

WELCOME REMARKS
for
The United Nations Conference on e-Government for Asia and the Pacific

by
MINISTER of PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND SECURITY

Vice Minister. Nam-seok Kim

Professor Jane E. Fountain, Chair of the Global Advisory Council on the Future of Government for the World Economic Forum,

Honorable Mr. Hyong-O Kim, former Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea,

Representatives from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP),

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen.

Welcome to Korea, and my sincere congratulations on participating in the Conference on e-Government in Asia and the Pacific.

Today, the information and communications technologies (ICTs) are increasingly recognized as the most effective means to provide quality public services. They also provide an indispensable contribution to increasing public transparency.

For many countries around the world, e-Government figures at the top of their development priorities, and the extent of such active efforts will continue to increase, in light of the rapidly evolving IT technologies.

Given this context, I believe this Conference provides a timely opportunity to share information on how e-Government has been respectively pursued and implemented across different countries, and to yield valuable guidance and inspiration in terms of understanding the future of e-Government.

Korea's e-Government has accomplished remarkable progress for the past 10 years. In 2010, the Government of Korea was ranked number one in the United Nations e-Government Survey. This year, this recognition was further heightened by our winning of multiple categories of the prestigious United Nations Public Service Awards, where 'Information Village' initiative and '24-Hour Public e-Service' respectively won the first and the second prize.

Our excellence in e-Government lies in the combination of three essential elements – the country's world-class IT technological base, the high level of public interest and engagement by the citizens, and most importantly, the government's strong and responsive leadership and commitment to meet citizen demands through creative actions.

With our confirmed standing as a leader of e-Government, the Government of Korea is ready to share our experiences with our neighboring countries in Asia and the Pacific – experiences which will guide and enrich each of your own understanding and undertaking of developing e-Government in your countries.

In that process, the Government of Korea is also ready to provide assistance in adapting and customizing our excellent ICT-enabled service systems in such a way that they can accommodate the varying needs and environment of your respective countries.

For this purpose, the Ministry of Public Administration and Security recently established the 'International Cooperation Center for Administrative Development', which aims to facilitate the Korean Government's global technical cooperation and export initiatives related to e-Government and other government innovations.

The Ministry is also intent on promoting and sharing the practice cases such as the National Computing and Information Agency (NCIA), a government agency which integrates and operates the entire information system of Korea's central administrative organizations.

I sincerely hope this Conference will serve as a meaningful opportunity for each one of our national delegates and members of international organizations to strengthen their regional cooperation, and their partnership with Korea.

Once again, ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you all to Seoul, and I wish you the most productive and successful Conference, as well as a delightful stay in Korea.

Finally, my congratulations go to all staffs at the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), for their dedicated efforts in organizing this event.

Thank you.