

EurAsia Initiative





Eurasia Initiative

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“The new Eurasia that is emerging will provide opportunities for new investment and jobs and will offer new possibilities for future generations.”

Keynote speech delivered by
President Park Geun-hye
International Conference on Global Cooperation
in the Era of Eurasia (Seoul, Oct. 18, 2013)

1. Concept



▪ What is the Eurasia Initiative?

- It is a cooperation initiative and a grand national strategy put forward by the Korean government to achieve sustainable prosperity and peace in Eurasia.
- The goal is to make Eurasia a Continent that is truly "One", a Continent of Creativity and a Continent of Peace together with countries in the region for a bright future of Eurasia.
- Korea aspires to build a new Eurasia of peaceful exchanges and shared prosperity by overcoming obstacles such as disconnection, isolation, tension and conflict through mutual understanding and door-opening efforts.

▪ The Three Concepts of the Eurasia Initiative

First, a Continent That Is Truly "One" - Connecting Eurasia Seamlessly

- Although it is physically a single landmass, Eurasia has long been marked by isolation and disconnection, far from being a connected and dynamic continent due to ideological, systematic and geographical barriers.
- Korea seeks to strengthen regional connectivity by linking the severed physical networks and establishing cooperation mechanisms in Eurasia, which, we hope, will lead to a vast community of Eurasian economies that encompasses Asia and Europe.



Second, a Continent of "Creativity" - Promoting Creativity as the New Growth Engine of Eurasia

- Korea is pushing ahead with its Creative Economy policy to create new markets and job opportunities by converging ICT and science and technology with people's creative ideas.

- Key nations in Eurasia are also drawing on creativity as a new engine of economic growth and are working to bring about economic innovation based on such creativity.
- We are committed to strengthening regional cooperation and bringing together individual nations' efforts to achieve creative economy so that Eurasia continues to develop and prosper.



Third, a Continent of "Peace" - Facilitating Peace and Prosperity in Eurasia through the Trust-Building Process

- Threats to peace and security are the biggest obstacles to trade and cultural exchanges, and they must be resolved first in order to usher in a new era of Eurasia.
- Peace on the Korean Peninsula is a prerequisite not only for peace in Eurasia but also the whole world. With this in mind, the Korean government is pushing ahead with the "Trust-building Process on the Korean Peninsula", the "Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative" and the "Eurasia Initiative" under its Trustpolitik policy.

- Recognizing that trust is crucial for countries in the region to work together, the Korean government is striving to establish a peaceful Korean Peninsula and make Eurasia a Continent of "Peace."



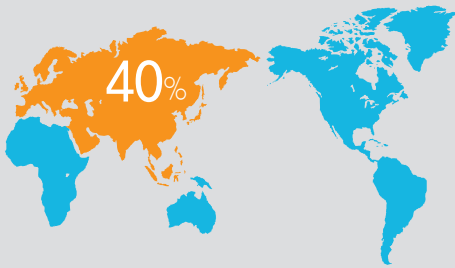


“Eastern and Western civilizations were able to develop and progress thanks to the Silk Road and the sea routes that ushered in the Age of Discovery. In order to enhance connectivity between the two regions, we shall strive to establish an inter-modal transportation & logistics network, fully utilizing railways, roads, marine transport, aviation, and the Arctic sea routes, which are newly opening up.”

Lead speech delivered by President Park Geun-hye
Second Plenary Session of the 10th ASEM Summit
(Milan, Oct. 17, 2014)

2. Background

Of the global landmass



Of the global population



GDP by region/nation (in trillion USD)

 EU		\$17.960
 China		\$9.240
 Russia		\$2.097
 India		\$1.875
 Republic of Korea		\$1.305

 1 trillion / GDP (Nominal, USD)
Source: World Bank (2013)



▪ Importance of the Eurasian Region

- Eurasia represents 40% of the world's land mass and 70% of its population and is home to most of the world's top 10 economies including the EU, China, Russia and India.
- Amidst the global economic downturn, advanced economies in the region are tapping into their cutting-edge environmental and science technologies as a new engine of growth. As the Arctic Ocean and the Arctic region rises as the next major sea lanes, the region has a huge potential for development.
- Despite the growing need for cooperation and connectivity in Eurasia, the continent lacks a regional cooperative mechanism that spans the entire continent due to isolation and disconnection that derives from the Cold War era.
- In particular, the divided Korean Peninsula remains to be the missing link in fostering exchanges and cooperation across the region. Some land-locked countries with restricted access to the ocean are also experiencing difficulties in promoting trade and attracting foreign investment.

- Moreover, some Eurasian countries that are mostly dependent on the European economy are facing new challenges due to the Eurozone crisis.
- Accordingly, Eurasia is faced with difficulties in realizing its full potential although it has the capacity to generate a synergistic effect in a variety of areas.
- Against this backdrop, the Korean government has proposed the Eurasian Initiative. This initiative aims to creatively utilize regional characteristics and the strengths of individual nations so as to lay the foundation for shared success and cooperation and bring about sustainable peace and prosperity for the global community.



"A reunified Korea will bring another miracle on the Korean Peninsula. And a unified Korea will bring us real connectivity, linking the Eurasian continent as one, from its eastern end to its western periphery."

- "Korean Night" event, World Economic Forum (Davos, Jan. 22, 2015)

▪ Importance of Cooperation between Korea and Eurasia

Since ancient times, the Eurasian continent has served as a base for Korea's interaction with the outer world, and now it is a land of limitless possibilities.



Afrasiab Mural Paintings in Uzbekistan that features diplomatic envoys from Korea in the 7th century

- In order to transform the continent into a space for communication, opening, creativity and convergence, Korea aspires to utilize its geopolitical location of being an eastern gateway to Eurasia and become a facilitator of cooperation in the region.
- An integrated transport & logistics network is being constructed across Eurasia. When the Korean Peninsula becomes firmly connected to this network, transportation costs will be saved; energy and mineral resources as well as agricultural products will be used more efficiently; and a vast single market will be established more quickly.



- Under its Creative Economy initiative, Korea is striving to converge science and technology with ICT. These efforts, if combined with other Eurasian countries' innovation initiatives, will surely deliver greater added-value by creating new markets and decent jobs.
- Meanwhile, threats to peace and security are the biggest obstacles to the shared prosperity of Eurasia. To usher in a new era in Eurasia, we must foster trust and cooperation, encourage North Korea to open up, ease tension on the Peninsula and lay the groundwork for a unified Korea.
- Such efforts will facilitate development cooperation with under-developed countries in the region such as North Korea and generate a new synergistic effect in utilizing capital, technologies and human resources. Through such work, Eurasia will provide a new momentum to the global economy and peace.

▪ Eurasia Strategy by Key Nations

Nation	Strategy
China "One Belt, One Road"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China's policy that encompasses its "Silk Road Economic Belt" and "Maritime Silk Road" initiatives • Key directions for cooperation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ① Policy coordination ② Facilities connectivity ③ Unimpeded trade ④ Financial integration ⑤ People-to-people bond
Russia "New Eastern Policy" & Eurasian Economic Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A socio-economic development plan for the Far East and Baikal region; • Launch of the Ministry for Development of the Far East; • Greater economic cooperation with the Asia-Pacific nations with the launch of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), etc.
the US New Silk Road Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initiative designed to stabilize Afghanistan by enhancing connectivity and promoting greater commerce and exchanges among Afghanistan and its five neighbors in Central Asia, India and Pakistan, etc.
Japan Central Asia + Japan Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dialogue aimed at facilitating stability and development in Central Asia by engaging in cooperation in the areas of agriculture, disaster relief, empowerment of women, anti-drug policies, border control, peaceful resolution of disputes, arms reduction, non-proliferation, etc.
India Connect Central Asia Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A policy designed to pursue stronger cooperation with 5 Central Asian nations in politics, security, multilateralism, energy and resources, health, education, culture, people-to-people exchanges and ICT

“The Korean government has been pushing ahead with the "Eurasia Initiative" to expand the infrastructure of trust in Eurasia. In particular, we will extend our transportation and energy networks beyond Northeast Asia to the reaches of Eurasia. This will not only create a new growth engine for the 21st century global economy but also, in the mid-to-long term, build trust in the political and security domains.”

Keynote address delivered by President Park Geun-hye
The 7th World Policy Conference (Seoul, Dec. 8, 2014)



3. Objective & Implementation Plan



▪ **Enhancing Connectivity for a Continent That is Truly "One"**

- Enhancing connectivity among transportation, logistics, ICT and energy networks in the region is a prerequisite for building a dynamic Eurasia.
- The Korean government will push ahead with the "Silk Road Express (SRX) project" and utilize the Arctic Ocean more so as to strengthen the connectivity of the inter-modal transportation & logistics network in the region and overcome disconnection.
- In addition, the Korean government will further expand ICT networks, such as the Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN).
- We have been actively participating in various Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM)* projects to enhance the connectivity between Asia and Europe.

*ASEM projects to enhance the connectivity between Asia and Europe cover 16 different areas, including ICT, transportation & logistics, education and human resources. The Korean government is playing a leading role particularly in TEIN, the ASEM Symposium on Eurasia Transport & Logistics Network, and the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Program.

▪ **Strengthening Partnership for a Continent of "Creativity"**

- The 21st century is an era of Creative Economy that can be achieved by combining knowledge with smart innovative technologies. We need to create new added value by combining knowledge with technologies upon the connected infrastructure of a continent that is truly "One."
- In addition, it is necessary to foster innovation and boost productivity by facilitating knowledge, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.
- Furthermore, together with Eurasian nations, the Korean government will promote a Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) in a variety of areas, including industry, trade, transportation, infrastructure, etc.
- Our efforts to build a creative continent will be focused on developing an institutional base for cooperation with key nations in Eurasia, including establishing the Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Secretariat.
- We are committed to bringing shared prosperity to both Asia and Europe by creating networks with a wide range of regional mechanisms and consultative platforms such as the Korea-Nordic Consultations (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) and the Korea-Visegrad Four Cooperation (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia).

▪ **Building Corridors of Trust and Peace on the Korean Peninsula for a Continent of "Peace"**

- To resolve conflicts, ease tension, strengthen cooperation and integration and make Eurasia more dynamic, the Korean government is striving to build trust in the region.
- To this end, we must first make sure that trust takes firm root on the Korean Peninsula, which is the eastern gate to Eurasia.

- The Korean government will build corridors for trust and peace on the Korean Peninsula through the Rajin-Khasan Logistics Project and encourage North Korea to take the path toward change.
- Along with such efforts, we will carry out multilateral economic collaboration projects such as the Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) with China, Mongolia and Russia.

▪ Shared Visions and Flagship Projects for the Eurasia Initiative

Vision	Categories		
Enhancing Connectivity	Constructing Logistics, ICT and Energy Infrastructures		
	Inter-modal Transportation & Logistics	ICT Network	Energy Network
	Carrying Out a Test-run of the Eurasia Express, Fostering Cooperation on Developing the Arctic Sea Lanes	Constructing the Trans-European Information Network (TEIN)	Increasing Energy Connectivity between Korea and Eurasia
Strengthening Partnership	Creating a New Economy by Converging Industry, Technology and Culture		
	Utilizing Science, Information and Technology	Facilitating Cultural and People-to-people Exchanges	Developing Institutional Mechanism for Cooperation
	Converging Logistics and Energy with IT	Implementing Sector-specific KSP in Such Areas as Industry, Trade, Transportation, and Infrastructure	Establishing a Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Secretariat
Fostering Trilateral Cooperation between the Two Koreas and Russia / between the Two Koreas and China	Facilitating Trust-building Process and Economic Cooperation		
	Promoting the Rajin-Khasan Logistics Project	Seeking Ways to Form Links among TKR, TSR and TCR	Developing the Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) into an International Organization

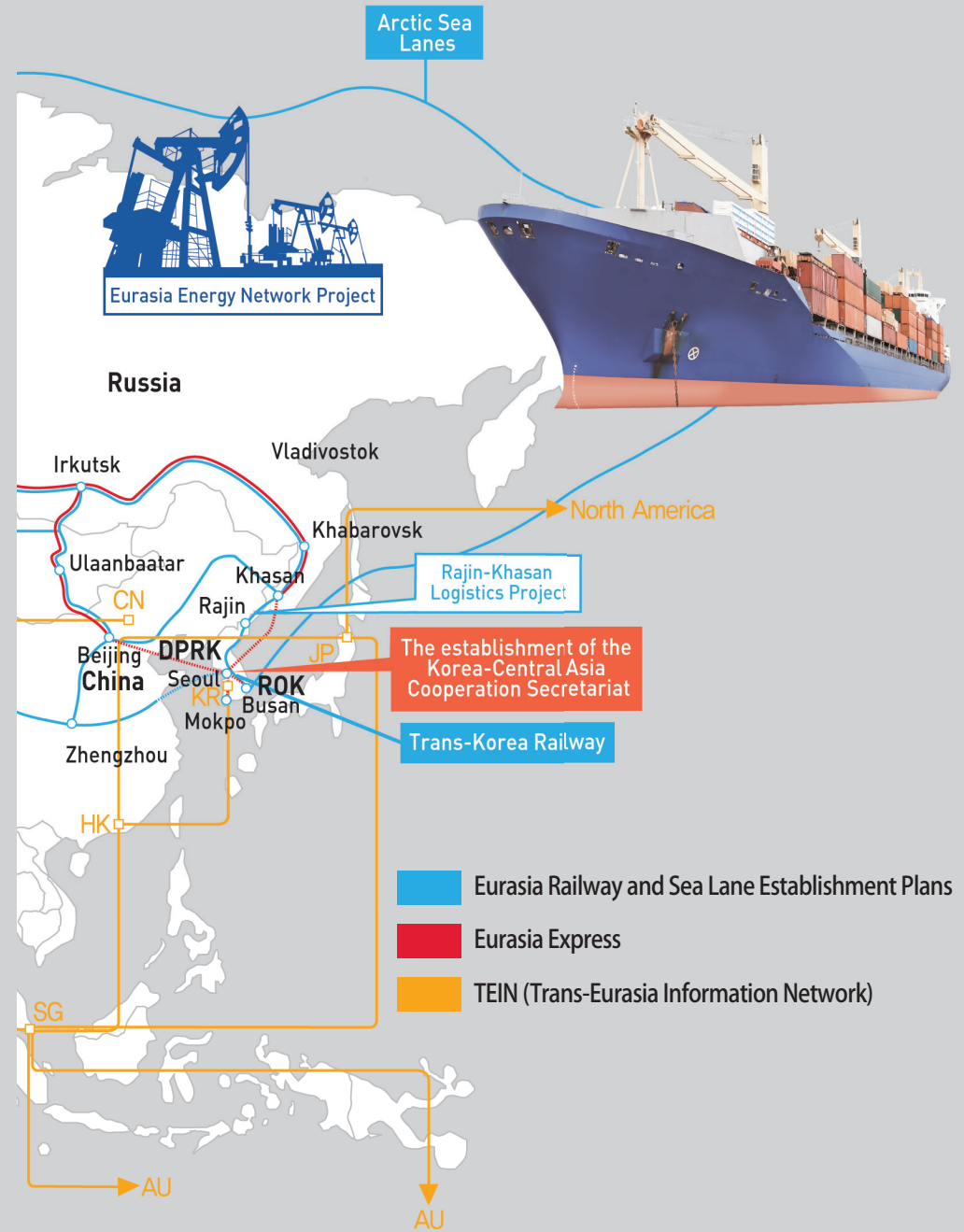
4. Major Outcomes and Current Progress

▪ Building a Broader Consensus on and Support for the Eurasia Initiative

- The Korean government has gained the international community's strong support and understanding for the Eurasia Initiative through President Park Geun-hye's speeches at the International Conference on Eurasia (Seoul, Oct. 2013), the Asia Europe Meeting (Milan, Oct. 2014) and the World Policy Conference (Seoul, Dec. 2014).
- In addition, the Korean government has secured a greater momentum for the Initiative with the President's Summit diplomacy on her visits to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan and at Korea-China and Korea-Russia Summits.
- We endeavor to gain more cooperation and support from the international community by carrying out substantive cooperation projects, including the "Eurasia Express", the "ASEM Symposium on Eurasia Transport and Logistics Network" and the establishment of the "Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Secretariat."



▪ Key Projects and Current Progress



▪ Enhancing Connectivity of Inter-Modal Transportation & Logistics, ICT and Energy Networks

Inter-Modal Transportation & Logistics

「Eurasia Express」 (Jul. 14 - Aug. 2, 2015)



- The Eurasia Express is a pilot project for the "Silk Road Express (SRX)", which will connect the Trans-Korea Railway with other Eurasian railways.
- This project will contribute greatly to the Eurasia Initiative as it is implemented under the three major themes of "Communication and Cooperation", "Future and Creativity" and "Peace and Harmony."
- The express train will make a grand journey travelling 14,400 km in total on the Trans-Siberian Railway, which is the main logistical artery between Asia and Europe, as well as the Trans-China Railway and the Trans-Mongolia Railway. This will demonstrate that people will be able to travel from Korea all the way to Europe by train once the Trans-Korea Railway is connected.



Signing Ceremony between the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Korean Railroad for the MOU on the Eurasia Express project (Seoul, Jan. 13, 2015)

- Seminars and K-Pop concerts are organized in 10 cities across five Eurasian nations as a way to promote communication, exchanges and friendship-building.
- A total of 300 people from governments, National Assembly, the business community, academia, media, culture and arts as well as the general public take part in this journey.

「Connecting the Trans-Korea Railway」

- We are currently constructing an extension at the southern end of the Gyeongwon Line to connect the Trans-Korea Railway in the hope that the Trans-Korea Railway will become linked to other railways in Eurasia.

「Connecting Railways in Eurasia」

- Korea is also striving to build consensus among countries in Eurasia on the need to enhance connectivity in the region. With the aim of connecting the Eurasia railway, the Korean government is organizing meetings on railway cooperation with our key partners including China, Kazakhstan and Russia.

「ASEM Symposium on Eurasia Transport and Logistics Network」 (Sep. 9 – 11, 2015)

- In a bid to establish an integrated logistics network across Eurasia and move our Creative Economy efforts forward, we host an ASEM Symposium on Eurasia Transport and Logistics Network in Seoul later this year.
- This conference is attended by representatives from international organizations and governments, experts on the Eurasian transportation and logistics from home and abroad.

「Network for Utilizing the Arctic Ocean」

- To make full use of the Arctic sea routes, Korea is redoubling its efforts in ensuring commercial navigation along such routes, developing human resources capable of navigating through Arctic waters, increasing its engagement in the Arctic Council and building networks with Nordic and other coastal countries in the Arctic Sea.

「Central Asia's Transportation & Logistics」

- Korea is also strengthening its shipping and logistics cooperation with key nations in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea such as Georgia and Azerbaijan.

ICT Network

「Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN)」

- The project for establishing the TEIN is currently at its fourth phase. The goal is to complete a network that encompasses 23 Asian and 34 European countries by March, 2016.
*TEIN is an international collaboration project for encouraging joint research on cutting-edge technologies such as ICT and bio-engineering between Asian and European countries. It was endorsed at the ASEM Summit in October, 2001.
- The project involves support for tele-medicine, e-learning, research on grain varieties, earth/ocean/energy exploration, disaster research and training programs for engineers.
- We are striving to increase ICT exchanges with other international research networks such as Central Asia Research and Education Network (CAREN*).
*CAREN is a research education and network that connects Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (candidate country).
- In addition to expanding physical networks, we are stepping up our efforts to broaden the scope of cooperation to application programs, services sectors, etc.

「Eurasia Geospatial Information」

- Together with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan, Korea has launched the Eurasia Geospatial Information project so as to strengthen the links between the sub-regions of Eurasia and increase the efficiency of social infrastructure development.
- Drawing on our cutting-edge spatial data technologies, we are providing support to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan so as to help them diversify their industrial base and implement land development policies.

Energy Network

- The Eurasia Initiative also involves efforts to improve the energy connectivity between Korea and Eurasia.
- Currently, a joint study is being conducted by the private sector to assess the feasibility of linking the electrical grids of Korea and Russia.



▪ Strengthening Partnership to Create a Continent of "Creativity"

Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum and its Secretariat

- The Korean government is seeking to establish a Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Secretariat with a view to institutionalizing the Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum, which has been held annually since 2007, and expanding the comprehensive partnership between Korea and five Central Asian nations.



the official visit to Korea by the President of Kyrgyzstan (Nov. 19, 2013)



the official welcoming ceremony for President Park Geun-hye on her visit to Kazakhstan (Jun. 19, 2014)



the official welcoming ceremony for President Park Geun-hye on her visit to Turkmenistan (Jun. 20, 2014)



the Korea-Tajikistan Summit (Apr. 12, 2015)



the official welcoming ceremony for the President of Turkmenistan on his visit to Seoul (Apr. 13, 2015)



the Korea-Uzbekistan Summit (May 28, 2015)

- At the 8th Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum held in June, 2014, participating countries adopted an outcome document that reflects their will to start consultations on establishing a secretariat. The countries have reaffirmed their commitment on various occasions including at Summit meetings.
- And in June 2015, a preparatory committee for establishing the secretariat was launched. The 9th Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum and a Central Asia trade and investment road show will take place in Seoul this coming October.
- The 5th Korea-Central Asia Caravan will be held in Turkmenistan in November, 2015.
- The official launch of the secretariat will take place at the 10th Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum, which will be upgraded to a ministerial meeting and held in 2016.

Bolstering Networks with a Wide Range of Regional Consultative Mechanisms

- Korea has been bolstering its network with major European nations since 2014 by engaging in a wide range of regional consultative mechanisms with such states as Nordic nations and the Visegrad Four countries (V4).
- Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden are partners of Korea in the Korea-Nordic Consultations. Korea and the five Nordic countries discuss global issues such as the Arctic matters and climate change as well as issues on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.
- The V4 consists of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, all of which are countries that underwent the transition from communism to capitalist economies. Through the Korea-V4 Cooperation, V4 countries will be able to share their experience of systematic transition with Korea and contribute to the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula.

Implementing Sector-Specific Knowledge Sharing Programs

- By launching Knowledge Sharing Programs (KSPs) in various sectors such as transportation, logistics, industry, commerce, agriculture, forestry and fisheries with Eurasian nations, Korea hopes to build an ecosystem conducive to promoting a creative economy that will revitalize the economy, boost investment and create jobs.

- More specifically, Korea is committed to carrying out KSPs with Russia and other Central Asian nations until June 2016 and beyond.

*KSPs include such programs as building agricultural and industrial clusters (with Russia), developing a road map for the Eurasia Geospatial Information (with Kazakhstan), promoting the textile industry (with Uzbekistan), establishing an e-procurement system and boosting agricultural cooperation (with Kyrgyzstan), etc.

ASEM-DUO Fellowship Program

- The ASEM-DUO Fellowship Program proposed by Korea, France and Singapore is now in the 3rd phase which runs from 2011 to 2015.

- The program has been serving as a firm foundation for fostering cooperation among the next-generation leaders of Asia and Europe. By 2014, 2,800 professors and students have benefitted from the program.



- The Korean government will play an active role in the 4th phase of the program and contribute to strengthening partnerships within Eurasia.

▪ Building Trust and Increasing Economic Cooperation to Make a Continent of "Peace"

「The Rajin-Khasan Logistics Project」

- To turn Eurasia into a Continent of "Peace", we have launched various projects to build trust and increase intra-regional economic cooperation. For instance, the Rajin-Khasan Logistics Project, a trilateral cooperation program involving the two Koreas and Russia, is currently underway.

- The leaders of Korea and Russia agreed to support the project at their Summit meeting in 2013. Also at the meeting, a Korean business consortium and the Russian Railways signed an MOU on the project.

- Since 2014, two rounds of due diligence have been conducted on the Rajin Port, and two test shipments of coal have been carried out successfully.





Coal Unloading from a train at the Rajin Port
(the 2nd pilot shipment for the Rajin-Khasan Logistics Project, Apr. 17, 2015)

「Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI)」

- As the Chair for the GTI in 2015, the Korean government will host this year's Consultative Commission meeting in Seoul and spearhead the efforts to develop GTI into an international organization with a view toward facilitating economic cooperation in Eurasia.

*GTI is an inter-governmental undertaking involving China, Korea, Mongolia, and Russia that aims to boost development and economic cooperation in Northeast Asia.

「Northeast Asian Development Bank」

- Plans for establishing a Northeast Asian Development Bank, which is expected to cater to development projects in this region and help successfully implement the Eurasia Initiative in Northeast Asia, are under discussion.

One Dream, One Eurasia

Eurasia is the cradle of ancient civilizations in the long history of the world, and the Silk Road spearheaded the progress of those civilizations through exchanges and cooperation.

In the 21st century, this continent is once again coming into the limelight.

Opening of new roads and expansion of trade are offering opportunities for new investment and jobs.

The creation of a new Eurasia is not simply an ideal and a dream but a viable goal to achieve.

A journey towards a Continent that is truly "One", a Continent of "Creativity" and a Continent of "Peace" begins at the Korean Peninsula, the eastern end of the Eurasian continent.

A Eurasia of peace and prosperity is a future that we envision under the Eurasia Initiative.

- An excerpt from speeches by President Park Geun-hye

