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# **For A New Leap with the People**

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**Presidential Address  
on  
Korea's New Five-Year Economic Plan**

**JULY 2, 1993**



**KOREA INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY**

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**This speech was delivered by President Kim, Young-sam at the meeting in which the Korean government officially announced its Five-Year Plan for the New Economy.**

**My dear fellow Koreans:**

I am standing before you today to report to you on “The Five-Year Plan for the New Economy” just completed by our government.

I have always said to myself that the revival of our economy should be the highest priority of the new president. Therefore, preparation for such an important task has been in progress since my nomination as presidential candidate for the Democratic Liberal Party.

“The Five-Year Plan for the New Economy” that will be announced today, is a blue-print of the economic policies that will be implemented during my term in office.

**My fellow Koreans:**

Our government has implemented “The 100-Day Plan for the New Economy” up until now.

This plan was a short-term remedy designed to revitalize our economy.

Through this plan, we have lowered the domestic interest rates, and at the same time have executed government expenditures earlier than scheduled.

We have cut out wasteful components of our government budget for the purpose of financing small- and medium-sized firms’ efforts to improve their structures.

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We have substantially relaxed government regulations that had been major obstacles to our economic activity.

We have strengthened the price management of goods necessary for our daily lives.

The Blue House has taken up initiatives for thrift and savings.

Wages for government officials have been frozen.

For the first time in Korea's history, an agreement on the wage increase rate has been reached between the Federation of Korea Trade Unions and the Korea Employers' Federation.

Voluntary burden-sharing is being shouldered across all social classes.

Because of active participation by the Korean people in these efforts, signs of success are beginning to appear.

Our economy is slowly beginning to move forward.

Our exports have been rekindled.

Investments by small- and medium-sized firms have increased.

The entrepreneurial environment based on autonomy and creativity is beginning to improve.

We have learned important lessons during the first 100 days of the New Economy.

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These lessons have given us the confidence to overcome our difficulties if we make efforts with hope and conviction.

I have been assured that our people are willing to share the burdens in an effort to pursue a purposeful goal.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and the honor I feel to all Korean people.

**My dear fellow Koreans:**

“The Five-Year Plan for the New Economy” has the goal of moving our economy into the echelon of developed countries.

The Plan seeks a “New Korea” by establishing our country as a new economic power at the center of a new civilization.

The Plan is pursuing a firm economic foundation to prepare for unification of the Korean peninsula.

The successful achievement of these far-reaching goals requires the participation and wisdom of all Korean people.

Until recently, our economic growth was engineered by government control and protection.

Henceforth, however, voluntary participation and creativity will be the new impetus for economic growth in this democratic society.

Free and fair competition will maximize economic efficiency.

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The creativity of firms will be the engine propelling yet another take-off for our economy.

**My dear fellow Koreans:**

I promised in my inaugural speech that I would build a society in which honest and hard-working people prosper.

“The Five-Year Plan for the New Economy” emphasizes the attainment of a fair and just economy.

Workers should be motivated to work.

More taxes will be levied on the wealthier segments of society.

I repeat once again: the real-name financial transaction system will surely be implemented.

In order to stimulate participation and creativity, as well as to promote economic justice, we will reform our economic system in such a way that guarantees efficiency and fairness.

The reform will be carried out in a broad range of areas, including finance, money markets, and the overall economic administration.

**Dear fellow Koreans:**

“The Five-Year Plan for the New Economy” aims at stabilizing the economy, while maximizing growth potential.

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We will do our best to strengthen Korea's international competitiveness. Naturally, improving the quality of living is one of our primary goals.

All aspects of living, including housing, transportation, environment and medical services, will be improved to upgrade the quality of living for all Korean people.

I will make sure that "The Five-Year Plan for the New Economy" be promoted unanimously among all economic ministries.

I will personally attend the Economic Ministers Meeting once a month to check on the progress of the Five-Year Plan.

Moreover, I intend to listen to suggestions from the general public by organizing the "New Economy Promotion Committee" which will be comprised of specialists from the private sector.

**My dear fellow Koreans:**

To establish a sound economy, irregularities and corruption should be abolished.

Politics ought to be cleansed and the community of public officials should be made transparent.

Only when habitues of our economy become healthier will we be able to compete with developed countries.

Based on such beliefs, I have been promoting changes and reforms since my inauguration.

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To establish a cleaner community of public officials, I, the President of Korea, first made my assets public.

As the properties and assets of high-ranking government officials are being made public, a 'dignity' reform, which will substantially change our society, is also being carried out.

I have declared that I will not accept any political donations, and I have kept my word on this.

Old ties between politics and business have been severed. Along with this, we are in the process of scraping out all absurdities and leaving no untouchables, which will eliminate corruption in our society.

I intend to consistently continue promoting reform efforts until the end of my term in office.

Of course, reform efforts are accompanied by pain.

Old habits and practices are never easy to throw away.

Temptations from excessive spending and pleasure-seeking behavior, which prevailed under past corrupt systems, may exist.

Thus, dissatisfaction with or resistance to reform may arise.

However, in order to be reborn, we must endure the shell-breaking pains.

Only through pain can a healthier new life be acquired.

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**My fellow Koreans:**

For all of us, reform of the national consciousness is as important as political and economic structural reforms.

The egoism which only pursues individual happiness should be discarded. We must join together as a community and put forth strong efforts.

Workers and the management are aboard one ship moving in the same direction.

We must wholeheartedly understand that if the ship is to sink we shall all go down together.

Even as I speak, our society is being pervaded by an increasing tendency towards exclusive, collective egoism.

This collective egoism prevents us from constructing the most urgent instruments for our environment and social welfare.

Our government will help to adjust the emerging conflicts of interest between various groups.

However, disorderly conduct, which feeds collective egoism and is too costly for the innocent, as well as the use of violence, shall never be overlooked.

I will make my best efforts to live up to my responsibilities as your president, protecting the rights of Korean people to property and well-being, as well as safeguarding our country's security.

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Illegal practices will not be tolerated and will be resolutely exhumed from our society.

**My fellow Koreans:**

These days our economy is undergoing extreme hardships.

The world is experiencing severe economic war.

While the gap between developed nations and our country remains the same, the newly developing countries have nearly caught up with us.

The next 2 to 3 years is a crucial time for us to decide our country's future.

During this period, we must make new breakthroughs for Korea.

In order to be a forerunner in this era of globalization, we should improve our economic competitiveness.

We should develop science and technology and improve our ability to cope with the information era.

If this cannot be achieved, we shall be left behind in the race.

We must fervently prepare ourselves for these changes and put our strong ideas into practice.

I believe in the ability of the Korean people to achieve this goal.

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We, the Korean people, are ready to share the burdens and pains for a fair society.

With this mindset, we can achieve the “New Economy.”

I turn to all economic agents with my heartfelt sincerity:

Public officials, create a clean government by enhancing its efficiency and transparency.

Businessmen, take up a pioneering spirit to make your firms the best in the world.

Workers, become trailblazers to be the best craftsmen in your field.

Farmers, use your creativity and self-reliance to improve Korea’s agricultural competitiveness.

Households, economize and save more for your futures.

Through my fullest efforts, I will be a role model as President of Korea.

Once again, we must work industriously with all of our efforts and take on a broad perspective to create a bright future.

Together, let us give our fullest efforts to making the upcoming 21st century the Era of Korea.

Let us make a foundation for “The Creation of a New Korea” through the success of “The Five-Year Plan for the New Economy.”

Thank you.

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**Publisher:** Jang-Hee Yoo

President

Korea Institute for International Economic Policy(KIEP)

P.O. BOX 1906, Yeong-Dong

Seoul 135-619, Korea

Tel: (02) 528-5555

Fax: (02) 528-5511, 5522

This book was printed by

OROM System Co., Ltd. (Tel: 273-7011)

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