

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

STATEMENT

H.E. Mr. CHOI Seok-Sik
Vice Minister of Science and Technology

at the 2nd Ministerial Meeting for ITER
28 June 2005, MOSCOW

Mr. Alexander RUMYANTSEV, Head of the Russian Federal Atomic Energy Agency, and distinguished delegates,

I am honored and privileged to attend this Second Ministerial Meeting, representing the government of the Republic of Korea, and I am sure to believe that this Meeting will serve as a landmark of the ITER project.

First and foremost, I would like to commend all the efforts made by the officials of the Russian government to bring this meeting together.

Although we initiated the ITER project with a clear vision of securing clean and unlimited energy sources, we have met the continued challenges with the site selection since the first Ministerial Meeting in December 2003. But the significant agreement between the European Union and Japan on the roles of the Host and the non-Host enabled us to get together today to move on with further steps.

As I join all participants here welcoming this agreement, I would like to affirm the commitment of the Korean government to reaching a consensus among six Parties during the negotiations, and will make every effort to serve as a Party of the ITER project.

Distinguished delegates,

All the eyes of the world are on ITER as one of the most significant projects in this century, hoping for the peaceful and affluent 21st century.

As we just crossed a barrier of the site decision, there are still more left to be done ahead of us. We have to share the common understanding regarding the details of Joint Paper through working-level negotiations and implement the system of ITER by concluding the ITER Joint Implementing Agreement as soon as possible.

Last, there goes a Korean proverb, literally translated as "After rain ground hardens," which parallels with the one "After a storm comes a calm." Likewise, our partnership firms enduring hard times, and on the basis of this stronger partnership, I firmly believe that we can make the ITER project a success through consultations among six Parties.

Once again, I would like to remind you that it is time for us to make best efforts to realize the construction of ITER.

Thank you.