BARK TAEHO

President, Lee&Ko Global Commerce Institute, former Minister for Trade, Republic of Korea

I would now like to discuss a few issues related to international trade. First, I would like to hear the positions of China as the largest trading nation in the world on the MC11, delayed process of selecting vacant members of the WTO Appellate Body and more generally on the current difficult situation of the multilateral trading system. Second, I would like to hear from Chinese colleagues the major reasons for slow progress of the RCEP negotiations and the possible Chinese leadership in remaining negotiations. Third, recently, President Trump has enhanced his criticism against the Chinese unfair trade practices. I will greatly appreciate if our Chinese colleagues give us the Chinese view on the current US-China trade relations. Fourth, President Xi mentioned that the role of state owned enterprises (SOEs) will be strengthened in the future. I thought that it may be contradictory to deepening market-oriented economic reforms. I would like to hear the background of President Xi’s statement on the SOEs. One more concern is that we are experiencing global oversupply as well as overcapacity problems in certain sectors such as steel. If certain industries enter into the restructuring process, the implementation of the market opening policy may face difficulties and possibly be delayed. I would like to hear from Chinese colleagues how China is dealing with these problems.