1. President Kim Dae Jung of the Republic of Korea and Mrs. Kim paid an official visit to Japan as State Guests from 7 October 1998 to 10 October 1998. During his stay in Japan, President Kim Dae Jung held a meeting with Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi of Japan. The two leaders conducted an overall review of past relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea, reaffirmed the current friendly and cooperative relations, and exchanged views on how the relations between the two countries should be in the future.

As a result of the meeting, the two leaders declared their common determination to raise to a higher dimension the close, friendly and cooperative relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea which have been built since the normalization of their relations in 1965 so as to build a new Japan-Republic of Korea partnership towards the twenty-first century.

2. The two leaders shared the view that in order for Japan and the Republic of Korea to build solid, good-neighborly and friendly relations in the twenty-first century, it was important that both countries squarely face the past and develop relations based on mutual understanding and trust.

Looking back on the relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea during this century, Prime Minister Obuchi regarded in a spirit of humility the fact of history that Japan caused, during a certain period in the past, tremendous damage and suffering to the people of the Republic of Korea through its colonial rule, and expressed his deep remorse and heartfelt apology for this fact. President Kim accepted with sincerity this statement of Prime Minister Obuchi’s recognition of history and expressed his appreciation for it. He also expressed his view that the present calls upon both countries to overcome their unfortunate history and to build a future-oriented relationship based on reconciliation as well as good-neighborly and friendly cooperation.

Further, both leaders shared the view that it was important that the peoples of both countries, the young generation in particular, deepen their understanding of history, and stressed the need to devote much attention and effort to that end.

3. The two leaders shared the recognition that Japan and the Republic of Korea, which have maintained exchanges and cooperation throughout a long history, have developed close, friendly and cooperative relations in various areas since the normalization of their relations in 1965, and that such
cooperative relations have contributed to the development of both coun-
tries. Prime Minister Obuchi expressed his admiration for the Republic of
Korea which, through the untiring efforts of its people, has achieved dra-
matic development and democratization and has grown into a prosperous
and mature democratic state. President Kim highly appreciated the role
that Japan has played for the peace and prosperity of the international
community through its security policies, foremost its exclusively defense-or-
iented policy and three non-nuclear principles under the postwar Japanese
Peace Constitution, its contributions to the global economy and its eco-
nomic assistance to developing countries, and other means. Both leaders
expressed their determination that Japan and the Republic of Korea fur-
ther develop their cooperative relationship founded on such universal prin-
ciples as freedom, democracy and the market economy, based on broad
exchanges and mutual understanding between their peoples.

4. The two leaders shared the view that there was a need to enhance the
relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea in a wide range of
areas to a balanced cooperative relationship of a higher dimension, includ-
ing in the political, security and economic areas as well as in personnel
and cultural exchanges. They also shared the view that it was extremely
important to advance the partnership between the two countries, not only
in the bilateral dimension but also for the peace and prosperity of the Asia-
Pacific region and the international community as a whole, and in exploring
in various ways to achieve a society in which individual human rights
are better respected, and a more comfortable global environment.

In order to bring the relationship between Japan and the Republic of
Korea in the twentieth century to a fitting conclusion as well as to build
and develop the partnership between the two countries as a common goal
based on true mutual understanding and cooperation, the two leaders there-
fore concurred on the following. They formulated the action plan annexed
to this Joint Declaration in order to give concrete form to this partnership.

The two leaders decided that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of their
countries would serve as the overall supervisors of this Japan-Republic of
Korea partnership and that their Governments would review regularly the
state of progress in the cooperation based on it and strengthen the coop-
eration as necessary.

5. Both leaders shared the view that consultations and dialogue between
the two countries should be further promoted in order to develop the pre-
sent Japan-Republic of Korea relationship to a higher dimension.

Based on this view, the two leaders decided to maintain and strengthen
the mutual visits and the close consultations between them, to conduct these
visits and consultations regularly and to further enhance Minister-level con-
sultations in various areas, in particular those between their Foreign Ministers.
They also decided that a gathering of Ministers of the two countries would
be held as soon as possible to provide an occasion for a free exchange of
views among the concerned Ministers responsible for policy implementation.