

Keynote Speech for the Seoul Pre-COP 18
The Shilla Seoul Hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea
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H.E. Kim, Hwang Sik
Prime Minister of Republic of Korea

Honorable Abdulah Bin Hammad Al-Attiah, President-designated of COP 18 and
CMP 8,

Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC,
Ministers and Vice Ministers from across the globe,

Welcome to Korea.

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

This year marks an important transition in the international climate change negotiation. The AWG-LCA, which began from the 2007 Bali conference for the set-up of the post 2012 climate regime, will come to an end. Also, discussions on the Durban Platform a new climate regime that engages all party states, begins this year.

At this critical juncture, it is a great honor to see the Pre-COP being held in Seoul and to participate in this historic event, as an occasion to precede the COP18 in Doha.

The most pressing task in this year's climate change negotiation is to ensure smooth transition, so that the 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will start from the year 2013. We also need to draw an agreed outcome for the successful completion of the AWG-LCA, as well as seek solutions to solve the ambition gap.

What is equally important for us to do, is to finish our discussions on the basic principles, characteristics, and the workplan of the new climate change regime which will start from the year 2020.

The Seoul Pre-COP is the last Ministerial Conference before the COP18. In order to draw a successful outcome in Doha, every one of us here need to put our heads together and find a common solution.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We must all recognize the fact that climate change is for real. It is posing serious threats to water, energy and food, which in turn, undermines human health. Climate change is disrupting the environment, threatening virtually all living species on earth. This is the reality we must face.

It is now time to remind ourselves of the promises and commitments we made, and put them into action. We need workable solutions and strategies devised on a national level, instead of a regional approach.

Against this backdrop, 'Low Emission Development strategy' was presented at the Copenhagen conference in 2009, as a way to enhance mitigation. The Durban outcome, on the other hand, presented the need for strategies to enhance mitigation in developing countries and urged for more cooperation among them to share best practices.

To join this global move, the Korean government adopted a new national strategy of 'Low carbon green growth'. Green growth policy is an innovative approach to turn global environmental challenges, such as climate change and energy, into new growth engines and a new way of life.

In pursuit of green growth, the Republic of Korea has set up the Presidential Committee on Green Growth, and established a 5-year green growth plan. As part of the plan,

2 percent of Korea's annual GDP has been allocated as a green budget to foster emerging green growth industries.

Also, Korea has enacted the Framework Act on Green Growth and the greenhouse gas Emission Trading Scheme, to further support green industries including renewable energy, and related technologies.

Korea's four river restoration project, ladies and gentlemen, is an ambitious government project designed to enhance Korea's water resource infrastructure. In the broad context of green growth and climate change adaptation, it has produced multiple benefits by preventing floods, resolving water shortage problems, enhancing water quality, and restoring ecosystem, as well as creating jobs thus vitalizing local economies. The 1,800 km long bicycle road alongside the major rivers also allows citizens to accommodate a green lifestyle into their daily lives.

Korea's green initiative pursues inclusive green growth, one that ensures fair distribution of the fruits of economic development to those who are most vulnerable/ in the Korean society.

Distinguished guests,

Green growth is the call of our time. UNEP has previously introduced green growth as the best means to achieve a green economy. On its 50th anniversary in 2011, OECD set green growth as the core strategy for national development, which is to be adopted by all member countries.

This year's Rio+20 Summit also presented the vision of achieving sustainable development through a green economy.

As you can see, Korea is leading global endeavors in green growth. But it takes the entire global community, not a single country, to tackle global environmental challenges, such as climate change.

To lead by example in the spirit of Me-First, the Korean government plans to launch the Global Green Growth Partnership, an extended version of the East Asia Climate Partnership ending this year.

For the new partnership, the Korean government pledged at the Rio+20 to expand Green ODA to more than 5 billion dollars starting from next year until 2020. Also, the Green Technology Center, which opened this March, will serve as a venue for the training of green experts as well as to strengthen international cooperation and facilitate exchange in green technology.

Distinguished guests,

With the aim of supporting green growth in developing countries and promoting international cooperation, Korea and countries which shared the vision established the Global Green Growth Institute in June 2010.

Tomorrow, this institute will become an international organization. The Korean government will provide every support to nurture this organization into a full-fledged strategic body for international green growth.

We hope to see GGGI serve as a valuable asset of the international community. GGGI already set up Green Growth Knowledge Platform, together with UNEP, World Bank and OECD, so that green growth can spread more effectively around the globe.

As you know, the GCF 2nd board meeting that took place in Songdo on October 20th, selected Korea as the host country of GCF.

I believe that global society gives a chance to Korea, to contribute more for climate change mitigation in the international community and to serve as a bridge between developed and developing countries in climate change negotiations.

Korea will live up to the expectation of the global society, by assisting GCF to start its work of supporting developing countries as soon as possible.

Now we are observing that green triangle consisting of green strategy, green technology, and green finance, is shaping. By combining these three elements, we, international community can effectively bridge the gap between developed and developing countries.

The Korean government will make sure that the fruits of green growth are distributed fairly in a sustainable manner. And we ask the international community to also participate in this move towards inclusive green growth.

Distinguished guests,

Now is the time to take a brand new approach to global environmental challenges. We need to remind ourselves that we, human beings, are part of mother nature. The environment should not be viewed as a separate entity.

We need to seek harmony and coexistence.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Once again, I would like to congratulate the opening of the Pre-COP. I hope today will give us a chance to start putting our heads together and find smart ways to deal with climate change.

Through concerted efforts, we can make a difference.



Let us start our journey towards the success of COP18, here in Seoul.

Let us start creating our common future, the future we all want for ourselves and for our children.

Thank you.