



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by H.E. Mr. LEE, Chi-beom
Minister of Environment
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Mr. Chairman,

1. It is a great pleasure and honor to be here to deliver a speech at the 15th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon for addressing these important issues at this meeting.
2. Four thematic clusters — energy, industrial development, air pollution, and climate change — are closely linked and should be addressed holistically. It should be emphasized that the use of energy, and the issues of air pollution and climate change, should be treated as integral parts of sustainable development at both the national and international levels.
3. Diversifying energy sources is of great importance from the perspective of sustainable development and energy security. Greater attention needs to be paid to technological development and how increased investment can secure alternative energy sources such as methane reclaims and waste heat recovery.
4. We should also remember that meaningful progress in climate change mitigation and adaptation is essential for global sustainable development. With regard to long-term climate strategy, we call your attention to the following:
 - Regarding a post-2012 regime, we need to discuss flexible schemes that encourage the broad participation of countries with different levels of development and capabilities. To this end, it is vital to analyze mitigation potential at the national level.
 - We place great importance on the issue of climate adaptation. In this regard, we hope that the UN and GEF will expand their roles in helping developing countries strengthen adaptation-relevant institutions and capacity-building with the aim of coping with elements of climate change that might be unavoidable.

In this context, we welcome the initiatives of Secretary-General Ban to strengthen the UN's role.

5. The dust and sandstorm problem in the Northeast Asian region demonstrates the impact of climate change and unsustainable land-use. It has become one of the most prominent environmental issues in the region. We welcome regional initiatives to cope with the challenge, and urge the international community, including GEF, ADB, and other international finance institutions, to support the region's efforts to restore the ecological balance of the environment.

6. In addressing urban air pollution, we believe it is important to maintain close public-private partnerships to create markets for best available technologies (BATs) and clean energies.

- For example, before 2000, there were no CNG buses or refueling stations in Korea. However, with close cooperation with local governments, auto manufacturers and NGOs, we were able to supply 13,000 CNG buses, or about 44% of the total buses, nationwide.
- Based on this experience, we have developed a similar partnership for retrofit program for in-use diesel vehicles. Currently, 10% of all diesel vehicles have been retrofitted in the Greater Seoul Area, creating markets for affordable diesel filters and LPG engine retrofits.

7. With regard to industrial development, I would stress that the promotion of free trade can play a major role in sustainable development if it is pursued in a manner that reinforces environmental protection. For example, Korea recently concluded an FTA with the United States where strong environmental protection provisions were included. Korea welcomes the CSD's effort to support the promotion of open, equitable, and non-discriminatory free trade agreements with a strong commitment to environmental protection.

8. Finally, I would like to stress the importance of peer reviews and sharing best practices when integrating the four thematic clusters into national strategies for sustainable development. As an example, the "Shared Learning and Review Workshop of the Republic of Korea's National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD)," in which Asian-Pacific countries participated along with three international organizations, was held in Seoul, in March 2007. A side event, "National Strategies for Sustainable Development: Shared Learning and Review Experiences in Asia and in Europe" was held on May 7th.

Thank you.