



Statement of the Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between:

IOM MRTC and the Asiatic Research Institute of Korea University

MRTC Director: Dr. Charles Harns

Good morning.

It is a great pleasure and indeed an honor for me to be here today on the occasion of the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding between the IOM Migration Research and Training Centre (the MRTC) and the Asiatic Research Institute of Korea University. It is a particular honor considering the excellent reputation of the ARI, the vital importance of ARI's work, and the most distinguished credentials of the ARI Director, Dr. Nae-Young Lee.

Dr. Lee please allow me to here thank you and your staff personally for the very serious preparation ARI has put into the MOU and today's events.

I believe this MOU between Asiatic Research Institute and MRTC, which is intended to enable close collaboration in international migration studies, is a very important step in the development of the MRTC, and I believe our collaboration will be helpful to ARI in the continuation and expansion of its important work.

Asiatic Research Institute is the first established affiliate research Institute of University in Korea focused exclusively on the study of the history, culture and lifestyle of Asian countries – particularly Korea. The rising importance of migration to Korea and to the region, and the changing nature of that migration, is an area that merits close attention by the very best scholars, practitioners and policy makers. I have complete confidence that this MOU will be instrumental in assuring that the best thinking from all will be brought to bear on the most important issues in migration for Korea and the region.

The MRTC is an international cooperation organization established through a special agreement between the International Organization for Migration and the Government of the

Republic of Korea. Since its opening in December 2009 it has successfully hosted conferences and seminars, and engaged in research and training activities with participation of prominent figures in the field of migration from throughout the world.

Once again, I would like to thank for your warm welcome here today, and I wish you, Dr. Lee, and the ARI much continued success.

Thank you.

Charles Harns

Director

IOM Migration Research and Training Centre

Goyang-si, Korea