

Welcome Address

on the 32nd Session of IPCC

11. October 2010

Minister, Lee, Maanee

Ministry of Environment, Korea

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you to the 32nd session of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change(IPCC), in Busan; one of the most beautiful coastal cities in Korea.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to; Seoung-Soo Han the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Global Green Growth Institute, Rajendra K. Pachauri IPCC Chairman, Jean-Pascal van Ypersele Vice-Chairman, Hoe Sung Lee Vice-Chairman, Jeremiah Lenggoasa WMO Deputy Secretary General, Peter Gilruth Division of Early Warning and Assessment, Nam Sik Hur mayor of City of Busan

As you know, climate change is one of the greatest challenges we are facing now. Climate change has had a wide variety of negative impact on ecosystems and

human societies such as human casualties, socio-economic damage and loss of biodiversity.

The IPCC 4th Assessment Report shows clear scientific evidence that human activities have caused global warming, and will continue to impact all countries. The UN Secretary General Mr. Ban, Ki-Moon also repeatedly emphasized that global warming poses a great threat to the world, such as triggering local and international conflicts.

Against this backdrop, all delegates present at the UN Climate Change Conference 2009 in Copenhagen agreed that deep cut in global emissions shall be required based on scientific evidence, as stated by the IPCC report. The agreement was reached with a view to reducing global emissions to curb an increase in global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius.

I would like to show my respect for the wonderful and remarkable activities of IPCC since 1988. In fact, the IPCC has delivered the most comprehensive scientific evidence and reports on climate change on a sound

basis. The panel continued to respond to the needs of the UNFCCC for information on scientific and technical issues.

Nevertheless, some scientists and groups are still arguing Climate Change should be mainly due to natural variation itself, not results of anthropogenic activities. Also those people often bring up that the impact of Climate Change have been too much exaggerated so that the current global and national efforts to response against Climate Change could be overstated.

However I believe, it is scientifically clear and commonly understood that Climate Change is unequivocal and is getting more and more difficult to manage. That is the very reason why we all gather together today in this room to find out the most effective pathway to resolve current global issue, Climate Change.

In this regards, the Korean government has also joined the international cooperation with the national vision of

'Low Carbon Green Growth'. This year, the Basic Act on Low Carbon, Green Growth was established and enforced with a voluntary target to reduce GHG emissions by 30 percent on a BAU basis by 2020.

President Lee, Myung-bak of Republic of Korea delivered an address on August 15 this year; an occasion celebrating the 65th Anniversary of National Liberation. During the speech, he said the new era provides both new opportunities and challenges, especially in the creative sector of green growth.

Obviously, the adverse impacts of climate change on national and global scales differ in terms of range and size. This clarifies that there is a special need to enhance the international cooperation to implement impact and vulnerability assessments and take action for adaptation to climate change.

Now is the time for this important session to find an appropriate way for figuring out the current climate change issues at all levels; global, regional and national.

Let me emphasize again. Right now, we are confronted with climate change. We can not afford to dismiss this opportunity to build a green and sustainable world for future generations with countermeasures against climate change.

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen!

Before closing my remarks, let me once again thank and welcome the participants here. I believe that you will have a precious opportunity to share all of our experience and expertise. I hope you have a pleasant stay in Busan, Korea.

Thank you.