

*As of 19 September 2014
Translated by Hee kyung, GGGI*

Translated Speech of Madame President Geun-hye Park

Mr. Yvo de Boer, Director-General of the Global Green Growth Institute,
Heads of States, Heads of Delegations and distinguished guests,

It has been nearly two years since the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) converted into an international organization. I am pleased that GGGI has successfully transitioned in a short timeframe and is settling down as an international organization.

At this point, on the day the UN Climate Summit is being held, I would like to rethink the meaning and purpose of GGGI. GGGI started with the concept that infinite growth, which was once believed to be feasible, was not possible in reality. In other words, natural resources of our Earth are limited and thus, our prosperity, which is currently based on carbon energy, may not necessarily continue for future generations. All of you sit here before me because you have, from an early stage, recognized the historic importance of acting on climate change. You are all committed to building a low carbon climate-resilient economy. In this regard, GGGI will bring your belief to fruition.

Likewise, Korea is also fully aware of the fact that taking a preemptive measure to tackle climate change is not an option but a compulsory requirement. This is why Korea initiated the establishment of GGGI. Also, having experienced poverty in the past, Korea is well-aware of how valuable it is for developing and emerging countries to receive support from the international community. Consequently, Korea will continue to support and cooperate with GGGI to ensure that it can gain a foothold as a trusted advisor and partner in pursuing sustainable development in developing and emerging economies.

Distinguished guests,

I stand here before you because I want to thank and express my appreciation to both Lars Rasmussen, Chair of the GGGI Council and Bharrat Jagdeo, President of the GGGI Assembly for writing the history of GGGI for the past two years. Under the leadership of both Chairman Rasmussen and President Jagdeo in the last two years, GGGI was able to successfully transition into an international organization.

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To achieve sustainable development, Chairman Rasmussen and President Jagdeo played a pivotal role in promoting that GGGI could become a reliable partner for many countries around the world. They also helped to enable GGGI to have a solid financial basis as an independent international organization. Not to mention that they provided various strategic and political advice and support for GGGI as it was taking its first step as an international entity.

In particular, I would like to express my special appreciation and gratitude to Chairman Rasmussen. While leading GGGI, I am sure there were times of hardship and difficulties. However, Chairman Rasmussen was able to overcome uneasy situations through his experience in leading Denmark, a country that has established a green growth alliance with Korea and is one of the pioneers of creative measures to deal with climate change.

Although Chairman Rasmussen and President Jagdeo are leaving GGGI to take on new opportunities and endeavors, I believe that their relations with GGGI will continue in the future. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the best and success in their future endeavors.

Distinguished guests,

Here with us today is another international leader, who will succeed Chairman Rasmussen as the next Chair of the GGGI Council. He is Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia. Indonesia is home to many tropical rainforests with diverse amount of species and is a socioeconomically dynamic country. At the same time, I am aware of the fact that Indonesia is facing a lot of difficulties related to climate change. I would like to sincerely congratulate President Yudhoyono, a world-class leader who has led Indonesia for the past 10 years, for becoming the next Chair of the GGGI Council. I firmly believe that GGGI will further develop under the new leadership of President Yudhoyono. Korea will actively cooperate and support GGGI as well.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to send my deepest gratitude to Yvo de Boer, Director-General of GGGI as well as GGGI employees for their hard work. In particular, Director-General de Boer, who began his term in office in April this year, has been putting an emphasis on strengthening GGGI's mid-to long-term strategies and its vision as well as improving administrative efficiency and taking various reform measures. Korea very much supports Director-General de Boer.

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Chairman Rasmussen and President Jagdeo, I would like to deeply thank you again for your contribution to GGGI and President Yudhoyono, Korea will continue, as it has in the past, to actively cooperate with GGGI in the future to achieve fruitful outcomes.