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# Regional Symposium Opening Remark

`17. 12. 06.(Wed) 09:30~10:05 / Convencia 2F

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## 《Greeting》

Good morning,  
Honorable Excellency's, Distinguished Guests,  
and Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's very nice to meet you.

I'm Shim Bo-kyun,  
the Vice Minister of Ministry of the Interior and Safety(MOIS).

First, I would like to express my deep gratitude to  
Marion Barthelemy, the Director of DPADM(Division for Public Administration) of  
UNDESA(United Nations Department of Economic)

and Chung, Chae-gun, the Head of UNPOG,  
and other staff members, who have contributed to  
organizing today's event.

Also, I would like to thank Hong Keewon, the Ambassador for International  
Relations of Incheon Metropolitan City,

H.E.(His Excellency) Dr. Ali Hamsa, Chief Secretary to the Government of  
Malaysia

and, H.E.(Her Excellency) Ismat Ara Sadique,  
Minister of State, ministry of Public Administration, Bangladesh who attended  
today's symposium.

### 《History of Development in Korea》

Ladies and gentlemen,

What comes to mind when you think of “the Republic of Korea”?

Do you think of Samsung, Hyundai, and other Korean companies?

Maybe young people are thinking of K-Pop, as well as Korean dramas, such as  
Dae Jang Geum or Winter Sonata, so on.

However, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century,

Korea was a little-known, impoverished, and colonized country  
in the struggle of imperialist powers.

Although Korea won Independence by the end of the Second World War,  
the subsequent Korean war for three years took everything away.

Menon\*, Indian Ambassador to UNKRA who visited Korea on 8th Oct 1955 just  
after the Korean War, said at that time

“Expecting democracy to bloom in Korea was like expecting a rose to bloom in a  
trash can.”

\* Krishna Menon : Indian Ambassador to UNKRA (UN Korean Reconstruction Agency)

However, the cultural pride of our ancestors,  
which has been keeping independency for five thousand years,  
can overcome those crisis eventually.

### 《Government Innovation and Digital Government in Korea》

In the early 2000s when Korea became an economic giant,  
Korea was faced with another challenge.

Based on economic development stages,  
digitization was poised to surpass industrialization  
as the engine of our national growth.

So we have started aggressively investing  
in ICT (Information, and Communication Technology) at that time.

As a result, the Internet and mobile phones have become widespread  
and Korea enjoys the highest Internet and mobile phone using rate  
in the world.

Based on this development,  
about twenty thousand e-government services,

such as electronic civil service,  
and electronic customs clearance,  
have been developed and are now being widely used.

It made our lives in Korea more convenient and citizen-oriented.

For example, citizens can pay taxes or register a simple business process  
from their home comfortably.

Being recognized in the international community for such efforts,  
the United Nations evaluated that Korea has established  
the world's most developed level of e-government services and infrastructure.

And Korea administration has won the 'Open Useful Reusable Data Index'  
by OECD in 2015 and 2017.

### **《Inarguration of the Moon Jae-in Administration》**

Nationally, the Moon Jae-in administration ushered in a new era  
of unprecedented hope and change.

People, over one million, who gathered at the Gwangwhamun Plaza  
for starting a "candlelight revolution" to make our nation better.

What is surprising about this historic event is that the Nation managed to overcome the crisis within our democratic and constitutional system under the rule of law, without any kind of violence.

The subsequent election of President Moon signaled the start of a new chapter in Korean democracy.

Since taking office last May, his Administration's top priority has been to develop and sustain the vision of "the people of Korea".

### **《The relationship between the new government and the digital government》**

How to explain the peaceful nature of the "Candlelight Revolution"?

There were many factors, but, I think, one of the most important factors was 'government innovation through digital government'.

Government innovation using ICT technology has much raised public expectations of ordinary people, such as transparent and open policy-making, providing more convenient services, and increasing online governance for the public.

So, in Korea the existing opaque process is no longer survival any more because many of the nation's policy-making processes have taken place with the participation of the people of all levels. So, transparency, efficiency and inclusiveness are the cornerstones of the new Administration's policy on public governance.

### **《Importance of Regional Symposium》**

I think that today's Symposium on building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions for advancing SDGs implementation in Asia and the Pacific is closely related to Government's policy.

In particular, I know that this symposium is a very meaningful event in a series of four UN regional symposiums, which were first launched last year by UNDESA for the implementation of the SDGs.

I know that there was the study tour yesterday before today's event. It would be allowed participants to explore how local governments respond to various crises, such as natural and man-made disasters, and gave them a glimpse of the so-called "Smart City", the liveable, connected and sustainable City of the future.

It also made participants learn sustainable waste management and water treatment processes, which are common urban challenges experienced all over the world.

I hope that the study tour of waste management facilities and water treatment processes can provide participants with many lessons how these urban issues are being treated in an eco-friendly way and recycled as new renewable resources.

I hope that these experiences will help participants deal with similar challenges faced in their own municipalities and countries.

I expect that the study tour can make you have a variety of in-depth discussions on the implementation of SDGs, during the entire Symposium for three days.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Now, allow me to give you a brief overview of this three days' Symposium.

First, today's theme is "Getting Institutions Organized for the Implementation and the Sustainable Development Goals".

In order to implement the SDGs in a more effective and efficient way in each country, approaches of "whole of government" and "whole of society" are needed to implement SDGs, including a partnership between national institutions and society.

Second, tomorrow's discussion is on "Localizing the SDGs".

The theme will focus on the implementation of SDGs as a local government level.

For the discussion, we will focus on how to strengthen cooperation between the central and local governments as a detailed topic and what capacity is needed for local government officials to implement SDGs.

Third, on the last day, Plenary Discussion will be focus on "Review of SDGs Implementation and Accountability at Nation Level" recently conducted by UNPOG to frame common understanding of countries' effort to implement the SDGs across Asia and the Pacific, and Eastern Africa.

On the other hand, based on the results of three days discussions, we will also adopt a common "Communique" for final stage.

Through this important and meaningful symposium,

I hope that the various ideas related to the implementation of the SDGs will be

shared among us.

Also various examples of the Korean Government and other countries' best practices will be shared and benchmarked among each other.

Through a comprehensive and in-depth discussion over the upcoming three days symposium, I hope that the number seventeen of SDGs can be implemented and promoted at the national and local level.

Thereby, we can expect that by 2030, implementation of SDGs will be achieved as scheduled.

Finally, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all of you, including Chung Chae-gun, the head of UNPOG, and its staffs for your hard work to prepare the symposium.

Thank you!