

Regional Economic Cooperation in Northeast Asia

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Foreword

The Yongpyeong Conference on Northeast Asia Economic Cooperation is the fourth such meeting since the establishment of the Northeast Asia Economic Forum and the fifth gathering in the spirit of the 1990 Changchun Conference, which offered a new vision for Northeast Asian economic cooperation and initiated the Tumen River basin project.

The processes of globalization and regionalization are unmistakable trends in the world today. Historic waves have swept away many ideological barriers, and a new "spring wind" has begun to warm the cold, tense and closed sea encircled by Japan, North and South Korea, and Russia. Although nuclear brinkmanship and a threat of war in the region now have center stage, it is still correct to say from a long-term perspective that the climate is right for lively and productive interaction among the countries of the region.

The Changchun spirit of regional economic cooperation has made possible conferences in Pyongyang, Vladivostok, and now Yongpyeong, as well as in Changchun. Even more, it has enabled unprecedented field trips to all sides of the Tumen River basin, activities that were unthinkable only five years ago.

The Yongpyeong Conference was organized and planned by the Northeast Asia Economic Forum in cooperation with the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade (KIET), the Korea Traders' Association, and the East-West Center. The Forum expresses its sincere appreciation to KIET and the Korea Traders' Association for their financial support and to the Economic Research Institute for the Japan Sea Rim for organizing the Japanese delegation, as it has done in the past. Appreciation is also extended to the East-West Center, the United Nations Development Programme, and the Asian Development Bank for their cooperation and participation. The Forum is grateful to all the participants and experts for their contributions to the conference. We also thank the Ssang Yong Business Group for its generous subsidy for conference facilities and hotel accommodations; Lucky-Goldstar Corporation for its subsidy for local transportation; Kwandong University for logistical support, including conference translations; and the Kangwon Provincial Government for hosting the conference in the beautiful city of Yongpyeong-Kangnung on the east coast of the Republic of Korea.

This volume of the Proceedings of the Yongpyeong Conference is an effort of the Northeast Asia Economic Forum and its secretariat to faithfully present the conference papers, speeches, recommendations, and statements, not only as a record of this conference but also as reference materials to be coordinated with the previous Forum conference publications. Dr. Hoil H. Choi and Professor Burnham O. Campbell have compiled and provided technical editing of this volume. Dr. Choi performed the extremely difficult task of presenting all the original manuscripts in a readable format, for which the Forum is greatly indebted. We are also grateful to Mr. In-Young Kim, research assistant at the Hawaii Asia-Pacific Institute, for his assistance in the preparation of this volume.

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