

Congratulatory Remarks

H.E. Dr. Pham Vu

Ministry of Education and Training of Viet Nam,

Dr. Chira Hongladarom,

Lead Shepherd for Human Resources Development Working Group,

Ms. Ana Maria Quiroz,

APEC Human Resources Development Working Group EDNET

Coordinator,

Dr. Young-Hwan Kim, Chair of the Consortium for APEC Cyber
Education Cooperation,

Members of the Steering Committee and the Research Committee of
the APEC Future Education Consortium,

Distinguished representatives and participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Busan Metropolitan City Office of Education, I
would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you who have traveled
so far to be in Busan, a dynamic city open to the entire world.

The 1st APEC Future Education Forum 2005

I also want to express my gratitude for the earnest efforts of Dr. YoungHwan Kim, Chair of the Consortium for APEC Cyber Education Cooperation(ACEC) and President of the Institute of APEC Cyber Education(IACE) as well as to the staff for preparing this forum.

I am very pleased to be at the 1st APEC Future Education Forum held in the city of education, Busan.

Facing this swirling world which is changing and developing faster than ever before, we acknowledge that ‘education’ is the driving force for a better future. Human history is built on advanced education systems.

In this respect, all of us working and studying in the field of education are pioneers making this world more meaningful. This is why the 1st APEC Future Education Forum is as important as the APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting.

The 1st APEC Future Education Forum 2005

Because we share the belief that the only hope for this uncertain world lies in education, the world is tirelessly seeking innovation in education.

Korea is no exception. We Koreans with our scholar-oriented society have a strong faith and belief in education. Korea is one of the world's economies that have a literacy rate and a high number of university students.

However, it doesn't mean that Korea do not have problems. Our over pursuit of education burdens Koreans with high fees for private lessons. In order to solve this problem, we are now experimenting with several educations of innovations.

In particular, Busan is a city that is most actively developing new school model. This makes it highly fitting that a discussion on an international school about the future of education is being held in Busan.

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The Korean people have a saying, “stagnant water goes bad.” This is like the western saying, “a rolling stone gathers no moss.” This proves that ‘change’ is the same as ‘being alive’. Change is a necessity for development. I was honored to invite each APEC economy’s best education specialists to Busan. I am pleased to see you in person dealing with future educational issues.

Like the continuous waves at Busan’s beaches, Busanites will be riding the positive vibes produced by the help our distinguished guests give us. Throughout this forum, we can surely build constructive dialogues and find a way to develop a future education model for all of the APEC economies.

I hope you will have a very memorable experience in Busan.

I wish you all the best as we move into the future together.

Thank you.