



**Ministry of Land Transport
and Maritime Affairs**



**National Geographic
Information Institute**

Prime Minister Hwang-sik Kim of the Republic of Korea

Welcoming Address on the

First High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management

Honorable H.E. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, all distinguished delegations of the Member States, leaders as well as experts on Geospatial Information, and Ladies & Gentlemen,

On behalf of the government and people of Korea, I welcome all of you participating in this First High-Level Forum on the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the cooperation and development of the world geospatial information.

Today is an historic moment where representatives of each country and international organizations, global industry leaders as well as world-renowned experts on geospatial information have gathered in one place for the first time.

It is an honor and a pleasure to hold such a meaningful meeting in Seoul, Korea, and hope that this First High Level Forum on UN-GGIM, would be the foundation of the global cooperation in the field of spatial information.

Dear representatives and geospatial information experts!

Currently, the entire nations are faced with important challenges such as global economic and financial crisis, poverty and diseases, along with natural disasters like earthquake and tsunami. Such global issues have called for the world to take action.

The international communities have exerted countless efforts and expertise to solving such global issues and in promoting mutual development among all the nations.

In line with the international community duty, the UN took on the plan called ‘Millennium Development Goals’. The plan is to eradicate poverty through joint international cooperation efforts. With this, the Rio+20 Global Summit in 2012, is expected to present the vision and action plans for sustainable development as well as Green Growth.

Geospatial information is the most fundamental and essential tool to support our joint efforts in resolving global issues.

Since the beginning of time, map has been used for governing a country as a good example of how the geospatial information was utilized. With the development of Information Communication Technology, geospatial information has become very important to our daily lives as individuals, corporations and as a nation.

Through interconnecting various information regarding natural disasters, poverty, environment with the location based geospatial information, global issues such as sustainable development and poverty eradication can be systematically and effectively managed.

Dear representatives and experts!

Korea actively promotes and supports UN initiated sustainable development and Millennium Development Goals with the international community.

The country has also adopted the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth. As an active member of the G20, it has implemented the G20 Multi-Year Action Plans which were proposed in last year's G20 Summit in Seoul. Korea plans to double its current ODA by 2015 and share its growth experience with developing countries in order to help enhance their strength and move forward.

In addition, Korea has introduced a new national vision called Green Growth and enacted the Framework Act on Low Carbon, Green Growth which was considered a first in the world. The country has been contributing to global green growth momentum by investing 2% of its GDP into green field development annually and by launching the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).

To support such efforts and to call for an international cooperation for spatial data policy, we have come here today for the First High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management.

Dear representatives of nations, geospatial information leaders and experts!

October 24th 1945, today, the international community formed the United Nations, UN, to pursue its noble mission of promoting peace and prosperity to mankind. After 66 years, on this very day, we are launching this First High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management embarking on a new mission to resolving our global issues through international cooperation in geospatial information.

I sincerely hope for a successful outcome of this First High Level Forum on UN-GGIM which Seoul, Korea had the honor of hosting and that the UN-GGIM becomes a new momentum for achieving sustainable development in the world.

Thank you.