

# Opening Remarks

**PARK, Jae Kyu**

**President**

**Kyungnam University**

**Former ROK Minister of Unification**

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is wonderful to see you here at our 4th Peace Forum.

I'd like to express my deepest thanks to President Baba Yoshihisa of Soka University for hosting this event. I am also thankful to Vice-President Wang Shu-Yin of Chinese Culture University for working hard to further the friendship and cooperation among our three universities.

Let me also congratulate President Baba and the faculty, staff, and students of Soka University on the 50th anniversary of its foundation. For 50 years Soka University has made countless contributions to life and humanity in the pursuit of peace and a better future for mankind. In my heart I know Soka University will continue to grow and flourish.

The memories of our last forum at Jeju Island are still fresh in my mind. Our discussions on the peace in East Asia were inclusive. We shared our expertise about Korea-Japan relations, cross-Strait relations, and inter-Korean relations, among other topics. Many of the scholars who are here today were also at the forum in Jeju. Taking this opportunity, let me thank all of you once again for gathering to share your expert views and insightful thoughts.

We are here to deepen the discussions we've had at past conferences in Okinawa, Taipei, and Jeju under the theme of peace in East Asia. Regrettably, we cannot meet in person. But technology allows us to meet together online. For this, I am truly grateful.

Adding to our customary examination of peace and security issues, at today's conference we are going to discuss how to achieve human security and creatively collaborate to make the world safer and resilient as we contend with the COVID-19 pandemic. We need to understand the

ongoing situation, examine our needs, and share the experiences and perspectives of our three countries which have been successfully coping with the pandemic.

Today, I also look forward to having deeper discussion on the changing world order, regional order, and subsequent correlations.

This conference provides an opportunity to envision a peaceful and safe East Asia through our ideas on the existing and future challenges.

Through our sharing, I believe we will come to more completely understand one another's sources of distress, current needs, and points of view in this turbulent period in history. We will also be better able to find what is mutually best in our pursuit of peace.

Let me conclude by saying, 'Thank you all' for your contribution to the peace among our three countries and the cooperation among our three universities. May our friendship endure. May our health remain strong. And may we all stay safe so we can see one another again, in Taiwan, next year.

Thank you.