



Opening Statement by Mr. Kim Ho-young

Regional Forum on Reinventing Government in Asia

6-8 September, 2006, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Your Excellency Mr. Yongsup Lee, Minister of Government Administration and Home Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Bertucci, Director of Public Administration and Development Management of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Delegations from 21 Asian countries, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentleman.

On behalf of the United Nations Project Office on Governance, I would like to extend a cordial welcome to you all who are here to participate in the Regional Forum on Reinventing Government in Asia.

Especially, my special thanks to Ministers from Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka and other distinguished international scholars and practitioners, who came to Seoul for this event.

Distinguished guests.

Governments around the world aspire to gain trust from their people. And the perception of the people that their governments are honest seems to be the first prerequisite to achieving this goal.

It is also important to understand that trust not only depends on the responsiveness of governments and the integrity and accountability of public officials, but the degree to which citizens are informed and can interact with the policy process.

It is with this understanding that this Regional Forum has been designed to address the following four sub-themes of, "Public Sector Capacity and Innovations", "Building Trust for Service Delivery and Access", "Accountability, transparency, and E-Government", and "Decentralization and Local Governance."

I have no doubt that over the course of next three days the conference will examine best practices and alternative strategies for "Building Trust in Government."

This Forum will help all the participants to benchmark exemplary cases of other countries to enhance good governance in their own country.

The Regional Forum is significant in that we are a gathering of Asian nations, and I have no doubt that the discussions and strategies will be dynamic and constructive for all those present here.

Once again, I wish the participants of the Regional Forum a pleasant stay in Seoul and a rewarding experience, both personally and professionally.

Thank you very much.