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Time to elevate the Korea-Indonesia transport cooperation

Minister Won Hee-ryong discusses Korea's transport cooperation with Indonesia during his bilateral meeting with the Indonesian transportation minister on June 23.

Minister Won Hee-ryong of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Korea (MOLIT) welcomed Minister Budi Karya Sumadi of Transportation of Indonesia (MOT) to his office on June 23 and discussed the issues in the transport area the two share interest such as the MRT project in Jakarta and the ITS.

Since taking office, President Joko Widodo has pursued infrastructure development as a key policy priority. As part of that, the Indonesian government is carrying out mass transit development projects in cities. Partly influenced by this, Indonesia became the biggest overseas construction market for Korea during the first half of this year.

Against this backdrop, the two ministers reviewed the progress of the transport infrastructure projects in Indonesia joined by Korean companies and exchanged views on how to support such project partnerships.

Minister Sumadi requested MOLIT's encouragement of Korean companies' investment in transport projects in Indonesia, including the MRT Jakarta Phase 4. In response, Minister Won shared the status of the rail transit projects underway with Korean companies. For the MRT Jakarta Phase 4, the Korean consortium signed a memorandum of understanding with the PT. MRT Jakarta to devise an investment scheme for the project based on the feasibility study the former recently conducted. As for the LRT Phase 2 and Phase 3, Minister Won highlighted the operation consulting Korean companies are providing along with the feasibility studies they are conducting for the projects. At the bilateral meeting, Minister Won asked Indonesia's support for Korea's hosting of the ITS World Congress 2026 in Gangneung and the World Expo 2030 in Busan.

After the bilateral meeting, the two ministers signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to affirm their cooperation in the transportation field in general. The MOU, which will renew the existing MOU between the ministries, will expand the areas of cooperation to include new mobility and its supporting infrastructure. Under the MOU, the two sides will resume the bilateral transportation cooperation meeting now on hold due to covid-19. Following the MOLIT-MOT MOU, the ITS Korea and the ITS Indonesia, the ITS trade associations of the two countries, concluded its own MOU in the presence of the two transport ministers.

Minister Won mentioned that Japan has been the main foreign developer in the MRT projects in Indonesia. While welcoming the prospect to participate in the MRT Jakarta Phase 4, he also emphasized the need to elevate Korea-Indonesia cooperation in the transport area. "Korea has both the experience and technologies that can help reduce traffic congestion in Indonesia."