



**Ministry of Land Transport
and Maritime Affairs**



**National Geographic
Information Institute**

**Key Note Speech by Mr. Kwon Do-youp
Minister of Land, Transportation and Maritime Affairs
on the 「First High Level Forum on UN-GGIM」
2011.10.24, 10:30, COEX**

- Honorable, Ms. Catalina Parot, Minister of National Property, Chile
- Mr. JariKoskinen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
- Mr. Dato Sri Douglas UggahEmbas, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia
- Mr. Alpheus G. !Naruseb, Minister of Lands and Resettlement, Namibia
- Mr. MoussaBakoAbdoukarim, Minister of Urban Development, Housing and Sanitation, Niger
- Mr. ThirumalachariRamasami, Secretary to the Government of India
- Mr. GansukhAmarjargal, Vice Minister of Road, Transportation, Construction and Urban Development, Mongolia

Distinguished delegates and Geospatial Information experts from home and abroad, It is my great honor to give a welcoming speech before Your Excellencies as the chair of the Ministerial Meeting at the First High Level Forum on UN-GGIM, co-hosted by the UN and Korea.

As you are well aware, we live in a world today that faces diverse global challenges such as social, economical and environmental issues.

Today, one fifth of 7 billion global population live on \$1.25 (one dollar twenty-five) a day, and the total population is expected to reach 9 billion by 2050.

Many neighbors around us are still suffering from poverty and hunger.

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We know how serious the impact of economic development is to the mankind when it is achieved without considering the environment.

Rising temperatures due to green house gas emission causes frequent extreme weather incidents and such natural disasters generate massive damage not only to the environment but result in economic loss.

Under these circumstances, poverty eradication through sustainable development is not an option but a necessity. It will not be attainable by one nation or one region alone. Poverty eradication requires joint efforts of the international society!!

Distinguished guests,

All Millennium Development Goals adopted by the UN in 2000, Rio+20 Summit for sustainable development and the G20 Seoul Summit, which was held in Seoul last year, are part of the global efforts for poverty eradication.

Along with it, the international society is presenting diverse agendas and cooperation methods through multilateral collaboration at the global and regional levels to resolve urgent global issues.

It is moving forward towards international coordination through a global mechanism.

However, still yet, a global geospatial information mechanism had not been formed for international cooperation between regions along with developed and developing countries.

In this regard, I am very pleased to see today, the establishment of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management that will share experiences of all nations and seek ways together for cooperation under the UN leadership.

Honorable Ministers, Distinguished guests and Geospatial Information experts,

The importance of geospatial information cannot be overemphasized. Even now, all over the world, things occur and it occurs somewhere specific. Everything happens somewhere. And over 80% of all decisions made by humans are location-based.

In today's world, to know where it is located has far greater meaning than what you know about it.

As we are living in an interconnected world, decision-making out of overflowing information is getting more complex.

Therefore, I believe location based information will present more scientific and strategic evidence in the decision-making.

Also, it will play a key role in addressing social, economical, environmental and other important issues.

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Distinguished guests,

Korea, not long ago, suffered from war and extreme poverty. But it successfully overcame poverty and achieved significant economic growth and democracy.

Now, Korea is considered as an exemplary nation for democracy, human rights and for its development achievement values that the UN pursues.

Our rapid economic development that you saw and experienced on your way to this conference is largely thanks to National Spatial Data Infrastructure, which was systematically developed.

Based on this infrastructure, Korea is operating the E-government and it ranked first in 2011 at the UN.

Furthermore, in 2011, the World Bank introduced Korea's Strategic NSDI Model as a good practice and encouraged developing countries to adopt this model.

As I finish, my director general will follow with the detailed explanation but I want to emphasize that Korea's model will greatly contribute to the development of the global mechanism in the geospatial information sector.

To utilize the global mechanism more efficiently, all nations should share their responsibilities and their efforts should be complementary.

To this end, the GI developed nations should share their good practices with GI developing nations and help them build their own capacity and growth.

Korea, as a member of the global society, will support the international endeavors for a 'shared growth' by sharing its development story with the developing world.

Distinguished guests,

Korea will join the efforts of the international society and the UN to be a part of the vital resolution in the global issues with geospatial information and to maximize the value of geospatial information.

By utilizing today's excellent UN-GGIM Forum opportunity, Korea will further take into value of the geospatial information and make more active efforts to develop the UN-GGIM into a global mechanism.

I would like to close my remarks hoping that today's meeting becomes a perfect venue for finding a clear direction of global geospatial information management through international coordination and cooperation, resulting in a fruitful outcome.

Thank you.