Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter of today's date, which reads as follows:

"I have the honour to refer to the decision of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Association of South East Asia Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN"), on the establishment of sectoral dialogue relations between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as "ROK") as proposed by the Government of ROK. In this regard, I have the honour to confirm the following understanding.

The Government of ROK and the Government of the ASEAN member countries have agreed that the sectoral dialogue relations between ASEAN and ROK should initially concentrate on the areas of trade, investment and tourism, with the possibility of expanding the relations to include other areas such as development cooperation, transfer of technology and human resources development (HRD).

In order to carry out the modalities of ASEAN-ROK sectoral dialogue relations, the Governments of ASEAN member countries and the Government of ROK have agreed to set up an ASEAN-ROK Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (ASEAN-ROK JSCC), consisting of government officials of ASEAN and ROK. ROK and ASEAN shall encourage the formation of an ASEAN-ROK Business Council, consisting of representatives from their respective private sectors.

The Government of ROK and the Governments of the ASEAN member countries have agreed that the ASEAN-ROK Sectoral Dialogue shall not in any way or in any manner whatsoever prejudice the bilateral arrangements between ROK and the individual ASEAN member countries.

Both sides have also agreed that the ASEAN-ROK Sectoral Dialogue shall be conducted on the equitable principle."

I have further the honour to confirm the foregoing on behalf of the Governments of the member countries of ASEAN and to agree that Your Excellency's letter and this letter shall be considered as constituting an agreement establishing Sectoral Dialogue Relations between ASEAN and ROK, which will enter into force on the date of this reply.

To facilitate ASEAN's sectoral dialogue relations with the ROK, ASEAN will set up an ASEAN Committee in Seoul, consisting of the Heads of Diplomatic Missions of ASEAN countries accredited to the ROK.

I avail myself of this opportunity to extend to Your Excellency the assurances of may highest consideration.

Ali Alatas

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Chairman of the 23rd ASEAN Standing Committee

H.E. Mr. Choi Ho-Joong Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea Seoul