

**[Greetings]**

Distinguished Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am deeply honored to be with you at this forum. This meeting holds great importance, providing an opportunity to exchange views on each country's energy policy.

**[Progress made following the 1st APEF]**

As a follow-up measure to the 1st Forum, the Korean Government has hosted the 'Northeast Asia Energy Security Forum' every year in partnership with the UNESCAP East and North-East Asia Office. And this has provided an excellent venue to discuss major energy issues in the region.

In particular, promoting energy connectivity, which was also included in the East and North-East Asia Action Plan declared at the 1st APEF, is an important issue for the region's energy security.

**[Korea's policy for regional energy cooperation]**

In this regard, the Korean Government has recently laid out its vision for energy connectivity cooperation in the framework of its New Northern Policy and New Southern Policy.

The New Northern Policy seeks to achieve economic prosperity and peace in the region, extending from the Far East to Eurasia. In particular, the initiative for Northeast Asian power grid connectivity seeks to produce power from wind and sunlight of the Gobi Desert in Mongolia to supply electricity in Northeast Asia. This initiative will help to resolve the century's mission of energy transition and bind the Northeast Asian region into one energy community.

At last year's Eastern Economic Forum held in Vladivostok, the President of the Republic of Korea emphasized that intra-regional cooperation on super-grid can serve as a foundation for the development into a Northeast Asian economic community and multilateral security framework, calling for the Leaders to embark on consultations for the establishment of an energy super-grid in the region.

Paired with the New Northern Policy, the New Southern Policy seeks to promote shared prosperity with ASEAN countries. The ASEAN region is a vibrant and dynamic community of an economy growing by 5% every year. At the Korea-ASEAN Summit held last November, the Leaders agreed to deepen and expand the scope of cooperation between the two sides.

At this summit, Korea proposed four major areas of cooperation to support regional connectivity, one of which is energy. We place a particular focus on renewable energy in the pursuit of cooperation with ASEAN countries. And I believe that the energy self-reliance project on the Indonesian island of Batam is a prime example of such cooperation.

### **[Korea's energy transition policy]**

Dear Colleagues,

Energy transition is a core task in our efforts to make our society sustainable. Since the Paris Agreement on Climate Change three years ago, countries around the world have been earnestly moving forward with energy transition policies. They are sincerely striving to achieve a sustainable and environment-friendly energy mix.

The Korean Government has also come up with a concrete plan for energy transition. Korea plans to take a step-by-step approach to gradually modify the old mix and increase the share of electricity generated from renewable energy to 20% by 2030.

Furthermore, Korea has devised and implemented a roadmap of investment for clean energy research and development. It is also nurturing new sectors in the energy industry – one instance of this is the energy storage system designed to overcome the intermittency of renewable energy.

In the process of realizing this vision, I wish to emphasize that a particular focus should be placed on ensuring inclusive growth, or enhancing public awareness of the vision. It is only if people in the community enjoy its benefits and agree on its direction that any policy can actually move forward.

Moreover, the Korean Government is exerting utmost efforts to promote renewable energy in the international arena. We work closely with both the Green Climate Fund and the Global Green Growth Institute based in Korea. The Asia-Pacific region can be, I suppose, the biggest beneficiary of these two organizations if we come up with palatable projects.

Furthermore, Korea was selected last year to host the 8th Meeting of the International Renewable Energy Conference in 2019 together with REN21, the global renewable energy policy network. And I take this opportunity to reaffirm that the Government of the Republic of Korea will indeed continue to work together with the international community through its energy diplomacy tailored to the needs of the era of energy transition.

## **[Closing]**

Dear Colleagues,

Energy has enabled humanity to light up the darkness of the night and achieve industrial development. Now energy has an even more critical role to play. Undoubtedly energy can play a key part in bringing peace and prosperity to our region.

Speaking of the 4th Industrial Revolution there is much talk of ICT as a major propellant of the revolution. However, I personally believe that the energy sector can be at the very core of the 4th Industrial Revolution – if the technology is further advanced.

In closing, I sincerely hope that today's forum will be an important milestone in preparation for a sustainable future in the Asia-Pacific.

Thank you for your kind attention. End.