

UNPOG Regional Symposium – Closing Remarks

Oct 26, 2018 (Fri) 16:00~17:00 / G-Tower, Songdo, Incheon

《 Opening 》

Ladies and gentlemen, I am Kim Il-jae, Deputy Minister for Government Innovation and Organization Management Office, the Ministry of Interior and Safety.

First and foremost, I would like to send my warmest congratulations to everyone involved for hosting such a successful symposium for the past three days.

As well, I would like to thank Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for the United Nations (UN), Chung Chae-gun, Head of the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) and his colleagues at the UN, representatives of the Incheon Metropolitan City and last but not least all of you who have graced us with your presence.

《 Significance of Hosting the Symposium 》

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are international commitments unanimously adopted at the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly in September, 2015.

17 SDGs reflect common values that should be pursued by the entire humanity regardless of region, race or ideology.

Each and every member state is striving to achieve these common goals by 2030.

At this symposium, we have reaffirmed that if we are to implement the SDGs, each member state must build institutional grounds, and at the global level, intergovernmental,

government-international organization and public-private sector cooperation is called for.

Also, we have learned that not only public organizations but also participation of all members of society including the vulnerable could enhance governance capacity to implement the SDGs throughout this symposium.

In addition, it was made clear that the central and local government should work better together, and training must be provided to public servants of the local government in order to accelerate the adoption of the SDGs at the local level.

《 Importance of Government Innovation to Implement SDGs 》

Some of the important values of the SDGs such as respect for human rights, gender equality and inclusive and sustainable economic growth are in line with the Korean government's visions and objectives of government innovation.

Korea's three strategies of government innovation are operating the government based on "social values", promoting citizen participation and cooperation and gaining public trust in the government.

"Social values" include human rights, gender equality and alleviation of polarization.

The Korean government started making a full-fledged effort to systematically promote citizen participation in order to implement the above strategies this year.

Also, the government declared its commitment to become an “inclusive nation” where no one is excluded in September.

Such commitment is parallel to the core concept of the SDGs as it is designed to alleviate social inequality, enhance people’s lives and strengthen cooperation within society to effectively achieve objectives.

The UN’s declaration to ensure “no one is left behind” is deeply moving.

I truly believe this symposium holds great significance as it has provided us with a meaningful opportunity to get closer to lofty ideals of the UN.

《 Closing 》

Lastly, I would like to make one announcement.

The Korean government is going to host the Open Government Partnership Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting 2018 on November 5 - 6 in Seoul.

Topics such as open government, citizen participation and anti-corruption will be discussed throughout the meeting.

Please take a keen interest in and attend the meeting in which representatives of Asian countries and civic organizations will participate.

Now we are nearly done with the official sessions, you can finally sit back and relax.

I hope you get to create some great memories during the rest of your journey here in this beautiful country.

Thank you very much.