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**Ban Ki-Moon**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade**  
**Republic of Korea**

Ban Ki-Moon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea since January 2004, brings to his post 35 years of distinguished service both in national government and on the global stage.

Rising through the ranks of the Ministry, he has represented a divided nation that has emerged from the total destruction of war to become a thriving democracy and market economy during the past three decades. His guiding vision has been that of a peaceful Korean peninsula, playing an expanding role for peace and prosperity in the region and the world.

Minister Ban's first overseas posting was in New Delhi, where he was able to acquire first-hand experience of development issues. His bilateral assignments also include two terms at the ROK Embassy in Washington DC. In 1990-1992, he occupied one of most important and challenging positions at headquarters as Director-General of American Affairs. In 1995, he joined the top management of the Ministry as Deputy Minister for Policy Planning. He was appointed National Security Advisor to the President in 1996. He became Vice Minister in 2000. His most recent assignment was as Foreign Policy Advisor to the President.

Minister Ban has nurtured longstanding ties with UN, dating back to 1975 during his days as a staff member of the UN Division at home office. The work expanded over the years with assignments as 1st Secretary at the Permanent Observer Mission of ROK to the UN in New York, Director of the UN Division at headquarters, and Ambassador to Vienna, during which time he served as Chairman of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) in 1999.

The experience over the years provided a firm base for his instrumental role in the successful Presidency of the 56<sup>th</sup> session UN General Assembly held by the

Republic of Korea, which began on 12 September 2001. As Chef-de-Cabinet to the President of the GA in an extraordinary year for the global body in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, he put his diplomatic and leadership skills to the test in engendering the spirit of cooperation and unity among Member States. From his facilitating role in the prompt adoption by the membership of the first resolution of the session (56/1) condemning the terrorist attacks of September 11, to his initiative in amending the rules of procedure for the early election of the GA President for a smooth transition from session to session, his efforts were pivotal in turning a year that started out in crisis and confusion into one of the most productive and reform-oriented for the General Assembly.

Minister Ban has long been actively involved in issues relating to inter-Korean relations. In 1992, then as Special Advisor to the Foreign Minister, he served as Vice Chair of the South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission, following the adoption by South and North Korea of the historic Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Thirteen years later, as Foreign Minister, he played a leading role in bringing about another landmark agreement for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula with the adoption in September 2005 at the Six Party Talks of the Joint Statement on resolving the North Korean nuclear issue.

Minister Ban received his bachelor's degree in international relations from Seoul National University in 1970. In 1985, he earned a master's degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. For his exemplary service to his country, Minister Ban was twice awarded the Order of Service Merit in 1975 and 1986. For his accomplishments as an envoy, he received the Grand Decoration of Honor from the Republic of Austria in 2001. A year later, the government of Brazil bestowed the Grand Cross of Rio Blanco upon him. In September 2005, the Korea Society in New York honored him with the Van Fleet Award for his contributions to the US-ROK friendship.

Minister Ban is married to Madam Yoo Soon-taek. They first met as high school students in 1962. She has been his best partner throughout his many turns. They have one son and two daughters. /end/