

Title	Results of first meeting for joint study on TA with MERCOSUR	
Date	2005-05-19	Speaker

1. The first meeting for a joint study on a TA (Trade Agreement) with MERCOSUR, which is composed of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, to assess the feasibility of concluding a TA was held on May 4-5, 2005, in Asuncion, Paraguay.

\* This joint study was agreed upon at the summit meeting with Brazil and Argentina during President Roh Moo-hyun's visit to South America.

2. The Korean side was headed by Mr. Park Young-kuk, Ambassador for DDA negotiations, and consisted of ten representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry of Finance and Economy, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The MERCOSUR side was headed by Mr. Juan Angel Delgadillo, Director-General of the Political and Economic Division of the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry, and consisted of 20 representatives from the four member countries.

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3. At this meeting, the two sides agreed on the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the joint study to study the feasibility of a Korea-MERCOSUR TA.
  - The two sides will evaluate the economic effects of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) or a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Korea and MERCOSUR, study various ways to increase economic and trade relations such as goods and service trade, investment, etc., and present the final report to the trade ministers of Korea and MERCOSUR by early May, 2006.
4. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade expects that if Korea concludes an FTA with MERCOSUR, the biggest economic body in Central and South America, it will provide the basis for advancing into the newly rising large-scale markets (with a total population of 220 million), expand exports and establish a stable import route for raw materials through tariff elimination, and adjust to the trend of economic integration within the American continent.

5. The second JSG meeting will be held on August 3-4 in Seoul.