



22(Tue) Oct

Opening Ceremony

[Opening Remarks] Jeong-bok Yoo, Minister, MOSPA

Excellencies,

High-level government officials from around the world, Representatives of international organizations, Diplomatic corps residing in the Republic of Korea, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is of great pleasure to host “Global e-Government Forum 2013” today, and I would like to extend my deepest gratitude and warmest welcome to you all for your attendance in the Forum.

The Global e-Government Forum, has been established last year by the Republic of Korea and the United Nations together Continuing on the successful launch of the 1st Forum, We are now entering into its 2nd year to further strengthen our concerted efforts towards the advancement of e-Government at the global level.

This year, in particular, I see great synergy to come along with “International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance”.

Here we are together with hundreds of experts, academics, government officials from all parts of the world, having various range of backgrounds.

Though we may have difference in nationality or occupation, I believe we share one thing in common. That we all think it over, how governments should respond to the challenges derived from rapid social and technological changes in order to sustain national development and to put citizens’ happiness at the center.

To this end, it is my firm belief that this Global e-Government Forum will serve as a global platform, allowing us humbly to share our own developmental paths and to take us to the next level for a better future.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

What comes to your mind when you think of Korea? Some of you may recall global companies like Samsung, LG or Hyundai. The others might say Seoul Olympic, World cup 2002 or K-pop.

Still “Korea” strikes a note on poverty-stricken country, heavily dependent on foreign aid, devastated by the Korean war.

Even until a recent few decades ago, Korea has been a small country in east Asia.

Although Korea presents 5,000 years of long history, having the legacy of high-level civilization with the scientific and unique native alphabet called “Hangeul”,

Korea was known as “the Hermit Nation” or “the Land of the Morning Calm” since the nation had almost no contact with the other world 150(one hundred fifty) years ago. It also suffered from colonization among the powers of imperialism in the early 20th century.

While we have stumbled upon some failures, I do believe that the shift from poverty-stricken country into developed country was a great success.

During the times of leap-frogging, I think e-Government has been a key instrument for the success.

The pursuit of e-Government development has driven us towards two consecutive wins in the UN e-Government Survey in 2010 and 2012 respectively, and we find the success of e-Government in every corner of society right now.

Nevertheless, the surrounding environment is changing right in front of us.

The emergence of “Cloud-Computing” transforms the age of “accumulation” into the age of “sharing”, where social media connects every citizen weaving into an “ultra networked society”. It is also the age of “Big Data”, the era that we have not yet fully prepared, in which a massive amount of information self-generates and re-produces.

To better respond to these rapid changes, Korea has taken a step further from the existing e-Government and established a new government operation paradigm, that is, “Government 3.0”.

This “Government 3.0” entails: Openness, by disclosing the public information to create value-added, Sharing information to innovate civil service, Communication to better inter-act with the citizens, Collaboration among government agencies to improve efficiency. Through these 4 core principles, we plan to build the nation, where citizens’ happiness is of the utmost value.

And now, it is the time Korea gives back/ to the world, sharing this vision and objectives based on our own development experiences and lessons learned.

These knowledge and experience do not belong to one single person, one company, nor one nation. Once shared with the world, this can shed a light on all mankind.

To this end I believe, this Forum is very timely, and meaningful for all stake-holders get together, sharing respective experiences and finding the better ways for future e-Government development.

I hope the ‘Global e-Government Forum’ today will serve as a global hub for e-Government advancement upon which mutual development and cooperation between governments will further prosper.

New technologies, policy ideas, stimulating dialogues, I also very much look forward during this Forum. To bring my remarks to a close, I once again, whole-heartedly welcome all of you who have come to attend this forum and express my sincere gratitude to speakers and panel discussion members.

Even though two-day is a rather short time, I hope the experiences you will gain from this forum will turn out as better policies in your countries.

Last but not least, October is one of the most beautiful months in Korea. I hope you enjoy the fullest possible the autumn season and make a memorable stay here in Korea.

Thank you!

Minister of Security and Public Administration