

Opening Remarks

Mr. Ki-Jong Woo
Commissioner, Statistics Korea

Good Morning, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am greatly pleased to be here today / at the Opening of Thematic Seminar on / Integrating Statistical and Geospatial Information, / jointly organized by Statistics Korea, UN Statistics Division, and Eurostat.

Our times are characterized / by increasing complexity and accelerated changes. From a micro perspective of individual daily lives / to a macro perspective of comprehensive government policies, / statistics play a critical role / in decision making and problem solving.

Traditionally, the use of map / has been indispensable / for heightening accuracy in full-scale statistical surveys, especially for Censuses. Today, its importance is even more widely recognized, / as many new features can be realized with technological innovation. It has become a common understanding that / the use of geospatial information technologies is / essential to securing accuracy and efficiency / in all stages of surveys, / from survey planning, data collection to data dissemination.

In the present world, we are witnessing a trend / that traditional statistical services are / primarily accessed / only by experts and professionals / due to obscure text-based statistics. With the advent of the Smart Technology era, / however, / geospatial statistical information service / equipped with geospatial information technologies / is becoming more and more favored / for its visual and intuitive properties.

Recognizing the need for pivotal use of geospatial information technologies for statistical information service, / Statistics Korea has taken various actions / to tap into new innovations in this field / and put them into optimal use for data service. We have a whole division / dedicated to developing, processing and distributing geospatial information. Since its establishment, the Geospatial Information Service Division / has developed Census maps / and made survey data available / at micro-level statistical districts / for the entire Nation.

Statistics Korea has also developed / government-wide national statistical databases / which are accessible by the general public, / and we are committed to further improving our official statistics services / through integrated management of micro data. At the same time, we are advancing our Statistical Navigator Service / as the platform for Korea's key geospatial information service.

In today's seminar, I look forward to presentations / on collecting and handling geospatial and statistical data / as well as lessons learned by different countries / on integrating the two types of data. In a bigger picture, I hope the information shared at this seminar will become / a valuable asset to the development of census geography, / for many countries around the world.

Now, I would like to conclude my speech by extending my warmest welcome – to the Chair of this seminar, Mr. Paul Cheung (폴 청) of UNSD, Mr. Pedro Diaz Munoz (페드로 디아즈 뮤노즈) from Eurostat, the session Chairs and Speakers, and all Distinguished Participants.

I hope you have very productive sessions and thought-provoking discussions / and enrich your experiences and expertise.

Thank you very much.