Honorable Executive-Secretary Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana,
Distinguished Chair, Ministers and Vice-Ministers, and all delegations
to the UNESCAP Fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport,
it is a great pleasure to send my greetings and best wishes to all of you.

I am Hwang Seong Kyu, Vice Minister for Transport at the Ministry of Land,
Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea.

I am grateful for the opportunity to speak on the digital innovation of transport
for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

By 2050, nearly seven of ten people in the world will live in cities.

Transport development that supports urbanization has provided diverse benefits. But ironically, it also caused a multitude of problems that hinder sustainable development, such as traffic congestion, injuries and fatalities, and environmental pollution.

A new challenge we are facing now in achieving sustainable urban transport is how to meet the fast-rising demands of non-face-to-face activities in the transport sector in line with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many countries around the world are seeking a solution for sustainable transport in “Digital Innovation.”

The ROK, an ICT powerhouse that commercialized 5G networks for the first time in the world, is striving to address urban transport issues through the digitalization of transport infrastructures.
Based on the experience and expertise accumulated thus far, the ROK has formulated urban transport strategies using digital technologies.

At this conference, we would like to share those strategies for sustainable transport with ESCAP member states.

First, to provide faster and more efficient services, we are deploying Intelligent Transport Systems that incorporate A.I. technologies based on deep learning algorithms.

As part of these efforts, we have established the Integrated Traffic Control Systems in the Seoul metropolitan area, which inform drivers of real-time bypass routes, leading to improved traffic flows. The nationwide expansion of the systems is scheduled to be completed by 2030.

We are also relying on demand-responsive transport and automated vehicle platooning to reduce travel time and fuel consumption.

In relation to this, we are introducing three-dimensional precision road maps and C-ITS infrastructure across the nation for more accurate identification of vehicles and surrounding objects.

Based on this, we are planning to mark the world’s first commercialization of Level 4 autonomous vehicles in 2027.

Second, for safer services, we are taking a more proactive approach in preventing accidents by using IoT and advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS).

A key example is a smart crosswalk that sends a warning message to nearby vehicles for speed reduction in case of pedestrians walking in a school zone.

The introduction of ADAS to taxis has also helped drivers operate more safely and resulted in a substantial reduction in damage and losses that could be otherwise incurred by traffic accidents.

Third, for more environmentally-friendly services, we are promoting carbon-neutral transport systems by increasing the share of greener means as well as encouraging their use among the public.

In line with this, we are accelerating transition toward EVs and hydrogen cars on roads by speeding up the installation of charging infrastructures.
Furthermore, the scope of sharing services has expanded beyond cars and bicycles to include e-scooters and other personal mobility vehicles.

The mileage-based “Affordable Transport Card” we introduced for domestic use is relieving the cost burden and first- and last-mile challenges at the same time, while encouraging the practice of carbon neutrality in everyday life.

Lastly, we are actively responding to the growing demand for non-face-to-face activities in transport and logistics in the midst of COVID-19.

We are innovating and digitalizing urban logistics systems by adopting advanced delivery equipment such as robots and drones, and introducing digitalized underground systems as well as automated freight transport technologies.

On top of this, the ROK is reorganizing laws and institutions to facilitate the smooth operation of these policies and strategies, creating synergy.

This is also going hand in hand with efforts to establish good governance conducive to the participation of diverse stakeholders, including private companies.

The challenges created by urbanization, COVID-19, and climate change are crises for all of us.

This is why we need cooperation and collaboration across borders and between diverse stakeholders to achieve sustainable growth.

In line with the changing environment, the ROK desires to gather wisdom and join forces with many countries around the world in ushering in a new future for transport and mobility.

I hope this conference serves as a venue of opportunity to share knowledge and experiences and solidify future cooperation on digital transformation in transport.

Thank you for your attention.