

Congratulatory Address
by H.E. Rho Jun-hyong
Minister of Information and Communication
of the Republic of Korea

at the Opening Ceremony
of the 6th Asia Cooperation Dialogue
Foreign Ministers' Meeting

June 5, 2007, Seoul

Honorable Prime Minister Han, Duk-soo,
Ministers of diplomacy and chief delegates,
Distinguished guests,

Congratulations on the opening of the 6th ACD Ministerial Meeting in Seoul.

I am glad that IT was designated as the main theme of today's meeting and plan to adopt Seoul IT Declaration.

We are now moving on from industrialization to knowledge and information society of the 21th century.

IT is not only an essential infrastructure of economic development, but also is a more important part of our lives as it has expanded boundaries into politics, society and culture.

IT is the cause of a number of changes in many aspects of human life.

Korea is equipped with the world's best wired and wireless IT infrastructure, and its citizens are the most active internet users in the world.

Korea brought to the world cutting-edge IT technologies such as DMB and WiBro for the first time in the world.

In Korea, sessions of the National Assembly are broadcasted online in real time, and the citizens can watch the works and activities of the lawmakers they voted for through internet anytime they want.

Nowadays, the internet has become a new medium, where internet users freely express their thoughts and opinions and also post their self-written articles.

As Narajangtuh, the online procurement system, accounts for 94% of the total public procurement, the government procurement administration has become more transparent and efficient, resulting in budget saving.

I firmly believe that Korea will establish a true ubiquitous society where anyone can access needed information anytime, anywhere.

Korea successfully overcame the challenges of economic development and informatization as a developing country after the WW II.

We also would like to share with all countries the experience and technology of Korea.

The world is now keenly interested in Korea's IT.

We plan to hold OECD IT Ministerial Conference, where delegates from around 50 countries participate, in Seoul, June 2008.

Korea has a vision to create a warm-hearted digital world, where common values of human can be shared through IT.

We hope this sharing of technology and development experience can lead to a cooperation of a higher level with ACD member countries in the region.

In order to realize this vision, we have been engaged in various activities to share IT and Korean culture with our neighboring countries.

We invited ICT experts from ACD member countries for training, and dispatched youth internet volunteer groups, mainly comprised of young college students, to countries digitally less privileged.

In the future, Korea will not spare efforts to support countries in not only building advanced network infrastructure such as DMB and WiBro, but also in introducing e-government services including e-procurement, e-education, and e-custom.

We hope to be a part of creating an environment where people in the world can lead more comfortable lives.

In order to unite Asia with digital, we have to join hands to establish IT infrastructure to create better IT environment where cutting-edge IT services are introduced smoothly.

We also have to cooperate to deal with shadows of internet usage, for example computer virus, hacking, and cyber terrorism, since such problems cannot be resolved only with the efforts of a single country.

I hope friendly relations between Korea and countries around the world will be improved in the future, and also hope the success of the 6th ACD Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Thank you.