAN Centrality.

31. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening ASEAN-ROK cooperation in order to foster peace, stability and prosperity in the region. The ROK side also reiterated its support for the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), which provides a guide for ASEAN's engagement with external partners by undertaking practical and mutually beneficial cooperation on the four priority areas identified in the AOIP through ASEAN-led mechanisms. The Cambodian side also welcomed the ROK's commitment to a free, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, and noted that the AOIP and the ROK's Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) share relevant fundamental principles in promoting peace and cooperation.



32. The Cambodian side commended the ROK's steadfast support for ASEAN Community building efforts, particularly by increasing its annual contribution to the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund from USD 16 million in 2022 to USD 32 million by 2027. The ROK side expressed its commitment to contributing to the implementation of priorities under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and supporting the works of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC).

33. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the positive progress of the Mekong-ROK Cooperation, which has reinforced their commitment to promoting inclusive and sustainable development in the Mekong sub-region, and commended the successful organization of the 11th Mekong-ROK Business Forum, co-chaired by Cambodia and the ROK, last November in Seoul. The Cambodian side highly appreciated the ROK for closely collaborating with Mekong countries under the Mekong-ROK Action Plan 2021-2025, and the ROK's commitment to doubling its annual contribution to the Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund from USD 5 million in 2022 to USD 10 million by 2027.

During the visit, both sides signed six documents, namely (1) Protocol Amending the Framework Arrangement concerning Loans from the EDCF for the years 2022 through 2026, (2) Memorandum of Understanding on Investment Cooperation, (3) Memorandum of Understanding on Reinforced Intellectual Property Cooperation, (4) Letter of Intent to Strengthen Cooperation on Narcotics Control, (5) Memorandum of Understanding on Skilled and Professional Talent Development Program, and (6) Loan Agreement for the Rural Roads Improvement Project IV.

Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet expressed his sincere appreciation to the ROK government for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and the Cambodian delegation, and invited President Yoon Suk Yeol to pay a state visit to Cambodia at a mutually convenient time.

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[CCC President & Royal Group Chairman Neak Oknha Kith Meng highlights enhanced Business Ties at Cambodia-Korea Business Forum 2024:](#)

*Cambodia Investment Review*

The 2024 Cambodia-Korea Business Forum, co-organized by the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce and the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry, recently brought together leaders and business executives to discuss and strengthen business ties and investment opportunities between Cambodia and Korea. Kith Meng, Chairman of the Royal Group of Companies, played a central role in the event, emphasizing the historical and growing economic partnership between the two nations.

In his welcoming speech, Kith Meng expressed his sincere respect to distinguished guests, including Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of Cambodia, and H.E. Ahn Dukgeun, Minister of Trade, Industry & Energy of the Republic of Korea. He highlighted the significance of the forum in fostering discussions on potential areas for collaboration, aiming to deepen economic relations and mutual prosperity.

*Shared Historical Bonds and Vision for the Future*

Kith Meng noted the shared history of Cambodia and Korea, both countries having rebuilt their nations from the devastation of past wars. "Many Koreans may well see Cambodia at the



development stage where The Republic of Korea was in the 1980s,” Meng stated, drawing parallels between the two countries’ economic trajectories. He underscored the cultural pride and active participation in regional peace and development as common traits that bind the two nations.

He also emphasized the strategic partnership emerging from their shared vision of broader economic and social cooperation. “We are becoming closer from the success of our current trade and investment dealings, and our nations will become strategic partners because of our common vision,” he said.

The forum built upon the existing strong foundation of Cambodia-Korea relations. Kith Meng expressed pride in the history of successful Cambodia-Korea Business Forums, including those presided over by former Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen and past Korean Presidents. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Hun Manet, the current forum marks a new chapter in bilateral relations, symbolizing a renewed commitment to fostering an environment of trust and confidence for investors.

During the forum, six memoranda of understanding (MoU) were exchanged, reflecting the depth of cooperation between the two nations. These included:

1. Protocol Amending the Framework Arrangement concerning Loans from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) for the years 2022 until 2026.
2. MoU on Reinforced Intellectual Property Cooperation.
3. Letter of Intent to Strengthen Cooperation on Narcotics Control.
4. MoU on the Skilled and Professional Talent Development Programme.
5. Loan Agreement for the Rural Roads Improvement Project IV.
6. Agreement on investment cooperation.

These agreements aim to enhance bilateral relations and exchanges, supporting each other’s growth and development. Kith Meng praised the robust financial cooperation between Cambodia and Korea, noting Korean investments in 15 financial institutions in Cambodia and the potential for additional cooperation in digital finance.

### *Opportunities for Mutual Growth*

Kith Meng highlighted the significant benefits Korean businesses could offer Cambodia, such as technological excellence in semi-conductors, LED, EV, AI, broadband, and 6G technology. He also mentioned Korea’s heavy industrial infrastructure, new industries like biotech and alternative energies, speed to market, and financial liquidity as key assets for supporting Cambodia’s economic growth.

In return, Kith Meng pointed out Cambodia’s strategic location in Southeast Asia, its young and hardworking workforce, and its rich natural resources, including gold, copper, and valuable stones. He emphasized Cambodia’s US dollar income base, which presents low currency risk for investors.

This year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and ASEAN. Meng highlighted the importance of the recently introduced Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative, which underscores Korea’s dedication to deepening its partnership with ASEAN.

Addressing concerns about safety, Kith Meng reassured potential investors, stating, “There have been some misrepresented media about Cambodia not being safe, which is incorrect.





Come see for yourself and listen to your fellow Korean companies already operating in Cambodia about its positive and safe environment.”

He also encouraged attendees to exchange business cards and seize the opportunity to connect with Cambodian business partners. “Invest in these opportunities to secure your strategic advantage in the Southeast Asian market,” he urged, wishing all participants good health and continued success.

The forum concluded with a strong message of mutual cooperation and a shared vision for future prosperity between Cambodia and Korea. Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Hun Manet and the continued commitment of business leaders like Kith Meng, the Cambodia-Korea partnership is poised for significant growth and mutual benefit.

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#### [BRIN and KAERI finalized Cyclotron Development Plan:](#)

The cyclotron is an accelerator-based technology that is currently continuing to develop and is much needed in various fields, including industry and health. The Indonesian Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) continues to strive to develop this technology, including the construction of 13 MeV and 30 MeV Cyclotron facilities which will soon be built in Indonesia.

This was conveyed by the Head of the Research Center for Nuclear Materials and Radioactive Waste Technology (PRTBNLR) who represented the Head of the BRIN Nuclear Energy Research Organization, Syaiful Bakhri in a Technical Meeting with the Korea Atomic Agency Research Institute (KAERI) in the B.J. Science and Technology (KST) Area. Habibie Serpong, Wednesday (15/5).

"The technical meeting with KAERI was held to share experience, knowledge and technology, especially in developing radioisotope and radiopharmaceutical production facilities based on the 13 MeV and 30 MeV Cyclotron facilities which will soon be built in Indonesia," said Syaiful.

In the meeting entitled "Technical Assistance for the Development of Radioisotope and Radiopharmaceutical Production Facilities Based on the 13 MeV and 30 MeV Cyclotrons in Indonesia", Syaiful also invited KAERI to utilize BRIN facilities in the form of research collaboration.

"Not only providing technical assistance, we also invite KAERI to collaborate in utilizing the facilities we have, including cyclotron facilities. "We hope that we can make good use of, for example, neutron production, especially for research in the field of radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals," he hoped.

The resource person at this meeting, expert from KAERI Dr. Seung Dae Yang, said that they already have long experience in Cyclotron technology, including developing facilities.

"We have had experience related to this technology for 38 years. "It's been a long time, so we believe we can help Indonesia in planning to build this facility," he said.

"Apart from discussing cyclotrons, radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals, we also discussed the development of building facilities, such as design and safety and security," added Yang.

#### *BRIN Accelerator Program, DECY-13 and 30 MeV Cyclotron*

Regarding the cyclotron development plan, BRIN has formed a collaboration platform for cyclotron accelerators and their use involving 3 parties, namely Accelerator Technology (PRTA



- ORTN), Radioisotope Technology (PRTRRB - ORTN), and Nuclear Beam Technology (PRTABN - ORTN). It is hoped that this collaboration platform can support the use of accelerator technology in the future, especially for health and industry.

Head of the BRIN Accelerator Technology Research Center (PRTA), Muhammad Rifai said that currently PRTA is implementing the development of the Development of Experimental Cyclotron in Yogyakarta 13 MeV (DECY-13) project and is initiating the construction of a 30 MeV Cyclotron in Serpong for advanced research and applications.

"BRIN will build a 30 MeV cyclotron in accordance with the mandate of the head of BRIN. Now we have a collaboration platform scheme consisting of several research centers working together. "The three of us will start this program and will gather other users in this program," explained Rifai.

Rifai also emphasized that PRTA is focused on developing cyclotron machine parts. "Our research center will focus on developing cyclotron machines. Meanwhile, for this 30 MeV cyclotron, we have to build a machine, direct the particle beam, build a building and all the facilities inside, both research and application facilities. "Therefore, we need assistance and experience from KAERI to complete this program," he said.

#### *Accelerator-Based Nuclear Research*

Nuclear technology research developed by the Nuclear Energy Research Organization (ORTN) - BRIN is based on two technologies, namely Reactor-based and Accelerator-based. Some potential research and development of accelerator-based nuclear technology include radioisotope production, neutron source research, nuclear transmutation and sterilization.

Head of the Radioisotope, Radiopharmaceutical and Bio dosimetry Technology Research Center (PRTRRB) - BRIN, Tita Puspitasari conveyed the vision of the accelerator program related to the development of radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals, namely providing the latest radioisotope research, development and production technology for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes, building new radioisotope research and development facilities on national and international references, contributing to university research by advancing nuclear medicine and radioisotope technology, as well as helping and elevating local nuclear medicine to the international level.

"The construction of a cyclotron is very important, because it is motivated by the urgent need in the field of nuclear medicine. "There are 30 nuclear medicine centers in Indonesia, but only 3 hospitals use small cyclotrons, 18 MeV, especially for heart scanning and cancer detection, all of them are located in Jakarta," said Tita.

"Compared to the population of Indonesia, this number is very small, therefore we really need this technology," stressed Tita.

Head of the Research Center for Nuclear Beam Analysis Technology (PRTABN) - BRIN, Abu Khalid Rivai, said that the task of his research center is to bridge between nuclear facilities, namely reactors and accelerators, and their users. "Our main task is to send nuclear radiation and particle beams to the user for use," he explained.

Abu further explained that PRTABN's role in the DECY-13 cyclotron program was as the holder of the technology for utilizing proton beams. Meanwhile, the 30 MeV cyclotron is the holder of technology for utilizing neutron beams, including neutron imaging technology and neutron



activation analysis technology, as well as technology for converting proton beams into neutron beams.

According to Abu, BRIN's nuclear facilities, which were originally reactor-based, have now been transformed into accelerator-based research and technology.

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[Vietnam-RoK foster Multifaceted Cooperation:](#)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the People's Committee of the southern province of Binh Duong organised the "Meet Korea 2024" programme on Friday in the lead up to the 32nd anniversary of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and the Republic of Korea (RoK).

The event, attended by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyễn Minh Hằng, Korean Ambassador Choi Youngsam, leaders from southern localities and many Korean firms operating in Vietnam, was an opportunity for the two sides to evaluate their cooperation outcomes in the past 32 years, and discuss orientations for future development.

In her speech, Hằng stressed that the Vietnamese Government treasures contributions made by foreign investors, including those from the RoK, to the socio-economic development of Vietnam.

She expressed her hope that the two countries will continue enhancing cooperation across the areas of hi-tech electronic device production, semiconductor, tourism and people-to-people exchange.

Discussions at the event are expected to contribute to the sustainable development and prosperity of the two nations, she underlined.

Over the past more than three decades, the bilateral ties have borne fruit in various domains, particularly economy. The East Asian country is now a leading economic partner of Vietnam as it has poured a total of US\$86 billion in investment into the country. Their cooperative relations have also thrived in tourism, labour and trade, among others.

According to Chairman of the Binh Duong provincial People's Committee Võ Văn Minh, investors from 65 countries and territories have registered nearly \$40.6 billion in some 4,300 projects in the province, with the RoK being the 5th largest with nearly 800 projects worth \$3.4 billion.

The province commits to creating the best conditions for Korean firms who run business in the locality, he said, adding it prioritises investors boasting considerable experience in the advanced technology industry, semiconductors, and state-of-the-art electronic products.

On this occasion, Binh Duong signed several cooperation deals with its Korean partners.

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### Korea waits for the Continuation of the Development of Hydrogen Ships for Marine Waste Management from Indonesia:

The Hydrogen Ship Technology Center at Pusan National University, Korea, hopes for the continuation of the implementation of the marine waste management ship development project with the Indonesian Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment and operation of the Korea-Indonesia Maritime Friendly Technology Cooperation Center has been signed by both parties in June 2023.

"We continue to coordinate with Indonesia for further developments," said Head of Research at the Pusan National University Hydrogen Ship Technology Center, Kim Jeong-hyeon, to a delegation of Indonesian journalists in Busan, Friday, May 17.

Launching ANTARA, Saturday, May 18, in a meeting with the delegation of journalists participating in the Indonesia Next Generation Journalist Network on Korea program organized by the Korea Foundation and the Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia, Kim highlighted the technological advantages of hydrogen-powered ships for the management of marine debris which has become a global issue.

By developing the environmentally friendly ship, later the waste and plastic in the sea can be filtered and then processed to become hydrogen or other energy sources directly on board.

The ship is targeted to be able to process up to five tons of marine waste per day, and can operate for 100 days for one cruising period.

"Later on, this ship will be built and operated by the Indonesian KKP," said Kim.

In a separate written statement, the Director of the Center for Hydrogen Ship Technology at Pusan National University emphasized Korea's efforts to change the paradigm of handling marine debris, which aims not only to solve environmental problems but also to foster stronger relationships with Indonesia.

Currently, the Pusan National University Hydrogen Ship Technology Center is building a marine waste treatment vessel which is targeted to start operating in 2026.

Based on data from the United Nations (UNEP) Environmental Program, Indonesia is the second largest plastic waste producing country after China.

Every year there are 3.2 million tons of plastic waste that are not managed, and 1.29 million tons of them end up at sea.

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### Minister Basuki persuaded the acceleration of Korean Water Project in IKN (the New Indonesian Capital):

Minister of Public Works and Public Housing (PUPR) Basuki Hadimuljono encouraged the acceleration of the Net Zero Water Supply Infrastructure Project in the Indonesian capital, while attending a bilateral meeting with Korea.

"Currently, the PUPR Ministry has built a SPAM project with a capacity of 300 liters per second in IKN. "The SPAM will soon be operational in July 2024. However, we still need the support of the Korean Government to accelerate collaboration on the development of other SPAMs in IKN this year," said Basuki when meeting with Deputy Minister for Water Management Policy at the Korean Ministry of Environment, Jae-Heyon Park, in Badung, Bali., Sunday.



Pak Bas, Basuki's nickname, thanked the Korean Government for the support and collaboration between Indonesia and Korea which is currently underway.

Currently, he said, the Net Zero Water Supply Infrastructure Project at IKN Nusantara is in the process of completing the DED.

As stated in the MOU which will be signed by the Director General of Human Settlements and the Vice President of the K-Water Global Business Division, the project is targeted to begin construction in 2024.

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[K-Water, Cambodia open the Tap on Cooperation in Resource Management:](#)

The chief of the Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water) met with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet to discuss cooperation in managing the Southeast Asian country's water resources, said the state-run utility.

The meeting, which took place at Lotte Hotel in central Seoul on Friday, came after the Cambodian prime minister and President Yoon Suk Yeol agreed to a bilateral strategic partnership between their two countries on Thursday during Manet's four-day state visit to Korea from Wednesday to Saturday.

"As Korea and Cambodia established a strategic partnership, we are pleased to have this opportunity to further expand our cooperation in water resources, energy and urban [management] sectors," said K-water CEO Yun Seogdae.

"Based on K-water's water management capabilities, we hope to contribute to Cambodia's sustainable development and open up a new waterway for friendship and cooperation for both countries."

During the meeting, Yun suggested expanding joint efforts in integrated water management and putting forward a plan to resolve the water management issue in the Mekong River.

According to K-water, Manet expressed strong interest in the comprehensive water management plan, and requested active participation by the Korean company.

Moreover, Yun and Manet agreed to extend the ongoing collaboration in the establishment of a nationwide water management masterplan for Cambodia and a smart water management system in Phnom Penh into other areas, including a water circulation system as well as energy and urban management.

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[Minister Delegate: Korea considers Cambodia the Most Favourable Country for Investment among ASEAN Members:](#)

Korea believes that Cambodia is the most favorable country for investment among the 10 ASEAN member states.

Delegate Minister Jean François Tan spoke at the press conference on Saturday night (May 18) on the outcomes of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet's visit to the Republic of Korea from May 15 to 18, 2024.

Jean-François Tan highlighted that while Korean companies have long invested in Cambodia, the Royal Government of Cambodia is now seeking a new wave of desirable Korean



investments. Specifically, they target small and medium Korean enterprises and high-tech industries.

Jean-François Tan outlined key reasons why Cambodia is currently a favourable destination for investment:

1. **Economic Growth:** All international financial institutions predict that 2024 Cambodia will achieve the highest economic growth among the 10 ASEAN countries, potentially exceeding 6%.
2. **Workforce Quality:** Korean investors and business leaders have praised Cambodian workers' resilience, good character, and strong work ethic. The presence of a young, energetic workforce makes Cambodia an attractive investment destination.
3. **Political Stability:** Investors require political stability and lasting peace to avoid financial and time losses. Cambodia has enjoyed real political stability and lasting peace in recent years, ensuring a secure environment for investment.
4. **Infrastructure Development:** Cambodia has seen significant infrastructure improvements, including new international airports in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh, the motorway, and the upcoming Funan Techo canal.
5. **Trade Agreements:** Cambodia benefits from the simultaneous implementation of multiple free trade agreements, such as the Cambodia-Korea Free Trade Agreement and the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement (RCEP).

During their current visit, Premier Hun Manet and Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol discussed bilateral cooperation in politics, economy, trade and infrastructure development, defence and security, and other areas.

As a result, the two leaders agreed to strengthen and expand existing good cooperation and upgrade the relationship to a "strategic partnership" to promote closer and more prosperous cooperation.

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### [50 Years of Bilateral Ties, RI and Korea increase Collaboration in Diverse Fields:](#)

Korea ranked seventh in terms of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Indonesia, with investment recorded at US\$2.5 billion in 2023, an increase of more than \$200 million (8.7 percent), compared with 2022. Entering the fifth decade of bilateral ties between Korea and Indonesia, trade between the two nations reached \$20.8 billion in 2023.

"I am confident that our collaboration will further increase and develop in the future. I hope that Minister Ahn can help strengthen and deepen collaboration in the area of industry, trade and energy transition between Indonesia and Korea," Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto said in a meeting with Korea's Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) Minister Ahn Duk Geun in Seoul on May 22.

Earlier reports said that several agreements were reached at the second Joint Committee on Economic Cooperation (JCEC) meeting held in Seoul in July 2023. They included collaboration on the development of nickel derivatives for electric vehicle (EV) battery production, providing Indonesia's fruit with market access to Korea, the expansion of Lotte's petrochemical plant, the construction of Krakatau Steel's steel cluster—Posco, the expansion of market access for Indonesian micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through Korea's e-platform and also collaboration on the energy transition and mitigation of global climate change covering



collaboration on carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology, hydrogen/ammonia energy production and the development of a hydropower plant.

“I am also proud and would like to congratulate [Airlangga] on being awarded a Doctor Honoris Causa degree by Gyeongsang National University [GNU]. It is hoped that as an alumnus, Minister Airlangga will play more of a role in promoting collaboration with Korea,” said Minister Ahn.

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[Seoul Declaration calls for Int'l Cooperation to address AI Opportunities and Challenges:](#)

World leaders attended the virtual AI Seoul Summit to discuss ways to foster cooperation and dialogue on artificial intelligence (AI). Hosted by Korea and the United Kingdom in the face of evolving AI technology and its unprecedented impact on economies, the event saw numerous countries adopt the Seoul Declaration. The move comes as they seek to prepare for the broad spectrum of opportunities and challenges AI technology may present.

President Yoon Suk Yeol and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak co-chaired the AI Seoul Summit, addressing challenges and opportunities the new technology is bringing to the world.

After the virtual gathering Tuesday night, President Yoon introduced the Seoul Declaration adopted during a virtual leaders' session.

[President Yoon Suk Yeol (Korean-English)]

"The Seoul Declaration calls for interoperable complementary measures for safe and reliable AI development. It also highlights the significance of corporate responsibilities for those who develop and distribute Artificial General Intelligence."

The Seoul Declaration calls for cross-border and cross-disciplinary collaboration to embrace the broad spectrum of possibilities the use of AI presents going forward.

[President Yoon Suk Yeol (Korean-English)]

"The declaration specifies that countries will promote global cooperation on AI safety research by establishing networks between their AI safety institutes."

Tuesday's session was attended by leaders from the Group of Seven(G7) countries as well as Singapore and Australia, along with representatives from the United Nations, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the European Union.

The Seoul event also brought together tech industry leaders, including Elon Musk, Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong, as well as representatives from ChatGPT maker OpenAI, Google, Microsoft and Meta.

The participants agreed that AI safety, innovation and inclusivity are interrelated goals and that it is important to encompass these priorities in international discussions on AI governance.

The participants will further discuss their collaboration at the upcoming AI Action Summit to be held in France in early 2025.

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### Visit of the Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs to Korea:

The Co-ordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Indonesia, Airlangga Hartarto, was on an official visit to Korea on May 20, 2024. He met with several Korean government officials and industrialists to deepen the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

#### *Proposal for Collaboration*

During his visit, Minister Airlangga met the Korean Minister of Trade, Industry, and Energy (MOTIE) Ahn Duk Geun in Seoul on May 22. They discussed the possibility of collaboration between the two countries regarding industry, trade, and the energy transition. Minister Airlangga pointed out the ongoing collaboration projects between Korea and Indonesia. It includes the construction of the Krakatau Steel-Posco steel cluster and expanding the Lotte petrochemical plant. Korea has also expressed keen interest in developing nuclear power plants through the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI). The KAERI is renowned for its small modular reactor (SMR) technology, which produces a lower carbon footprint than a conventional reactor. Small-scale modular nuclear reactors have recently helped provide electricity in remote or isolated areas.

#### *Electric Vehicles*

Minister Airlangga emphasised the importance of electric vehicles (EVs) and noted that the Indonesian government is formulating an EV roadmap and providing various incentives to improve the country's EV ecosystem. In a post on X, he said, "The Indonesian government is also pushing for several agreements that were made at the previous Joint Committee Meeting on Economic Cooperation (JCEC) which were supported by Hyundai such as Hyundai Motor's investment in Indonesian electric vehicles, including finished car factories, combined battery cell factories, battery pack factories, and others."

#### *Meeting with Industrialists*

During his visit, Minister Airlangga met with several business leaders of Korea. He discussed the automotive, semiconductor, electronics, and hydrogen fuel development sectors. He met with the CEO of LG CNS, Shingyoon Hyun. He appreciated their Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Sinar Mas Group to jointly establish a data centre management and information and communication technology (ICT) by the end of 2024. He also met with the CEO of Hyundai. Minister Airlangga remarked: "Continuing the meeting with the CEO of Hyundai Motor Group Mr. Euisun Chung, on this occasion he appreciated Hyundai's efforts which are actively involved in various hydrogen projects globally, starting from Indonesia with Waste-to-Hydrogen, to utilizing local community waste."

#### *Honourary Doctorate*

The Gyeongsang National University (GNU), Korea, conferred an honorary doctorate on Minister Airlangga in appreciation of his contribution to the strategic partnership between Indonesia and Korea. The Minister's efforts at regularly meeting with Korean businessmen and the Korean government to advance the economy, investment, trade, and education are well known. The President of GNU, Kwon Soon-Ki, conferred the prestigious award on the





Minister, following which the latter delivered a speech focusing on the Golden Indonesia Vision 2045. Minister Airlangga hoped that the honorary doctorate would bring global recognition to Indonesia's economic development and encourage GNU alumni to work towards further building bilateral relations.

Indonesia and Korea established bilateral relations nearly fifty years ago. Korea is the 7th largest investor in Indonesia. The total bilateral trade value between the countries was USD 20.8 billion in 2023. The close relationship between Korea and Indonesia regarding economy, investment, and trade will get a significant boost with such high-level meetings and acknowledgment of contributions.

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[RSUI and Korean Company collaborate on AI-based Health Services:](#)

The University of Indonesia Hospital (RSUI) collaborated with Kakao Healthcare Corp and Waycen Healthcare Corp to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for AI-based health services.

The event was attended by Mr. Kang Do-hyun, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Science and ICT of Korea, RSUI board of directors, representatives of the UI Cooperation Directorate, as well as RSUI specialist doctors.

With this collaboration in health sector based on modern technology and AI, it is hoped that it can improve the quality of public health services for the society and bring significant progress in the terms of health, technology and education.

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[Science Ministry-Led Trade Delegation tours ASEAN Nations to explore Digital Trade:](#)

The science ministry said it has sent a public-private trade delegation centered around exports of digital goods and services to Southeast Asia to expand Korea's digital exports to the region.

The delegation, led by Second Vice Science Minister Kang Do-hyun and comprising of representatives of 30 Korean digital-related firms, visited Indonesia on Monday and met with Satvinder Singh, deputy secretary general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to discuss progress of the Korea-ASEAN Digital Innovation Flagship project.

The US\$30 million project, announced at the Korea-ASEAN summit last year, is a five-year initiative aimed at narrowing the digital divide and supporting the economic growth of ASEAN states.

The delegation also held a business partnership event in Indonesia to connect Korean companies to local buyers, and secured 22 export deals and memorandum of understandings, according to the ministry.

The group plans to travel to Vietnam on Thursday to host more events to foster exports of Korean digital companies.

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[Korea provides High-tech Mobile Mixing Plant for Unpaved Road improvement in the Lao PDR:](#)

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) of the Republic of Korea has given a mobile mixing plant worth more than US\$4 million to the Lao government to assist with unpaved road improvement.

The mobile mixing plant has been provided under an ODA project titled “Self- Reliance Project of Road Construction and Management in Laos”, which is supported by the MOLIT of the Republic of Korea.

The ODA project is implemented by the Korea Institute of Civil Engineering and Building Technology (KICT, President KIM Byung Suk) as the main organization, and the Korea Expressway Corporation and Daeshin Plant Industry Co., Ltd.

The Korea Institute of Civil Engineering and Building Technology (KICT), Laos’ Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT), Vientiane officials organised a ceremony on Tuesday to officially receive the mobile mixing plant, which will be used to speed up the unpaved road improvement in the Lao PDR.

The ceremony was chaired by the Minister of Public Works and Transport, Mr. Ngampasong Muongmany and the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Laos, Mr JUNG Yung Soo, the deputy director of Mr KIM Sang Hwan of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT). The event was also attended by managing director of Mr JEONG Chang Goo of the International Contractors Association of Korea (ICAK), Dr. KWON Soo Ahn of Korea Institute of Civil Engineering and Building Technology (KICT), CEO RYU Geun Bae of Daeshin Plant Industry Co, Ltd. on behalf of the Korean organisation.

The Lao government was represented by about 60 individuals including the Mayor of Vientiane, Mr. Atsaphangthong Siphandone. It is expected that continuous and uninterrupted ODA cooperation opportunities between Korea and Laos will yield great benefits in the years to come.

Also, the technical seminar will be organized between Korean and Lao personnel about new road construction technologies so that continuous technological exchanges between two countries will take place.

The donated equipment (listed as the DSMP-60 model) is described as the best solution for producing cement-based road construction materials.

Daeshin Plant Industries Co., Ltd. is the lead manufacturer of concrete batch plant and asphalt concrete mixing plants in Korea.

The DSMP-60 model is customized to produce cement-based road construction materials such as ready mixed concrete, lean concrete materials and soil cement materials.

It is designed for fully automatic mobile mixing, is easy to move and can quickly be installed in any location.

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Together with KAERI, BRIN strengthens Human Resources Capacity for Decontamination and Revitalization of Nuclear Facilities:

The main challenge in managing nuclear facilities apart from the capability and capacity of Human Resources (HR) is the age of nuclear facilities which are quite old. This was conveyed by the Deputy for Human Resources for Science and Technology, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Edy Giri Rachman Putra at the opening of the Decontamination and Revitalization of Nuclear Facilities Program Workshop in the B.J. Science and Technology (KST) Area. Habibie Serpong, Wednesday (29/5).

"Therefore, it is necessary to maximize the capabilities and capacity of human resources while gradually revitalizing existing facilities," he said.

Edy also said that in facing global challenges, international cooperation in the field of nuclear science and technology is very important.

"This workshop is a strategic step, providing great added value for the development of BRIN's human resources through the transfer of knowledge and technology owned by the Korea Atomic Agency Research Institute, KAERI," he explained.

"The collaboration between BRIN and KAERI is an international collaboration that brings great benefits. "KAERI's support in developing BRIN nuclear technology is of course an important event for Indonesia and Korea," he continued.

Edy hopes that collaboration can continue and develop to achieve bigger goals in the future.

In line with Edy, Head of BRIN's Nuclear Technology Research Organization (ORTN), Rohadi Awaluddin, said that the collaboration between BRIN and KAERI provided a good opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience, especially regarding decontamination and revitalization of nuclear facilities.

"Through this collaboration, we hope to be able to adopt new technology that can improve the quality of research, so that the development of nuclear technology in Indonesia can continue to innovate," he said.

KAERI Executive Vice President, In Cheol Lim said that this workshop marked an important step in collaboration between KAERI and BRIN in the use of nuclear technology, especially in the management of nuclear facilities that have reached the end of their operational period.

"With the collaboration of experienced human resources between KAERI and BRIN, it certainly has the potential to produce significant output, both in research and application of nuclear technology," he said.

On this occasion, Lim said that the most important thing in managing nuclear facilities is to keep the nuclear facilities clean during operation, and to store all liquids before carrying out decontamination.

"As long as we do that, then we can do all the decommissioning," he explained.

In this activity, the KAERI delegation also visited the BRIN nuclear facility in KST B.J. Habibie Serpong.

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