

Welcome Address

Good morning! ladies and gentlemen,

I am Hong Kee-won, Ambassador for International Relations of Incheon Metropolitan City.

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations on the opening of this International Symposium on SDGs.

On behalf of 3 million Incheon citizens, I would like to warmly welcome the representatives from the central and local governments, and the international organizations and all the participants from various fields in Asia Pacific region to Incheon City.

Let me express my sincere gratitude to Honorable Shim Bo-Kyun, Vice Minister of Interior and Safety of the Republic of Korea, for taking time out of your busy schedule to be with us today.

The new UNPOG premises just opened a few days ago, on December 1st.

I am particularly thankful to Dr. Chung Chae-Gun, Head of the UNPOG and all staff members for arranging this event in such a short period of time.

Our Mayor Yoo Jeong-bok wished to join this meaningful event. However, he couldn't be with us due to a prior commitment. We are sorry and ask for your kind understanding.

As Korea's third largest city, Incheon is rapidly growing into a dynamic international city. The world class international airport, sea port and free economic zone have accelerated this growth.

Especially, here, Songdo City offers the best conditions for international organizations to operate.

It provides excellent accessibility, cutting-edge convention facilities and a pleasant working environment.

Our city has worked hard to attract international organizations for a decade. As a result, today we can see UNPOG, GCF, UNESCAP and many other offices operating actively in our city.

SDGs, the theme of this symposium, are closely linked to citizens.

That is why the role of local governments is becoming more important in achieving the goals.

Our city has prioritized sustainable development.

We have introduced policies in many areas to implement the SDGS, including smart technologies for efficient urban management.

I am informed that yesterday, most of you visited IFEZ smart city operation center, Environmental Corporation of Incheon and Disaster Management Center. I am confident that now you are well aware of our intense efforts.

I hope that you will share good practices and opinions on the SDGs. I also look forward to seeing innovative ideas that will make the global community a better place to live.

Thank you again for your participation.

I want to conclude my remarks by wishing you have a joyful and useful time in Incheon.

Thank you.