

Within these sectors, undoubtedly, there are also opportunities for strategic alliances, investment, technology transfers, co-production and co-promotion. There have been some examples of Canadian and Korean firms working together on projects in third countries. I believe that this is the road which we must follow if we are to ensure continued growth.

There are opportunities for growth across a range of sectors in the Canadian and Korean economies. Nonetheless, Canada, like Korea, faces many challenges. Competitiveness is the key to prosperity. I have recently launched a major initiative in Canada to address head-on the factors that affect the competitiveness of Canadian companies.

The goal is to strengthen our industrial and resource sectors and to invest in developing the talent and knowledge needed to compete in high-skill, high-wage markets. This will be the foundation for developing our strategies of the future -- strategies for investment, innovation and trade.

We want Korea to be part of our future. It is a fact of life that we are becoming more and more interdependent. We must face the realities and seize the opportunities. It will require imagination and innovation. I am confident that both our countries are up to this challenge.

Thank you.