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# DIPLOMATIC WHITE 2020 PAPER





## Minister's Message

2019 was a historic year that marked the 100th anniversary of the March First Independence Movement and the establishment of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea. A hundred years ago, our ancestors formed the Provisional Government based on the values of world peace and democratic ideals. From then on, the Republic of Korea has achieved outstanding development against all odds. The Korean government is now making all-out efforts to usher in a new century of peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula.

Although there are daunting challenges that have arisen from the increasingly unstable environment surrounding the Korean Peninsula, the government is resolutely pursuing a foreign policy that puts national interest and the people at the center.

In 2019, the momentum for peace that was created on the Korean Peninsula in 2018 ebbed and flowed and we saw rapid changes in the situation on the Korean Peninsula. During this tide of changes, Korea, based on its close coordination with the United States, played an active role in keeping the drive for dialogue among the two Koreas and the United States and managing the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

The Korean government also sought to expand cooperative diplomacy with its four neighboring countries through strategic communication and to diversify its foreign policy through the New Southern and Northern Policy. In particular, Korea successfully hosted the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit and the First Mekong-ROK Summit in November, strengthening the impetus for the New Southern Policy.

Korea also played a significant role in addressing global issues including peace and security, development, human rights, and climate change. Moreover, Korea further enlarged its diplomatic

space by deepening bilateral and multilateral cooperation on science and technology, energy, space, and the environment.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs focused on protecting the safety and lives of Koreans and advancing their interests in order to substantially improve the livelihood of our people. The ministry's Seoul headquarters and overseas missions worked hard as one team for the protection of overseas Koreans in the cases of the abduction of Koreans in Yemen and Libya and the sinking of the Hableány in Hungary.

The importance of economic diplomacy is increasing as the world faces a wave of protectionism and slowing global growth. In this context, carrying out diplomatic efforts to secure a future growth engine, Korea diversified its cooperation partners and actively participated in international economic organizations such as the G20 and APEC, where it led discussions on emerging issues such as the digital economy.

The 2020 Diplomatic White Paper is a compendium of our diplomatic efforts made in 2019, and it will mark a starting point of our journey for the next hundred years. The ministry will continue to work toward diplomacy that improves the lives of the people and stand alongside them. It will communicate with the people more closely through its newly developed mobile application and listen to their opinions in establishing and implementing foreign policy.

I ask for your continued encouragement and support for our diplomacy.

February 2021  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
**Kang Kyung-wha**



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