

2010.11.22 Mon. 09:00  
Sheraton Incheon Hotel 3F  
Grand Ballroom

ESCAP Consultation Meeting Opening Ceremony

# Welcoming Address



## Welcoming Address

### **1. Opening remarks**

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentlemen;

It is an honor and a great pleasure for me to be speaking before you at this meaningful gathering today.

I would like to begin by thanking Mr. Han Seung-soo, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea and Chair of the GGGI, and all the representatives and distinguished guests for coming to Incheon to attend this meeting.

I also wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, for her inspirational opening remarks.

### **2. Significance of the Meeting and Introduction to Incheon**

This conference is particularly significant as it is the first 5-nation consultation-meeting since the ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia opened in Incheon.

As you know, the ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia was established to eradicate poverty and ensure the co-prosperity of Northeast Asia which accounts for one quarter of the world's population.

To realize such goals, it is my earnest hope that this meeting will be valuable opportunity to discover ways for sustainable development and cooperative measures.

The world we live in is currently faced with unprecedented climate change and a looming energy crisis. On a positive note, however, there have been noticeable shifts in the efforts being made to overcome these crises since the onset of the recent global economic downturn, such as the greening of industries and emergence of G20 nations.

The economies of Northeast Asia have been growing rapidly and today are responsible for 20% of world GDP. However, such remarkable economic development has brought social problems such as environmental degradation. Accordingly, we need new policies to ensure sustainable development.

As one of the world's ten largest energy consumers, Korea is heavily dependent upon foreign countries for its energy supplies. Korea, therefore, has presented low carbon green growth as a new paradigm for its national development and is focusing on developing new growth engines and creating jobs.

Distinguished guests!

Incheon has been transformed into a dynamic international city in the 60 years since the Korean War.

Such stellar development has been possible largely due to the city's unique advantages. For instance, Incheon is home to one of the world's premier airports and state-of-the-art seaports, as well as Korea's first free economic zone. The city also boasts pristine natural beauty and no less than 155 islands.

Based on these strengths, Incheon is becoming the heart and economic capital of Korea and a key city in the emerging pan-Yellow Sea economic bloc.

As part of efforts to respond to the world's pressing environmental and resource crises, we are working hard to develop new growth engines. Our city is nurturing new renewable energy and bio industries, while at the same time preserving local ecology by creating parks and green areas. In addition, we are building an eco-friendly main stadium for the Asian Games Incheon 2014.

As such, Incheon is vigorously pursuing 'Green Growth Incheon' as a policy to meet the demands of the times and to maximize synergy effects by harmonizing

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