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The 5th Annual
SEOUL Climate-Energy Conference 2018

Session Sketches

Opening Ceremony

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[SESSION NAME]: OPENING CEREMONY
Date / Time: November 16th / 09:00-09:30

Speaker: Sung Chul Shin (President, KAIST), Jung Wk Kim (Chairperson, Committee on Green Growth of the Republic of Korea) Chang Hee Kang (Former Speaker of the 19th National Assembly), Hyoung Kwon Ko (Vice Minister, Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Korea)

Keywords: welcoming remarks, opening ceremony

The opening ceremony started with a welcoming speech by President of KAIST, Sung Chul Shin. President Shin began by stressing the close cooperation between KAIST Graduate School of Green Growth and Coalition for Our Common Future. The current

conference is one of the outcomes of this cooperation as it is co-hosted by these two entities. President continued by making a clear point that Climate Change is not a threat anymore, but it is a certainty which has to be dealt with firm actions by all stakeholder of the economy. Extreme weather events, heat waves, melting of ice glaciers, among others, are the evidence that our planet is entering an era of Hothouse Earth, which is the reason behind the title of the conference. If we don't undertake decisive and continuous efforts as soon as possible, we will have to face a future of 4-5 degree temperature increase and 10-60 meters sea level rise, which will undoubtedly entail devastating impacts on everyone and everything on this Earth. President Shin stressed that avoiding it will require following new trajectories such as energy transition to renewables, new governance, behavior change toward green consumption and e-vehicles, and international cooperation, among others. President Shin concluded by outlining three main necessities for solving the challenge of Climate Change: **collaboration** (between developing and developed countries; public and private sector; different disciplines), **convergence** (met convergence) and **caring** (social and inclusive growth). As the President of KAIST, he underlined the role of KAIST university as the leading educational institute in science and technology of South Korea and promised that the university will strive to contribute to the global efforts of fighting Climate Change.

The opening ceremony was followed by congratulatory speeches of Jung Wk Kim, Chairperson, Committee on Green Growth of the Republic of Korea as well as Chang Hee Kang, Former Speaker of the 19th National Assembly, and lastly by Hyoung Kwon Ko, Vice Minister, Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Korea.

In his congratulatory speech, Chairperson Kim pointed out the alarming issue of fine dust in South Korea. He lamented that compare to 80ths when deaths from lung cancer amounted to 5 out of 100,000, currently this number grew to 35. Lung cancer is closely related to the problem of fine dust which has been exacerbating the past few years. In alignment with KAIST President Shin, Chairperson Kim stressed the importance of immediate actions as the wellbeing of Korean people is damaged by the fine dust. He then highlighted the problem from an international perspective specifying that around 7million people annually die due to fine particles in polluted air. In light of these terrifying facts, Chairperson Kim outlines Green Growth as the main pillar of modern economies. Also, he mentioned South Korea President Moon's visit to the Summit in Denmark where the President claimed that economic growth and GHGs reduction can go hand in hand and that the Republic of Korea will strive to achieve this goal. Chairperson Kim concluded by affirming that the government of South Korea, together with other governments. Has to accept the urgency of this problem and not hesitate with decisive actions.

Next, his excellency, former Speaker of the 19th National Assembly, Kang Chang Hee made his congratulatory speech. Currently he is a Chairman of Climate Change Center. Chairman Kang started off by bringing to the light an issue of longer summers and shorter autumns in South Korea. He claimed that this year summer was 37 days longer and that the beauty of renowned Korean autumn is now hindered. Chairman Kang asserted that even though the international discussions on Climate Changed started decades ago, sadly no significant practical outcomes were achieved yet. By that he expressed the hope that this year Seoul Climate-Energy Conference will end with practical solutions. Chairman Kang concluded that South Korea will be proactive in this global movement and, indeed, help other countries as once this country was a recipient of international aid.

Lastly, Vice Minister of Economy and Finance of Republic of Korea, Hyoung Kwon Ko proceeded with the congratulatory remarks. His speech was in parallel with the other special guests in that the determined actions are required by all the governments including Korea. He mentioned two distinctive examples of Denmark and Germany which achieved an extremely high level of renewable energy in the power mix. Following the Vice Minister highlighted South Korea's goal to achieve 20 percent increase in the portion of renewables by 2030. Reaching this aim will require immediate actions as the current share of renewables equals to about 7 percent.

List

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KAIST College of Business, Hoegiro 85, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul 02455, Korea
T. +82-2-3478-9194, +82-2-958-3408 F. +82-2-958-3410 E. coalition4@ourfuture.kr