

# **Welcome Address**

on the 32nd Session of IPCC

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Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Global

Green Growth Institute

Chairman Rajendra Pachauri,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It a great honor to be standing here on this podium this morning here at the opening ceremony. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations on the 32nd Plenary Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. I also would like to extend my warmest gratitude to those who have worked so hard to make today's conference successful.

Some of you may remember that UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon attended the 27th Session held in Valencia, Spain in November 2007. I strongly recommended that he attend the session as it was my firm belief that climate change is an issue that is most urgent and important for the newly elected Secretary General to focus on.

I also have a personal tie with the IPCC, an organization that won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 along with the former US vice president Al Gore. In 2001, I had the honor of receiving the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the United Nations, as the President of the UN General Assembly, with the then UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan. The awarding of the Prizes signifies that international organizations such as the UN and the IPCC should be more committed to global tasks with a stronger sense of responsibility. In this regard, I believe the IPCC has made extensive efforts and shown significant results to meet such expectations from the international community.

As you are well aware, the world is increasingly suffering from consequences of climate change. The IPCC has warned that climate change is caused by excessive greenhouse gas emissions and awakened us that human welfare would face danger if climate change issues are not addressed immediately.

All the activities that the international community is currently endeavoring to address climate change are based on the scientific findings announced by the IPCC. The IPCC has been a pioneer in making the world aware of the urgency of protecting the climate and combating the global threat of climate change.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Korea, in an attempt to pro-actively address the issues of climate change, declared Low Carbon Green Growth as the new national vision two years ago. Since then, Korea has been creating and elaborating the institutional framework and various policies for its implementation. Korea believes that Green Growth is the only way to address the challenges of climate change and to generate sustainable growth at the same time. Korea takes pride in being a green growth leader and we are fully committed to sharing our vision of global green growth with the international community.

In this regard, Korea launched Global Green Growth Institute or GGGI in June of this year, and has been developing the organization with much support and cooperation of many partner organizations and countries. GGGI aims to evolve into an international treaty-based organization which will serve as the world's intellectual asset for promoting green growth worldwide.

GGGI's activities will owe much to those of the IPCC. GGGI will join in the IPCC's efforts to address the threats of climate change. In particular, GGGI will assist developing countries in establishing and implementing their own green growth policies, providing practical solutions for them to address climate change.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Now is the time to act together to address and adapt to climate change. The IPCC is the leading body for the

assessment and monitoring of climate change as well as for the global discussion on climate change.

With the newly appointed UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Christiana Figueres, I expect that IPCC will renew its efforts to address climate change and continue to play a positive role in enabling the world's governments to take appropriate action against climate change. Newly launched GGGI will surely join in these efforts.

Before closing, I would like to remind everyone that Korea is currently bidding to host COP 18 in 2012. Korea is ready to contribute to opening up the post-2012 regime by hosting the climate talks in 2012. I would like to ask all of you here today to pay kind attention to Korea's commitment for international cooperation on combating climate change and extend support for Korea's bidding efforts for hosting COP 18.

I sincerely hope that this four-day-long session will produce much fruitful discussions and the outcomes of

the session will help the international community take a step forward in addressing the global challenges of climate change.

Thank you very much.