



Korea, Pacific Islands to boost cooperation in development and Climate Change

By Online Editor

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South Korea's foreign Minister, Kim Sung-hwan

South Korea will boost trade and investment into the development of natural resources, energy and tourism in the Pacific Islands, while pledging together to join efforts in tackling climate change and other environmental problems.

Such agreements were made at the first meeting of top diplomats and representatives from Korea and 14 Pacific Island nations in Seoul on Tuesday.

Along with Korea's participation in the inter-governmental Pacific Islands Forum since 1995, the Lee Myung-bak government's launch of the "New Asia Diplomacy" campaign two year ago has placed a greater emphasis on joining hands with the Pacific Islands.

“To cope with the sweeping influence of globalization across the world, cooperation among the Asia-Pacific countries is assuming ever greater importance. It is high time for yet further

significant advances in the relations between Korea and the Pacific Island countries,” said South Korea’s Foreign Minister, Kim Sung-hwan

Kim Sung-hwan, announced that Korea will increase its development aid fund to the region from the current 300-thousand US dollars to 1-million.

And also advocating the Pacific Islands' own development projects and partnering up in addressing various social and economic issues in the region to achieve sustainable advancement.

Like many of his counterparts, the Papua New Guinean foreign minister promoted investment opportunities, namely his country's abundant resources in agriculture, fisheries, and minerals.

Korea, meanwhile, presented its vision for green growth, while urging the Pacific Islands support in its bid to host the UN Climate Change Conference next year.

“In my discussions with the foreign minister tomorrow, I’ll be talking about alternative energy, clean energy strategies like harnessing the energy in solar technology, hydro and also in the LNG, the natural gas and in the areas of biomass energy sources,” said Don Polye, Papua New Guinea’s Foreign Minister

And to prevent the initiative ending up as a one-time event, the foreign ministers decided to meet once every three years and to implement measures through working-level discussions.

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