

Opening remarks by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea Mr. Hwang-sik Kim

Her Excellency, Ms. Helle Thorning-Schmidt,
Prime Minister of Denmark,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

I am very honored to be here to witness and celebrate with all of you the remarkable advance and spread of green growth.

To date, green growth has certainly become an exemplary strategy to simultaneously address climate change and achieve economic growth.

In the course of pursuing green growth, the Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Denmark/ have further consolidated our relations.

During President Lee Myung-bak's state visit to Denmark last year, our two countries established the Green Growth Alliance.

It is an alliance based on common perception of the problem, common sense of direction and common view for the future.

This has led our two countries to collaborate, beyond the bilateral level, on a global scale by initiating the Global Green Growth Forum and through our partnership in the Global Green Growth Institute.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my sincere congratulations to the Danish government for having successfully organized the second 3GF meeting.

Distinguished participants,

The main theme of this forum, “Resource Efficiency,” is very relevant and timely.

It is not by chance that “Resource Efficiency” has been referred to as the fifth energy source.

It represents a realistic but powerful measure for addressing resource exhaustion, mitigating climate change and, ultimately, contributing to the achievement of green growth.

The implementation of resource efficiency, of course, requires concerted efforts of all stake-holders, including governments, companies, and civil societies.

In this sense, allow me to share with you the efforts each stake-holder is making in Korea to improve resource efficiency.

The Korean government has included resource efficiency as a major element in its green growth policies.

The Korean Presidential Committee on Green Growth, which I chair, worked out the 'Five-year National Plan for Green Growth' and the 'Roadmap for 27 Core Green Technologies' with much emphasis on this element.

The government has also set up the 'Energy Efficiency Bureau' in the Ministry of Knowledge Economy to coordinate relevant national efforts.

In response to these government initiatives, Korean companies have been exerting many efforts on their part/ to develop a wide range of energy efficient technologies.

These include LEDs, secondary batteries, low emission green cars, eco-friendly buildings and smart grids.

Many of them are now more than prototypes and are applied at an industrial and commercial scale.

Also, Korean companies have taken considerable efforts in cooperation with the government to develop Eco-Industrial Parks where one industry's waste stream can be used as raw materials by another.

All of these efforts by the government and companies are being supported by enhanced public consciousness on resource efficiency.

Increasing number of our citizens are adopting a low-carbon green lifestyle.

Carbon labels are found on almost all products, while many citizens are now familiar with green cards and green stores.

I am happy to discuss with you all these efforts we are making in Korea.

At the same time, I look forward to learning more from you about your efforts, achievements and best practices.

Distinguished participants,

Let me now turn my perspective from national to global level.

Resource efficiency, a crucial element for Green Growth, is an agenda that should be addressed not only domestically but also through global efforts and mechanisms, such as this 3GF and the GGGI.

I am very pleased to observe that these global mechanisms for Green Growth are working well.

The Global Green Growth Institute will be converted into a full-fledged international organization with its 17 founding member countries participating in the inaugural meeting to be held in Seoul on 23 October.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all like-minded countries who share the vision and commitment of the GGGI, and would also like to request your continued support for its success.

In particular, I hope the 3GF will work more closely with the GGGI.

For instance, it would be excellent for all of us if the GGGI hold a session in the 3GF next year to share its best practices to promote public-private partnership for green growth in developing countries.

Talking about global mechanisms, let me turn briefly to the Green Climate Fund/ agreed upon at the 16th Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change which was held in Cancun in 2010.

Korea is firmly committed to the cause of the Climate Change Convention and believes that it can make a unique contribution as a bridge among developing, emerging and advanced economies.

It is by the same token/ that Korea now wishes to host the Secretariat of the GCF.

We often talk about synergy we can get from putting together policy, technology and finance.

We already have the GGGI and the Green Technology Center in Korea, standing for policy and technology, respectively.

If we can host the GCF Secretariat in Korea, we will be able to complete the green triangle which will create synergy of policy, technology and finance.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

It was only last month that President Lee Myung-bak came to visit this beautiful country and Greenland.

One of the things President Lee observed in Greenland, unfortunately, was the unmistakable signs of the climate change in progress.

It falls upon all of us to slow and stop such a progress.

Let me conclude by expressing my hope that the ideas and commitments emerging from our discussions at this second 3GF will inspire us to take concrete actions to cope with this global challenge together and achieve 'The Future We Want' for us, for our children/ and the generations to come.

Thank you very much!