

The 14th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific Blue House, Seoul Tuesday 14 June 2011, 6:30pm Formal dinner hosted by the President of Korea

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC Chief Justice

Mr President, Chief Justice Lee, Chief Justice of Korea, Chief Justices, Your Honours, ladies and gentlemen,

Mr President, may I add my own expression of respectful thanks for your grace and generosity in hosting this dinner at the Blue House: we all appreciate the great honour you bestow upon us.

That the Supreme Court of Korea is now hosting its second Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific, in the 26 year history of this important Conference, bespeaks both the high significance of this jurisdiction, and the progressive collegiality of Korea's highest court.

That you, Mr President, host this formal occasion, bespeaks your respect for the role and status of your great nation's highest court, and for the creditable independence of the Korean judiciary.

And that we join you here this evening at the Blue House reflects our fervent hope for the well-being and advancement of all the Korean peoples.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured to propose a toast to ...

"The Republic of Korea"