MALAYSIA – KOREA RELATIONS: 
A 50 YEAR PARTNERSHIP

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Introduction
This chapter highlights Malaysian foreign policy towards South Korea. It has been fifty years since Malaysia and the Republic of Korea (ROK) established diplomatic relations as formal relations were established on 23 February 2010. This paper starts with a historical focus and then shifts to policies that have aided in strengthening bilateral ties. A large section concentrates on strategic Malaysian policies that have made an impact to South Korea, namely, the Look East Policy (LEP), Malaysia as an educational hub, the promotion of Malaysia as a tourist destination and the marketing of *Malaysia, My Second Home* (MM2H). Over the years, these policies have resulted in people to people relations strengthening considerably. As David Lazarus observes,

*Foreign policy is the sum of parts of a government’s myriad activities. It affects agriculture, business and most of all, people. Politics is people and so is foreign policy.*

The above statement is indeed true for Malaysia-South Korean relations. Government policies calculatedly as well as unintentionally have introduced Malaysians to all things Korean.