

Ministerial Statement Republic of Korea
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**Opening a New Chapter for
Asia Pacific Partnership**

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**2nd Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate Meeting
New Delhi, India**

Co-Chairmen,

Distinguished delegates and guests,

It gives me great pleasure to take part in today's meeting of the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate.

Since early this year, there has been a significant increase in worldwide awareness of the serious impact of climate change and the need to address it.

The IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report and recent meetings involving APEC, the United Nations and Major Economies Meeting have all served to raise awareness of this grave threat to our existence, and mobilized our collective will to address it.

Last Friday the world awareness on Climate change reached its apex. Former US vice president Al Gore was awarded this year's Nobel peace prize along with the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

As you may well know the intergovernmental panel, which brings together the world's top climate scientists, is headed by India's Dr. Pachauri is good news for India too. I would like to congratulate India for the respectable achievement by Dr. Pachauri.

With this heightened awareness, we are once again reminded that the problem of climate change has two dimensions: environment and economy.

While there is an ever-urgent need to safeguard the environment, there also exists a strong call for the poverty alleviation and the sustainable economic growth, especially in developing countries.

According to the International Energy Agency's 2006 report, *Energy Technology Perspectives: Scenarios and Strategies to 2050*, global primary energy consumption is forecasted to double by 2030.

Therefore, our mission is clear: We need to find a sustainable development path that entails a cleaner, more efficient use of existing fuels in the short run while striving to come up with an alternative source of energy that is carbon-free in the long run.

Korea is no exception with regard to the concern for the environment and

sustainable economic growth and we are making serious efforts to tackle this problem.

We have implemented policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by improving energy efficiency and increasing the supply of clean energy through the National Climate Change Action Plans.

To this end, first, we have taken consistent efforts to reduce energy consumption and increase energy efficiency. By expanding the number of voluntary agreements, we have been able to reduce 33.8 million Ton of CO₂ between 1999 and 2005.

Furthermore, we put in place compulsory energy auditing for buildings that use more than 2,000 TOE per year, and raised the Average Fuel Economy Standard.

Through this series of strong measures, Korea saw a steady decline in energy intensity and succeeded in joining the ranks of those nations with the highest energy-efficiency standards.

Meanwhile, we also made conscious efforts to increase the share of cleaner, alternative forms of energy in the overall energy supply mix by enacting a Renewable Portfolio Agreement and encouraging wider diffusion of biodiesel through our BD5 commercialization program.

However, to meet the pressing need to transform our society into a low-carbon we need to take even bolder steps.

This summer we have announced a new “National Strategy to Combat Climate Change,” in which we set the ambitious goals of lowering our energy intensity more than 40 percent and increasing the scope of the renewable energy in terms of total primary energy supply to 9 percent by 2030—a significant change from the current level of 2.26 percent.

In addition, a carbon-market which trades Korean certified emission reduction is to be established within this year.

Above all, the strategy focuses on developing world's top class technology, including energy efficiency, CCS(Carbon Capture & Storage) and fuel cell, as a main driving force for realizing future low-carbon society.

Korean industries, for their part, have heeded this challenge by signing voluntary agreements and pursuing innovative technologies that can greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For example, POSCO, one of the world's leading steelmaker, recently succeeded in developing a new steel manufacturing process called the Finex Method, which expects to reduce the CO₂ emissions by 9 %.

With this in mind, Korea has actively participated in regional and global technology cooperation initiatives over the years—the APP, Future Gen, the CSLF and the IEA, to name just a few.

Of all these, the Asia-Pacific Partnership has been the most significant both in terms of the number of projects it has generated and the level of participation it has drawn from both the private and public sectors.

In a relatively short period of time, the APP has demonstrated respectable progress, having endorsed 110 projects, of which 18 are flagship projects.

Korea has been active in all task forces from the start, having proposed several flagship projects and assumed the role of chair on two task forces, those responsible for Renewable Energy and Buildings and Appliances.

Distinguished Guests!

Now we are faced with the challenge of transforming the successes we have achieved so far into concrete results. This calls for a focused, coordinated approach by all partner countries—one that will require administrative support and innovative ways of financing.

Furthermore, we must recognize that information exchange on energy efficiency and best practices is vital.

This is why Korea proposed the Energy Technology Cooperation Center, which would facilitate such exchanges of information between the private and public sectors in the context of an APP-wide information hub.

We strongly hope the ETCC will fulfill this purpose, and we will lay out the details of the operation at the next PIC meeting.

Finally, We are very pleased to welcome Canada as the newest member of the Asia-Pacific Partnership. We greatly appreciate Canada's willingness to become our Partner for the realization of the APP charter.

Again, I am honored to be here in New Delhi, and I know this meeting will enable us to chart a new course for our future.

Thank you!